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

November 9, 2006 Plaistow, New Hampshire
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:
Chairman Charles Balanoff called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call:
Present: Mrs. Winn, Mrs. Hess, Mrs. Quigley, Mr. Balanoff, Mrs. O'Neil, Mrs. Collie, Mrs. Zerba, and Mr. Brown. Administrators present were Mr. Stokinger, Mr. LaSalle, and Mrs. Ralph.
Absent: Mrs. Suech and Mrs. Lambert.

Mrs. Winn made a motion to accept the minutes of October 26, 2006.
Mrs. Zerba seconded the motion.
Vote: Five voted to accept the minutes with changes noted, 2 abstentions (Mrs. Hess & Mrs. Quigley).

Correspondence: None
Delegations and Individuals:
Mrs. Zerba reported on the Facilities Meeting she attended. Highlights from the Facilities Meeting were a vote taken to correct the a/c situation in the computer room at the SAU and to correct the ventilation in the attic of the SAU Office from this year's savings in the energy budget. She also stated there was a lengthy discussion about the quality of the lunch menus and the condition of the districts kitchens which she stated haven't been addressed.

Mrs. Hess reported on the Curriculum and Assessment Committee Meeting. Mr. LaSalle helped to explain what the "Credit Recovery Program" was that was discussed at the Curriculum Meeting.

Mr. Brown reported that the School Board has not reached a decision regarding the Kindergarten proposal. Mrs. Ralph stated that the proposal is really about early intervention. Discussion occurred in regards to the actual wording of the Warrant Articles.

Unfinished Business: Mrs. Winn stated she just wanted to be sure that she did not have to attend the Curriculum Committee meetings unless Mrs. Hess called her.

New Business:
Mr. Stokinger handed out Draft #2 of the 07-08 Budget along with a summary sheet explaining the first round of cuts made by Dr. McDonald. Mrs. O'Neil brought up for discussion the Budget Process and how she does not like to start with last years adopted budget. She also questioned whether or not the Warrant Article for the Capital Reserve of $100k was getting rolled into the beginning budget numbers. Mr. Brown stated that the default Budget should be made available right away then add on from there. There was discussion about one-time purchases, and if it is a "one-time" purchase, why it doesn't get removed from the next years Budget. It was stated that every year you need different "one-time" replacement items, for example the items Mr. Hughes had referred to in his "Life Cycle" rotation. Mr. LaSalle explained how the Budgeting process is handled in Hampstead and perhaps next year a varied approach may make things easier for the Budget Committee to understand what exactly makes up the 50+ million dollar budget. Mr. Stokinger pointed out that the Proposed 08 Budget shows a reduction in the capital reserve line by the previous years warrant article of $100k.

Mr. Balanoff discussed cutting even more from the energy accounts for next year. Mr. Stokinger explained that he was comfortable with $190k cut already done, and we don't really know what will happen with energy costs by June 2008 therefore, we need to be careful not to cut ourselves short.

Mrs. Ralph gave a presentation on the latest Kindergarten "Zero Tax Impact" proposal. Some budget Committee members were happier with the first proposal instead of this version which makes do with some existing staff, supplies and books and provides no midday transportation. Some Committee members thought that perhaps an option between the first and second would be better, having some tax impact, but less than the original proposal. Mr. LaSalle stated that the public seemed in favor of Kindergarten but not in favor of additional costs for it, which is what prompted the second proposal. Mr. Brown commented that the District would need to do a good job of educating the public as to how additional state adequacy funding in years two and three etc. will offset any future costs.

Mr. Brown asked if the Budget Committee would ever consider having their meetings televised so the public can see how much work goes into this Budgeting process. Some member's thought that without the reports etc. that the Committee is supplied with, the conversations would be too confusing.

Mr. Balanoff stated he would like to see the budget process start at zero and work up from there and not off of last year's figures.

Mrs. O'Neil questioned the relationship between enrollment figures that have slightly declined in the last year or so at the elementary schools and the Budget continuing to go up.

Mr. Brown stated that he still believes that there are too many administrators at the Middle School. Then it was discussed that some of the "Admin" at the Middles School also do some teaching and they have split positions.

Other Business:
Mrs. O'Neil reported that the Danville tax rate went up significantly and her husband, who is a Selectmen in Danville, will be contacting Mr. Stokinger for help in understanding how this unexpected increase happened.

Future Agenda Dates:
The next meeting is on Tuesday November 21 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Mrs. Winn and Mrs. Zerba stated they would not be available to attend. The second meeting in December may also need to be rescheduled or cancelled, but would be decided at the next meeting or the first one in December.

With an unofficial vote, the Budget Committee asked Mr. Brown to inform the School Board, that the Budget Committee will support the Warrant Articles for Kindergarten.

Mr. LaSalle discussed that even though we don't have any construction projects needed due to increasing enrollment, there are also qualitative reasons to do construction. He explained that what makes a good quality school in New Hampshire now is not the same as it used to be and the Committee needs to decide what quality of School Timberlane should be.

Mrs. Zerba made a motion and seconded by Mrs. O'Neil to adjourn at 9:25pm.
Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Smith
Recording Secretary