

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

Regular Meeting
December 12, 2013

SAU 55
Plaistow, New Hampshire

Call to Order:

Chairperson Spero called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Mr. Spero, Mrs. O’Neil, Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Grosky, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Rothwell, Mr. Francoeur, Ms. Gorman and Mr. Collins in for Mr. Blair.

Absent: Mr. Weymouth.

Also present from Administration: Superintendent, Dr. Earl Metzler and Business Administrator, Mr. George Stokinger.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes:

Mrs. O’Neil made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Heffernan to approve the minutes of November 26, 2013. Vote: Unanimous.

Correspondence: None.

Delegations & Individuals:

Point of Personal Privilege: Mrs. Green read aloud her response to Dr. Metzler’s comments printed in the Lawrence Eagle Tribune in regards to her meeting with the Selectmen of the Town of Sandown on December 2. Dr. Metzler was quoted in the Lawrence Eagle Tribune saying that “Mrs. Green’s meeting with the Selectmen was inappropriate, inaccurate and incorrect”. He also was quoted as saying “When a board elects a chair, the chair is the spokesperson, individuals who put their own spin on things to the public isn’t helpful to the process.” Mrs. Green requested her comments be reflected in the record. She stated the Chair is elected to run the meetings not to speak for every individual within the Committee at all venues. Mrs. Green feels strongly that she was elected by her constituency to keep them informed of happenings within the Budget Process and she personally sees this as a rebuke and an attempt by administration to prevent her from performing her elected duties.

Mrs. O’Neil made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Spero to censure Mrs. Green for conduct unapproved by the TRSD Budget Committee. For the minutes, the term censure is defined as a, “strong or vehement expression of disapproval” and in this instance is an official reprimand of a committee member. Mrs. O’Neil reported after watching the Vimeo of the Sandown December 2, 2013 Selectmen’s Meeting and listening to Mrs. Green report to them, which in Mrs. O’Neil’s opinion, clearly gave people the impression that Mrs. Green was speaking on behalf of the

Budget Committee and distributing facts and figures that Mrs. Green had developed on her own, compelled Mrs. O'Neil to request the censure of Mrs. Green. Mrs. Green responded by reiterating her stand that she specifically told the Selectmen that she was there representing herself and not speaking for the TRSD Budget Committee. Additionally she stated she is free to use her own spreadsheet as she sees fit. She did supply a copy to all the Budget Committee Members and Administration, if they have questions as to where she got her numbers. Finally Mrs. Green stated that she would think the entire Budget Committee would be in favor of sharing information with their constituents. Mr. Collins also contributed to the discussion regarding the December 2nd Selectmen's meeting. After a lengthy discussion Chairman Spero called for a vote on the motion to censure Mrs. Green. Vote: Three voted in favor, Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Collins and Mr. Spero. Four voted against, Mr. Heffernan, Mrs. Rothwell, Mr. Grosky and Ms. Gorman. Two abstain; Mrs. Green and Mr. Francoeur. The motion fails.

Administrative Report: None.

Reports of Committees: Mrs. O'Neil reported attending the Holiday Concert. She sends a big kudos out to the music department for their outstanding work with the students.

School Board Representative: None; however Mrs. Green asked if the School Board had taken an official vote on the proposed full day kindergarten program. Mr. Collins stated a motion was made for the concept of full-day kindergarten and was passed unanimously by the School Board. The Kindergarten Committee is scheduled to make their presentation at the next School Board meeting on December 18, 2013. Dr. Metzler stated the full day kindergarten program has been included in the proposed budget along with the revenue anticipated from running the program as fee based.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:
2014-2015 Budget

Mr. Stokinger distributed Draft # 4 of the 2014-2015 proposed Budget to the Budget Committee Members along with his standard reports. Draft # 4 is in the amount of \$66,302,054 which is down by \$503,886.86 from Draft #3. Dr. Metzler distributed a bulls eye graph showing Budget priorities with students in the center. He stated the cuts are now to the point of affecting students directly. The items cut for this draft were discussed at length by the Budget Committee members. After discussing the full day kindergarten estimated cost increases at length; Dr. Metzler stated the District would increase the fees if necessary so the full day program does pay for itself. The salary increases for the professional staff were discussed. Mr. Stokinger estimated the salary increase alone for professional staff was around \$528,000 in the proposed Budget. Special Education costs were also discussed.

Mr. Francoeur made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Heffernan to accept the fourth draft of the proposed Budget for 2014-2015. Discussion continued for many minutes.

Mr. Collins made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Rothwell, to amend Mr. Francoeur's motion, to add back into the proposed Budget three cut positions, the Kindergarten Spanish Teacher, the Engineering Teacher and a new custodian. Mr. Heffernan asked how much money is being added back into the Budget in support of these positions. After a lengthy discussion, \$150,000 was added back into the proposed budget bringing the new total to \$66,452,054. Vote on the amendment: Five voted in favor; Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Rothwell, Mr. Spero and Mr. Francoeur. Four voted against; Mr. Grosky, Mrs. Green, Ms. Gorman and Mr. Heffernan. The motion passed.

Mrs. O'Neil motioned to move the question on the floor and was seconded.

Vote: Seven in favor; Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Collins, Mr. Spero, Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Francoeur, Mrs. Rothwell and Mr. Grosky. Two voted against; Mrs. Green and Ms. Gorman. The motion passed to accept the proposed Budget in the amount of \$66,452,054.

Mrs. O'Neil made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Francoeur to cancel the scheduled meeting for December 26, 2013. Vote: Seven in favor; Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Collins, Mr. Spero, Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Francoeur, Mrs. Rothwell and Mr. Grosky. Zero against; Two Abstain; Mrs. Green and Ms. Gorman. The motion passed.

Mr. Stokinger reviewed the tax calculation paperwork he distributed at the last meeting. He also clarified the School Board will decide in the spring if any money will be retained from surplus for the new retained surplus fund that was approved by the voters last March, which must not exceed 2.5% of net assessment.

Other Business: Mr. Collins stated that Mr. Stokinger will be giving the same presentation and they may also be going to the various Selectmen's meetings. Mr. Heffernan recommended the School Board invite the Budget Committee Members to attend the Selectmen's meetings also.

Future Agenda and Dates:

Thursday January 16, 2013 Public Hearing at PAC at 7 pm

Thursday January 23, 2013 SAU Boardroom at 7 pm

Thursday February 6, 2014 Deliberative Session at PAC at 7 pm

Thursday February 13, 2014 SAU Boardroom at 7 pm

Thursday March 27, 2014 SAU Boardroom at 7 pm (annual re-organization meeting)

Thursday April 10, 2014 SAU Boardroom at 7 pm

Mrs. Rothwell made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Francoeur to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Vote: Eight in favor; Mr. Spero, Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Grosky, Mrs. Rothwell, Mr. Francoeur, Ms. Gorman and Mr. Collins. One voted against; Mrs. Green. The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Smith
Recording Secretary
Approved 03/27/2014