

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

Regular Meeting
January 8, 2015
7:30 PM

SAU 55 Office
30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH

Call to Order

Madam Vice Chair Delfino called this January 8, 2015 public meeting of the Timberlane Regional School Board to order at 7:30 PM. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present

Mr. Bealo, Mr. Blair, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Delfino, Mrs. Green, Mr. Sapia, Mrs. Sherman and Mr. Ward

Absent:

Mrs. Steenson

Administrators Present

Dr. Metzler, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Stokinger, Business Administrator

Mrs. Armfield, Executive Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Learning

Ms. Auger, Principal of Pollard School

Mrs. Georgian, Principal of Sandown North School

Mr. Rolph, Principal of Sandown Central

Mrs. Roy, Assistant Principal of Student Services and Facilities at TRHS

Pledge of Allegiance

Madam Vice Chair Delfino led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes (00:01:32)

The minutes were approved by general consent with changes.

Delegates and Individuals (00:004:23)

Student representative Lucas Appleton read an anonymous poem that was penned by a concerned 15 year old high school student. The poem expressed his/her desire to be directed to accurate information of the school district budget process and expressed their concern of current inaccurate and opinionated information that is being touted to the public. The board members invited any student to contact their board representatives for guidance in the budget process. Dr. Metzler invited students and residents to attend the public hearing on the budget scheduled for January 15th at the Performance Arts Center as well as the Deliberative Session scheduled for February 5th at the high school. Both meetings will begin at 7 PM. Dr. Metzler also invited any student interested in the budget process to contact the SAU office; Dr. Metzler or Mr. Stokinger would be happy to provide accurate information.

Mr. Joseph McKinnon from Sandown opined that Sandown Central is an important part of the Sandown community. He complimented the staff and administration of the school. Mr. McKinnon was concerned about the impact on students should the school be closed; he would like more consideration given to keep Sandown Central open for the students.

Mr. Bryant from Sandown thanked Dr. Metzler for reaching out to him and discussing his concerns as well as Mr. Collins who educated him on the process. Mr. Bryant noted he has two children in the Sandown schools and asked what solutions to the parking situation would be considered if grades were to be combined into Sandown North.

He also expresses his concern for the lack of a fire suppression system and playground space for students. He stated his concerns about moving the special education programs since he understand the programs perform well at Sandown Central. He asked that the decision be postponed for one year and consideration be given to expanding Sandown North. The board thanked the residents for their input.

Current Business

French Exchange Program (00:22:40)

Mademoiselle Runnells presented a student exchange program for the 2015-16 school year. She reported that 15 French students accompanied by two teachers from Estic will arrive October 11, 2015 and stay until October 25, 2015. Additionally 15 Timberlane students would depart April 21, 2016 and arrive in Lycee Estic to visit with host families (visiting the culture of France) until May 4, 2015.

Motion: Mr. Ward motioned to approve the French exchange program for the 2015-2016 school year with four school days excused. Mr. Collins seconded the motion.

Mrs. Green inquired about the funding for this program. Mademoiselle Runnells stated that the students pay (no expenses are paid by the district). Dr. Metzler clarified the program is considered educational and is fully funded by students. **With no further discussion the motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.**

SAT Results (00:33:56)

Mrs. Roy presented the class of 2014 SAT scores, summarizing a three year trend of scores for Timberlane seniors as well as comparison scores to New England states and other public high schools. She explained and showed the SAT and GPA Naviance scattergram depicting the average admission status for Timberlane students by GPA and SAT scores for the University of New Hampshire and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Dr. Metzler noted the remarkable increase in math scores which is a credit to teachers, administrators and all staff at the high school. Luc Appleton affirmed the preparation classes for the test were very helpful to students.

2015-16 Proposed Budget (00:52:02)

Mr. Stoking updated the board on the fourth draft of the 2015-2016 proposed budget. The third draft of the proposed budget was adjusted after the Budget Committee made adjustments to the overall proposal. Mr. Stoking reviewed RSA 40:13, IX (b) which clarifies how the default budget is calculated.

Mr. Blair motioned to approve the 2015-2016 proposed budget for \$67,723,927 as presented; Mr. Bealo seconded the motion. After a brief discussion Mr. Blair withdrew his motion and Mr. Bealo withdrew his second.

Motion: Mr. Bealo motioned to move classes from Sandown Central to Sandown North with administration to make the decision as to where the Special Education programs are to be located. Mr. Sapia seconded the motion. Dr. Metzler provided a report outlining the retirement of facilities information regarding Sandown Central. The board requested time to review the information and hear from the public before making this decision. **With no further discussion the motion failed by a vote of 1-7-0 (Mr. Bealo in favor).**

Mr. Springer from Danville thanked Mr. Collins and Madam Chair Steenson for attending the Danville selectman's meeting. He asked Mr. Stoking what percentage of the proposed \$67m budget can be changed. Mr. Stoking explained that there is a small portion that is discretionary. He explained the items that would be controllable in the budget process. Mrs. Green opined that staffing is a major driver which has not been addressed. The cost of funding education was discussed.

Warrant (01:35:42)

Mr. Stoking reported on the dates of the public hearing, deliberative session and voting dates. He reported on the proposed figures for the budget, noting it is less than the default budget by 1%. Dr. Metzler reported residents have thanked him for his consideration on this budget but if additional cuts are necessary they would have to come from arts, sports, music, transportation, etc. He is not comfortable with these types of cuts and supports the current proposed budget.

MOTION: Mr. Blair motioned to allot up to \$250,000 of surplus to the School Building Construction, Reconstruction, Capital Improvement and Land Purchase Capital Reserve Fund; seconded by Mr. Collins. Mrs. Green motioned to amend the motion by reducing the amount to be allotted to zero. No second was received; motion to amend failed. Mr. Collins noted that the voters will decide if the monies should be allotted. Mrs. Green expressed her concern that the money is from the surplus. Mrs. Sherman expressed the importance of the capital reserve fund balance for many reasons including emergencies, maintenance and projects. Mr. Sapia noted the cost to taxpayers across the districts to allocate this amount is approximately \$35 per household. Mr. Collins noted the money does come from surplus but the voters make the decision. **With no further discussion the motion passed by a vote of 7-1-0 (Mrs. Green opposed).**

Motion: Mrs. Green motioned to separate the two questions in article four to raise and appropriate operational costs for Sandown Central from authorizing the district to withdraw \$416,245 from the existing Capital Reserve account for the kitchen renovation at Sandown Central; Mr. Ward seconded. A discussion ensued outlining the need for the kitchen renovation if Sandown Central School is to remain open. **Having no further discussion the motion failed by a vote of 1-7-0 (Mrs. Green in favor).**

Motion: Mr. Bealo motioned to strike article four in its entirety from the 2015 TRSD warrant; Mr. Blair seconded. Having no further discussion the motion failed by a vote of 3-4-1 (Mr. Blair, Mr. Sapia, Mrs. Sherman and Mr. Ward opposed and Mrs. Green abstained).

Mr. Collins motioned to include a total dollar amount in text of article four as well as indicate the amounts from taxes and from the capital reserve account; Mrs. Sherman seconded. A discussion ensued. Mr. Collins withdrew his motion and Mrs. Sherman withdrew her second.

MOTION: Mr. Blair motioned to strike Article 5 from the TRSD 2015 warrant; Mr. Bealo seconded. Mr. Ward opined it is a safety issue at Sandown North and stated his support of the sprinkler system. Dr. Metzler stated the students of Sandown North deserve an appropriate playground to play in. He further noted that as far as a sprinkler system is concerned, if the Fire Chief tells him the school needs a sprinkler system, then we certainly need a sprinkler system. Mrs. Green noted her support of the sprinkler system but not the playground.

MOTION TO AMEND: Mrs. Green motioned to amend the motion by adding Article 5 back into the warrant, to raise and appropriate up to \$90,000 for the playground expansion and striking the language related to the sprinkler system. Mrs. Sherman seconded. With no further discussion the amendment passed by a vote of 6-2-0 (Mrs. Delfino and Mr. Blair opposed).

With no further discussion the motion as amended passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.

The meeting recessed from 10:09 PM to 10:22 PM.

Motion: Mrs. Green motioned to change Article 5 to read “shall the voters of the Timberlane Regional School District raise and appropriate up to \$90,000 for the expansion and upgrade to the Sandown North Elementary school playground.” With no further discussion the motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.

Motion: Mr. Collins motioned to change the wording in Article 4 to read “Shall the voters of the TRSD raise and appropriate up to a total of \$1,160,544 up to the sum of \$416,245 from the existing School Building Construction, Reconstruction, Capital Improvements and Land Purchase Capital Reserve Fund. The sum of \$744,299 to be raised and appropriated specifically for the operational costs of Sandown Central Elementary School. \$416,245 to be raised and appropriated specifically for the renovation of the kitchen at Sandown Central Elementary School”; Mrs. Sherman seconded. With no further discussion the motion passed by a vote of 6-1-1 (Mr. Bealo opposed and Mrs. Green abstained).

Motion: Mr. Blair motioned to amend Article 6 of the Timberlane Regional School District warrant by adding the wording “and benefits” after the word salaries; seconded by Mrs. Sherman. With no further

discussion the motion passed by unanimous vote of 8-0-0.

Motion: Mr. Collins motioned to accept the Timberlane Regional School District 2015 warrant with changes, seconded by Mr. Sapia. With no further discussion the motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.

Policies (02:55:23)

Mr. Bealo presented three polices recommended for a second reading.

- IGA CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION
- GCFA PROFESSIONAL STAFF –SUMMER HIRING
- IGD CURRICULUM ADOPTION

MOTION: Mrs. Green motioned to approve the following polices for a second reading:

- IGA CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION
- IGD CURRICULUM ADOPTION

Mr. Sapia seconded the motion. With no further discussion the motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.

MOTION: Mr. Bealo motioned to approve policy GCFA Professional Staff – Summer Hiring for a second reading; Mr. Sapia seconded. With no further discussion the motion passed by a vote of 7-1-0 (Mrs. Green opposed).

Administrators Report (02:58:04)

Dr. Metzler reported he has met with Whitson's and the good news is at this time we actually are in the positive about \$7,000, thus we are on pace to break even. He invited the supervisors of the checklist from all of the towns within the district to the high school on Wednesday January 14th at 9:40 am to provide students the opportunity to register to vote. He informed the board of a family that recently moved from Danville to Hampstead. One child of the family is a senior student at the high school; the other children have transferred to the Hampstead schools. The family has requested the high school student be allowed to remain at the high school to finish out their senior year. Hampstead will reimburse Timberlane the Pinkerton rate but there is a balance of \$1,742.82. He asked the board to consider waiving this balance which is prorated for the remaining days of the school year.

MOTION: Mr. Sapia motioned to waive the balance of up to \$1,724.82 of tuition cost, seconded by Mr. Collins. With no further discussion the motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.

Dr. Metzler stated he wanted to clarify the intention of the extended retirement notification deadline. Staff members have up until March 1, 2015 to submit a letter of intent to retire in order to be considered for the retirement incentive; RIF or no RIF.

Mrs. Green inquired where the money received from business partnerships would be reflected in the revenue budget. Mr. Stokinger clarified the monies will be under line item donation/grant as the board approves the donations.

Personnel Report (03:14:40)

Dr. Metzler recommended accepting the retirement requests of:

Diane LaRose Sandown Central Guidance Counselor, 20 years with the district

MOTION: Mr. Sapia motioned to accept the intent to retire with great regret of Diane La Rose; Mr. Blair seconded. With no further discussion the motion passed by a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.

Committee Reports (03:15:26)

Mr. Bealo reported on the Policy Committee meeting and Mr. Collins reported on the Community Relations committee and the Capital Improvement Plan committee citizens membership which includes; Ellen Beckwith from Atkinson, Kim Farrah from Danville, John Sherman from Plaistow and Cindy Buco from Sandown.

Reports of the School Board (03:18:58)

Mrs. Green and Mr. Collins reported on citizen's petitions; Mrs. Green informed of a petition for Sandown to withdraw from the district and Mr. Collins informed of one to change the funding formula.

Correspondence (03:25:47)

All board members were presented the correspondence received since the last board meeting. Mrs. Green noted that a piece of correspondence circulated to the board last night did not make the folder. Dr. Metzler noted that the correspondence was sent to him. Mrs. Green inquired if the district can prevent the recent Facebook page from using the district logo and if the new public relations person is working on the Facebook page? Dr. Metzler noted that the district does not have a registered logo and that the public relations person is not responsible for the Facebook page however, he noted the information provided on that page is accurate. The page is not affiliated with the district.

Vendor and Payroll (03:29:45)

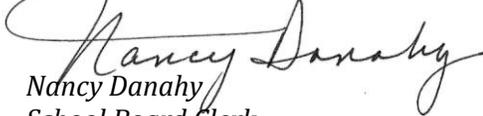
Vendor and payroll registers were signed by the board.

Other Business (03:29:56)

Mrs. Green inquired when the board will be able to see the class time surveys. Dr. Metzler estimated in April whereby he will be able to present a comparison of two years. Mrs. Green would like to review the days the Blizzard Bag may be used. Dr. Metzler informed her Blizzard Bag plan has been accepted and has been filed with the Department of Education where it can view that at any time.

Having no further business before the board Madam Vice Chair Delfino adjourned the meeting at 11:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Danahy
School Board Clerk