

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

Regular Meeting
December 9, 2010
7:00 p.m.

SAU, 30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, New Hampshire
03865

Mrs. O'Neil called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Mrs. O'Neil, Mrs. Chaput, Mrs. Lisi, Ms. Conte, Mr. Bouchard and Mr. Mascola, who substituted for Mr. Collins.

Excused Absent: Ms. Rochford and Ms. Maffeo; Unexcused Absent: Mr. Balanoff and Mr. Mullen.

Timberlane Administration Present:

Mr. Stokinger, Business Administrator,
Mrs. Danahy, Director of Human Resources
Mr. LaSalle, Superintendent

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Mrs. Chaput made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Mascola to accept the minutes of November 23, 2010 as presented.

Vote: 3 in favor and 3 abstain, Mr. Mascola, Mr. Bouchard and Ms. Conte.

Correspondence:

Mrs. O'Neil stated there were emails going around in regards to the sound not working on the TEN network and a voter having a hard time accessing the meeting. She was referred to the Budget Committee site to watch the video recording of the meeting over the internet. Mr. LaSalle stated the Vimeo.com/trsd site that Mr. Zanello set up for the District has some really good quality video and sound. He thanked Mr. Zanello who was present recording the meeting.

Under reports of the Committee Members, Mrs. O'Neil stated she attended the TRMS Band Concert and was happy to learn the Timberlane School District has the largest number of students attending the State Competition.

Under Board Reports, Mr. Mascola reported the School Board was presented with potentially three warrant article items. The first was reconstruction of the locker room areas at the High School, the second was the Pollard kitchen renovation and the third was changing the amount of the deposit into the Capital Reserve Account from the unencumbered fund balance. He stated the amount of the Capital Reserve account deposit was changed from \$100,000 to \$200,000. Mrs. O'Neil asked why this was done and is this change permanent. Mr. Mascola stated the reason was partially to offset the cost of renovating the Pollard kitchen which could potentially deplete the account to zero. The School Board did not really discussed how long to leave this change in effect but he thought the School Board would think it was a good idea to leave it at the new level permanently to help offset future projects. The initial presentation regarding the

Pollard kitchen renovation was substantially more expensive than the other kitchen renovations and the School Board asked for additional information before a decision could be reached. The School Board did vote to NOT proceed with renovating the locker room areas at this time due to the state of the economy. Mr. Mascola stated the School Board also voted to accept the Default Budget as presented.

Under new business Mr. Stokinger handed out the latest financial reports for the proposed budget. He stated there has been only a minor change since the last version was distributed. Mr. Fantasia has heard back from the athletic training company and has settled on a firm contract price so that he can now cut that line by \$8680. Additionally the company agreed to do additional concussion baseline testing for the agreed upon contract price.

Mrs. O'Neil asked if the 2% raises for the non-affiliated staff are still this latest version of the budget. Mr. LaSalle stated those raises amount to about \$150,000 and they are still included in the proposed budget for 2012. Mr. LaSalle did a brief review of the staff cuts he has already made to the proposed budget. He stated he has been told by the Principals, in recent months the schools have picked up quite a few new students and he is hesitant to cut additional teaching staff until he knows what the final enrollment numbers look like. He will not fill all the teaching positions he has budgeted if the enrollment stays low enough, however he is not comfortable cutting those positions at this time, in case the enrollment does continue this recent trend. The Administrative positions are still being studied regarding restructuring duties and he would need to approach the school board to make a recommendation to cut that position.

Mr. LaSalle notified the Budget Committee of the NH Ed Jobs Grant that Timberlane is entitled to apply for, to save teaching positions which also includes the cost of raises and benefits. He suggested the Budget Committee make a motion to cut the proposed budget by \$150,000 and ask the non-affiliated staff raises be paid directly from this grant. The cliff effect was discussed in regards to making up this amount and any additional raises given in the following year. Mr. LaSalle stated he does not think the cliff effect will be very bad because he anticipates enrollment continuing to decline and a continued trend of staff reductions to absorb some of the costs.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion and was seconded by Mrs. Chaput to reduce the proposed budget by \$150,000 which represents the 2% salary increases for all the non-affiliated staff.

Vote: Three in favor, two opposed and one abstention, Mr. Mascola.

Mr. Stokinger stated this brings the proposed budget under the current budget by \$253,226. The new proposed budget amount is now \$62,437,055.

Mr. LaSalle asked if the Budget Committee had any other areas of concern. He also stated he is a little uncomfortable with the very conservative budget numbers, especially in light of the recent trend in oil pricing but he is not so uncomfortable that he feels he needs to change anything else in the proposed budget. He feels the proposed budget is lean but manageable and protects the integrity of the programs. He feels the budget is responsible and doesn't have any "extras". Mrs. O'Neil pointed out that it is so unusual for this District to have a Default Budget higher than the proposed and this is the second year in a row where this has been that situation. Mr.

LaSalle explained the RSA governing Default is not intended to severely cut the Budget but rather to turn the clock back to the last time the voters approved a budget, with a few specific exceptions, such as one time unusual purchases not likely to happen again and contractual obligations.

Request for information was discussed regarding multiple email requests from a resident who was frustrated trying to access budget information she needed. Mrs. O'Neil was upset that other members answered the person's question directly after she had already answered her questions. The procedure for replying to correspondences was discussed at length. Mrs. O'Neil apologized for over reacting to the other committee members' response to the resident. It was agreed by consensus that only the Chair will respond to Budget Committee correspondences however, she will always copy all the members to keep them informed. Any additional suggestions should be directed back to the chair, who will decide how to respond to the person asking the questions.

The future meeting dates are:

Wednesday December, 22, 2010

Tuesday, January 11, 2011 Public Hearing at the PAC

Thursday January 27, 2011

Thursday February 10, 2011 Deliberative Session

Mr. Stokinger reviewed in detail the calculations used in developing the Default Budget of \$62,732,519 which was approved by the School Board on December 2, 2010. Mr. Mascola asked about the generator being removed from the default, which was budgeted in the projects line. Mr. Stokinger had asked the School board if they wanted to remove any of the projects line since we normally spend about \$676,000 per year. The School Board agreed with his decision to voluntarily remove \$326,000 from default; therefore we are certainly in compliance with the RSA.

It was agreed no action will be taken on the proposed budget until the December 22, 2010 meeting, due to so many Budget Committee members being absent.

Mr. Bouchard requested absence notification process be reviewed due to the large number of absences in this meeting. Mrs. O'Neil stated two absences were excused while two were unexcused. The notification process will be added to the next agenda.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion and was seconded by Mrs. Chaput to adjourn at 8:10 pm.

Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Danahy

Recording Secretary

Approved 12/22/2010