

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

Regular Meeting
November 13, 2008
7:00 p.m.

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

1. Call to Order:

Mr. Balanoff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. O'Neil, Mrs. Collie, Mr. Mascola p.m., Mr. Mullen, Mrs. Quigley, Mrs. Lambert and Mr. Balanoff.

Absent: Mrs. Zerba, Mrs. Suech and Mrs. Winn.

Staff Present:

Mr. LaSalle Superintendent, George Stokinger Business Administrator, Kathy Smith Assistant Business Administrator/Budget Committee Clerk.

3. Approval of Minutes: Mrs. O'Neil made a motion to accept the minutes of October 23, 2008 with amendments. Mrs. Quigley seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous.

4. Correspondence. Mrs. O'Neil stated there was one email received from Mr. Mullen updating his contact information.

5. Delegations and Individuals: Mrs. Zerba was not present to report on the Facilities Committee meeting but she did attend and will hopefully bring everyone up to speed at the next Budget Committee meeting.

Mrs. Lambert gave her report on the Curriculum Meeting where the Math and Music Department curriculums were discussed. Specifically a math lab will be introduced to make Algebra I a one year course for the CCP level. Two new guitar courses will also be introduced. Finally an additional option to the GED is being implemented next year so those students who can pass the GED and take a few additional requirements, will graduate with a HS diploma as opposed to passing the GED. This program will reduce the "drop out" rate for Timberlane High School.

6. Reports of Committees:

a. Budget Committee Members: None.

b. School Board Representative: Mr. Mascola reported the School Board is still in the process of collecting data in the development of a CIP.

7. Unfinished Business: None

8. New Business: 2009-2010 Budget: Mr. LaSalle began the discussion of the proposed Budget for 2009-2010 assuring the Budget Committee that the SAU office will provide any and all information they need to perform their duty. Additionally he and the SAU staff are committed to making this proposed Budget as lean as possible; additionally the School Board will only be bringing one warrant article before the voters which is the teacher contract. The first draft with all administrative requests included, is up over the current budget by 2.5% which is the absolute smallest increase for a first round in years. Mr. LaSalle will be proposing cuts in teacher positions which will bring the proposed budget down further. His initial estimate is somewhere between two to four teacher positions, but he is still researching the projected enrollment requirements at the elementary levels. Mr. LaSalle explained that the separate warrant article for the teacher salary increases typically add somewhere between 1.3% to 1.4% to the budget or approximately one million dollars, if it passes. He is estimating, in the absolute worst case scenario, a maximum of a 4% increase including everything. Mrs. O'Neil questioned whether we would be doing a disservice to the buildings by cutting our budget too lean? Mr. LaSalle stated he is comfortable with the proposed building projects included in the budget. The Facilities Committee took a hard look at all the proposed projects and established a list of projects in order of priority for the 2009-2010 Budget (\$588,000). Mr. Balanoff stated that the increases in the energy line concern him and he would like to come by the office and review the electricity and fuel oil bills. He will call Mr. Stoking to set up a time to do that.

Mr. Stoking supplied the Budget Committee with various financial reports to help the Budget committee analyze the proposed budget. Mr. LaSalle pointed out that Regular Education accounts (1100) are down a quarter of a million dollars while the Special Education lines (1200) are up by almost the same amount.

Mr. Balanoff and Mr. Mullen requested the Budget Committee be provided a list of accounts that are discretionary so they may focus their energies in areas that are not dictated by obligations. Several specific items in the budget were discussed such as the new maintenance van and the new driver education vehicle. The Budget Committee reviewed the requested changes in staffing such as an increase for each elementary secretary to full year and additional work days for the Guidance Secretary at the Middle School. Other positions discussed were a new groundskeeper, a Technology Integrator in addition to a new Math Teacher at the High School.

Mr. Balanoff brought grants up for discussion. Due to gross budgeting requirement, the grants drive up the expense side of the budget but is also offset by the revenue, so the net effect is zero to the taxpayers. He feels that the offset might not be worth driving up the expense side (politically speaking) and he suggested to Mr. Mascola, as the School Board Representative to investigate and report to the School board, whether these grants the District applies for and accepts are still worth it.

Mr. LaSalle explained that the bond interest payments have been going down while the principal payment remains the same. Mr. Mullen stated that as the interest on the bond payment drops, we should be saving the difference and not reducing the budget but rather

depositing it into the Capital Reserve Account. Everyone was in agreement and thought this might be a good suggestion for the School Board.

Mrs. Lambert made the comment that she really liked how our custodians look in their new uniforms that were approved in this year's budget. She was surprised to see what a wonderful difference it made when you were in the schools.

One of the last items discussed was if Mr. Hughes had considered outsourcing the grounds maintenance portion of his department and how it compared economically to doing it in house. Information regarding this question will be sought from Mr. Hughes on behalf of the Budget Committee.

9. Other Business: none

Mrs. Quigley made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm with a second by Mr. Mascola.

Vote: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Smith
Recording Secretary
Approved 11/24/2008