

Timberlane Regional School District Budget Committee

Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow, and Sandown

Regular Meeting
January 8, 2004
7:00 p.m.

SAU 55
Plaistow, New Hampshire

Mrs. Meehan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.; the clerk called the roll.

Present: Mr. Bruno, Mrs. Meehan, Mr. Metcalf, Mrs. O'Neil, Mrs. Quigley, Mr. Tarushka,
Mrs. Withee, Mrs. Zerba, and Dr. McDonald. Mr. Stokinger arrived at 7:45 p.m.

Absent: Mrs. Hess

On a motion by Mrs. Quigley and seconded by Mrs. Withee;

Voted: To approve the minutes of December 11, 2003 with the following additions:

- Mrs. Quigley, Mr. Metcalf, and Mrs. Withee all attended the Plaistow meeting regarding Senate Bill Two
- Mrs. O'Neil stated she felt the budget was fair but high
- Mrs. Meehan is not in favor of reducing department chair hours for next year's budget

Passed: 4 approved and 4 abstentions – Mr. Bruno, Mr. Metcalf, Mr. Tarushka, and Mrs. Zerba

Correspondence - None

Delegations and Individuals - None

Reports of Committees

a. Budget Committee Members – None

b. School Board Representative - Mr. Bruno stated the School Budget decided to go with the budget for \$46,643,882. The language for Kindergarten Warrant Article #3 will be sent back to the attorney to be rewritten for clarification.

Unfinished Business

a. 2004-2005 - Dr. McDonald reported the School Board did not make any changes to the budget and it was now the Budget Committee's responsibility to decide the final budget presented at the Public Hearing on January 15, 2004.

Dr. McDonald clarified sections of the budget as asked by budget committee members. He discussed the process planned for reporting money made at the Performing Arts Center along with expenses incurred. Mr. Tarushka expressed his concern with gambling district money with events that require upfront money unless the district can be guaranteed reimbursement.

To answer a question of high school over crowding from Mrs. Withee, Dr. McDonald stated the high school is registered for 1500 students. He felt the enrollment will be ok for a few years but the district is growing and may continue to grow with the possibility of more housing construction in the district. "The last school construction projected was to take us to 2010. The reality is that starting in 2007 the district will be looking at several options to solve the problem of growth if we continue to grow at the current rate of 2.7 as we have for the past several years".

The State may mandate kindergarten by 2005. Dr. McDonald stated it would be beneficial to vote for kindergarten prior to being mandated.

Dr. McDonald pointed out the need for each secretarial position at the high school and middle school after Mrs. O'Neil questioned the amount of secretaries at each school.

If the budget were cut Dr. McDonald would have to look at increasing class size and eliminating one teacher for the middle school World Language program. The difference between the default budget and the proposed budget is \$297,000

The committee discussed their concern for the budget amount but cannot decrease the budget without decreasing program and increasing class size.

On a motion by Mrs. Quigley, seconded by Mr. Tarushka;

Voted: To put forth a budget of \$46,643,882 to be presented at the Public Hearing.

Passed: Unanimously

New Business

Mr. Tarushka felt the budget committee should not vote on Article 3 with the estimated \$.25 cost listed in the article.

Future Agenda and Dates

On a motion by Mrs. Quigley, seconded by Mrs. Miller;

Voted: To hold a special meeting on January 15th following the Public Hearing and cancel the January 22, 2004 meeting with the proviso to allow the Chair to call an emergency meeting if necessary.

Passed: Unanimously

Public Hearing is scheduled for January 15, 2004, 7:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center

Budget Committee meeting will immediately follow the Public Hearing

Deliberative Session is scheduled for February 5, 2004, 7:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center

On a motion by Mrs. Quigley, seconded by Mr. Metcalf, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Rothwell
Clerk