

APPROVED PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Note: When feasible, TRSB meetings are videotaped. These meeting minutes reflect only a basic summary of the meeting topics, discussion, and action. The Vimeo recording of this meeting can be viewed at: <https://vimeo.com/trsd>

Materials presented at the board meeting may be viewed at: [School Board Meeting Agenda Materials](#)

Timberlane Regional School Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Board Meeting
May 21, 2026
7:00 PM

Superintendent's Office
30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order

Board Members Present

Marianne Springer, Shawn O'Neil, Don Woodworth, Jack Sapia, Mark Sherwood, Shawna Manthorn, Alyssa Kowalczyk (arrived 7:34)

Excused Absence: Paul LeCain, Katie Knutsen
Cameron Stack, Student Representative

Seated at the Board Table

Justin Krieger, Superintendent
Sandra Allaire, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Chris Martin, Executive Director of Operations and Special Projects

Administrators Present:

Mark Pedersen, Director of Secondary Education
Maria Watkins, Business Administrator/CFO
Lucy Canotas, Director of Elementary Education

Mr. Sherwood called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

STUDENT, STAFF AND FAMILY SHARE

Mr. Mencis, the principal at the Middle School, talked about the TRMS cooking team versus members of the school board cook-off that was held recently. The competition ended in a tie. He invited some of the students from the cooking team along with Ms. Chooljian, the FACS teacher who started the cooking team. The students answered some questions by the School Board. The students did an incredible job with the food and presentation. It was such a fun event and they all look forward to doing it again.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Mrs. Springer motioned to approve the public meeting minutes of May 7, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Sapia Motion passed: 4-0-2 (Woodworth, Manthorn abstained)

MOTION: Mr. O'Neill motioned to approve the non-public meeting minutes of May 7, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Sapia Motion passed: 4-0-2 (Woodworth, Manthorn abstained)

DELEGATES & INDIVIDUALS

MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned to move the 30 minutes to the end of the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Springer. Motion passed: 6-0-0

CURRENT BUSINESS

A. K-12 Math Competencies Revisions (2nd Read)

Mrs. Allaire presented this for a second read. There have been no changes made since the first read.

MOTION: Mr. O'Neill motioned to approve the second read and adoption of revisions to the K-12 Math Competencies. Seconded by Mrs. Manthorn Motion passed: 6-0-0

B. Multiage Classroom Experience

Mrs. Canotas and Mrs. Rivers described the multiage classroom experience and spoke to the benefits it has with the children ages 3 and 4. This is combining preschool and pre-K into one program by stage. They are here to provide a little more information about the work that has happened since January when they started sharing this information.

Teachers are looking at three-year-olds, they're looking at four-year-olds, and they're thinking about how they are different and how they are the same and so teachers are building on what they know about young children's development in order to move all students forward.

They shared a quick video which is how they rolled it out to all of the teachers and provided this information to families who requested it. Their primary focus is really to prepare students for their K-12 career.

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Children's self-regulation and executive function are key ingredients in their lifetime performance. It's not just about learning language, or learning numbers, or learning colors. They have to be able to work effectively with others, with distractions, with multiple demands. These actually are skills that contribute to the productivity of the American workforce.

The research shows the benefit of multi-age and states that younger students have those older peer models, and that those older models can really help be leaders in the classroom and so we're able to develop those strengths as well. They explained as they thought about multi-age classrooms, they realized it gives additional positive impact to the district. They've been able to provide more opportunities in the home schools as we increase these programs, and that over time, is going to decrease the amount of transitions that student makes.

Mr. O'Neill supports this and questioned why, if it worked years ago, why did they do away with it.

Mr. Krieger stated it probably has to do with the philosophy of the educational leader at the time.

C. Elementary Enrollment Update

Mrs. Canotas provided the monthly projected enrollment data for the elementary grades broken down per school. She explained very little has changed from last month when they reviewed the numbers.

D. Change of Title

1. Mrs. Canotas is requesting a position change in IV because the control codes are different from elementary to kindergarten. She explained that based on enrollment, Pollard School requires an additional full day kindergarten classroom. This will be fulfilled by an internal shift of staff. They would like to move the newly open and vacant position from an elementary 1-5 position to kindergarten.

MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned to approve the title change from Elementary 1-5 position to kindergarten position. Seconded by Mr. Sapia Motion passed: 7-0-0

2. Mrs. Canotas is requesting to move two half-time kindergarten positions at Danville Elementary to a special education general position.

MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned to approve the title change from two (2) half-time kindergarten positions to a special education general position. Seconded by Mrs. Kowalczyk Motion passed: 7-0-0

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E. Budget to Actual Report

Mrs. Watkins reviewed the monthly Budget to Actual Report and cash flow reports. She stated that, as of today, all the towns are caught up on their payment for May. She mentioned that we are where we were projecting to be.

Mr. Woodworth's concern is not that we're going to make it, it's what we haven't been able to do. Where we've cut corners and how it's impacted students and families. He wants to make sure we have an opportunity to go over that before we close out this school year and enter into another budget session, and start to think about what we're willing to forego and what we're not. Also, what things do we want to maintain that we weren't able to. He just wants to make sure we don't say we're doing great because we're going to make it to the end of the year when we get the money in from the towns. It would be beneficial to have an accounting of the things that were forgone, denied or delayed to get to the place we are at right now.

MOTION: Mr. Woodworth motioned to have a self-audit of what we did and did not do this year but had hoped to do. How we spent the money and what we chose not to spend money on, so we can analyze that. Seconded by: Mr. Sherwood Motion passed: 7-0-0

F. FY27 Painting RFP Results

Dr. Martin presented the FY27 painting RFP results. Two bids were received. There was a question about how much we spent on painting last year. Last year's painting bid was approved at \$99,950, and that was for eight of our nine buildings as a point of reference.

Dr. Martin explained this year, per the superintendent's direction, when we were asked to find another \$600,000 or more to remove from the FY27 budget as it related to our departments, 5% from each department, I took the \$150,000 that was for FY27 and reduced that to \$70,000. When we sent the RFP out, we whittled down our list to three schools, TLC, Sandown North, and Timberlane Regional High School. The bids came back too high. What we did was we took the two lowest bidders, which were actually the only two vendors that bid on them, Noonan and E.H. Baker from Plaistow. We called them and let them know we only have \$70,000 to spend. I asked if they could remove some of the contingencies.

So we're going to work with our vendors, if in fact that occurs, and use our staff to assist. They would like to bring forward E. H. Baker for the sum of \$69,800 for our painting RFP. We excluded TLC because the only thing that was going to be done at TLC were some faculty bathrooms that we can do ourselves. She informed the Board that the district will provide the paint.

Mr. Sapia questioned the process and asked why we are separating out and paying for the materials ourselves.

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Dr. Martin explained we have recreated the RFPs that have been done historically, knowing that we want a specific paint in our schools. If going forward, we want that to be different, we can do that.

Mr. Krieger stated this administrative team did a lot of work to clean up the RFP policy and the process over the last four years. We're in much better shape than the district was four years ago. He encouraged the board to give the administration some clearer direction around RFPs. Over the last four years, I've heard different voices at this table suggesting different things, and some of those are very mixed messages. As a board, he believes they need to get together, outline what you want, and then deliver some very clear information to us, because there's been some conflicting messages, and I just want to understand what the direction is, so when we come to this table, we don't need to spend 30 minutes on the process. These are the conversations that we want to have, but I don't want to get tied up and moved away from making the decision or not making the decision. I don't have clarity and I'm looking for some clarity.

MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned to approve entering into a contract with E.H. Baker Painting for painting projects at TLC, Sandown North and the High School, for a total cost of \$69,800. Seconded by Mrs. Kowalczyk Motion passed: 6-0-1 (Sapia opposed)

G. Policies

Mrs. Allaire also posted a Notice to Repeal on the agenda. The Policy they are seeking to repeal is Policy IJM-Challenged Materials. This policy duplicates the original language of KEC: Challenged Materials which is currently under full revision. A full Board is required for a vote to repeal. This will be on the next agenda.

H. Overnight Travel Request: Envirothon Competition

Mr. Pedersen explained they have a late-breaking overnight travel request because our Envirothon team once again won state championship on the 19th. This is their third time winning in four years and so by winning states, they were invited to nationals. Nationals this year is in Mississippi, and we have a tight deadline. We have to tell the Envirothon organization that we are committed to going to it by June 1st. We're here tonight to ask you to approve the overnight travel for the Envirothon team to represent New Hampshire and represent Timberlane at the national competition.

Mr. Pedersen stated that all costs will be funded through the students and through fundraising.

MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned to approve the overnight student travel request for the 2026 Envirothon Competition in Mississippi from July 19-25, 2026. Seconded by Mrs. Kowalczyk Motion passed: 7-0-0

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ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Allaire thanked the Board for approving the K-12 Math Competencies this evening. They will now be beginning a comprehensive review of our revisions to math competencies. That was the culmination of quite a bit of work of groups of teachers across our district, across all different grade levels. Mrs. Allaire stated it is her intention to regularly bring you updates around that work, and that was foundationally step one in our work to reevaluate our math curricula, instructional practices, resources across the district. She mentioned once you get to the high school level, that sort of grade-level alignment somewhat disappears once it becomes more course-specific. So we're looking forward to that work. That will be next Wednesday. We will, of course, update you all on that process as we move along.

Mrs. Allaire updated the Board on the Danville Principal search. They had 11 applicants and narrowed it down to 5 applicants. They held those interviews today with the search team. After the interviews, it has been narrowed down to 3 applicants. On Wednesday, 5/27 at 6:00 pm in Danville School, they will conduct a candidate's forum for interested Danville residents. They will be asking those residents who want to ask questions, to pre-register so they will have an idea of how many will be attending. Mr. Krieger will be chairing it. June is their target date for a decision.

Dr. Martin shared they will be hosting the Tri-County State Track Championships for middle school students on 5/28. We couldn't have done it a few years back with the condition of our track. She was not able to attend the "Sing Me a Song" project last night, but she attended the dress rehearsal and she was completely engaged with the story. Mr. Schweiss is an excellent conductor.

Dr. Martin stated they received an email from a new group who has just rented the PAC. They rented our facility from Friday night through Sunday. This is their first time renting from us. We made more than \$12,000 from their rental, and they sent us positive notes about our staff. They'll be renting from us again in the future.

Mr. Krieger explained Cameron Stack has his last Milkman show of the night tonight, so that's what he's over doing, and performing in those areas.

He reiterated what Maria shared with the board earlier. Mr. Krieger said he appreciated the Board's partnership about reaching out to the selectmen or the town managers, and getting us caught up where we need to be revenue-wise, and are really appreciative of the towns being very responsive to those requests that have come through.

Mr. Krieger will be sharing with the Board tomorrow morning, the New Hampshire School Boards Association legislative update. It's a pretty dense document, but it does a really great job of summarizing some key things for you, directing you to the actual bills that are there.

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Mr. Krieger brought three of them to their attention and hopes they spend some time digging into and reading this document. The first is House Bill 1300. This is looking to institute a tax cap. It would be placed on the November election across the state. The second one is House Bill 751. This is the most current iteration of open enrollment. The other one is House Bill 1563. This is looking to change the special education aid formula to actually benefit districts and include more kids.

Mr. Krieger updated the Board about the request he made through RSA 32:11 to ask permission of the Commissioner of Education to spend funds in excess of that we had received in revenue. We received that approval, and just to be clear, we received that approval because we met the three prongs. Those were identifying the unexpected expenses, the source of the revenue available to cover the expenses, and the approval from the budget committee. That enables the district, if we need to, to expend \$568,052 in excess for some required spending on special education costs. We'll keep you updated about whether or not we need to exercise that.

Mr. Krieger shared with the Board the elementary teams and the middle school teams have worked really hard this year to get us to a point where at the elementary school, they will be able to give the kids their classroom teachers before they're leaving school this year. At the middle school level, they're echoing that same thing. They're going to be able to tell kids their team assignments before they're leaving for the school year.

Mr. Krieger stated they are looking to do a workshop on school board goals and he has sent out a few surveys to you. He mentioned they don't have all the information they need back from you. In talking with Mr. Sherwood and Mrs. Knutsen, we decided to have the school workshop on June 18th. We're going to mirror it with a school board meeting. We've heard from seven of nine of you that you'll be in attendance that night. It is a meeting that our legal counsel can attend for you, so it's an opportune time to start talking about those pieces.

PERSONNEL REPORT

A. Professional Nominations

MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned to approve the professional nominations of: Karen Arendt, Library Media Specialist, Middle School; Ryan Lemieux, Math Teacher, High School; Teagan Oakes, Elementary Teacher, Sandown North Elementary School; Courtney Rieder, Science Teacher, High School; Mary Bergendahl, Math Teacher, High School. Seconded by Mrs. Kowalczyk. Motion passed: 7-0-0

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B. Professional Resignations

MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned to approve the professional resignations of Jaime Newman, Elementary Teacher, Danville Elementary School; Matthew Jablonski, Science Teacher, High School; Isabelle Merosola, Elementary Teacher, Pollard School and thank you for your time and commitment to the district. Seconded by Mrs. Kowalczyk Motion passed: 7-0-0

C. Renomination

MOTION: Mrs. Manthorn motioned to approve the renomination of Robin Gould, Special Education Teacher, Danville Elementary School Seconded by Mrs. Kowalczyk Motion passed: 7-0-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sapia - We had another CIP meeting. Mr. Krieger came in and joined us. Facilities met and we actually had an outdoor meeting where some of the exterior of one of the walls was exposed. There was rust in one of the studs. So the decision was made to do some exploratory research in two other areas. The good news is they were dry. The good news is it does not look as if the entire drywall surface will need to be removed as had been discussed and there was a question as to how extensive that was. It was determined the drywall was exterior drywall. I had an extensive conversation with Georgia-Pacific this morning. We're going to be sending them pictures. I talked with the architect today briefly, just to let him know because they were waiting for information back from Georgia-Pacific.

Mr. Sherwood stated the TTA committee met today. It was constructive, mostly just establishing ground rules, future dates, trying to strategically move the ball forward so that we're not in a time crunch at the end. Nothing substantial to report other than we're meeting and getting along well. Mrs. Manthorn was also there this afternoon. Our first meeting with them is not until August.

Mrs. Manthorn said she doesn't have a committee report, but she has a school board report. At the end of the school year with all these activities happening, she wanted to thank all of the people in our district that plan, implement, organize, coordinate, and run all of these activities.

Mrs. Springer stated Curriculum and Assessment meets again on June 3rd. She attended "Sing Me a Song" last night. It was fabulous. They got a standing ovation.

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OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Mr. Sapia motioned to instruct the Superintendent to work with Mr. Henderson and the technology folks to look into expanding our software to monitor screen time and present the School Board with different options and the costs associated with those options. Seconded by Mrs. Springer Motion passed: 7-0-0

Mr. Sapia admires Mr. Krieger's accessibility to the residents of this community. You're accessible to all of us and your door is always open. But I want people to use that sparingly. We are the representatives. He doesn't want Mr. Krieger to spend 18 hours of his week with the same call from 15 different people. He is asking the public to go through their school board reps because that's what we're here to do.

Mr. Woodworth discussed kindergarten. He wanted to touch base with everybody on their feelings about kindergarten and the way we have to go about doing kindergarten with half-day and full-day and what the negative impact of that is and what we can do to improve it until we improve our model. It is important for us to go to 100% of kids in full-day kindergarten. I think we need to look at the impact of what we're doing in an honest way. I feel we are hurting a lot of kids differently at that age level by not having full-day kindergarten for everybody and I don't want to lose that conversation. He wants to be able to have the conversation in a public way, because he thinks people need to come in and listen and be a part of that conversation. I think the more they learn, the more they're going to want to see a balanced approach that treats all kids with equal care.

There was no further School Board business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Mahoney
Recording Secretary

Approved by the School Board on June 6, 2026