



**TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Regular Meeting – SAU 106 Boardroom

September 24, 2026

7:00 PM

Call to Order: 7:02 PM by Justin Krieger

Roll Call taken by Andrea Huntley

Present: Sheila Lowes, Carol Hillard, Kathryn Consalvo, Robert Kinkaid, Brian Smith, Marianne Springer, Ryan Labreque, and Julie Doherty (left at 9:40 PM).

Absent: Sue Sherman and Karen White

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

Pledge of Allegiance – Lisa Oliver

Nomination for Temporary Chair:

MOTION: Ryan motioned to nominate Shelia as temporary chair for September 24, 2026, Regular meeting, seconded by Carol.

4 – 0 – 2

In Favor: Carol Hillard, Kathryn Consalvo, Brian Smith, and Ryan Labreque

Abstained: Robert Kinkaid and Julia Doherty

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Ryan motioned to approve September 10, 2026, Regular meeting minutes, seconded by Carol. – The minutes were approved pending amendment of additional language regarding contracted services.

7 – 0 – 0

In Favor: Shelia Lowes, Carol Hillard, Kathryn Consalvo, Robert Kinkaid, Brian Smith, Julie Doherty and Ryan Labreque

Opposed:



Correspondence:

Invitation to Spring Musical

Delegates/Individuals:

Peter Torosian, of Atkinson. As a concerned resident and member of the Board of Selectmen Mr. Torosian requested clarification about an issue that was raised but never publicly addressed at the last School Board meeting. During the meeting, a particular topic was brought up, after which the board recessed. When the meeting resumed, the discussion had moved on to a different agenda item, and the original issue appeared to have been left unresolved. Based on information he's received he has concerns about what he says appears to be coordination between the school board, administration, and another group. In his view, the information exchanged and the circumstances surrounding it raise questions about whether that group received preferential treatment over other members of the public. Mr. Torosian also provided an example of a communication he received from school administration stating that advocacy or materials expressing positions on warrant articles would not be permitted at the school deliberative session. However, that did not appear to be how the policy was applied. The group was allowed to distribute such information, and when the moderator was questioned, he indicated that it was permissible. Mr. Torosian claims to have documentation reflecting the earlier guidance, and the inconsistency is concerning. Mr. Torosian hopes the board conducts a thorough review of the matter and that the administration is transparent with the public about what happened and what steps will be taken to ensure that all groups are treated fairly and that the school district operates impartially and with public trust.

Ryan Labreque, of Plaistow. Mr. Labreque echoed many of the concerns raised by Mr. Torosian. One stand-out issue for Mr. Labreque appeared, based on Right-to-Know records, to be the superintendent encouraging district employees, families, and voters to attend the deliberative session to influence participation. In addition, the communications and interactions between the superintendent and the school board before, during, and possibly after the deliberative process raise questions about the appropriate separation of roles. Mr. Labreque also shared his concern about what appeared to be school board members communicating with audience members during the deliberative session while seated in their official positions. To him, these actions create the appearance of coordination and undermine confidence in the fairness and impartiality of the process. Mr. Labreque believes public officials have a responsibility to represent taxpayers openly and honestly, and we should focus on transparency, integrity, and candid discussions about the district's financial challenges. Mr. Labreque also wanted to recognize that increasing spending does not automatically result in better educational outcomes. Higher budgets are not a guarantee of improved performance, whether in a school district, municipality, or other public institution. As budget discussions continue, Mr. Labreque hopes they are guided by honesty, accountability, and a commitment to responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars. In his view, controlling costs should remain a priority, as rising expenses are a challenge not only for Timberlane but for school districts across the country. His hope is that we can do better.



Jack Sapia, of Atkinson. As a resident, not in his capacity as a school board representative, Mr. Sapia expressed these views are his own. Mr. Sapia addressed concerns raised about the recent school board meeting. He explained the meeting was recessed because discussion had become disorderly, with multiple people speaking at once, including comments from the audience that were out of order. The recess was a procedural step to restore order, not an attempt to avoid discussion or conduct business privately. Mr. Sapia also voiced his disagreement with the allegations of collusion and electioneering. As an elected representative, it is my responsibility to communicate regularly with constituents, understand their concerns, and encourage civic participation. Engaging with community members is a normal and expected part of representative government and should not be interpreted as improper coordination. Many elected officials and community members belong to organizations or communicate with individuals who share their views. That alone does not constitute collusion or misconduct. Public participation in the deliberative process is a fundamental aspect of local government, and it's common for people to organize around issues they support. Mr. Sapia believes political discussions can become passionate and disagreements are inevitable, but it is important that concerns be based on facts rather than assumptions or accusations. He respects that people hold differing opinions, but allegations of unethical conduct should be supported by evidence before they are made publicly. Committee members do not always agree on every issue, but the discussions are conducted with the shared goal of serving the district. Maintaining a working relationship with the administration is essential to carrying out the board's responsibilities effectively. Communication between the board and administration is both necessary and appropriate. Mr. Sapia closed by stating he wanted to be clear that there was no collusion surrounding the meeting recess. The decision to pause the meeting was simply a standard parliamentary procedure used to restore order so that business could continue in an organized and respectful manner. There were no behind-the-scenes discussions or improper actions associated with that recess.

Administrative Report:

Justin provided an update on HB 1300. The injunction was denied so the question will appear in the November general election. He provided the statute should further interest be had; RSA 32:5-I. It is presumed that there will be two questions on the ballot; a tax cap over local property tax levy (adjusted for inflation and new construction) and place a 6% spending cap on central office expenditures in relation to total budget appropriations. For Timberlane, the 4 towns will run aggregate like usual; the voters will go to the polls, and they'll be aggregated together so we have one district percentage.

The district is still anticipating having the new healthcare rates October 7th. Preliminary numbers were released across the state; coming in at 9%, but administration is hoping to bring real data to the next meeting.

Justin also provided brief follow-up to a couple items addressed at the last meeting. First, vacant positions; an updated list was provided with a breakdown of salaries and benefits associated with these positions. Second, the conversation with the School Board discussing goals for the upcoming budget season; a list of goals was provided as a foundation. Lastly, requests to change the schedule; four district budgets were added to tonight's schedule.



Reports of Committees:

Budget Committee:

None

School Board Committee:

Marianne shared that the School Board voted to hold the Deliberative Session on February 6, 2027, at Timberlane High School starting at 9:00 AM. The board also reviewed the Budget to Actual Report; which shows spending to date and projections for the year. It is still early on, but consistently receiving this information monthly is helpful as the year progresses.

New Business:

Open Forum Discussion of Committee's Priorities-

- **School Board Committee-**

Mark Sherwood presented three pillars the School Board agreed to for goals:

- **First, leadership learning.** The goal is to improve student academic achievement. With increased emphasis, not just on preparing for college, but also for career and civic life. Past years have shown more emphasis on some non-traditional learning routes.
- **Second, community connection and communication.** The expectation is that the superintendent as well as the SAU increase their communication with the public so there is more accessibility to additional information; regardless of whether they have children in the district or not. The board acknowledged that the Technology aspect has also become more streamlined. The superintendent has also started appearing in front of the towns Board of Selectman's on a regular basis; which provides them with updates and allows for him to speak to the greater community who are not directly associated with Timberlane. The goal is to have the public be more involved; through the deliberative mailings or going to the BOS and asking for the information to be posted on every town website so the information reaches more community members.
- **Lastly, facilities and the learning environment.** The district was forced to take out a lease, but this came after decades of neglect of the physical structures. Majority of the projects have been completed with the last being the envelope of the building and possible window replacements. The board acknowledges the financial burden and agrees the work should have been spread over the years. The goal is hopefully having the board, facilities, and CIP build a more structured plan so that everything doesn't happen all at once.

Marianne wanted to bring focus to the engagement with communities and stakeholders by reiterating they wish to maintain a sustainable financial approach balances educational excellence, taxpayer affordability, and long-term viability of the district. We are obviously in



the business of providing educational excellence, but the taxpayer affordability is where most of the money comes from, so we need to keep that in mind. As for the long-term viability; there are current trends in the state and the nation that are producing financial burdens to provide public education. While those are not unique to Timberlane; we need to think about how we can manage the impact. Marianne asked the Budget Committee to keep an open mind and ask questions during the budget process and presentations. She also said the committee should take advantage of the specialized workshop that was discussed to become more familiar with the apportionment, details of budget to taxes, and how the articles of agreement combine with NH Law.

Jack further discussed facilities. We have been “chipping” away at projects for several years. He believes there is some sort of formula that bases your expenditure on the total replacement value of your asset. His example was: you have a building, the total replacement value, you take 3% of that, and whatever that percentage is you would use for the day-to-day maintenance on the building. This could prevent the peaks and valleys during the maintenance process. To avoid letting projects go for decades; the district is working on facility audits which will help identify what is a priority. The district has addressed several of the older projects and they have started to address future needs and how to manage this in a more productive and cost-efficient way. If the investment is delayed the cost will be higher in the future.

Donald agreed with Jack. We oftentimes end up paying more for something than if we had done it when it was recognized as a need it could have been in some cases a third of the cost or perhaps less. In the past, the budget committee thought we could use \$600,000, but we had three to four million in agreed upon items that were prioritized through CIP. Unfortunately, nothing was within that price point on the list, so some things would be chosen, and they may have come in under that value, and you may be handing money back for something you could afford to do. He suggested that we try to plan to achieve the work needed and try to address it in a timely way so that it won't compound and become more work. The school envelope and windows are not new things; these have been discussed for close to 20 years. We are trying to save money long term and people may be looking short term. We try to do the best we can with what is agreed to, and it will always be less than we want, but it shouldn't stop us from getting the work done.

- **Budget Committee-**

Kathryn suggested the committee keep the school board's comments in mind during the budget process. The CIP budget is usually the first thing that is cut to reduce the budget, and it doesn't seem to be helping with the long-term viability of the district and maintaining the value of our facilities and assets.

- Shelia shared that her choices are made depending on what is being presented through the CIP. If there were windows, those would stay. If the field house was listed, it would go. She thinks there are other things we need. She just wants to make sure the money is spent well; spent well on the buildings. Attention needs to be



focused on the inside of the buildings; like windows and air handlers because there may be some dying in the high school.

- Kathryn asked for clarification on the field house. Do they store materials that we have purchased for sports? The field house is a venue; track, basketball court, etc.

A discussion ensued on the storage units. It is believed that there is currently \$600,000 in the CIP to maintain those assets. It was asked if these units stored items that cost money. The CIP committee has finalized their project list minus one item; they are waiting on. The committee hopes to have that information around the 14th. This project is for windows. A meeting will be scheduled after the 14th and after the school board meeting to finalize the list and prioritize it. The CIP budget is scheduled to be presented to the Budget Committee on October 22nd. Some items on the list have been around for close to a decade and we have just done without.

Julia feels the school board's goals are like the budget committees. Her hope is that moving forward we can work collaboratively and not have such animosity towards one another. We are all looking to do these things together; for our taxpayers, for affordability, for our students, and for our buildings. The more we come across as us versus them, we're not going to get anywhere. As Marianne stated; this is across the nation. Public education is in dire trouble; everyone and school districts are going to continue to feel strains. We need to think creatively as we work together to work on our priorities because we may have different priorities, but we are all coming from the same place. We all care about the students, our homes, and being able to afford to live.

Carol commended the SAU for coming under budget; \$82 million budget was approved and just under \$82 million spent on FY25/26. This budget proves that coming in under budget is possible. As we begin this budget season, she believes it's important to remember that there are three major stakeholders in this process: students, staff, and taxpayers. Students and staff are often the forefront of these discussions, but taxpayers are often overlooked. Without the taxpayers, there is no Timberlane Regional School District. Taxpayers deserve the same respect and consideration and are equally important. At a school board meeting during the past year, it was stated that the district had never had to make these tough choices, referring to the \$82 million budget. Carol's response is simple; taxpayers make tough choices every day. With the rising cost of food, utilities, property taxes, families are tightening their household budgets. Elderly residents are struggling with increasing property taxes. Many senior residents, as well as struggling families, are being forced out of their homes due to rising property taxes. We need to be mindful and more proactive about the impact our school budget has on the people who are paying for it. Let's keep our elderly residents and families in their homes, and there's no better way to support our students and families than to ensure they have a stable home to return to. Her goal this budget season is to participate in the process with all three stakeholders in mind: students, staff, and taxpayers. She believes we should strive for reasonable and responsible spending, as low as possible, while providing students with what they need to succeed. The FY25/26 budget shows that we can make



responsible choices and still provide a quality education. Her goal is to help develop and recommend a budget that balances educational needs with the financial realities facing our taxpayers. Our students deserve quality education, and our taxpayers deserve consideration for the financial burden they're carrying. Truth in budgeting is essential, and transparency is essential to maintaining public trust. Once public trust is lost, it's difficult to regain. Recent RTK information made public regarding the '26 budget season and deliberative session has raised concerns about transparency involving the district. These communications leading up to the deliberative session have contributed to concerns and a loss of public trust. It raises questions that should be addressed as we move forward. A successful budget process depends not only on the numbers but also on the public's confidence that the process is honest, transparent, and accountable. That will be especially important as we move forward in the '27/'28 budget process. Taxpayers throughout the district, but particularly those in the two smaller towns, are feeling financial pressure. That is what I will keep in the forefront throughout this budget process: responsible spending, quality education, and respect for every stakeholder, especially the taxpayers who fund our schools.

Ryan explained his priorities are around cost reduction. He feels we can do more with less if we get creative. Creativity requires the ability to change, and he does not feel like the budgets have changed much over the years. As for CIP, he supports maintaining buildings and infrastructure; however, he does not support expanding on those at this point; given the budget and cost challenges. He states we need to make tough decisions across the board to allow for space for renovations and capital care of facilities. He thinks that could be done by reducing staff; SAU staff, teacher staff, support staff, et cetera. He states these are not easy decisions and that all businesses make these decisions at times and that it is not the end of the world. This will bring trials and tribulations, but it needs to be sustainable in all districts, all towns involved, and all constituents that support it. To prioritize you need to make concessions somewhere. He believes that the district and its leadership should be challenged to meet the budget each year. The district's job is to challenge themselves to do better with less, and this would be his priority.

- Regarding some specific budget reviews – Ryan thinks the agenda packets have some good detail, but there needs to be more detail. He is looking to see all aspects that make up the budget. He thinks the committee should have access to everything that is used to make the budget spreadsheets per department. There should be better details behind the numbers. He does not feel the packet should be in PDF format; instead, Excel format. This will allow them to use tools to analyze numbers as opposed to using calculators or manually typing it into spreadsheets. He asks to have additional data provided with charts and graphs to be able to see what is driving those figures. He also suggested that as a committee should be able to look at the budgets and not be afraid to reject the budget outright and send it back to the department and ask them to provide us with something more appropriate. He believes line items are 40 – 50% above historical averages, and if every line is inflated then we end up with an inflated budget. He thinks the committee should challenge every line item, and we need to provide what is reasonable and not lofty.



Brian thinks we need to deliver quality experience and education to all students in the district, but he wants to see some stability for the taxpayers. The average budget increase between 2015 and 2023 was 1.5%. After that it was blown out of the water; to 16% and 4% after that. We had the anomaly for FY26 and now we've had another 7.5% increase. For Danville, taxes are going up double that. If it's 7%, it's 12 – 14%. It is fantastic that we have caught up on some capital projects and that there may be some light at the end of the tunnel. He thinks we need to do what we can to put our best foot forward for the future but let's not be adding in wants that are not needs. He would like to see the year-over-year increases stabilize into something more tolerable, particularly for Danville and Sandown, but for all four towns.

Robert addressed administration. He has heard from the public that we are heavy on administration. He does not know if that is true or not because he has not studied it. He thinks our overall administration is relatively a small portion of overall staff, so he is curious to see what that will look like when we get into the personnel section; to see if those criticisms are valid. He wants to make fact-based decisions on statewide metrics. Where do our administration overhead costs relate to the state as a whole? In terms of facilities and CIP, this is his first year, so he is coming in with an open mind. He generally agrees with Jack as far as not being a fan of deferred maintenance. He also agrees with Shelia that each line item needs to be reviewed every single year, and we need to use our best judgement to say do we really need that. Lastly, in terms of staff and programs, if we come up with a number and that number is slashed what's going to happen is there will be cuts to staff and programs. At this time, he does not feel we are overstaffed but we must go through all of this with an open mind and just look at the data. We need to spend more time on this area of the budget because it is a significant piece of the budget.

Shelia shared she is thrilled that we are looking into proficiency because the proficiency rate is terrible in her opinion. We need to give students what they absolutely need; all day long. However, she also feels we need to make sure that people can feed their families and put oil in their tanks. She thinks there should be a “beautiful balance” of what the district needs without leaving \$7 million in surplus, or \$15 - \$16 million in surplus. We need to tighten it up. A \$3 - \$4 million surplus she could see, but anything over \$4 million shouldn't be happening. So, our job is to give children the best education we possibly can, but at the same time we need to make sure those kids can eat at home too and have lights and heat.

- Jack followed up by stating that while he is a resident of Atkinson, it does not get lost on him the challenges some of the other communities' face. The reality is that we are all in this together. The job of the budget committee is to adequately fund and not to cut. The budgets should reflect the values of the communities in which we live. He agreed with Shelia by saying the education of the children must come first and the committee must adequately fund that. He confirmed that 70% of the budget is non-negotiable. It's contracts and wages. That leaves 30% for gas for the tractors, Windex. Inflation hits the district like it hits our households. Some of the projects we did this year that were being looked at 10 years ago had an increase of \$300,000 for the project. The athletic wing was a complete disgrace. A referee was put in a closet



with no heat and when he went to take a shower it didn't work and it was disgusting; he said he would never come back to Timberlane. Jack could not justify doing anything about that now because of the impact on taxpayers, but it was being looked at 15 years ago. Everything being presented by the CIP this year will be a need. Priorities will need to be made, but some have been going on for 10 years and there is ongoing struggle with staff and students. At some point these things will need to be addressed. Fire suppression may not be a want, but it is a need. Some of the buildings are falling apart at a rapid rate and if it continues, we may spend \$2 million more to do the same work in 5 years. So adequately fund is the name of the game, and we will have difference of options on what is adequate but that is where administration comes in.

- Donald wanted to share that he would never have predicted we'd be 30 – 40% smaller as a total number of students coming through the district in 2006, but it has been a steady decline. Currently at the high school we are under 900 students and in 2006 we were just shy of 1,600. We had narrow hallways, had to expand passing times, there were issues with the bathrooms, roof was leaking in the gym, and we had to replace all the floors because they were asbestos-ridden. Most of the issues have been addressed and a good portion was through the decrease in the number of kids in the building.
 - Kathryn asked if there was any correlation between the decrease in students in the building because of poor facilities? Is it impacting our values if we are not investing in the schools? Is the home value dropping because people are choosing not to live here?
 - Donald said he thinks some families are looking for specific things that they might find another school is in better shape or it meets their kids' needs. He doesn't have any data on it, so some of it could just be the economy and what happened in 2010 and 2012, and some economic pieces that really changed the district. People are buying homes in our towns so we are expecting we might see some regeneration through elementary right now and later in high school. From the perspective of holding a budget down, we're not increasing at a pace that we need more space, more facilities, and more staff, but we decreased staff significantly over the last couple of budgets. There are some realities as demands change in areas like special education. We are mandated to do the work so there is going to be a cost; whether it's hiring people or hiring people outside to do the work because we are obligated by law to provide a degree of service to meet every kid's need. In terms of athletic locker rooms and that area in the building, we fall short in a lot of those facility ways. The CIP list is about a third of the size it was three years ago. He thinks both committees are on the same side now in terms of trying to find a balance on how we can provide a good education for



all our students and meet our students' needs.

- Kathryn is interested in having the school board look into the significant cost of special education. We obviously must fund those but are there other things that can be done to offset it; earlier intervention, things like having full day Kindergarten. Our responsibility begins at age 3. Are there things we could invest in to offset the cost long term? The costs include out-of-district placements, special busing, paras, specialists, and obviously contracted services.
- We have also done a better job over the last couple of years with hiring because we are looking at their backgrounds and are hiring highly qualified people for the positions we can afford to fill. Scrutiny of the quality of who we bring into the district is an important aspect of our ongoing success.
- Robert expressed interest in facilities reviews or tours paired with a review of current CIP priorities. Tours will be coordinated with facilities.
- Justin asked the committees where they thought the community would need to be to set a healthy unassigned fund balance. There is no formula to figure out value, but percentages provided by the municipality; range from 5 – 15%. The unassigned fund balance is also about viability and evenness. In past years, Shelia said a normal year was \$1.5 – \$2.5 million. Julia asked; when there is an unassigned fund balance at the end of the year, that balance reduces the budget and that's what you ask the taxpayers for? To which, Justin responded; yes, it is taxpayer's money. We may also get unanticipated revenue. In the past, facilities weren't budgeted well and repairs weren't budgeted well. Administration was more focused on putting people in the buildings, so this wasn't a priority. The district had to take out a lease to cover things that had been put off for decades. The ESSER Grants during COVID helped replace HVACS and update our air quality systems. It was suggested that we look at CIP items appropriately, so we don't pull money out at the end of the year or take out another lease in the future. Mark shared he felt 4 – 5% seemed like it was on the low end or below what is recommended, but in this climate, he does not think we could do any more than that.
- Jack provided a little history from back in 2010/2011. There was no CIP and it had been developed because things were being forgotten. The target number for projects was \$10,000, then it went up to \$30,000, and now it's \$100,000 to get on the list. We are currently down to 25 items on the list. He would have suggested putting \$5 million into the budget for 5 years to get all the work done, with no interest. It would have been unpalatable, but we would've saved about \$40 million in interest.



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- The objective here is to have something that takes the peaks and valleys and kind of smooths them out to provide some taxpayer relief but also some predictability. There are some things we cannot predict; like healthcare costs. We hear the aggregate is 9% so our benefits represent 27% of the budget. Assuming we are not talking about massive layoffs, that 9% increase is a \$2 million increase. When looking to see where dollars can be squeezed from, all lines should be looked at because not all lines are equal. This could mean teachers are leaving or we can't perform maintenance, which may bring us back to the same position we were in in the past.
- Ryan stated that if 70% of the budget can't be negotiated, leadership needs to look at the 70% and start right sizing it. If we can go down 30 – 40% in student population, we need reduce staff costs. He claims our labor costs are what's driving the budget, so he thinks we need to fix the labor side. He thinks that until we fix the labor, everything else is going to be pressured; CIP, operating budgets, et cetera. He claimed we need to make room on the labor side to allow everything else to catch up. He asked about classroom size. As a novice educator he is not sure what the answer is, but he thinks looking into consolidation, reduction of staff, people wearing more hats, needs to happen.
 - We have looked at classroom sizes, and we like to have smaller classroom sizes, but we are at the limit in some classes and beyond and trying to find exceptions; maybe to not get another teacher, trying to find a way around those situations. The classroom sizes depend on the school level. It could be 18 – 28 students. When there is overcrowding, all the students suffer.
 - Ryan asked if we are preparing the students appropriately for the work forces. He mentioned an issue across the nation about hiring individuals with work visas because Americans either don't want to do the work or they are not capable.

Open Forum Discussion with School Board Adjourned by Shelia Lowes 8:30 PM.

New Business:

Justin presented fiscal '27. He wanted everybody to understand the operating pieces of the budget by department and where they stand and their overall percentage against the overall budget. The chart showed the four departments that are going to get presented and where they fit in size comparison-wise to the overall budget. He then presented the budget broken down by salaries, benefits, and operating. He presented the departments codes in terms of where their lines are and where all the dollars are as a summary.

SAU Budget Presentation-

Justin presented the SAU Budget. The SAU is about a 10th of a percent of the entire school budget. We are one SAU. We have one district. We have one building that runs early childhood in Sandown,



that's TLC. We have four elementary schools across the SAU, one in each of our towns. We have two secondary schools located here in Plaistow on the main campus, along with a performing arts center. Annually, we celebrate or recognize about 30 to 50 retirees. The district puts out about 5,000 mailings a year. We have 10 to 15 professional organizations that district staff are a part of, and there are 25 or more professional workshops or courses completed throughout the district.

In terms of the drivers of the budget that we're looking for FY28, really, it breaks down into three primary categories. A third of this entire budget for the SAU is professional learning for the people that run the district or that are non-affiliated status. A third of the budget is for professional services to run the district and supplies here at the SAU, and a third of it is used for staff recognition. These are things, whether it's the retirement celebration or professional development days for staff.

As for the SAU seeds, the administrators in charge of that department are looking ahead and maybe planning some things that's on the horizon. Justin informed the committee that House Bill 1300 is now effective law. This will have a substantial impact if it goes into effect and approved by voters about how we're going to present the SAU budget. There's explicit language in the law that what is included in the SAU budget would change. We would need to include personnel, that's explicitly stated, and we also need to go over and look at other measures. Legal would need to move into this budget. We're going to need to adjust depending upon what the voters determine in November.

Shelia asked about HB 564. The SAU must have an all-in separate budget presented as a warrant article. That's the budget that will be subject to a 6% with HB 1300. Ryan shared HB 564 was signed into law by the governor on June 19th. It requires all school districts to separate the school administrative unit's budget from the rest of the school district's budget every year and submit it as a warrant article as a separate budget.

The SAU budget will have the staff included when they present the personnel budget. The personal budget report is not ready yet, but it is scheduled for the next meeting. The committee has asked that the budget be tabled until the staffing and other changes have been made to the budget.

MOTION: Ryan motioned to reject the SAU Budget, seconded by Carol.

3 – 3 – 1 FAILS

In Favor: Carol Hillard, Brian Smith, and Ryan Labreque

Opposed: Julia Doherty, Kathryn Consalvo, and Robert Kinkaid

Abstained: Shelia Lowes



MOTION: Kathryn motioned to accept the SAU Budget for consideration, seconded by Robert.

3 – 1 – 3

In Favor: Julia Doherty, Kathryn Consalvo, and Robert Kinkaid

Opposed: Carol Hillard

Abstained: Sheila Lowes, Brian Smith, and Ryan Labreque

School Board Budget Presentation-

Justin presented the School Board Budget. This is about a third of a percent of the overall district budget. There are nine school board members. In addition to that, we have auxiliary roles that help organize and run through pieces that are required by law. The school board negotiates with eight collective bargaining units over time. We have four annual audit connections across the year. We work with one law firm, and we are an SB2 district, meaning we follow that kind of calendar, and there are expenses associated with that as well.

In terms of the drivers, looking at them as five core components, legal services really make up three-fifths of this entire budget number. The audit itself and running the annual meeting comprise about another fifth of the budget, and then professional stipends, dues, and services comprise the last fifth.

Again, just planting the seed for HB1300, and seeing how that's going to impact here, as some of these pieces may indeed need to move out of this budget and into a different classification system. Specifically, Justin talked about legal counseling as a service of the superintendent of schools in the district. So, it may not live here forever, moving forward, but it's here now.

MOTION: Kathryn motioned to accept the School Board Budget for consideration, seconded by Julia.

6 – 0 – 1

In Favor: Shelia Lowes, Kathryn Consalvo, Robert Kinkaid, Brian Smith, Julie Doherty and Ryan Labreque

Opposed:

Abstained: Carol Hillard



Technology Budget Presentation-

Ken presented the Technology Budget. Technology as a whole percentage of the total budget proposed is 0.95%.

As for the technology numbers, our technology department supports about 3,200 students, and 650 staff. We currently have an assigned device per person, so we're supporting close to 4,000 devices. We are also responsible for providing devices for out-of-district students, and in most cases, contracted staff. Our district infrastructure, the actual network of the buildings, and the infrastructure includes 7 fiber high-speed connections, 7 firewalls, 80 network switches, 150 wireless access points, 200 servers, which includes virtual ones, a phone system with 692 extensions, 275 video surveillance cameras, 62 door access controllers, 14 door intercoms, and we support and configure roughly 40 online systems for the district uses.

Now the technology drivers, this is to explain really the cost increase from last year to this year. In addition to, obviously, there was the spending freeze, so we forewent some things. But on top of that is the rising cost/inflation. It'll be a common theme. It increased more than I anticipated and what I budgeted for it. Some examples of that are PowerSchool had a 7% increase. PickUp Patrol was 19.5% increase. School ERP Pro, which is our financial and HR system, had a 5% increase. Another thing put back into the budget that had been taken out the past couple of years includes things that I really like to get on a schedule and then to try to get it to an even keel with my budget. When we forego buying these things over many years, it leads to a surge in spending. So, we're trying to, like Facilities talked about, trying to level fund as best we can. So, we put back in their video surveillance cameras, \$25,000. Audio-video equipment that we forewent the past couple of years; we did reduce that down to \$10,000. We reduced the classroom projectors and smart boards to \$35,000. This was reduced from what we asked for a couple years ago, even last year, and at some point, it was removed from the budget. This equipment is aging, as you can imagine. Some of those cameras are now seven, eight, and nine years old. There are cameras that administrators want to add to their buildings for security purposes. The smart boards and projectors are, again, some of them have been in the district for over ten years now. We have a request from the special education department for some smart boards for some ASD classrooms. The big-ticket item is, and this was on here last year, but it got removed, was the over-the-air intercom system at the campus next to us over at the middle school, high school, and PAC is on there as well.

Technology seeds, again, just reiterating that we want to get on an even keel budget-level fund as best we can to ensure that we don't have the peaks and valleys that we've seen in the past couple of years. We want to utilize technology grants as much as possible to offset costs. There is a possibility we will be taking the intercom system out of the budget because we've put in for a grant that the results will be known in October. It's through the federal COPS grant. If we get that budget, the deal is they'll pay 75% of the cost of the video surveillance cameras and the over-the-air intercom system. So, if that goes through, we'll obviously remove it from this budget, but we do need to come up with 25% to pay for it. Another thing we talked about is possibly putting the intercom system on a warrant article. That's something, obviously, you and the school board can talk about. E-Rate is an internet access and network infrastructure grant that we apply for yearly through the federal government. We've gotten, I believe, \$161,000 over the past five years. This program is in jeopardy



of being cut. We are just looking at lower cost systems that can do the same job. One such example is the time clock interface system. We used to use something called Time Clock Plus. We now use something called ExecuteTime. The cost is less than half of what we budgeted for in the past for that. What we are looking for next year is just as an example, we have a new network web filter for the Chromebooks called GoGuardian. They have a product that would replace the hall pass system we have now, called SmartPass, with what they call HallPass. If this fits the bill, which I think it will, we could get HallPass through GoGuardian next year, which would bundle and save, I think the insurance company uses that as a marketing thing. One thing to put out there is we're constantly seeing all kinds of security threats on the horizon for schools, and government agencies are in the same boat. Those needs require that we have the correct equipment in place.

MOTION: Kathryn motioned to accept the Technology Budget for consideration, seconded by Sheila.

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In Favor: Sheila Lowes, Carol Hillard, Kathryn Consalvo, Robert Kinkaid, Brian Smith, and Ryan Labreque

Opposed:

Music Budget Presentation-

Kurt presented the Music Budget. Music is one-tenth of 1% of the overall budget.

Music by the numbers, just to give you some context, all students through grade six receive music instruction. Seven through 12 students may enroll in music classes, so it's not a requirement of their education, but many choose to do so. Some additional information. We begin orchestra instruction in third grade for those students and families who want to do that, band in fourth grade, and chorus in fourth grade.

Now for Music by numbers now, we finished our enrollment last spring and then got a few more kids in the fall, but we've got roughly 76% of all third, fourth, and fifth graders are involved in some sort of performing ensemble, whether that be orchestra, band, or chorus. And that's up 18% from last year's enrollment numbers. We're pretty proud of that. Our elementary teachers are working hard to help kids be able to access that aspect of their education. Forty-one percent of our secondary students participate in a performing ensemble (band, chorus, orchestra). We do have the option of guitar orchestra at the high school as well. That number is roughly the same. We will have, this school year, 1,193 Timberlane students perform in a band, chorus, or orchestra concert on stage throughout the year. That's up a little bit over 100 students from last year. We had 28 high school students accepted into All-State festivals last year, 59 unique performance opportunities at Timberlane, and 37 unique performances off-campus.



Some of the drivers, they continue to be the same drivers we've seen from years past. Dues, assessments, and fees, and that is what allows our students to be able to participate in the myriad of festivals and performances that are regional, statewide. We have classroom and instrument supplies. So, coming out of there is going to be music for performance. Coming out of there is going to be instrument supplies to maintain those ensembles. Coming out of there is going to be elementary classroom music. Coming out of there is going to be the recorders that all our third graders do. Student transportation is up there as well, just busing to and from our events. That one is a little more challenging for me to get a precise number on leading into a school year because a big factor of that is the marching band with the away football games. We have a special rate with the bus company, so I use whatever their rate is and try and have an estimate as to the number of buses that we would need throughout the year. Software, you'll see that line increase this year. One of the reductions that we made last year was to eliminate the Smart Music, the practicing and assessment software platform. The instrument equipment repair and maintenance, so just maintaining all our equipment, and then trying to get some older equipment back into rotation. So, things that drive my program, always trying to improve access to the instrumental program. We received around 10 instruments from the Tri-M Music Honor Society instrument drive last spring. We have an ongoing donation box, too, in the Performing Arts Center lobby, where folks that do want to help get those donated instruments repaired so they can go into the hands of kids. We're trying to balance acquiring enough of those different fractional sizes to be able to keep up with the needs of the students. There's a trickling down effect. We're also always trying to generate unique performance opportunities for kids. One of the things we did last year was actually created some festivals, and we hosted some other regional festivals. We were also able to compose a jazz band piece of music to be performed, premiered at their spring concert in conjunction with Mr. Ken Clark's retirement, which was a nice thing.

MOTION: Robert motioned to accept the Music Budget for consideration, seconded by Ryan.

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In Favor: Sheila Lowes, Carol Hillard, Kathryn Consalvo, Robert Kinkaid, Brian Smith, and Ryan Labreque

Opposed:

Other Business:

As of the end of last month; the district has 63 contractors.

Meeting Adjourned by Shelia Lowes 10:04 PM

<https://vimeo.com/1229963934>

Respectfully Submitted by: Andrea Huntley