

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

Regular Meeting
November 26, 2013

SAU 55
Plaistow, New Hampshire

Call to Order:

Vice Chairperson O'Neil called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Grosky Mrs. Green, Mrs. Rothwell, Mr. Francoeur, Ms. Gorman and Mr. Blair, Mr. Weymouth and Mrs. O'Neil.

Absent: Mr. Spero.

Also present from Administration: Superintendent, Dr. Earl Metzler (arrived at 7:35pm) and Business Administrator, Mr. George Stokinger.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Heffernan made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Francoeur to move down the agenda and have the Kindergarten presentation as the first item of business this evening.

Vote: unanimous. The motion passed.

Members of the Full Day Renaissance Kindergarten Committee were present to discuss the benefits of a Full Day Renaissance Kindergarten in the Timberlane Regional School District. Kindergarten Committee Members present were; Elizabeth LaRosa, Stephanie Mezquita, Jill Feneberg, Kellie Killen, Nancy Barcelos, Kathie Dayotis, Michelle Vance and Michelle Gaydos. The presentation was in the format of a PowerPoint and hard copies of the slides were distributed to the Budget Committee Members. The presentation reviewed the Committees Goals, Reasoning and Research, What is a Renaissance Kindergarten, Benefits of a Full Day vs. Half Day program, I Pad usage, Budget Impact, Staffing Needs and a comparison with kindergartens in the surrounding towns. Examples of a full day student schedule and a half day student schedule were provided for comparison. Dr. Metzler reported that revenue generated by this program will be more than enough to cover the entire increase in costs to expand kindergarten to one full day class per elementary school. Many questions were asked by the Budget Committee Members and were answered by both the Kindergarten Committee and Dr. Metzler.

Mr. Blair made a motion and was seconded by Mrs. Rothwell to move onto the Technology presentation next. Vote: unanimous. The motion passed.

Mr. Holland and Mrs. Paul were present to discuss the I Pads for kindergarten and to address any other questions the Budget Committee Members had, in regards to the proposed Technology Budget. Mr. Holland started his presentation by addressing a list of questions that were forwarded to him by email, from members of the Budget Committee. One topic covered was the request of 20 I Pads for each of the full day kindergarten programs. Mr. Holland explained the cost for the I Pads were originally estimated at \$500 each; however Mr. Holland has recently been notified the cost has been reduced to \$400 each. He also reviewed how these I Pads were stored, used and how they were shared with other groups within the building. Other topics

covered were warranties for both the laptops and desktops and the replacement schedule followed by the Technology Department. Mrs. Green questioned the reasons for the increase in the Technology requested budget which Mr. Holland stated was mostly due to replacing the aging TEN Network equipment and upgrading and expanding the infrastructure at the HS and MS by upgrading switches etc. The Distance Learning Program was also discussed. Mr. Holland and Mrs. Paul finished answering the Budget Committee questions and exited the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Mrs. Rothwell made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Blair to approve the minutes of November 14, 2013 with amendments. Vote: eight in favor; Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Grosky, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Rothwell, Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Francoeur, Ms. Gorman and Mr. Blair. None opposed. One abstain; Mr. Weymouth. The motion passed.

Correspondence: None.

Delegations & Individuals: None.

Administrative Report: None.

Reports of Committees: None.

School Board Representative: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Mrs. O'Neil read aloud and distributed, on behalf of Mr. Blair, a written explanation of the Budget Surplus.

2014-2015 Budget

Mr. Stokinger distributed Draft # 3 of the 2014-2015 proposed Budget to the Budget Committee Members along with his standard reports. Draft # 3 is in the amount of \$66,805,941 which is down by \$684,278.02 from Draft #2. A lengthy question and answer period ensued. Various topics were discussed such as budgeting and spending in the books and information resources object code, specifically as it relates to the new math program, the new Sped Suite at the MS, replacing the carpet at the HS office area, game expenses, employee benefits estimates, special education costs increasing over the past ten years, a possible contingency line in special education, secretarial cost increases, and the increase in FTE's related to kindergarten.

Dr. Metzler stated the overall increase of the proposed budget, is less than 2% when revenue is included in the calculation. He also stated it is his goal to have a proposed budget that all elected officials can support.

Mrs. O'Neil suggested the tax rate setting discussion on the agenda for tonight be moved to the next meeting scheduled for December 12th.

Mrs. Green made a motion and was seconded by Ms. Gorman to remove from the 2014-2015 proposed Budget the following items: the MS Sped Suite, the Tripod Project, reducing \$100k from the Building Maintenance account, reducing social security by \$50k, reducing Professional Educational Services by \$41k, removing I Pads for \$44,400, removing \$140k from textbooks, removing \$3k for economic textbooks, removing \$15k for the Read 180 software, removing \$200k from Sped, and removing 5 people from the group insurance calculation, giving a total reduction of approximately \$900k. Vote: two in favor: Mrs. Green and Ms. Gorman. Seven opposed: Mr. Heffernan, Mrs. Rothwell, Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Blair, Mr. Francoeur, Mr. Weymouth and Mr. Grosky. The motion failed.

Mrs. O'Neil suggested requesting Dr. Metzler and Mr. Stokinger find another \$100k to reduce from the proposed Budget. Mr. Heffernan suggested they take a second look at the Professional Services object codes, Construction Services object codes and Equipment object codes specifically. Mr. Grosky stated he was also in agreement with Mrs. Green's recommendation to cut the Tripod Project, the I Pads and the MS Sped Suite.

Mr. Heffernan made a motion and was seconded by Ms. Gorman to move items d & e, under New Business, from this meeting agenda to the next meeting agenda. Vote: six in favor: Mr. Heffernan, Mrs. Rothwell, Mr. Blair, Mr. Weymouth, Mr. Francoeur and Mr. Grosky. Three opposed: Mrs. O'Neil, Mrs. Gorman, and Mrs. Green. No abstentions. The motion passed.

Other Business: None

Future Agenda and Dates:

December 12, 2013, December 26, 2013 and January 16th, 2014 are the next three scheduled meetings. Mrs. O'Neil and Dr. Metzler both stated they would not be able to attend the December 26, meeting.

Mrs. Green made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Grosky to add December 16, as an additional scheduled meeting. Vote: three in favor; Mrs. Green, Ms. Gorman and Mr. Grosky. Six opposed; Mr. Heffernan, Mrs. Rothwell, Mr. Blair, Mr. Weymouth, Mrs. O'Neil and Mr. Francoeur. The motion failed.

Mrs. Rothwell made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Blair to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m. Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Smith
Recording Secretary
Approved 12/12/2013