

Timberlane Regional School District Budget Committee

Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow, and Sandown

Regular Meeting
December 22, 2009
7:00 p.m.

SAU 30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, New Hampshire
03865

1. Call to Order: Mr. Balanoff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Present: Mr. Balanoff, Mr. Murray, Mrs. O'Neil, Ms. Rochford, Mr. Mullen, Mr. Paone (alternate), Mrs. Copp and Mr. Dhaliwal (arrived at 7:15p.m.) Administrators present were Mr. LaSalle and Mr. Stokinger.
3. Approval of Minutes: Mrs. O'Neil made a motion to accept the minutes of December 10, 2009, with the amendments made. Ms. Rochford seconded the motion. Vote: Seven in favor. One abstains: Mr. Paone.
4. Correspondence. Mrs. O'Neil reported there were no emails received.
5. Delegations and Individuals: None
6. Reports of Committees:
 - a. Budget Committee Members: none
 - b. School Board Representative: none.
7. Unfinished Business:
 - a. Sandown Vacancy:
 - b. Plaistow Vacancy:
 - c. 2010-2011 Budget:

Mr. LaSalle distributed and reviewed the proposed Warrant with the Budget Committee members and stated the School Board had recently worked on revising the wording on the warrant articles for clarity to the voters. One wording change made by the School Board on the TTA warrant article is leaving off "year one" in the chart since there is no financial impact for this year. The text following the chart will include the bottom line financial impact of the contract. The School Board also discussed increasing the Capital Reserve warrant article but decided that doing so this year was not a good idea since the school district had a large surplus last year and will need to raise funds to offset that lack of surplus this year. The Atkinson Academy kitchen warrant article was discussed by the School Board but was tabled until another meeting to make the final decision regarding including it on the warrant and whether to fund it from the capital reserve account. Mrs. Rochford asked about the HS Lab renovation project being in a warrant article since that project would likely appeal to all voters in all four towns while the Atkinson Academy kitchen would only appeal to the Atkinson voters. Mr. LaSalle stated there would need to be some work done to educate the voters that the AA kitchen renovation is the second renovation in the overall plan to update all the districts aging kitchens. Danville's kitchen being renovated this past year and AA next on the schedule. Mr. LaSalle stated the School Board members agreed that the most important article is the TTA contract and everything that can be done to help insure this warrant article passes, is done. Mr. Murray stated he agrees we should try to add in language that explains this kitchen project is part of a larger plan.

Mrs. Cobb asked about the new RSA that states the actual tally of the Budget committee and school board being listed under the warrant articles which raise money. Mrs. O'Neil read from the previous year's annual report where the district did vote in favor of adopting RSA 32:5, V-a and RSA 40:13, V-a, which states the numeric tally will be listed after each budget warrant article.

Mr. Stokinger distributed the financial reports for draft 4 which was being presented tonight. This latest version of the proposed budget is 1.71% higher than the current year's budget. Mr. Stokinger stated that the budget is in fact down except for a few uncontrollable items such as NH Retirement, Health Insurance, Transportation contracts etc. The Regular Education function is down \$93,539 while the Special Education function is only up \$36,302.97 despite a large increase in the out of district tuition rates. The health insurance guaranteed maximum originally came in at an increase of 23% but was reduced to an increase of 7.9%.

Mrs. Copp asked if the default budget is higher than the proposed budget. Mr. Stokinger explained that it was by \$106,016, which shows a real effort in belt tightening by the staff. Mrs. Copp asked if the Default Budget could be reviewed at this time because she had a few questions. She wondered if the HS Intercom and Time Entry systems were both included in the Default budget. Mr. Stokinger explained that they were. The HS Intercom does not work and there is no way to communicate with the entire building in the event of an emergency which is a State regulation. Mr. LaSalle stated that the Department of Labor fined the Timberlane School District \$87,000 for not complying with time keeping RSA's. During the hearing at the DOL the district submitted a plan which included purchasing an automated time keeping system, which was accepted by the DOL, therefore the time keeping system is to make the District compliant with DOL State regulations. Mrs. Copp stated she called the LGC (Local Government Center) and spoke to one of their lawyers regarding what is legally supposed to be included in the default budget. Mrs. Copp stated these two items and perhaps more should be removed from the default due to them being illegally included. Mr. Stokinger read the Default Budget RSA 40:13, IX (b) to the Budget Committee members several times and copies were finally made available for everyone to review. A very lengthy discussion ensued regarding the legality of the items included in the default budget. After the discussion it was agreed that Mr. Paone will speak to the School Board about the seven items currently included in the Default Budget which some members do not agree with. The items included in the default that are being questioned are TA sub/assistants (6731), HS Intercom \$32,150, Truancy \$44,465, Time collection \$55,148, Medicaid billing \$12,000, Utilities (\$37,300) and Evening Division \$31,473 for a total of \$131,205. The SAU Budget increase was discussed as to the legality of that being included in the Default but Mr. Stokinger explained that after the SAU holds the Public Hearing the SAU Budget then becomes a commitment to the Districts within the SAU. Mr. LaSalle pointed out that the Default Budget and Warrant Articles are really the responsibility of the School Board not the Budget Committee and the discussion the Budget Committee was having tonight was an attempt in circumventing the process of checks and balances within the system. The School Board may or may not decide to reduce the Default Budget since they have not been given that information as of yet.

Mr. Mullen made a motion and was seconded by Mrs. Copp to remove the HS Lab renovation from the Budget Committee Proposed Budget. Vote: three in favor, four against. The motion failed and the HS lab renovation remains in the proposed budget.

Mr. Murray questioned why a reading specialist was removed from the budget. Mr. LaSalle explained that Pollard had historically always had two of these specialists and the second position was found to be not necessary anymore. Mr. LaSalle is waiting to see if can cut two more teacher positions depending upon how the enrollment figures come in.

Mr. LaSalle offered to cut the budget an additional \$125,000 gambling on these two positions not being needed and if that does not turn out to be true, then he will be gambling on the GMR coming in much lower in May. If that doesn't work out then he will need to cut supplies etc. next summer/fall to meet that additional cut of \$125,000. The committee members were polled and no one felt that the cut was necessary at this point. Mr. LaSalle stated that he feels that it is important that the proposed budget be supported by all the committee members as well as the warrant articles. He reiterated that warrant articles are not a place for a required item and he feels strongly that the HS Lab renovation will negatively impact the quality of education if it is removed from the budget.

8. New Business:

9. Other Business:

10. Future Agenda and Dates:

Budget Committee:

Thursday, January 14, 2010- Public Hearing- 7pm-PAC.

Other Meetings:

School Board:

Thursday, January 7, 2010, SAU Office-7:30pm

Thursday, January 21, 2010, SAU Office-7:30pm

Mr. Mullen made a motion and was seconded by Mrs. Copp, to adjourn at 9:25 pm.

Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Smith

Recording Secretary

Approved 1/19/2010