

Timberlane Regional School District Budget Committee
Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow, Sandown

Timberlane Budget Meeting
April 9, 2009

Timberlane Performing Arts Center
Plaistow, NH

Mr. Balanoff opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Ms. Rochford, Mr. Murray, Mr. Mullen, Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Dhaliwal, Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Balanoff, Mr. D'Amore and Mr. Mascola.

Absent: Mrs. Collie

Mr. Mascola made a motion to accept the minutes of the Organizational Meeting on March 26, 2009 and was seconded by Mrs. Lambert.

Vote: Seven in favor. Abstain: Two: Mr. Balanoff and Mrs. O'Neil.

Ms. Rochford made a motion to accept the Regular Meeting minutes of April 9, 2009. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mascola.

Vote: Seven in favor. Abstain: Two: Mr. Balanoff and Mrs. O'Neil.

Mrs. O'Neil reported there were no emails received in the Budget Committee email account. She also agreed to continue with the responsibility of checking for email regularly in the 2009-2010 school year, if no one else wanted the responsibility. There were no takers. Mrs. O'Neil will continue to check for email.

Committee assignments were discussed and agreed upon:

Curriculum-Mrs. Lambert alternates: Mr. Dhaliwal and Mr. Murray

Facilities- Mr. D'Amore, alternate Mr. Balanoff

Safety – Mrs. Collie, alternate Ms. Rochford

Technology-Mr. Mullen, alternate Mr. Balanoff

Mr. Mascola reported that he is the School Board representative to the Budget Committee for 2009-2010. He also reported that next year's school calendar was approved and that the School Board is receiving a lot of feedback. A general discussion regarding the effects of the approved calendar continued for a few minutes.

Mr. Stokinger distributed requested materials regarding the account structure as well as a preliminary proposed Budget Committee meeting schedule for 2009-2010. He requested that at least the first part of the schedule be approved by the Budget Committee at the next meeting so he can legally post the schedule which covers the RSA requirement for meeting notifications.

Mr. Mullen brought up for discussion his recommendation that all the Budget Committee Meetings be recorded and played on the TEN network. The costs of doing this was estimated between \$100 and \$200 and discussed. Mrs. O'Neil wondered about all the reports provided at

the meetings and how would the audience at home would see them. The process of making such a request by the Budget Committee of the School District was discussed. Mr. Stokinger recommended the Budget Committee Chair would need to write a letter requesting this to the School Board, who may or may not grant the request. Mr. Mascola stated that the verbal part of the meeting would be enough for people to follow along and they don't need access to the reports themselves, nor does the meeting need to be live but could just be rebroadcast routinely. Mr. Dhaliwal recommended only recording the meetings as it gets closer to the final recommended Budget. Others were wary of only recording some and not all that were currently not broadcast. Mr. Mullen stated that there is great value in attending a meeting versus reading the minutes and that many voters would like to see these meetings without leaving their homes. This discussion continued for many minutes and evolved into a discussion regarding Roberts Rules of Order before a motion on the topic was made.

Mr. Mullen made a motion to ask the School Board to televise every Budget Committee meeting that is currently not already televised. Mr. Mascola seconded the motion.

Vote: Four in favor. Four against. Per RSA a tie vote defeats the motion.

Mr. Balanoff stated he would bring the topic up at the next meeting when Mrs. Collie was available to discuss the issue. In accordance with Roberts Rules of Order the issue has been discussed and decided upon and should not be put back on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Mascola stated that he would bring up the topic at the next School Board Meeting. Mr. D'Amore stated the topic would need to be introduced again under new or other business by a member.

Mr. Mullen made a motion to form a subcommittee to review the By-Laws and the meeting calendar of the Budget Committee. Mr. Mascola seconded the motion. Mr. Balanoff opened the discussion. Mr. Mullen explained that the intent of his motion comes from his feeling that we as a Committee do not "prepare" the budget, but merely "rubber stamp" the Administration's Budget. He thought that a small group of members would meet outside the normal Budget Committee meetings to review and discuss the By-Laws and the budgeting process. Mr. Mullen feels that important decisions are made and then the results are presented to the Budget Committee and that is where he feels the Committee needs to be more involved. Mrs. O'Neil described the Budget Committee as an oversight committee and it would be impossible for the Committee to actually prepare the Budget or even to have the expertise to make the decisions the administration makes, prior to presenting the Budget to the Committee. Mr. Mullen explained that perhaps if the subcommittee is formed maybe they will decide that we should become part of that decision process. Mrs. Lambert stated she sees the Budget Committee responsibilities as an oversight committee also. Mr. Stokinger suggested that since many of the new members don't really have a clear understanding of what Mr. Mullen is describing, perhaps this conversation should happen in December or January when the process is essentially complete. Mr. Mullen was concerned about waiting because that will cause another year to be lost. Mrs. O'Neil stated that perhaps the motion should have said to review the relevant RSA's and not the actual By-Laws which is all of three pages of text. Mr. Balanoff agreed that the Budget Committee doesn't have a big impact on the proposed Budget, but to do so would take a time commitment that no one, as a Committee member could possibly do. The District Administrators work full time plus during budget season on it. The discussion went on for many more minutes which then evolved

into another discussion regarding the Roberts Rules of Order and it was agreed to either withdraw the motion or take a vote.

The motion was reviewed: Mr. Mullen made a motion to form a subcommittee to review the By-Laws and the meeting calendar of the Budget Committee. Mr. Mascola seconded the motion. Vote: Three in favor: Six against. The motion failed.

Ms. Rochford asked if it would be beneficial for the new members of the Committee to have a training meeting before the process gets going in September? Mrs. O'Neil took a few minutes to explain the process in a nutshell to the new members.

Mr. Stokinger gave all the members an information sheet regarding potential changes to the way the State funds the NH Retirement System. Currently Municipalities and School Districts pay 65% of the total NHRS employer contributions for our teachers, police and fire fighters. The State pays the remaining 35%. HB 2 proposes to change that contribution rate to 70/30 for 2009-2010 and 75/25 for 2010-2011. Mr. Stokinger explained that only the State can decide not to meet its' obligations and this would reflect an approximately \$140,000 increase in our expenses that was not budgeted in the approved 2009-2010 Budget and then another \$140,000 for the 2010-2011 Budget. He recommended everyone contact their State Representative if they wished to express their feelings about this proposed change. Mrs. O'Neil explained to the new members that unfortunately there are many items in the budgets that the Committee has no control over, such as when the State does this type of thing.

Mr. Mascola suggested that when the School Board has a training session on the Roberts Rules of Order, that it be opened to the Budget Committee Members. Many expressed an interest in attending and would like Mr. Mascola to keep them informed of the training schedule.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. here at the SAU office. This is usually a very brief meeting followed by the facilities tour of this campus in conjunction with the Facilities Committee and the School Board. Traditionally the other facility tours will be scheduled for the fourth Thursday of the month of September (24th).

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Kathy Smith, Clerk
Approved 9/10/2009