

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

Regular Meeting
January 3, 2008
6:30 p.m.

SAU # 55, 30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, New Hampshire
03865

Call to Order:

Chairman Balanoff called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Zerba, Mrs. Hess, Mrs. O'Neil, Mrs. Quigley, Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Balanoff, Mrs. Collie, Mrs. Winn and Mr. Mascola.

Absent: Mrs. Suech

Timberlane Administrators Present:

Mr. LaSalle Superintendent
Mr. Stokinger Business Administrator

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Mr. Mascola and seconded by Mrs. O'Neil to approve the minutes of December 6, 2007.

Vote: 7 in favor. Abstain: Mrs. Hess and Mrs. Winn.

Correspondence: None

Delegations and Individuals:

Mrs. Winn stepped down as representative to the Curriculum Committee. Mrs. Hess, the alternate, will take over.

Reports of Committees: None

Unfinished Business: 2008-2009 District Budget:

Mr. Stokinger handed out copies of the proposed 2008-2009 Budget, Draft # 5 and the 2008-2009 Default Budget. He also discussed the major Budget Drivers and the difference between the requested Budget and the Default Budget.

Mrs. Quigley brought up for discussion the cost of heat this year and next, compared to last year and if we have properly funded those energy lines. Mr. LaSalle stated he believes we may be slightly under budgeted for energy this winter, depending upon what happens with the oil prices. This shortage would be made up from any potential budget surplus in other accounts. Additionally he explained how the default budget is allowed to have an increase for higher energy costs.

Mr. Balanoff wanted to know what last years surplus was. Mr. Stokinger stated it was 1.4 million dollars that was returned to the voters to offset taxes. He also explained this was the

largest surplus he has seen and the majority of it was from the winter being so extremely mild last year. Mr. Balanoff stated he would rather there not be any surplus at all and certainly not one that large. Mr. LaSalle stated that he is in agreement that a surplus is not what he would like to see either, but it was approximately 2% of the total budget. This is really a very small percentage considering the budgets are set eighteen months in advance. A surplus is bad but a deficit budget is much worse and no one would want to go back to the voters for additional funds.

The topic of turnover savings came up for discussion because this June, there will be an unusually high number of teachers retiring due to changes in the NH Retirement System. Historically the number of retiring teachers and their severance pay, is offset by the savings from hiring entry level teachers, but this year we have so many teachers retiring compared to how few new teachers we have recently hired, that there is no way the savings will be able to cover all the retirement expenses. In the past Dr. McDonald would have slightly under funded the substitute line knowing he had money in turnover savings to help. This year Mr. LaSalle has funded each line at its proper level.

Mr. LaSalle reported the School Board voted to take the Middle School SRO off the Warrant because more time was needed to investigate other possible funding options such as a grant. Additionally the School Board agreed to change the warrant article addressing the ASD Classroom renovation to, “the funds to be withdrawn from the previously established capital reserve fund”.

Finally, Mr. LaSalle discussed the School Board’s decision to delete the warrant article which would complete phase II and III of the High school renovation in one year. The School Board decided that in light of the slowing economy, a slower approach by funding each phase within that year’s operating budget, for the next three years, is more appropriate

After all the changes were made to the Warrant by the School Board, it was noted there are no additional cost items on this years warrant, excluding the operating budget.

Mr. Mascola made a motion to move warrant article # 3, the operating budget as presented, to the Public Hearing on January 15, 2008. The motion was seconded by Mrs. O’Neil.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

Mrs. Quigley made a motion to move warrant article #4, the renovation of the Middle School ASD classroom as presented, to the Public Hearing on January 15, 2008. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mascola.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

Mrs. O’Neil made the motion **NOT** to move warrant article #5, the Middle School SRO, to the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Quigley.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

Mrs. O'Neil made a motion to cancel the January 10, 2008 Budget Meeting and to reschedule it to immediately following the Public Hearing on January 15, 2008. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lambert.

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

New Business: Mr. Mascola recommended a Budget Committee member from each Town attend their Selectmen's Meeting to bring the Towns up to date on the proposed School Budget. Mr. Mascola has already been in touch with Atkinson and he will be at their next meeting. Also brought up for discussion is the recently scheduled Danville PTA "Town Hall Meeting" similar to the meeting they held last year in Danville. It has been scheduled for January 30, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Smith
Recording Secretary
Approved 1/15/2008