

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

Regular Meeting Joint with School Board
October 22, 2009
7:04 p.m.

PAC, 40 Greenough Road
Plaistow, New Hampshire
03865

1. Call to Order:

Mr. Balanoff called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

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

School Board Members Present:

Mrs. Aubrey, Mrs. Champey, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Kosta, Mr. Mascola, Mr. Paone, Mr. Porcelli and Mrs. Withee.

Absent: Mr. Baldwin,

Staff Present:

Mr. LaSalle, Superintendent,
Mr. Stokinger, Business Administrator,
Mrs. Smith, Assistant Business Administrator,
Mr. Coker, Directory of Secondary Education,
Mr. Woodworth, High School Principal,
Mrs. Lovett, Director of Pupil Personnel,
Mrs. Rincon, Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel,
Mr. Holland, Director of Technology,
Mrs. Heuer, Technology Coordinator,
Mrs. McKechnie, Director of Preschool
Mrs. Danahy, Director of Human Resources.

Mr. LaSalle started the presentation with a review of the agenda. He stated they would be strictly adhering to the 90 minute schedule. The next slide stated the District Mission Statement which places an "emphasis on high aspirations and personal growth". The next few slides listed the names of the district and school administrators.

Mr. LaSalle went on to describe some of the important "budget drivers" for this budget season such as health benefits, NH Retirement System rates and the costs associated with special education as well as the needed maintenance/renovations of the facilities. For a second budget season the teachers do not have a contract for 2010-2011, the Budget presented should not appear as high because the Teachers contract will hopefully be in a separate warrant article.

The first presenters were Mrs. Lovett and Mrs. Rincon. Mrs. Lovett described various programs and departments within Pupil Personnel Services. She also described the sources of revenue generated within Pupil Personnel Services such as Medicaid reimbursements. Mrs. Rincon

described the near term and long term goals for Pupil Personnel Services which is concentrating on literacy.

Mrs. Lovett described some of the most influential budget drivers for the 2010-2011 proposed budget such as transportation and tuition costs due to new students needing single rider transportation to out of district schools etc. She also described PPS is changing the category where purchases previously made from equipment are now categorized into supplies per business department rules. Therefore equipment is down while supplies are up. The nurses were asked to inventory their equipment and it was found that most of the nursing equipment such as vision machines are very old and a replacement schedule has been established starting in this budget year. New testing materials will be required as the older test kits are now outdated. Mr. Balanoff asked for clarification on the requested transportation increase. Mrs. Lovett explained that there are four students, for example, who need private transportation due to a variety of reasons and they have driven up the transportation and tuition costs. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the federal and state mandates the school district must follow which burden the budget.

Mr. Stokinger and Mr. Holland gave the next presentation on the Business Services of the district. Mr. Stokinger defined the Business Services as the non-education IT requirements to operate the district such as the financial and student data programs. Mr. Stokinger described the District being audited by the State of NH Labor Department and their findings of recordkeeping shortcomings. To bring the district in line with Department of Labor requirements and automated time keeping system has been proposed in the budget. This timekeeping system is the entire increase in this department. A discussion ensued regarding the ramifications of making this change or not.

Mr. Holland and Mrs. Heuer gave the next presentation on Technology. Mr. Holland described the district is moving to a managed wireless system to improve the compatibility and reliability of the wireless network. Other key initiatives discussed were the distance learning upgrades and the request of additional laptop computers for the HS Design/fabrication lab and the math cart. The Middle school is looking to purchase student response systems and mobile computer labs. The Technology department also had a shift from equipment to supplies to comply with the object code requirements. A few questions were asked and discussed.

Mr. LaSalle and Mrs. Danahy were next to present the budget requests for the employee benefits program. Mr. LaSalle explained that the district health/dental insurance provider is the Local Government Center. The LGC has given a guaranteed maximum rate increase of 22.3% for 2010-2011. Mr. LaSalle stated this is obviously not based on claims over the past two years but rather is more in reaction to the political climate in Washington DC at this time. Mr. LaSalle has stated that this was just recently quoted to us and the district is actively looking at alternatives to this carrier and plans to save money. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Mr. Stokinger and Mr. Hughes gave the next presentation on the proposed building renovations and improvements for 2010-2011. Mr. Hughes stated that six of the buildings owned by Timberlane have been given energy star awards due to the energy savings program in effect since 2005. Some recommended renovations that are considered a priority for 2010-2011 are

AA kitchen, HS locker phase III, HS Engineering lab, MS Library wall, Pollard 1912 building roof and SAU generator. The facilities committee felt that all the items on the projects list had merit and did not feel they should cut any of them at this time. However, Mr. LaSalle stated that cuts will need to be made during this budget season to bring the cost of the projects down to a reasonable amount.

Mr. LaSalle closed the meeting with a review of possible warrant articles. He stated the most important of which will hopefully be between the TTA and the District. Other options for warrant articles will be discussed in more detail later on in the budget process, such as perhaps the AA kitchen. Mr. LaSalle reminded those in attendance that it has always been recommended that if the project/item is a “want” then a warrant article is appropriate. If it is absolutely something you need, we are better off including it in the budget. Mr. LaSalle also reminded everyone that the NH Retirement rate is increasing again this year because the amount the State will fund has decreased, therefore increasing the burden on the local taxpayers. Financial reports and the projects listing were handed out to everyone in attendance. The presentations ended at 8:23 p.m.

The Budget Committee members assembled to complete the agenda items as the others present for the presentations left the PAC.

3. Approval of Minutes: Mrs. O’Neil made a motion to accept the minutes of October 8, 2009 with amendments. Ms. Rochford seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous.

Mrs. O’Neil asked the finalized corrected minutes be resent to the members.

4. Correspondence. None.
5. Delegations and Individuals: None.
6. Reports of Committees:
 - a. Budget Committee Members: None.
 - b. School Board Representative: None.
7. Unfinished Business: Discussion regarding the vacant Budget Committee positions was briefly discussed. Mr. Stokinger stated the positions have been advertised in a few local papers. Mr. Balanoff stated he is quite upset regarding the Budget proposal for PPS and he will be meeting with Mrs. Lovett to review her presentation in more detail. Additional discussion continued regarding PPS budget proposal and the questions the members had.
8. New Business:
9. Other Business: Mr. Mascola requested a pie chart showing where all the money is going in the first draft and which parts we can’t touch. Mr. Mullen asked if the GMR goes into default and Mr. Stokinger explained that it does get included in the default. The history of the GMR and the actual rate was also requested by the committee members.

Mrs. O’Neil made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm and was seconded by Ms. Rochford.

Vote: Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Smith

Recording Secretary

Approved 11/12/2009