



TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Public Hearing

January 15th 2026

7:00 PM

Liz Kosta, Chair

Karen White, Vice Chair

Call to Order

7:05 PM

Roll Call taken by Heather Greenfield

Present: Peter Bealo, Kathryn Consalvo, Julie Hammond, Liz Kosta, Brian Smith, Karen White

School Board Present: Katie Knutsen, Alyssa Kowalczyk, Paul LeCain, Shauna Manthorn, Mark Sherwood, Marianne Springer, Brie Woodworth, Don Woodworth

Administrators Present: Maria Watkins Business Administrator/CFO, Justin Krieger Superintendent, Lisa Oliver Assistant Business Administrator.

District Attorney- Attorney Gordan Graham

New Business –

Liz Kosta reviewed slides addressing mission statement, budget committee members, school board members, and agenda items.

Justin discussed with the public what information is included in the information packet for the meeting. These include the full warrant, the full FY27 proposed budget, the FY27 default budget, and other information regarding the budget.

Justin also recapped the budget season timeline and how the budget committee landed on the proposed budget.



Public Comment on Proposed Budget

Ryan LaBrecque, Main St. Plaistow said that this budget represents for a \$450k property approx. a \$1,000 to \$2,300 increase a year. He said it seems like we throw everything into the budget and then cut just a little bit. It's not the right way to budget. He asks what we are projecting to spend this year, Justin says \$84 million. Ryan also asks about positions that were cut, Justin states that dollars equal to 21 positions were cut. Ryan asks about the proficiency scores on article 2, and if the district is proud of the proficiency scores.

Paul Sedillo, Atkinson asked about the reductions that were made to the budget and how it is decided in what to cut. He thinks that cutting staff would not help proficiency scores.

Michael Boucher Atkinson, asked how the proficiency scores are calculated. Justin responds that it is an average between the multiple grades that are tested.

Chris Tardif Atkinson said that the original proposed budget was \$92 million in order to operate the district on the same level as it is currently operating. He thinks that any more cuts will be devastating to the district and community.

Julia Doherty Atkinson said that she supports the proposed budget. Any further reductions would affect the integrity of the district. Cutting positions moves us in the wrong direction, you can't cut if you want to see improvements.

Ryan LaBrecque Plaistow, said there is an inverse relationship between funding and performance. He said the money is going to high priced SAU salaries and not to teaching. He asked what the total expenses are to date in dollars. Maria responded that as of Jan 11, 2026 the actual expenses are \$37,327,803. Ryan stated that this is less than 50% spent, Maria reminds him that July and August school year staff are not paid. How many people lost their jobs last year, Justin responded 10 physical people were cut. Appreciates the amount of information that is given for the public hearing packet.

Nolan Pelletier 24 North Ave. Plaistow, also appreciated the information given. Asked about position eliminated in the graph included in the packet.

Julia Doherty Atkinson, asked what would happen to the responsibilities of an Admin if that position was eliminated. Justin responded that those responsibilities would then be distributed to other positions, the work doesn't go away.



Michael Boucher Atkinson, asked about what SAU position was eliminated last year. Justin responded that it was the Director of Special Education. He asked how has Special Education been with that reduction and what feedback has been received by parents.

Bob Kinkaid Plaistow, wanted to look at the budget drivers slide again.

Ryan Labrecque Plaistow, said that we live in a resource constrained society.

Maria asked the residents that were there to keep in mind that NH has an education funding problem.

Nolan Pelletier Plaistow, asked where that money would come from. That money would have to come from somewhere else right?

Public comment on Default Budget

Nolan Pelletier Plaistow, asked when the audit report would be available. Maria responded that the special audit is behind due to state grant auditing.

Public Comment on Revenue Budget

Kim Farah, Danville wants to know what the interest earned last year was. Maria says it was around \$500k, so why is it budgeted at \$100k. Maria explains that the interest rates were high and that the district will not have the same amount of cash flow this year.

Public Comment on Article 3

Chris Tardif Atkinson, asked what would happen to this agreement if a tax cap was put in place. Mark responded that this would be unsustainable.

Nolan Pelletier Plaistow, asked about the budget being a bottom line budget and if monies could be transferred to different lines. Justin responded that this is correct. Nolan stated that the districts hands are not tied then if a tax cap was put into place.

Public Comment on Article 4

No comment

Public Comment on Article 5

No comment



Public Comment on Article 6

No comment

Public Comment on Article 7

Nolan Pelletier Plaistow, asked how many members were in this union. Justin responded that it is 28 members that include principals, vice principals, curriculum coordinators, and a swath of other administrators.

Ryan Labrecque Plaistow, asked what the average salary of this group was. Maria responded that the proposed average salary for next year is \$120,000. Ryan asked if it's ever been discussed that the individuals in the district with the highest salaries forgo raises to help give raises to the lower paid in district.

Maria wanted to let the taxpayers know that this agreement gives administrators an average raise of 3.4% for next year.

Public Comment on Article 8

No comment

Public Comment on Article 9

Julia Doherty Atkinson, asked if this contract was negotiated in hopes to not need to contract services out for these positions. Justin responded that yes, this is in hopes to keep these peoples in district.

Nolan Pelletier Plaistow asked how many people this agreement covers, it was answered that it covers 10 people.

Ryan Labrecque Plaistow, asked about the occupational therapists and if they are included in a union, the answer was given that they are covered under the TTA agreement. He also asked how many unions Timberlane has and how do they come about. It is answered that there are 8, but employees can get together to unionize.

Public Comment on Article 10

No comment



Public Comment on Article 11

Ryan Labrecque Plaistow, asked what are we trying to do with this article. Marianne responded that the current article includes land purchase and there is no intention of purchasing land so it is aligning it to construction and maintenance which is what it is currently used for.

Public Comment on Article 12

Ryan Labrecque Plaistow, commented that this is just another way to capture more money from over taxation.

Nolan Pelletier Plaistow, asked what the current balance is in that account, Maria responded that it is the amount that is in the previous warrant article.

Public Comment on Article 13

Ryan Labrecque Plaistow, asked if that is another reason to over tax so that the district can retain more funds.

Marianne commented that a previous article like this existed until last year when there was an article that was intended to revert it back to the 2.5% but it rescinded being able to retain anything.

Chris Tardif Atkinson, asked what the national average is for fund retention. Maria answers that in the state we the only one that has 0%.

Nolan Pelletier Plaistow, commented that he thinks being 0% is awesome and we should lead the way.

Ryan Labrecque Plaistow, thinks that our problem is that we try to be like everyone else.

Public Comment on Article 14

Michael Boucher Atkinson, thinks that this is one of the most cost-effective ways to increase our proficiency scores and we should have done it a long time ago.

Nolan Pelletier Plaistow, disagrees with this.

Julia Doherty Atkinson, hopes that we can move this forward.



Chris Tardif Atkinson, asked if identifying students earlier would help special education costs down the road.

Nolan Pelletier Plaistow, asked how much it costs for full day kindergarten and if there are spots available.

Mark Sherwood commented that the research he has done says that identifying students earlier in kindergarten provides better outcomes long term.

Ryan Labrecque Plaistow, asked what the loss of revenue would be. Justin answered that they believe that it would be around \$750,000, but we gain adequacy aid of about \$370,000, and can eliminate one .5 position around \$50,000, and no mid-day bus for around \$75,000.

Megan Adams Atkinson wondered if they could point out the differences between the full and half day programs. In half day they aren't getting that play based learning because they have to get through the curriculum. They don't get the recess, specials and lunch like full day. Justin responded that the half day program is different.

Deb Hussey Atkinson, said that behavioral problems start at home. Kids are caught up in first grade by December.

Julia Doherty Atkinson, commented that Kindergarten isn't the same now that it used to be, it's different then it was even 5 years ago.

Chris Tardif Atkinson, asked if this article would require parents to send their children to kindergarten, Justin responded no, it wouldn't.

Public Comment on Article 15

Deb Hussey Atkinson, asked why articles aren't written so that people can understand what they are trying to ask.

Public Comment on Article 16

Ryan Labrecque Plaistow, asked if this is a legally written article.

Public Comment on Article 17



Ryan Labrecque Plaistow, commented that he is concerned that this would open the district up to lawsuits because how would you pick and choose who gets those slots vs who wouldn't.

Public Comment on Article 18

Ryan Labrecque Plaistow, asked how much money is being spent on overnight trips. Justin responds that they will work to get the numbers, he also said that most are self funded. He believes that it is around \$30,000.

Chris Tardif Atkinson, thinks that it is embarrassing that we would tell a child that they could not go on a trip.

Sebastian Shell Danville, stated that most trips are family funded.

Ryan Labrecque Plaistow, asked if these trips could happen with parent volunteers. Justin responded that there are parent and staff on these trips and staff needs to be there if it is a school sponsored trip.

Mark Sherwood, stated that this would take opportunities away from some of our most gifted students and athletes.

Public Comment on Article 19

Chris Tardif Atkinson, states that there are 2 schools that have a tax cap. He also says that this was studied and considered to be unsustainable.

Deb Hussey Atkinson, said that this will help seniors that are on a fixed income with everything else going up in price.

Chris Tardif Atkinson, said that most people are there to support the children so that they have the same opportunities he did growing up.

Other Business: None

Adjournment:

Meeting Adjourned by Liz Kosta

Minutes submitted by: Heather Greenfield

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