

**Timberlane Regional School District Budget Committee**  
Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow, and Sandown

Regular Meeting  
November 14, 2013

SAU 55  
Plaistow, New Hampshire

Call to Order:  
Chairperson Spero called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Mr. Spero, Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Grosky Mrs. Green, Mrs. Rothwell, Mr. Francoeur, Ms. Gorman and Mr. Blair.

Absent: Mr. Weymouth and Mrs. O'Neil.

Also present from Administration: Superintendent, Dr. Earl Metzler and Business Administrator, Mr. George Stoking. There were also other school administrators in audience for the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Blair made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Heffernan to approve the minutes of November 4, 2013. Vote: Five in favor, none against, three abstain, Mrs. Rothwell, Ms. Gorman and Mr. Francoeur.

Correspondence:

Mrs. Rothwell volunteered to answer a request from School Board Member Delfino for a short description of the Budget Committee role and the Budgeting process for her next School Board Notes Newsletter.

Delegations & Individuals: None.

Administrative Report: None.

Reports of Committees: Mrs. Green reported she created an excel spreadsheet that summarizes expenditures over time and a PowerPoint presentation which she did not have time to have reviewed by IT before the meeting, so she handed out a paper copy. She also reported the NH Retirement System is currently scheduled to be fully funded in 25 years, if the rate of return is at 7.75% per year.

School Board Representative: None.

New Business:

2014-2015 Budget

Mr. Stoking distributed Draft 2 of the 2014-2015 Budget. His reports included a Budget Recap Report (sorted two different ways), a Major Factors Report, a Budget Tracking Report and the TRSD Budget Summary Report sorted by Function and Object. He reported the .50% reduction

for the non-affiliated staff raises were done, however two staff members were accidentally not budgeted for a raise, so the net effect of the reduction is \$25,915.87. Also adjusted since the last meeting was the group health insurance line which was reduced by \$107,982 bringing the new proposed Budget amount down to \$67,490,219.

A lengthy question and answer period continued after the second Draft was distributed. The following is a brief recap of topics discussed: Mrs. Green asked how the Budgeted amount, for the same budget year, can change from one year to the next. Mr. Stokinger explained how the open purchase orders (encumbrances) along with the encumbered budget, are both rolled into the next year, thereby changing the Budget amount for the next year. Mrs. Green also inquired what the surplus amount was as of 06/30/2013. Mr. Stokinger replied 2.1 Million. She also requested the audit report for 2012-2013 which is not available from the auditors until sometime between December to March, usually.

Full Day Kindergarten was discussed at length and the additional costs associated with it. The cost figures were not available at this meeting. It was requested of Dr. Metzler and Mr. Stokinger, to provide the exact cost of enhancing the program to full day, at the next meeting. Dr. Metzler explained the enhancement is in it's very early stages and all the details have yet to be worked out; such as how many families would be interested, if a fee was a viable option and how much and if there were too many people interested, then how would the students be selected. Dr. Metzler suggested inviting a representative or two from the Kindergarten Committee to discuss the need and benefits of enhancing the program to Full Day. Also discussed were the I-pads budgeted for the Full Day Kindergarten.

Mr. Blair made a motion to invite the Kindergarten Committee to the next Budget Committee Meeting and was seconded by Mr. Francoeur. After discussion Vote: Seven were in favor, one against, Mrs. Green.

Mr. Blair stated he would like to discuss the whole budgeting process, before next year. The committee, by general consensus, agreed it should be discussed at a meeting following the vote in March.

Mrs. Green made a motion and was seconded by Ms. Gorman to require the District Administration to submit a proposed Budget for no more than \$64 million. Mrs. Green used her spreadsheet and her PowerPoint presentation to explain how she arrived at this recommendation. After a lengthy discussion, where most members stated they were more comfortable cutting specific items, a vote was taken; Vote: Two in favor, six against, Mr. Heffernan, Mrs. Rothwell, Mr. Spero, Mr. Blair, Mr. Francoeur and Mr. Grosky.

Mr. Grosky made a motion to remove \$225,000 from the Projects Budget (representing the HS Generator) and was seconded by Mr. Francoeur. It was stated by many committee members their hope was the School Board would submit that item as a warrant article on the ballot in March. However, the Budget Committee members also acknowledged it is a bottom line budget and they had no control over how the School Board actually spent the funds. Vote: six in favor and two opposed, Mrs. Rothwell and Mr. Blair. Mr. Blair stated he would convey the warrant article suggestion to the School Board at their next meeting. Dr. Metzler stated he had just recently met

with Town officials and in they are all looking to possibly acquire grant money to help with the generator purchase for the High School.

Ms. Gorman brought up for discussion the I-pads budgeted for the Full Day Kindergarten. She would like more information on how these are used in the schools. Dr. Metzler stated he will bring Mr. Holland, the District IT Director to the next meeting, to address some of these concerns raised by the Budget committee.

Mrs. Rothwell asked about the prior meeting where presenters were said to have felt unwelcome at the meeting, as described by Dr. Metzler. Chairman Spero stated that was not the intention of the conversation regarding the agenda; however he wanted his apologies conveyed to the two administrators who felt that way. Dr. Metzler stated he will convey the message.

Dr. Metzler stated he would work with Mr. Stokinger before the next meeting to find areas to reduce in the proposed Budget.

Other Business:

Future Meetings:

Tuesday November 26, 2013, Thursday December 12, 2013 and Thursday December 26, 2013.  
Mr. Grosky stated he will not be available for the November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mrs. Rothwell made a motion and was seconded by Ms. Gorman to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Smith  
Recording Secretary  
Approved November 26, 2013