

APPROVED PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

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Timberlane Regional School Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Board Meeting
April 2, 2026
7:00 PM

Superintendent's Office
30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order

Board Members Present

Marianne Springer, Shawn O'Neil, Mark Sherwood, Shauna Manthorn,
Katie Knutsen, Don Woodworth, Jack Sapia, Alyssa Kowalczyk, Paul LeCain

Seated at the Board Table

Justin Krieger, Superintendent
Sandra Allaire, Assistant Superintendent
Ginger Drechsel, Director of Student Services
Cameron Stack, Student Representative

Administrators Present:

Kurt Schweiss, Director of Music
Maria Watkins, Business Administrator/CFO
Fran DeCinto, Director of Human Services

Mrs. Knutsen called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

STUDENT, STAFF & FAMILY SHARE

Timberlane Players from the high school came with Mr. Schweiss. They performed a portion of the musical Hometown. The musical will be held in the PAC on April 9th, 10th, and April 11th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Mrs. Springer motioned to approve the organizational and regular public meeting minutes of 3/19/26. Seconded by Mrs. Kowalczyk Motion passed: 9-0-0

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MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned to approve the non-public meeting minutes of 3/19/26. Seconded by Mr. Sherwood. Motion passed: 9-0-0

DELEGATES & INDIVIDUALS

MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned to move the 30 minutes to the end of the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Sherwood. Motion passed: 8-1-0 (LeCain opposed)

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Cameron Stack presented his district-wide report and highlighted events occurring throughout the schools. Juniors just finished their SATs. Chief Justice Ron Roderick has an amazing story about mental health awareness and will be speaking at the PAC on April 21st at 7:00 pm. Anyone from the community is welcomed to attend. Spring sports for the high school and middle school are starting. There are 25 senior athletes who will receive scholarships at the Scholar Athlete Ceremony in Concord. The Timberlane orchestra director, Samuel Lyons, was named New Hampshire Orchestra Director of the Year.

CURRENT BUSINESS

A. Realignment to Voted 2027 Budget

Mr. Krieger presented the administration's identified reductions to align with the FY27 budget. They were looking to identify close to \$4 million of reductions from the initial proposed budget of \$92 million. They had an approved budget by the voters that was far less than that. We worked collaboratively over the course of time to identify some of the areas and how we're going to organize ourselves underneath the new dollar amount. Mr. Krieger presented a breakdown of what was recommended through the budget committee, and then what is ultimately being recommended to the school board from school administration.

From the budget committee, they looked at 21 individualized pieces. They took action on 12 of those pieces. The budget committee was looking at 25 positions. Twenty-one of them would require a reduction in force with people. The recommendations tonight are looking at 13 positions, with nine of them including a reduction in force for people.

What is being recommended tonight is for a reduction in transportation. We've got phase four of the lease. Again, that's moving into fiscal '28 as a reduction in fiscal '27. We're recommending one RIF or reduction in force for a tech specialist. We're recommending one reduction in force of a middle school assistant principal. We're recommending a reduction in Capital. We have a dollar amount from principals and directors. These are folks that work directly in buildings or in departments, have identified \$639,520.90 of further reductions. We're recommending those to you this evening. We're recommending stipends, pulling back on, these are stipends for athletic coaches, and also

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folks involved in music and theater. We are not reaching the threshold we wanted to reach next year, but still being able to offer those activities and still be able to give the folks some sort of percentage increase.

We're recommending the removal of three open and vacant TTA positions. We're recommending the removal of the library assistant paraeducators across the district. That's four in the elementary schools, one at the middle school and one at the high school for a total of six positions. In terms of how the library's going to operate, the primary impact there is right now, those library paraeducators are able to keep the libraries open pretty much the full day, and kids have open access throughout the time. That's going to be something that we're going to be challenged by and need to figure out. I want to be really clear that having a librarian and a paraeducator at this stage of library instruction across New Hampshire is a rarity and a luxury that we have. So this is the place where we had some duplicated efforts.

We are also recommending a removal of two current teaching positions at the elementary school, and that's primarily related to us analyzing the student numbers and where enrollment will sit next year. Further on, you've got a list of motions that if you are satisfied with these recommendations, you want to approve them, there's the ability for you to do so.

Mr. Sapia personally thinks this should have been a dedicated workshop. He referred to the comment about the intercom system, which is considered a safety issue, and it was suggested that maybe that's something we would put out to warrant. He stated he has been pretty consistent over the last 20 years that if it's a life safety issue, he is not going to roll the dice in a warrant. That's going to go on the budget, because you never know what the atmosphere is. He also did not agree with reduction to stipends.

MOTION: Mr. Sherwood motioned to eliminate one (1) technology specialist position effective June 30, 2026 in order to meet the FY27 voted budget approved by voters. Seconded by Mrs. Manthorn Motion passed: 8-0-1 (Sapia abstained)

MOTION: Mr. Sherwood motioned to eliminate one (1) assistant principal position at the middle school effective June 30, 2026 in order to meet the FY27 voted budget approved by voters. Seconded by Mrs. Manthorn Motion passed: 7-1-1 (Woodworth opposed; Sapia abstained)

MOTION: Mr. Sherwood motioned to eliminate two (2) open and vacant teaching positions effective June 30, 2026 in order to meet the FY27 voted budget approved by voters. Seconded by Mrs. Springer Motion passed: 9-0-0

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MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned to eliminate six (6) regular education paraeducator (library assistant) positions effective June 30, 2026, in order to meet the FY27 voted budget approved by voters. Seconded by Mrs. Springer Motion passed: 8-1-0 (Sapia opposed)

MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned to eliminate two (2) elementary teaching positions effective June 30, 2026 in order to adjust to elementary projected student enrollment and meet the FY27 voted budget approved by voters. Seconded by Mr. Sherwood Motion passed: 8-0-1 (Sapia abstained)

MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned to approve the recommended reductions to transportation, Phase IV of the Lease, and the Principals and Director itemized cuts to schools and departments in order to meet the FY27 voted budget approved by voters. Seconded by Mr. Sherwood Motion passed: 8-0-1 (Sapia abstained)

Mr. Krieger discussed repurposing a middle school position. He explained considering the impact of the reduction in force at the middle school with respect to the assistant principal position, district administration is recommending a further action of the school board. The district administration recommends repurposing a current TTA Open and Vacant position to a Special Education Facilitator position at the middle school effective July 1, 2026.

Mrs. Drechsel spoke to the significant demands on the Special Ed Coordinator at the middle school. She described the duties and responsibilities of the Facilitator position.

MOTION: Mrs. Springer motioned to repurpose a current TTA Open and Vacant position (1105) to a Special Ed Facilitator position at the Middle School effective 7-1-26. Seconded by Mrs. Kowalczyk. Motion passed: 9-0-0

B. School Food Service Pricing Increase Request

Mrs. Watkins referred to her executive summary listing proposed meal prices for the 26-27 school year. On an annual basis, school districts review their school breakfast and lunch pricing. In order to generate enough revenue to offset the rising cost of our Food Service Program, district administration is requesting meal price increases.

Mr. O'Neil questioned if there is any outstanding debt.

Mrs. Watkins said it's about \$100,000. She added that they do their best effort to collect the money, but we've also moved to a collection process and there is a policy in place that was not in place prior.

Mr. O'Neil asked if there is a way for people who want to donate to food service.

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Mrs. Watkins explained there is and they do often get donations specifically for food service. The way we do that is we work with administration and we reach out who can identify those families that are in need, and that's how the donor specifically sets the purpose of the donation.

Mr. O'Neil believes we should promote that a lot more because he could see businesses looking for goodwill gestures and stuff like that. That's great for us, and it's also great for the business.

Mrs. Drechsel explained in September, the elementary school social workers pretty much spend a lot of that month, because applications are typically due sometime early October. So there's a rollover that happens when somebody qualifies in a current year. They continue to be free or reduced through September so that there's a gap for reapplication. They work really hard during that month to try and get families to apply, sending out applications in lots of different ways, promoting it with flyers and things of that nature so that we can just increase the number of applications that we're receiving. The family just has to apply, do one application for every child in the family. It does help to capture some of the high school, middle school students that may not necessarily be as inclined to turn in the forms. We don't have social workers at those levels to kind of monitor and assist with that process, but they work really closely with myself and the business department to just keep that information rolling. It has been a way for us to kind of capture more of that need and be able to assist families with the process.

MOTION: Mr. Sherwood motioned to approve the increase in pricing of school food services as presented in the executive summary dated April 2, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Woodworth. Motion passed: 9-0-0

C. Instructional Hour Calendar

Mrs. Allaire provided the Board with her executive summary and detailed information regarding the hourly calculations for the final day of school and the school day calculations and considerations that need to be taken in determining which calendar to go with.

Mrs. Allaire spoke to some considerations for going with the school day calculations. They need to consider CTE, other things to consider are the impact on professional development days. For professional staff and our support staff, there are a certain number of required contractual days which she included on the last page of the executive summary.

Mrs. Manthorn explained we make this decision every year. The vote comes to us, whether or not we count days or hours. The administration presents all the options to us just like Mrs. Allaire is doing tonight.

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MOTION: Mr. Woodworth motioned to adopt the instructional hour calendar with the last day of school as Tuesday, June 16, 2026. Seconded by Mr. O'Neil Motion passed: 9-0-0

D. Policies

Mrs. Allaire presented Policy IMAH: Daily Physical Activity and Policy JIC: Student Conduct as a second read/adoption. There have been no changes to either policy since first read.

MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned to adopt the revisions of policies IMAH: Daily Physical Activity and JIC: Student Conduct for second read and adoption. Seconded by Mrs. Kowalczyk Motion passed: 9-0-0

E. Committee Assignments

Mrs. Knutsen provided the Board with School Board Committee Assignments for 2026-27 school year. Mrs. Springer has requested to be on the Budget Committee. Mrs. Knutsen asked for the members to email her or Mr. Sherwood of their wishes of which committee(s) they want to serve on by next week. She stated, in the meantime, for them to continue to go their assigned committee until changes are made.

F. School Board Goals

Mrs. Knutsen provided the Board with the School Board Goals. She explained for the last couple years, they have done workshops to kind of talk about it. She believes we are going to ask our attorney to be at this one as well. He was at the one this last year. Mrs. Knutsen asked the Board to check their email for potential dates for the workshop. If those dates don't work, they can figure out some other ones. It should be the whole board, it's our goals. It's our workshop to do them.

G. 2027 Deliberative Session discussion

Mrs. Springer requested this agenda item. She stated her packet starts with the RSA, just so they have the legal language. She addressed the logistics and challenges. The challenges are what she heard from people who attended deliberative, some who attended for the first time and some who were seasoned deliberative attendees. She stated if any suggestions were offered, she tried to keep track of those. So what they see is a list of challenges and then suggestions that came up, and some of them conflict with others. The biggest things she heard were about the day and time of the meeting, and also to some extent, location and then logistics, especially efficiency in the secret ballot process where that fits a lot. We're fortunate to have so many people that are very enthusiastic about being involved in our process. However, with that comes challenges that you don't have if you only have 100 people at a deliberative session. She thought it would be good to just put this out there, see if others have heard

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other things from the community, and see how we can proceed to make sure it's as inclusive and productive a session for everybody in the next couple of years to come.

Mr. Sapia concurs with Marianne. He said he hears that a lot. He believes there will be some trade-offs of people that can't make it on a Saturday but he thinks the feedback he gets is that they think we'd have more people, and that's what we want. I also think that we should probably move it to a Saturday to see how it works, because I think the feedback we'll get from it will direct us in future deliberative sessions down the road.

The board discussed the logistics of holding the Deliberative Session in the Gym or in the PAC.

Mr. Sherwood knows last year we went to the Boards of Selectmen, and most of them preferred to have it stay the same. Judging by this year's experience, I think it would behoove us to go back to the representatives of our town and ask them to elicit feedback, not just their particular leanings, but ask for feedback from the town. They are the elected representatives. See what it is that they hear and use them as a resource as well.

Mrs. Knutsen suggested a survey, not just for those people who have kids in school, but also the residents. Hopefully, we could get a survey done by the time that people go to their boards and actually get on the agenda to speak about this. If we have a survey link, maybe they could they post it to their town website.

MOTION: Mr. O'Neil motioned if the Timberlane community, meaning the respective towns, decides to support a Saturday deliberative session, that the school board will support that venue.

Mrs. Springer made a friendly amendment to the motion: "That the board vote to support the majority vote of the community. And the survey would go out on the four town websites and the Timberlane website and just have it be a straight majority."

Mr. O'Neil withdrew his motion as long as everybody is on the same page.

Mrs. Knutsen believes we need to have the survey, to have talked to our board of selectmen, and then we need to be able to take action at the first board meeting in August.

It was the consensus of the Board to take action at the first board meeting in August. They will put that down in the calendar for the running agenda items.

Mr. Sherwood suggested options for the survey. Those options would be a Thursday traditional time, Friday traditional time and an early Saturday probably 9:00 am or 10:00 am. That gives the most options to the most people, whether they're working parents or they have kids in sports, or whether they're retired and want to go to bed early. It gives the greatest flexibility for the community.

Mrs. Springer was thinking then they would just select one choice.

Mr. O'Neil recommends that Mr. Krieger send an email to all the towns indicating this is our intent, so that you put the towns already on notice that we're looking to discuss this, and we're going to do a

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survey, and we're going to include them on it. That could go out in the next couple of days so that they're already starting to know this now.

Mr. Krieger added that it will also be on the agendas they receive from him too.

H. Request for Over Expenditure of Appropriated Funds Pursuant to RSA 32:11

Mr. Krieger is looking for Board approval to send a letter to the Commissioner of the NH Department of Education to authorize an over expenditure of the FY26 budget in accordance with RSA 32:11. He shared a copy of the letter with the Board. Mr. Krieger explained that this unusual circumstance is a significant escalation in the total cost of special education services this fiscal year when compared to what was allocated in the voted budget. A primary contributing factor here was the reduction of roughly \$6,600,000 from the proposed budget at the 2025 Deliberative Session in preparation for the District Voting Day in March of that same year. Pairing that with the initial \$3,000,000 reduction in the proposal, Timberlane is operating this fiscal year with about \$10,000,000 less than the district needed to sustain current programs and operations as well as meet its required obligations.

Mr. Krieger explained the second series of bullets are additional revenue received in lines where we expected revenue. He wants to be clear this is not new revenue that came in that we didn't expect. This is additional revenue that came in, in areas that we did expect to receive some sort of revenue. So we are essentially asking the commissioner to be able to access this additional revenue that we've received here to help offset or assist in the over-expenditure that we've defined in the unusual circumstance. We talked this through with the budget committee at their last business meeting last Thursday. They've approved this application, and we're bringing it here for your approval as well, before submitting it to the Commissioner of Education.

He stated the excess expenditures are needed for Out of District Tuition, Special Education Transportation, and Special Education Contracted Services. The source of the funds to assist in covering the excess expenditure total \$568,052. Mr. Krieger stated these funds will be accounted for in accordance with all applicable state laws and regulations, and that no obligation for expenditure will be made prior to receiving Board approval. If it's approved and we don't utilize all of this, it just reverts back to the taxpayer. It would become part of the unassigned fund balance. So by requesting this, we're giving ourselves a safety net that isn't necessarily going to be used. By approving this, we are accessing monies that I'm projecting will be required to meet our expenses.

Mr. Krieger further explained this is by statute. We can only spend it toward the areas where we've identified as an unusual circumstance. It would be always his intent to report back to the board where these are going to be heading. For maybe every couple of weeks for the cash flow, and then he thinks just maybe in a monthly report to the board that we get as a cash flow analysis.

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MOTION: Mr. Sherwood motioned to approve the application request to the New Hampshire Commissioner of Education, pursuant to RSA 32:11, to authorize an over expenditure of the FY2026 budget due to an unusual circumstance, specifically the significant and unanticipated increase in special education costs, including out-of-district tuition, transportation, and contracted services, and further authorize the Superintendent to submit all necessary documentation in support of this request. Seconded by Mr. Woodworth Motion passed: 8-1-0 (O'Neil opposed)

I. 2026-2027 General Assurances

Mr. Krieger explained the summary here allows us to be a legal authority to receive federal funds. It talks a little bit about the property and how we would manage those pieces. It allows us to ensure that we have safeguards about how we're managing those funds, and we've got the right grant management system in order to process and communicate with the state to meet their assurances. It allows us to constitute that we're going to meet specific time frames. In a sense, it is mandating that we're going to comply with every piece of federal statute that's tied to federal funds. We do have a whole lot of federal funds that come into the school district. The largest is IDEA to support special education, and then we also have some title funds that come in and help support students, and also some staff professional development. This is essentially us assuring that we are going to not only receive them legally, we're going to spend them in appropriate fashions, and comply with all the monitoring processes that are involved with spending federal dollars.

MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned for the minutes to reflect the Superintendent has informed the Board of the federal funds the District will be receiving and of the General Assurances, Requirements, and Definitions for participation in the federal programs. Seconded by Mrs. Kowalczyk Motion passed: 9-0-0

MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned to authorize the School Board Chair to sign the FY26 General Assurances on behalf of the Timberlane Regional School Board. Seconded by Mrs. Kowalczyk Motion passed: 9-0-0

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mrs. Drechsel highlighted all the work that's been put into Mental Health Week. This is the third one that's happening in the district. A lot of work and time has been put together between school counselors and the health department at the high school. We've been able to collaborate at the elementary level so that we're also doing some activities. Across the district, we're really highlighting the importance of mental health across the district. She gave a shout-out for all the work that's been put into those activities coming up. There will be information forthcoming, because there is both parent events, as well as, events for students.

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Mrs. Drechsel talked about two surveys that are coming up relative to the special education department. She highlighted both of them, but also describe what they are, because they're coming kind of at the same time, and she wanted to make sure that families are aware of what they are, and that they don't confuse them as being the same thing.

The first is for a parent feedback session that's going to be a virtual session conducted by the Department of Education and the Parent Information Center. It'll be happening on May 18th from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. It's an opportunity for families who actively have a student involved with the special education department within the district to participate in this session with those two agencies just to give some feedback about how we're doing. There will be a series of questions that they have to get through in that hour timeframe, but they will be asking for parents to chime in and provide that information. That will then come to us as part of our PAG's audit. This information will be posted on social media. We'll be sending an email blast out starting as early as tomorrow because we just got the marketing materials. When families are in the schools for IEP meetings, we'll be giving a copy of this out to families as they're in the buildings attending meetings. It will also be posted in all the buildings. It's posted here at the SAU. We plan to also post across the community. So we're hoping for a robust turnout. More to come on that.

Mrs. Drechsel talked about the other survey and displayed the flyer that's sort of going on at the same time. She explained this is a survey which is part of our LEA determination. It is a parent involvement survey that happens every year, Indicator 8. This is a live survey you can access through the QR code. It doesn't take very long to just answer a number of questions about parent involvement across the district relative to families who have a child that's involved in the special education department. This link will be open until May 8th. Again, we will be going through the same process of notifying families of their ability to access this survey in the same way we are the other feedback session. So that'll be going out at IEP meetings, again, posted all over the place. Unfortunately, because they're happening at the same time, I'm concerned that families are going to get confused and just do one and not the other.

She stated that both surveys are very important. The more feedback and the information that we have, the better. The last piece that she wanted to highlight is that every year, the special education department is monitored by the Department of Education on some metric points. It really is a range of data points, everything from when we start working with students at the age of two and a half through the child find processes and procedures, all the way through graduation and post-graduation. Basically, districts are rated given a zero, a one, or a two. In this circumstance, you want zeros. We got a report for the 24/25 school year yesterday and I am more than thrilled to come to the board tonight to report that the district meets the requirements for this LEA determination. That's actually the highest ranking that you can get for this.

In the last couple of years, we've been in the "needs assistance" category. There's been a lot of work that's been put into place through the special education department over the last few years to get us to where we are. It's about working across the buildings, across departments, to improve some of the ways that we function, so that we are making sure that we are doing the best we can to meet the needs of our students. She mentioned that out of the 178 school districts

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across the state, only 39 districts met the needs requirements. Mrs. Drechsel is very proud of all of the work that's been done. Mrs. Drechsel didn't want to take any credit for that, this really goes out to the team.

It's really important work. It really benefits our kids. So thank you to everybody who has put in the time.

Mrs. Allaire informed the Board we are entering into assessment season. Our families will be receiving the state assessment letter with the schedule at each grade level and school of when those assessments will be administered. More to come on that. All of those results are related to how we as a district, and districts across the state, are measured against state and federal accountability.

She talked about an opportunity that's happening next week, not too far from our local community. Right now, the measures that are used at the state level to determine district compliance in the accountability system is really founded on proficiency rates. At the high school level, that includes other factors such as college and career readiness and graduation rates. There's a whole program that is built to determine the state accountability system. The State has a stakeholder team that has been identified as the State Accountability Task Force. That group has been working for just about a year to review our current accountability system at the state level, and to examine and recommend changes to that system. Their work is posted publicly. I'm happy to share that link for you. It is available on the DOE website if you want to dig into that. They are also engaging in a listening tour. Some of the changes on the table are part of the report and they're looking to integrate it along with outcomes. Think about learning outcomes that are measured through the state assessments. They also look at opportunities that are provided. So those could range from school climate surveys, the quality of curriculum, advanced learning coursework, educational extended learning opportunities, all of those other types of things that contribute to the quality of education that's provided in the district. That is something that they're factoring into the accountability system. What that looks like, I'm not sure yet, but that's up for conversation.

She talked about another component which would be looking at a six-year cycle of a self-study. This accountability task force is considering instituting a six-year self and peer review cycle to look at the quality of instruction that is provided to students, and whether or not what districts provide is deemed adequate, part of what constitutes an adequate education. The task force has committed that they would not approve that unless the state can confirm that there would be no cost. This would not be an unfunded mandate. But those are some of the things that are up for conversation.

There is a session next Tuesday, April 7th at 6:00 p.m. at Pinkerton Academy. That is the one that is most local to us, in their lecture hall in the academy building. We send something out to our families and for anyone who might be interested. There also will be another remote session that would be open to those individuals who can't attend in person. They are holding four of these sessions across the State.

Mr. Krieger gave a budget committee update. The chair of the budget committee will be Sue Sherman. The vice chair of the budget committee will be Karen White. Ryan Lebrecque?? will have a seat on the CIP committee. We gave them a financial package that evening.

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This is information that all of you have seen before, but we just wanted to be sure that we reiterated the same message we did to BudCom. The largest part of the budget committee is some recommendations that were made to the committee around the schedule. They have set their schedule. They have those dates that are in place but he asked them to think about a few things.

The first thing he asked them to think about is this idea of a more collaborative effort with the school board. I like to see more of those opportunities for joint meetings. The other piece that I brought up was just around the order of presentations. We begin with principals and directors. That take maybe a month or a month and a half to run through, and that equates to about 25% of the total budget. We are then deferring until late October or November to talk about personnel, which is 75%. He would like to invert that formula this year. I'd like to work with Mrs. Watkins earlier and get a personnel report out earlier. The challenge there is that we don't have the health insurance number until October, but I think we are very confident that we could run some models and at least give the budget committee a ballpark of where that personnel number may be. The other things that I've encouraged them to do is to be meeting with principals and directors through the year and organizing those meetings through me. I'm going to try to incorporate some ideas of people that are making the decisions about the money, talking with the administrators that are actually administrating the schools. I'm hoping there's some learning that happens there.

Mr. Krieger stated he is also going to invite them to the board of selectmen meetings that I'm going to as well, as participants with me, or as just spectators and listeners. So what they've charged me to do is take those ideas and they want me to be able to draft a schedule that's reflective of that. If you have any feedback that you'd want to share with me before I'm drafting that schedule for them, and potentially for you, please feel free to do that. Their first and next meeting is September 10th. We've got some ways to kind of frame out and what that framework is going to look like. My goal would be to have a schedule to them certainly before the end of the school year, preferably at the outset of June.

Two quick updates on CBAs. We did receive the notice to start bargaining with the TTA. Again, that's our teachers' union, so we're going to start moving in that direction. Also wanted to notify the board that we have a response from the TAU. As you know, that contract was voted down as the CBA in the warrant. The special meeting was approved. It is on the onus of the TAU to make some movement about what they want to do. They've expressed an interest to go back to the negotiating table to at least explore any potential possibility of renegotiating an agreement. If that would happen, what we would do is the board would vote to consider a special meeting, and then we would look to organize that special meeting in the school district. The timing for that, is we would try to shoot for before the end of the school year, or allow summer to go by and then wait for the beginning of the next school year. This is the TAU signaling they want to get back and see if there's a possibility. It doesn't mean that the whole process will get brought to fruition.

Lastly, about open enrollment, I gave some financials in terms of what would it mean for the district in terms of 1% or 3% students leaving. Just to give an opportunity for the board, I'm

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going to give you the entire SAU data points from the state of New Hampshire, all school districts, what they had in their warrant, whether they had an open enrollment warrant, whether it passed or not, and any details about it. It will just give you a really good snapshot of where the state stands, as we do our own thinking and discussion, certainly over the course of this next year.

He informed the Board he is excited to bring Mark Pedersen back at a future board meeting. I've learned a lot about AP scores over the course of the last two months, and specifically how Timberlane ranks up against what New Hampshire has released against those. I think it's really important we look at that data, and I think there's some really great things to celebrate there. So I want to bring that back. So look for that in the next month or two.

He reminded the board, April 20th is Career Expo at the high school. He mentioned to the Board members that all of them have done cool things in their lives. He stated this is an awesome opportunity to get there and interact with kids. You don't know what's going to spark some interest in whatever pathway they may want to choose. The more adults that we can get there who can have an opportunity to talk to young people about how we ended up where we ended up, because it's not always a straight linear path. That can really mean something to kids. He encouraged the board, if you've got the availability that day, he thinks they would find that experience really meaningful.

As a reminder, they will be in the PAC for their May 7th board meeting. We're looking to scale back the retirement section, but we're going to be honoring the Timberlane retirees that evening as part of the board meeting at the PAC. That was something we had talked about in the fall. Also at that meeting, I think we're going to be ready to have Ken Henderson join us, and he really wants to walk through and highlight some of the revamp to the website for the board and for the public.

In preparation for that, if there's something that you want to see that evening about the website as a board member, or that you're hearing from your constituents that they want to see or they want to be able to learn from, please share that with us. Ken Henderson will be absolutely sure to tie it into his presentation.

He had a chance to meet with Mrs. Springer and Mr. O'Neil, as the Danville school board members last Friday. I think we met for two hours or two hours plus. It was a really, really good time spent. This is something I would encourage towns to do with me on some sort of regular basis, whether it's a quarterly or biannual basis. The meeting was targeted. Mr. O'Neil and Mrs. Springer had some things they wanted to look at. I had some time to prepare some information and some data. I could share that beforehand. We could spend some time talking about that, and then that leads to other conversations. Atkinson and Plaistow and Sandown, if you folks are interested in doing things like that, I think it can be a really meaningful opportunity for us to learn together and to be able to share information that can make these meetings even more effective.

He asked for the Board members before they leave here tonight, please verify their email address with him.

APPROVED PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Lastly, he reminded the board of a meeting with Senator Gannon tomorrow up at the Epping School District. Regional superintendents are going to be meeting with him, talking about education legislation. I'm happy to report back things I learned from the senator and things that we're able to share as we move through the school year.

PERSONNEL REPORT

a. Resignations

MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned to approve the professional resignations of Michael McLaughlin, School Counselor, TRMS; Brooke Byrne, Spanish Teacher, TRHS; Jaxen Dupuis, Science Teacher, TRHS; Katie Coppola, Special Education Teacher, TRHS; Lalit Saini, Science Teacher, TRHS; Mya Schipilliti, Elementary Teacher, Pollard Elementary. Second by Mrs. Kowalczyk Motion passed: 9-0-0

b. Renomination list

Mrs. DeCinto provided the renominations as presented in the Renomination Report dated April 2, 2026.

MOTION: Mrs. Knutsen motioned to accept the renominations as presented in the Renomination Report dated April 2, 2026. Second by Mr. Sherwood Motion passed: 9-0-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sapia had an opportunity with Mr. Krieger to go up and testify before the state on Senate Bill 1066. It was around leasing. SB1066, basically wants to restrict it, wants to change it, wants to change the amounts, and make it reach different thresholds. I find the bill a little disingenuous, but that's my opinion. I was at a historical event. I think the people that testified were against the bill. So I think that's going to fall into the abyss off the top of my head, but it was interesting to watch the process and listen to the folks.

Three or four weeks ago, a teacher came up to me and said, "Jack, this is the first year I haven't had to wear my jacket in high school because of the windows, because of the boilers." You can equate how much oil we save, but what you can't equate is the improved teaching environment and the improved learning environment.

Mr. Woodworth mentioned the middle school had 130 kids sign up for track and the high school had a good turnout, too. I didn't anticipate that we would have that type of a turnout at both schools. Now we have pole vault started for the first time in about 10 years.

APPROVED PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Mrs. Knutsen mentioned that board preps are the Monday at 11:00 am the week before the board meeting, and that's when we set the agenda, get the documents. We are opening up a third spot to rotate through, so if you're interested in wanting to attend the board preps, please email me and Mr. Sherwood.

Mrs. Manthorn stated the Wellness Committee meets on Wednesday, April 8 at 4:00 PM. They need two Board members. She sits on the Wellness Committee and stated they need another Board member since Mrs. Woodworth is no longer on the Board. Mr. LeCain believes he could attend.

Mrs. Springer stated Curriculum and Assessment met. What will be forthcoming to the Board is math competencies K to 12 and PE curriculum revisions. We approved the rhetoric, public speaking, incorporating the logic and the rhetoric requirement.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Sherwood asked about the timing of the audit work. There has been some discussion about the timing of when we've had the audit, and we had a great presentation at the last meeting. He asked for some clarification or visibility as to the timing in relationship to deliberative session. He asked if it should be before or after the deliberative and if this regulated by RSA.

Mr. Krieger said it is absolutely dependent upon the speed at which the auditors can work. The district's responsibilities are typically having an on-site visit that can last up to five days. Usually here it's two or three days because we're well-prepared for it. That work is done well in advance of the date that it needs to be done. In Timberlane, we typically have the audit delivered to us prior to the March vote. In the last four years, it's been able to happen that way. There are absolutely changes here across the board for federal grants that held up audits across the state. So it's not that there's a delay. We have an anticipated date about when it's going to happen, and then we're subject to when the auditors can do their work to get it done. Essentially, we're contracting with an agency to do work.

Mr. Sapia referred to a study about reading comprehension and stated I've been doing all kinds of research over the last month. The research is increasingly clear. Studies across multiple countries and hundreds of thousands of students show that reading comprehension is consistently lower when students read on screens compared to on paper. This particularly is true with the younger grades when foundational literacy skills are developing. Screens change behavior. They encourage scanning rather than deep reading, reduce attention spans, and introduce consistent opportunities for distraction. Even more concerning, students who are using screens often overestimate their understanding, which can lead to learning gaps until it's too late.

This isn't about being anti-technology. It's a tool that we're going to incorporate in our learning. I think we need to get away and limit the amount of screen time but I want to hear from the professionals on what we can do and what makes sense.

APPROVED PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Sherwood motioned to have, in two meetings from now, as an agenda item for us to bring forth, for us to do our research, and to have the administration bring forth data that they have accumulated so that we can have a discussion. Seconded by Mr. Sapia. Motion passed: 3-0-4 (Knutsen, Manthorn, Kowalczyk, Springer abstained)

Mrs. Springer asked Mr. Sapia for a copy of the study he read.

Mr. Sapia stated the next thing is around Title IX, and just to affirm that by Executive Order 14201, that we are in compliance. He would like for the Policy Committee to bring that up and he provided the information to Mr. Woodworth for the next Policy meeting.

There was no further public business.

MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned to enter non-public under RSA 91-A:3, Paragraph II (C) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. Seconded by Mrs. Kowalczyk Motion passed 9-0-0

The Board was polled:

D. Woodworth – yes Springer – yes Sapia - yes Manthorn - yes O’Neil – yes Knutsen – yes Kowalczyk – yes Sherwood – yes LeCain - yes

The Board entered non-public session at 10:30 PM.

The Board returned to public session at 11:15 PM to seal the minutes and adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Sapia motioned to seal the non-public minutes of 4/2/26. Seconded by Mr. Sherwood Motion passed: 9-0-0

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Mahoney
Recording Secretary

Approved by the School Board on April 16, 2026