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

Organizational Meeting SAU 55
March 25, 2010 Plaistow, New Hampshire
7:00 p.m.

Mr. Stokinger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; attendance was taken.

Present: Ms. Rochford, Mr. Murray, Mr. Mullen, Mrs. O'Neil, Ms. Conte, Mr. Bouchard and Mr. Balanoff and Mrs. Chaput. Mr. Collins was in attendance as the School Board Representative.

Mr. Mascola and Mrs. Lisi were present in audience.

Mr. Stokinger welcomed the new Budget Committee Members. He requested everyone take a moment to introduce themselves. The Timberlane budget Committee By-Laws and the relevant RSA's were handed out.

Mr. Stokinger called for nominations for the Chair position for 2010-2011. He also noted that research had been conducted by Cathy Belcher and Nancy Danahy which shows that a second is not necessary when nominating.

Ms. Rochford made a motion to nominate Mrs. O'Neil.
Mr. Mullen made a motion to nominate himself.

In the case of more than one person being nominated for the position, a secret ballot vote is taken in accordance with Robert Rules of Order. Mr. Stokinger gave instructions to the members in the voting procedure. The recording secretary collected the ballots and counted the tally.
Vote: six votes for Mrs. O'Neil, three votes for Mr. Mullen. Mrs. O'Neil is the elected Chairperson.

Mr. Stokinger called for nominations for the Vice Chair position for 2010-2011.

Mrs. O'Neil made a motion to nominate Mrs. Rochford as Vice Chair.
No other nominations were made for the position.
Vote: Eight in favor and one abstain, Mr. Balanoff.

At 7:10 pm Mr. Stokinger relinquished running the meeting to the newly elected Chair.

Ms. Rochford made a motion to appoint Kathy Smith as recording secretary for 2010-2011.
Vote: Unanimous.
The motion passed.

Review of the Budget Committee By-Laws was next on the agenda for discussion. Mr. Stokinger presented a proposed calendar of meetings per Section II, subsection A, meeting schedule. Mr. Stokinger stated that many times the calendar isn't really addressed until the September meetings. Ms. Rochford reminded everyone that the calendar can be revised as needed. Mr. Bouchard inquired about the meeting start time at 7:00 pm. Mrs. O'Neil requested the calendar be added to the agenda for the next meeting as unfinished business.

Mr. Mullen made a motion to revise the By-Laws section I, subsection B. Elections-A plurality shall be sufficient to continue with a next sentence stating "If more than two candidates compete for the same seat, a runoff will be held between the two finalists, the member with the most votes used to determine a winner." The motion was seconded by Ms. Rochford. Mr. Stokinger referred to the Robert Rules of Order stating that a ballot vote is recommended with the winner being the one with the most votes, not necessarily the majority. Mr. Collins stated the School Board also adheres to plurality rules and recommends not making the change to remain consistent.
Vote: Five in favor, Four against, the motion fails because a 2/3 majority vote is needed to amend the By-Laws.

Mr. Mullen made a motion to revise the By-Laws section I, subsection B, 5 which states "the committee may reconvene" to "the committee will reconvene". There was no second of the motion.

Mr. Mullen made a motion to revise the By-Laws section IV, Quorum which states "A majority of legal members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business." Adding another sentence stating, "Legal members for the purpose of determining a quorum will consist of the majority of the elected members plus the appointed school board representative, or his alternate." Mr. Balanoff seconded the motion to open for discussion. Mrs. O'Neil stated a quorum is already defined in the RSA's but it wouldn't hurt to restate it in the By-Laws. Mr. Mullen said it has confused some members in the past whether or not the school board representative can legally make the quorum, so he is attempting to make it clearer with this amendment. Mr. Balanoff stated he thought that a quorum was pretty self explanatory and the change was unnecessary. Mr. Mullen made a motion to amend his motion to include "legally elected or appointed members". Mr. Balanoff seconded the motion to amend.
Vote: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Mr. Mullen made a motion to revise the By-Laws section VI, Attendance by striking the entire paragraph as it is now and replace it with wording from RSA 32:15, subsection VI, which states "A member at large shall cease to hold office immediately upon missing 4 consecutive scheduled or announced meetings of which that member received reasonable notice, without being excused by the chair." The motion was not seconded. Mrs. O'Neil stated that this section was amended a few years ago from "three to two" absences because the Budget Committee has so few meetings, missing just one is a lot information to miss. Mr. Balanoff stated this section states a notification process only before the RSA kicks in. Mr. Stokinger reiterated that attendance was vitally important and that is the main point of the paragraph. He also stated it is usually not recommended to restate what is in an RSA, instead of referring to it, because from time to time the RSA's are changed and then your local regulations are out of sync with the RSA's. Mr. Bouchard asked if the Budget Committee receives the latest RSA's every year and it was clarified that yes the latest RSA revisions are supplied every year.

Mr. Mullen made a motion to revise the By-Laws section VII, subsection "B" by striking it entirely and to change section "A" to the same verbiage as in RSA 32:15 section VII, "In municipalities where members-at-large are elected, vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the budget committee. Persons appointed to fill vacancies shall serve until the next annual meeting at which time a successor shall be elected or appointed to either fill the unexpired term or start a new term, as the case may be." Mr. Stokinger read RSA 671:33 Post Election Procedures which states essentially the same thing only it is specific to Cooperative School Districts.

Mr. Mullen amended his motion on the floor to revise the By-Laws section VII, subsection "B" be stricken and to add to the end of section "A" "in accordance with RSA 671:33."
Vote: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Ms. Rochford made a motion to add the “pledge of allegiance” to section II, subsection B in the order of business, in the By-Laws after item 2. Roll Call. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bouchard.
Vote: Unanimous. The motion passed.

The committee members requested the manuals handed out this evening be collected and corrected with the revisions made this evening and redistributed at the next meeting.

Ms. Rochford made a motion to accept the amended By-Laws and was seconded by Mr. Murray.
Vote: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Ms. Rochford made a motion to adjourn the organizational meeting at 7:46 pm and was seconded by Mr. Collins.
Vote: Unanimous. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Smith
Recording Secretary
Approved 04/10/2010