

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

Public Hearing on the 2014-15 Proposed Budget  
January 16, 2014

Timberlane Performing Arts Center  
Plaistow, NH

Mr. Spero, the Budget Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Budget Committee roll call was taken.

Present: Mr. Spero-Chair, Mr. Grosky, Mrs. O'Neil-Vice Chair, Mr. Francoeur, Mr. Heffernan, Mrs. Rothwell, Mr. Weymouth and Mrs. Green.

Absent: Ms. Gorman

School Board roll call was taken.

Present: Mr. Bealo, Mr. Blair, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Delfino, Mr. Mascola, Mr. Morris, Mrs. Sherman, Mrs. Steenson, and Mr. Ward.

Timberlane Administrators participating: Dr. Metzler, Superintendent and Mr. Stokinger, Business Administrator.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Mr. Spero stated there had been a request by Ms. Gorman to participate in the meeting by cell phone. Mrs. Green explained she brought with her all the equipment needed for Ms. Gorman to participate electronically. Mrs. Green made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Francoeur to allow Ms. Gorman to participate in the Public Hearing electronically. Vote: Two in favor, Mrs. Green and Mr. Francoeur. Six voted against. The Motion fails.

Dr. Metzler began the Public Hearing with some opening comments along with four PowerPoint slides describing his philosophy on school budgeting.

Mr. Spero read aloud the warrant while a PowerPoint presentation was displayed for the audience and television viewers to follow along.

The First Session of Annual Meeting (Deliberative) to be held on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Performing Arts Center. The Second Session of the Annual Meeting (Voting) to be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at town election polls in Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow and Sandown, New Hampshire.

Article #1 Election of Officers – openings for School Board and Budget Committee members.

Article #2 Operating Budget for 2014-2015

Mr. Stokinger gave a power point presentation giving an overview of the 2014-2015 budget process and a review of the budget drivers of the requested Budget for 2014-2015. The proposed budget for 2014-2015 is \$66,452,054 with a default budget of \$65,974,014.

Article #3 SAU Budget

School Board Chair, Mr. Collins read aloud article #3.

Article #4 Capital Reserve Fund

School Board Chair, Mr. Collins read aloud article #4.

Article #5 Sandown Central Kitchen Renovation  
School Board Chair, Mr. Collins read aloud article #5.

Article #6 One Year Collective Bargaining Agreement (TSSU)  
School Board Chair, Mr. Collins read aloud article #6.

Article #7 Authorization for Special Meeting on cost Items  
School Board Chair, Mr. Collins read aloud article #7.

Article #8 Acceptance of Reports  
School Board Chair, Mr. Collins read aloud article #8.

Article #9 Rescind SAU Budget on Warrant Petition by Julie Knight et al  
School Board Chair, Mr. Collins read aloud article #9.

At the completion of reading the Warrant aloud, Mr. Collins asked if anyone had any questions. Mr. Francoeur asked that Article #9 be explained in more detail and how it would affect the Budget. Mr. Collins explained if article # 9 passed, then the SAU Budget would go back to being a line within the Timberlane Budget, as it was prior to last year's warrant article approval.

Mrs. Green asked for clarification on the 5.1 FTE new staff and the 5 FTE for the Full time Kindergarten program shown in the PowerPoint presentation today as compared to previous documents distributed. Mrs. Green also asked for time to make comments she felt were important for the voters to hear. Her first comment related to the way the Budget is presented without the SAU Budget included, as compared to the Budget last year. She clarified stating the Administration is showing the budget increase as \$1.4 million but with the SAU warrant article added in, the actual increase would be \$2.4 million. Mr. Stokinger stated he is following the law and all warrant articles are added into the Budget after they are voted on and not before. Mrs. Green also wanted the viewers to know that if they were not in support of CBA warrant (#6) and voted against it, they should also consider voting no on article # 7, Authorization for Special Meeting on Cost Items, then the TSSU Warrant Article would be completely defeated. Mrs. Green continued with giving her reasons for not supporting the proposed Budget. Her first reason is, in her opinion, proper scrutiny of the proposed budget has not happened. The number of staff has increased even though the number of students has decrease over recent years. Two, not all information requested by her has been provided and attempts have been made by the Administration to stymy her scrutiny. The request of tax impact of the budget increase has also not been supplied and finally adoption of full time Kindergarten program should be a separate warrant article as it was a separate warrant article when the program was initially started. Mr. Grosky replied that he has recalled many conversations by the Budget Committee regarding the fulltime kindergarten program and not one member had stated they wanted the program removed from the proposed budget. Additionally it is his recollection that all additional requested information regarding this program has been provided.

Mr. Heffernan asked for additional information regarding the TSSU, such as how many employees and what positions they held.

Mr. Collins responded to Mrs. Green that estimating the tax rates are difficult because many different factors are used in the calculation, many of which are unknown at this time.

Mrs. Green requested the Budget Meeting to follow the Public Hearing be televised. Mr. Collins and Dr. Metzler denied the request due to the broadcast equipment not set up for that at this time and requests like that need to be made in advance.

Mrs. Rothwell made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Weymouth to adjourn at 7:46 p.m.

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Smith,  
Recording Secretary  
Approved 02/06/2014