

TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD  
Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow, Sandown  
New Hampshire

Regular Meeting  
September 18, 2003

SAU No. 55 Office,  
Plaistow, NH

Present: Mr. Brayall, Mr. Bruno, Mrs. Champey, Mrs. Hall, Mr. Luongo, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Stack,  
Dr. McDonald, Mrs. Griffin.

Absent: Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Paone.

Mr. Brayall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken.

### Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mrs. Hall, seconded by Mr. Bruno,

Voted: To approve the minutes of the September 4, 2003, meeting with the following corrections:

- (1) the surplus of \$646,000 does not include the \$100,000 placed in the Capital Reserve Fund, the surplus was determined after that deposit was made
- (2) note that Tracey Gamble of Laidlaw Transportation received an award from the State of New Hampshire for an anti-pollution initiative.

Passed: Unanimously.

**Delegations and Individuals** - Mr. Edward Radulski of Atkinson addressed the Board.

### Current Business

- a. Representative Norman Major - Mr. Major updated the Board on recent legislation that affects funding for the next two school years. HB608 reduces the education property tax rate, changes the definition of average daily membership for purposes of calculating state aid for educational adequacy and provides \$10,000,000 for targeted education grants. HB717 introduces a different calculation for adequacy and includes a transition program that leads to a targeted aid system. Representative Major distributed cost comparison sheets for all four towns based on HB608 formulas. He advised that a committee has been formed to review the distribution for 2004-2005 and recommend corrections as necessary. The Board thanked Mr. Major for all his hard work and efforts on behalf of the Timberlane towns.
- b. Budget Committee Survey Results - Linda Meehan, Budget Committee Chair, briefly reviewed the results of the survey sent to students, parents, employees and community members. The survey asked participants their view of the budget process, strengths and weaknesses of the District, and where the District could improve. Of 14,255 surveys distributed, 755 were returned. Mitchell Mencis, Northeastern student and son of Mrs. Meehan, analyzed the data and presented it in several different formats for all seven schools. The Board thanked Mrs. Meehan and Mr. Mencis for their hard work on the project and noted that the data would be very useful.
- c. Transportation Update - Sandra Hodgkins, Transportation Coordinator, stated that she and Laidlaw are working on the most pressing problems of late arrivals and crowded conditions. Dr. McDonald advised that no buses are overloaded, that they are rated for capacity and that limit is not being exceeded. Discussion included all surveillance cameras in working order, need to re-route Danville students during bridge construction in October, revised routes posted on web site, and distribute late bus schedules to all students.
- d. Title II Projects - Joean Griffin and Elizabeth Gustavson reviewed the District's initiative for increasing the number of highly qualified teachers as outlined in the No Child Left Behind Act. Mrs. Gustavson will direct a new program that selects 15 second and third year teachers who wish to participate in a more reflective, self-assessment mentoring program. Mrs. Gustavson will assist teachers three days a week from 2:15 to 3:15 in their classroom. Other Title II programs include Patrice Liff assisting the teachers enrolled in the Alternative 4 and 5 certification plans, and funds for professional development activities.
- d. Kindergarten - Joean Griffin reported there is approximately \$4 million dollars available in the Department of Education's construction grant. All money must be obligated by 6/30/04. Timberlane's last chance to access that money would be a warrant article on the March 2004 ballot. She estimates the total kindergarten project, including equipment, would be \$3.4 million from the State, with the \$858,000 balance financed by District funds.

Mrs. Griffin also advised the NH State Board of Education is revising the state minimum standards for education and mandating public kindergarten is a consideration. If that happens, Timberlane would need to meet that standard.

f. Summer Programs - Mrs. Griffin reported that Entry Camp numbers are increasing, over 163 students participated this summer. Activities were held at four elementary schools and were paid for by Title I funds with the exception of Atkinson. The 2003-2004 Title I Grant has been cut in half and funds will not be available next year to fund the summer programs. This year's costs were approximately \$21,000 for salaries, and if the program is to continue, it would now have to be a budget item. The summer Title I tutor program will not continue due to lack of funds.

g. Class Size Policy - Joean Griffin, Jo-Ann Georgian, and Stephanie Mezquita made a presentation on the benefits of smaller class size on the entry level, recommending a change from 20 to 16. Mrs. Robinson noted that this has been a topic of discussion at Curriculum & Assessment and the Committee endorses the recommendation. A discussion ensued and topics included need for public input, budget implications, the kindergarten issue, change in State minimum standards regarding class size, and increasing staff needs at the middle and high school levels. There was no Board action and the item was referred back to committee.

h. Facilities Update - Mr. Taylor reported on the following:

PAC sidewalk has been repaired  
Lights in back of PAC are in working order, shields on order  
Reflectors on lights in front of PAC are not in place  
Intercom system at PAC installed and in working order  
Girls' bathroom off gym at TRHS will be completely renovated  
TRHS cafeteria air conditioning nearly complete  
TRHS heating project ½ done  
Getting estimate on shades for TRHS south and west windows  
Getting price on replacing TRHS 30-year old washer & dryer  
Loose bleacher seat fastened securely  
Petitions for bathrooms at Middle School and Pollard should be delivered October 3  
Diverter being installed over TRMS entrance to eliminate ice build-up

Dr. McDonald asked that Mr. Taylor get a price from HL Turner on cost of covered entryway at TRMS. Mrs. Champey requested that the repair to the TRMS gym floor proceed at a faster pace. Mr. Taylor was asked to bring the Fire Marshal's report to the Facilities meeting scheduled for September 23.

i. After School Traffic at TRHS - At the Safety Committee meeting held on September 9, Mr. Tardif and Mr. Coker expressed concern regarding speeding cars, traffic flow, loitering, and illegal parking in fire lanes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 4:30 to 8:30 and the need for police presence. In an effort to ensure safety of students and adults, Mr. Tardif discussed with Chief Savage a proposal to have an officer on campus to determine what needs to be done and where the problems areas are. The cost would be approximately \$2000 to \$2500 through the end of the fall sports season for four hours of coverage, three afternoons a week. The TRHS has collected parking fees in excess of the \$2500 estimated cost and that money would be used to pay for the officer. Mrs. Champey asked for Board authorization to move forward with the proposal.

On a motion by Mrs. Hall, seconded by Mr. Luongo,

Voted: To authorize an expenditure to a maximum of \$2500, to come from parking fees, for police presence at the TRHS/TRMS campus as proposed, effective immediately through the end of October.

Passed: Unanimously.

**Administrator's Report** - Dr. McDonald, Mr. Fugere and Mrs. Hall attended a workshop in Concord entitled "Communicating with the Public". Dr. McDonald will be hosting the South Central Superintendent's Association at the PAC Friday morning. Dr. McDonald reviewed the NEASC accreditation visit schedule and Board members indicated which events they would attend.

**Personnel** - Dr. McDonald nominated Suzanne Dibble to an Occupational Therapist position in the Timberlane Regional School District.

On a motion by Mrs. Hall, seconded by Mr. Stack,

Voted: To elect Suzanne Dibble to an Occupational Therapist position in the Timberlane Regional School District.

Passed: Unanimously.

### **Committee Reports**

Curriculum	Reviewed Class Size Policy; Received report of Special Education Summer Program, over 150 students participated. TRMS students will attend two-day sessions over the next four weeks at Camp Lincoln in Kingston in place of the Sargent Camp activity. Mrs. Robinson asked that Principal Johanson and students attend future Board meeting to share experiences.
Safety	Scheduled for September 22, 9:30 a.m., SAU Office.
Budget Comm.	Met on September 11 and reviewed outreach surveys. Will meet again on October 9.
Facility Tours	Toured TRHS, TRMS, PAC, Pollard on September 9. September 30 (Atkinson, Sandown Schools, Danville) - Atkinson Academy - 8:45 a.m.
Facilities	Will meet September 23, work order demonstration by John Holland.
Prof. Development	Mrs. Hall attended planning meeting for Staff Development Day on November 10.

**Reports of School Board** - Mr. Brayall has been invited to attend an area Selectmen's meeting in Atkinson on October 9. Mrs. Hall will also attend that meeting. Mr. Brayall and Mrs. Champey will meet with Sandown Selectmen next week. Board members reported on their attendance at school activities. The Board thanked Norman Major for keeping them informed and thanked Jim Hughes of the Maintenance Department for his assistance with school tours.

**Correspondence** - Reviewed by Board

**Vendor and Payroll** - Approved by Board

There being no further business, on a motion by Mrs. Hall, seconded by Mrs. Robinson, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Herrick  
Clerk