

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

Regular Meeting
March 24, 2011
7:16 p.m.

SAU 55
Plaistow, New Hampshire

Call to Order:
Chairperson O'Neil called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

Present: Ms. Rochford, Mr. Cook, Mrs. O'Neil, Ms. Conte, Mrs. Chaput, Mrs. Lisi and Mr. Collins as the School Board Representative.

Absent: Mr. Bouchard.

Approval of Minutes:
Ms. Rochford made a motion and was seconded by Mrs. Chaput to approve the minutes of February 11, 2011 as presented.
Vote: Unanimous.

Mrs. O'Neil stated she will continue to monitor the emails sent to the Budget Committee and forward them to all members of the Budget Committee but only the Chair will respond to the sender. There were no correspondences for this meeting.

Committee Reports: Mrs. O'Neil stated there is a silent auction fund raiser going on the Middle School which appeared to be quite successful. Many of the Budget Committee members were there just before arriving for this meeting. Ms. Rochford stated that she attended many Chorus and Orchestra functions that were well attended. Mr. Collins stated the School Board was given information regarding the State Budget which Mr. Stokinger will be reviewing further down the agenda.

Review of the Election Results: Mr. Stokinger thanked the voters for their support in passing the proposed operating budget and warrant articles.

Atkinson Budget Committee vacancy:
Mr. Spero was in attendance with Mrs. Dayotis, Principal of Atkinson Academy to express his interest in filling the Atkinson vacancy. Mr. Spero introduced himself and gave a brief description of his interest and experience that would benefit him as a member of the Budget Committee. Ms. Rochford made a motion and was seconded by Mrs. Lisi to nominate Mr. Spero to the Budget Committee.
Vote: Unanimous.

Plaistow Budget Committee vacancy:
Mrs. Holt of Plaistow was also in attendance to express her interest in filling the Plaistow vacancy. Mrs. Holt gave a brief description of her interest and experience. Ms. Rochford made a motion and was seconded by Ms. Conte to nominate Mrs. Holt to the Budget Committee.
Vote: Unanimous.

Mr. Stokinger reminded the two newest members to be sworn in by the School District Clerk, Lorna Walker who happens to work here at the SAU during the day.

Committee Assignments were discussed and it was agreed that formal assignments will not be necessary however, anyone who attends any of the committee meetings, should report back to the Budget Committee to keep everyone informed.

Mr. Stokinger distributed information regarding the State of NH current legislative session and the potential changes in funding affecting all schools in New Hampshire. The handouts show a potential cut in revenue and a huge unexpected increase in expenses of \$1.3 million for the teacher retirement. Additionally Mr. Stokinger announced the insurance rates from LGC have been set and the rates are essentially at the guaranteed max which has not happened in many years. The difference between the GMR and the actual rate is normally one place where there is a little breathing room in the budget. This year with the rate set at the GMR and a slight increase in enrollment since budget time, we are potentially underfunded in employee health insurance. Several options to deal with the worst case scenario from the State have been discussed by the School Board and plans are being made to issue 6 to 12 pink slips to those who may need to be laid off, in preparation of the potential funding changes. Mr. Stokinger explained he hears reports of some state legislatures believing they are doing good work by cutting the state budget; however they don't completely understand the ramifications of those cuts. Mr. Collins stated everyone connected should get the word out and contact their representatives so this legislation is not adopted at the State.

Mr. Stokinger gave a brief presentation for the benefit of the new members regarding how the SAU #55 is organized and how the accounting system is used to classify expenses. Mr. Stokinger pointed out the combined budgets for all three entities of SAU #55 is \$87 million dollars.

Other Business: The current members gave a brief introduction of themselves so the new members had an idea of who everyone is and why they are on the Budget Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 14, 2011 then September 8, 2011.

Ms. Rochford made a motion and was seconded by Mrs. Chaput, to adjourn at 8:26 pm.
Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Smith
Recording Secretary
Approved 4/14/2011