

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

Regular Meeting
December 18, 2003

SAU No. 55 Office,
Plaistow, NH

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

Absent: Mr. Baldwin.

Mr. Brayall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken. Mr. Brayall advised that agenda item 4 - a (Kindergarten) would move to agenda item 7 - a.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Stack, seconded by Mr. Paone,

Voted: To approve the minutes of the December 4, 2003, meeting.

Passed: 7 in favor, 1 abstentions (Mr. Bruno).

Delegations and Individuals

Student Council - Lauren Fournier and Whitney Lacroux reported on Council and school activities including winter sports, student/faculty basketball game, holiday concerts, fund raising activities, Mr. Timberlane contest and pep rally. Kadi Sickle was recently named to the All-American Field Hockey Team.

Others - Linda Meehan of Sandown spoke on behalf of public kindergarten.

Current Business

a. Kindergarten - Dr. McDonald and Mrs. Griffin reviewed capital costs of \$1,599,000 for five additional classrooms. With 75% state reimbursement of \$1,199,250 and transfer of \$399,750 from the Capital Reserve Fund, the tax impact to voters would be zero. Mrs. Griffin then reviewed estimated operating costs for school year 2005-2006 in the amount of \$634,429, estimated tax impact, and additional adequacy funding for kindergarten students. A question and answer period followed the presentation. The Chair polled Board members and all supported public kindergarten and a warrant article to allow voters to make their decision.

On a motion by Mrs. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Paone,

Voted: To put public kindergarten on the 2004 ballot.

Passed: Unanimously.

A discussion was held on not tying the Kindergarten article to the Articles of Agreement change as the State may mandate public kindergarten and that mandate would override the Articles of Agreement.

(Mr. Paone left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.)

b. Change Graduation Requirements - Dr. McDonald referred to a document outlining a proposed change of graduation requirements for the three diploma options: Standard, Scholastic, and Technical. The high school administration recommends changing the social studies requirement from 3.5 credits to 3 credits, which would correspond State minimum standards. Dr. McDonald endorsed the proposal.

On a motion by Mrs. Champey, seconded by Mrs. Robinson,

Voted: To change the social studies graduation requirement to 3 credits.

Passed: Unanimously.

c. Proposed 2004-2005 Budget and Default Budget - Dr. McDonald reviewed the proposed budget in the amount of 46,643,882, major budget factors that make up the increases, the default budget and differences between the default and proposed budget. The auditors have directed that PAC revenues be listed in the receipts section of the budget. Dr. McDonald then reviewed estimated 2005 tax rates based on the proposed budget and decreases in the State adequacy grant due to the new funding formula.

d. Proposed Warrant – The Board reviewed draft #2 of the proposed warrant. Mr. Brayall remarked that it was the Board's goal not to bring forward any money articles other than the operating budget. Mr. Bruno suggested that it be made clear on the Kindergarten article that there will be no tax impact to the voters.

On a motion by Mr. Stack, seconded by Mr. Luongo,
Voted: To include a Capital Reserve article on the 2004 warrant.
Passed: Unanimously.

Administrator's Report - Dr. McDonald contacted Plaistow Town Manager John Scruton and they have arranged for a joint selectmen's meeting with Fred Bramante as the featured speaker on Feb. 12, 7:00 p.m. at the PAC. Mr. Bramante will speak on State funding and minimum standards. Mrs. Robinson asked if Dean Michener could be invited to that session. Dr. McDonald congratulated Mr. Stack on his recent marriage.

Personnel - Dr. McDonald recommended that the Board accept the resignation of John McCarthy, TRMS Bridges Program.

On a motion by Mrs. Champey, seconded by Mrs. Robinson,
Voted: To accept the resignation of John McCarthy.
Passed: Unanimously.

Dr. McDonald reported on a leave of absence and request for a half-year sabbatical in 2005.

Committee Reports

Curriculum - Will meet January 13, SAU – 7:30 p.m.

Facilities - Will meet January 26, SAU – 9:30 a.m.

Safety - December 15 meeting cancelled due to snow day. Will reschedule.

Mrs. Hall spoke briefly on the contract with Ribas Associates, who are reviewing Timberlane's evaluation procedures and performance standards. Funds from the Title II grant are subsidizing the cost of the contract. Dr. McDonald advised that he will try to meet with the consultant at the February 17th training session regarding the SAU administrative process.

Reports of School Board - Mrs. Hall reported that the Atkinson Planning Board is reviewing two projects: one for 27 homes on Main St. and another for 6 homes on Maple Avenue. Board members attended holiday concerts and commented on the excellent level of performance.

Correspondence - Reviewed by Board

Vendor and Payroll - Approved by Board

There being no further business, on a motion by Mrs. Hall, seconded by Mr. Bruno, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Herrick
Clerk