

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

Regular Meeting
October 28, 2010
7:00 p.m.

30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, New Hampshire
03865

Mrs. O'Neil called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Balanoff, Ms. Rochford, Mr. Mullen, Ms. Conte, Mr. Bouchard, Mrs. Chaput, Mrs. Lisi, Ms. Maffeo and Mr. Collins.

Timberlane Administration Present:
Mr. Stokinger, Business Administrator,
Mrs. Smith, Assistant Business Administrator

Other School Board Members present in audience: Mr. Mascola and Mr. Porcelli.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Ms. Rochford made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Bouchard to accept the minutes of October 14, 2010.

Vote: Unanimous.

Mr. Collins gave the Timberlane School Board Report: Mr. Collins stated the School Board received an update on the YEES program which has been going very well. Mr. Woodworth is very happy with the results so far with the "at-risk" population. The School Board agreed to continue to support this program with funding in 2011-2012. Also Mr. Collins stated that Mrs. Lovett had given an update on the new Atkinson Preschool Program which was initially funded with ARRA funds. The program will continue in the general fund with only a small increase due to the revenue the program generates and the IEP requirements of that population regardless of the program.

Mr. Collins also gave an update of the SAU School Board: He stated the SAU School Board had met the night before and voted to accept the proposed SAU Budget (2.67% overall increase) which includes a 2% salary increase for the 13 staff members who are employed by the SAU. The dollar amount for all the SAU salary increases is \$15,000.

Mrs. O'Neil requested Mr. Collins provide more details leading up to the decision to give the raises. Mr. Collins stated the discussion took about two hours and he isn't sure why each member voted the way they did. An amendment to zero out the administrators raises was made but did not pass. In the end the vote was 8 in favor and 4 against the proposed budget. The SAU Public Hearing is scheduled for November 17, 2010 and that is the time to discuss the SAU proposed budget in more detail and he asked that conversation be held at that time and not now

during the Timberlane Budget Meeting. There was a brief discussion of how the different entities of SAU #55 interact and are funded.

Mr. Stokingger stated that as of this time, there is no Budget Committee representation at the various committee meetings and this concerns him that the Budget Committee members are not getting all the information they need. Mrs. O'Neil stated that the Budget Committee members are doing the best they can and she would like to have the various committee meeting minutes made available to the Budget Committee so they can be informed, even if they don't have time to attend the meetings. Mr. Mullen stated he has not missed watching the video of every school board meeting in a very long time and all the other committee meetings should also be recorded and posted.

Questions regarding the financial reports distributed at the last meeting were discussed. Many Committee Members were very concerned about the Athletic Department increases for the Athletic Trainers as well as the lack of detail presented in the other account lines. It was suggested that Mr. Fantasia be invited back, because the committee members were not satisfied with the emailed answers to their written questions. Mr. Stokingger will let him know the Budget Committee would like him to be at the November 3, 2010 meeting. Overall the Budget Committee was unhappy with the lack of details entered into the proposed budget by the various departments and principals. The details listed as "no increase" were insulting because they could obviously see that from the numbers presented. Mr. Bouchard suggested a glossary of common acronyms and other words not typically understood be provided. A minimum dollar amount of what the Budget Committee should review was discussed.

Mr. Stokingger stated it is his goal to present Draft 1 of the entire proposed budget to the Budget Committee at the next meeting on November 3, 2010. As far as he knows Mr. LaSalle will also be attending that meeting.

Mrs. O'Neil stated she is aware that the NH RSA says the Budget Committee is supposed to "prepare" the budget but she finds that requirement extremely unlikely and difficult since she has no idea how to start with such a massive complicated budget like the one Timberlane has. Mr. Mullen stated that if the Budget Committee wanted to give the Administration a bottom line and then let them figure out where to spend it, that would be an acceptable way for the Budget Committee to "prepare" the budget. Mr. Balanoff stated that he knows that the salaries for the contracted personnel are not within the control of the Budget Committee but he thinks it would be appropriate to say limit the number of psychologists the district has on staff.

Mrs. O'Neil asked the other committee members how they would like to proceed with this budget process, considering there is a lot of information to review and only five meetings before the public hearing. A lengthy discussion of various techniques used to review budgets was made.

Ms. Conte made a motion and was seconded by Ms. Rochford to ask for more details from the Departments and Principals of the proposed budget on any one line that is a request for \$5000 or more.

The specific type of details they wanted was discussed. It was agreed, not the names of students or any other private information but rather the counts, formulas and estimates of how the proposed numbers were arrived at.

Mr. Collins made a motion and was seconded by Ms. Rochford to amend the first motion to read “more specific details”.

Vote: Unanimous.

Vote on original motion: Unanimous.

Mr. Stokingler stated he will open up the database tonight and email all the Principals and Department heads with examples the Budget Committee gave this evening of good and bad descriptions, so the Budget Committee will have new reports with more details at the next meeting.

The Budget Committee continued reviewing down the account lines in the proposed budget and Mr. Stokingler gave a brief description of items he could explain. Ms. Rochford asked about the revenue generated at the PAC. Mr. Stokingler explained that the PAC is a separate “entity” and the funds generated from renting the facility are kept separate from the general fund. Some years they make a little money and some years they lose money. The annual report has a summary of how the PAC facility does financially that year.

Mr. Stokingler gave a brief description of the three parts that make up Facilities. The Budget Committee reviewed the Facilities Operations Report in detail. The budget request for this portion is down \$3,895. Mr. Stokingler then reviewed the Buildings Maintenance and Renovation Schedule voted on at the last Facilities Committee meeting. Lastly the Sites Report was reviewed which was also voted on, at the last Facilities Committee meeting. Over all, the requested budget for these two sections is down about \$255,000.

The Committee reviewed the agenda for the November 3rd meeting discussing the people they would like to ask questions of and the first two are Mr. Fantasia for Athletics and Mrs. Lovett for Pupil Personnel Services.

Mr. Stokingler reviewed the instructions to receive email alerts when items are posted to the Budget Committee SharePoint site. The SharePoint site for the Budget Committee is all public access except the agenda packet section.

Mr. Stokingler also shared news he received from HR Director, Mrs. Danahy, just before the meeting started. By her calculations and with all the changes made to the health insurance plans made last year, such as closing the most expensive plan to new employees and increasing the co pays, the health insurance increase using the guaranteed max rates (6 to 9% depending on plan) looks to be only around \$50,000. Essentially it is flat. According to Mrs. Danahy there are 12 less people on the plans this year than a year ago. She also knows that some employees told her they were going with their spouses insurance because of the increased co pays or some moved to the cheaper plans because the school district contribution rate for the more expensive plan, dropped last year.

Mr. Mullen made a motion and was seconded by Mrs. Rochford, to post the financial reports received so far to the SharePoint site.

Vote: Nine in favor. One opposed.

Ms. Rochford made a motion and was seconded by Mrs. Chaput to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 pm.

Vote Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Smith

Recording Secretary

Approved 11/3/2010