

## Timberlane Regional School District Budget Committee

Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow, and Sandown

November 21, 2006  
7:00 p.m.

Plaistow, New Hampshire

### Call to Order:

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

### Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Suech Mr. Balanoff, Mrs. O'Neil, Mrs. Collie, and Mr. Brown.

Absent: Mrs. Zerba, Mrs. Hess, Mrs. Quigley and Mrs. Winn.

Administrators present were Mr. Stokinger and Dr. McDonald.

Mrs. O'Neil made a motion to accept the minutes of November 9, 2006 with amendments.

Mr. Brown seconded the motion.

Vote: Three voted to accept the minutes with changes noted, 2 abstentions (Mrs. Lambert & Mrs. Suech).

Correspondence: None

### Delegations and Individuals:

Rob Collins was in audience from Danville.

### Reports of Committees:

Mrs. O'Neil reported on the Distance Learning program she attended in Danville, which was a visit to the San Diego Zoo. It was very well received and enjoyed by all fifty people in attendance.

Mr. Brown reported that the last School Board Meeting was pretty quiet. Emily Weston is the new School Board Student Representative. The Middle School Resource Officer was discussed with Chief Savage, Deputy Chief Jones, Officer Marsilia, and Principal Hogan. There were also two presentations for Eagle Scout Projects in the District. A Sandown Selectmen was present to ask permission for the Town of Sandown to hand out two different kinds of mosquito repellent wipes to Town Recreation Teams using the School Fields. School Board member, Mrs. Miller stated she was moving and the next School Board Meeting would be her last.

### Unfinished Business:

07-08 Budget: Mr. Stokinger handed out a spreadsheet, which shows the Proposed 08 Budget in a format that he hopes was clearer for the Committee Members to understand. Dr. McDonald stated he has found another \$54k in cuts in Maintenance and \$19 k in Technology that he plans on making in the next draft of the Proposed Budget.

Kindergarten was discussed and how under the current funding formula, without adding the expense of midday transportation, the adequacy aid which kicks in on the third year of the program, will more than cover the cost per pupil. He also stated it is unclear what will happen with State Funding since it was again recently ruled unconstitutional. Also noted was that Danville and Sandown are picking up over 1 million in state aid while Plaistow loses some aid.

Dr. McDonald stated that at this time it looks like there will be four warrant articles submitted by the School Board for the Budget Committee to vote on at the next Budget Committee Meeting. 1.) Roof for HS from Cap Reserve Account for \$400k-\$500k 2.) Instituting Kindergarten with some funds from the Capital Reserve 3.) Building a two-room addition at Atkinson Academy for Kindergarten (void if the previous W/A @ Kindergarten does not pass) using 75% state aid for cost of construction and the balance

from the Capital Reserve. 4.) The annual \$100k to the Capital Reserve. Committee members asked what the current balance is, of the Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. Stokinger answered in the \$800k's.

Some committee members asked how the "no" means "no" question will be addressed that will come from voters in the district regarding the Kindergarten question on the ballot again. Dr. McDonald reiterated that they said no to "paying" for Kindergarten not necessarily for having it. Therefore, this year's plan, with no tax impact, is a different question. Not to mention all the scientific data shows that the earlier kids enter school and get up to speed on reading, writing etc., the better they do down the road. With this in mind, it is his opinion that instituting Kindergarten is the right thing to do for the Districts children, regardless of how politically controversial the subject is. It was discussed that Sanborn set precedence that the Board does in fact "technically" have the power to institute Kindergarten but in this District, the School Board is choosing to take it to the voters.

The Danville Committee Members reported that the Danville ADM going up caused quite a large increase in their tax rate and is causing many voters in Danville to want to vote against all Warrant Articles and Proposed Budgets.

Dr. McDonald finished his review of the current draft of the proposed Budget and asked the Committee directly what they would like him to set as a goal for his final draft? Chairman Balanoff suggested he aim to cut even more and to bring the proposed budget down another \$200k. This would be cuts from all other areas of the Budget but staffing. Dr. McDonald stated that much of a cut will be very challenging to do without hurting programs but he would do his best and report back at the next Budget Committee meeting. Charlie Balanoff suggested looking into leasing the new Maintenance truck as opposed to outright purchase as a means to save some money in this proposed Budget.

Michelle stated she still wanted to see where kitchen facilities can be addressed and how those improvements would probably be a bond issue.

Dr. McDonald brought up for discussion how our new Facilities Director is a HVAC expert and he is finding much less expensive ways to improve the ventilation problems in the schools.

The Default budget was discussed and it was stated that it would be an estimated increase over last years Budget of 2.1 to 2.2 million just on contractual obligations alone.

Other Business:

None:

Future Agenda Dates:

The next meeting is on Thursday December 14, 2006. Dr. McDonald is hoping to have all the Warrant Articles and the final 08 Proposed Budget approved by the School Board and ready for the Budget Committee to vote on. The Thursday December 28, 2007 meeting may or may not be needed depending upon how the meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup> goes.

Chairman Charlie Balanoff adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Smith  
Recording Secretary