

Timberlane Regional School District Budget Committee

Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow, and Sandown

December 14, 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. Zerba, Mrs. Hess, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Quigley, Mrs. Winn, Mr. Balanoff, Mrs. O'Neil and Mrs. Collie.

Absent: Mrs. Suech and Mr. Brown

Administrators present were Mr. Stokinger and Dr. McDonald.

Mrs. O'Neil made a motion to accept the minutes of November 21, 2006 with amendments.

Mr. Brown seconded the motion.

Vote: Five voted to accept the minutes as written with 3 abstentions Mrs. Hess, Mrs. Quigley, and Mrs. Winn.

Correspondence: None

Delegations and Individuals: None

Unfinished Business:

07-08 Budget: Dr. McDonald presented his latest draft of the proposed 07-08 Budget. He reported that he was able to cut the Budget the additional \$316,000 which was requested by the Budget Committee at the last meeting. This brings the proposed Budget down to \$56,361,067.20, which is a 4.25% increase over last years budget. Most of this increase is due to contractual obligations and an increase in the NH Retirement contribution rates. He also reported that to make the additional \$316,000 in cuts he took a little from each department including an additional cut of health insurance of \$95,000. The biggest cut in any one school was at the High School removing the requested locker money. Some Committee Members asked that since it has been such a mild winter so far this year, could the High School have some money for the lockers if there is excess money in the energy budget by the end of the fiscal year. Dr. McDonald stated he would address that request towards the end of the fiscal year and see how the budget looks overall.

Dr. McDonald then presented the Default Budget for 2007-2008, which is \$55,809,060.34. This is a difference of \$552,006.86 from the proposed Budget. He took out some of the energy costs money, which was in previous years increased, even though State law didn't require it. He felt the budget was increased in past years due to energy costs and it was only fair to decrease the default budget due to expected savings in energy costs. He stated that if the default budget gets voted in, he might have to cut some people or programs.

The District Bid Policy was discussed and the Committee Members were informed that opening the Bids is done during a Public Meeting and many times the various vendors are present to see the outcome. The public can be present if they so desire during the Bid opening too.

Equity between the schools within the Timberlane District was discussed. Dr. McDonald stated that when he first started twelve years ago, it wasn't always as fair as it could be, but now he feels that the schools are each treated equally with budget requests etc.

Dr. McDonald brought up for discussion the proposed Kindergarten program. The projected enrollments for the first three years are 85%, 90% and 95% respectively. All of the program operational costs will be covered by the state because there is no midday transportation. In year three the state contribution per child goes up to \$1800 from \$1200, at which time the district could consider adding midday transportation with minimal affect on the tax rate.

The proposed warrant articles were extensively discussed and rewritten. The Budget Committee members were very concerned that the Kindergarten might be voted down again and didn't want that to happen because the wording is confusing to people.

The Budget Committee voted on the proposed budget and the warrant articles to present them at the Public Hearing on Wednesday January 10, 2007.

Article # 2-Operating Budget

Motion made by Mrs. Quigley and seconded by Mrs. Hess.

The 2007-2008 proposed budget of \$56,361,067.20 as written, to be presented at the Public Hearing

Vote: Unanimous.

Article #3-Capital Reserve Fund

Motion made by Mrs. Winn and seconded by Mrs. Quigley. Vote: Unanimous.

Article #4-Kindergarten Program

Motion made by Mrs. Quigley and seconded by Mrs. Hess. Vote: Unanimous.

Article #5-Kindergarten Classroom

Motion made by Mrs. Quigley and seconded by Mrs. Zerba. Vote: Unanimous.

Article #6-High School Roof

Motion made by Mrs. Hess and seconded by Mrs. Lambert. Vote: Unanimous.

Other Business:

None:

Future Agenda Dates:

Mrs. Quigley made a motion and was seconded by Mrs. Winn to cancel the Budget Committee Meeting scheduled for December 28, 2006. Vote: Unanimous

Mrs. Winn made a motion and was seconded by Mrs. Quigley to hold the next Budget Meeting on Wednesday January 10th, 2007 immediately following the Public Hearing. Vote: Unanimous

Reports of Committees:

Mrs. O'Neil reported the Technology Committee Meeting was cancelled.

Mrs. Lambert reported on the Safety Committee Meeting. Items discussed at the Safety Committee were the concerns raised about voting at Pollard School and the malfunction at Danville of the suspended sped equipment. The Safety Committee decided to form a subcommittee to address the voting concerns and voted to suspend using all suspended equipment, district wide, until all of it can be inspected and certified safe to use again by a qualified inspector. Mrs. Lambert also reported that Jim Hughes stated he expects to have the reconstruction of the front entryway of each school done by the end of February with the exception of the Middle school which needs a new plan that includes a new doorway to the Sped room. Other topics discussed were the classroom door locks for lockdown and the High School off site evacuation.

Mrs. Zerba brought up for discussion her concerns that not all classroom doors have a small window for safety. She said she emailed Jim Hughes her concerns and he stated he would take an inventory.

Also discussed around Safety was the fact that the back door at the SAU Office is now locked and everyone needs to enter through the front door and sign in during the day.

The next Community Safety Meeting is on January 23, 2007 followed by the Timberlane Safety Meeting at the PAC recital Hall at 8:30 am.

Mrs. O'Neil brought up for discussion the "Evening with Timberlane" hosted by the Danville Dad's on January 24, 2007. She was surprised a letter was not included with the agenda for this evening, inviting all the Budget Committee Members who she knew were supposed to be invited.

Mrs. Winn made a motion and was seconded by Mrs. Quigley to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.
Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Smith
Recording Secretary