

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

Regular Meeting
December 11, 2003
7:00 p.m.

SAU 55
Plaistow, New Hampshire

Mrs. Meehan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.; the clerk called the roll.

Present: Mrs. Hess, Mrs. Meehan, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. O'Neil, Mrs. Quigley, Mrs. Withee, and Mr. Stokinger

Absent: Mr. Bruno, Mr. Metcalf, Mr. Tarushka, and Mrs. Zerba

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

Voted: To approve the minutes of November 24, 2003

Passed: 5 approved and 1 Abstention – Mrs. Miller

Correspondence - None

Delegations and Individuals

John Miller, resident, who attended the last Technology Committee Meeting, discussed the necessary requirements to install a distance learning system from a grant recently issued to the district. He expressed his concern regarding a clear link with curriculum and the distance learning and the monthly cost for a system that may sit idle a few months before it is really working effectively. He suggested after the system is installed not to start the circuits until the district is ready to actual use the system efficiently.

Some possibilities for use of the distance learning, according to Dr. McDonald, are foreign languages to the elementary schools, virtual field trips, staff development, and AP courses. Dr. McDonald stated that a short time was available to request the grant. Consequently, there was not enough time to develop an extension curriculum prior to winning the distance-learning grant.

Reports of Committees

a. Budget Committee Members – Mrs. Quigley attended a meeting in the town of Plaistow regarding the passing of Senate Bill 2. It was noted by the Town Manager that if we had voted to approve Kindergarten the district may have received more money than expected. She felt it was a positive and productive meeting. The concern discussed at the meeting was the money Plaistow will be losing with Senate Bill 2.

b. School Board Representative - None

New Business

a. 2004-2005 Budget - Dr. McDonald presented the sixth draft of the 2004-2005 budget. An account has been set up for the Performing Arts Center to track expenses and income for the building. All positions requested, not meeting the minimum standard, are covered by the default budget. The high school Art and Science position qualifies and will not be .cut from the budget. He pointed out other departments in the high school and other schools in the district, discussing cuts and increases and explained the default budget. The overall increase in next year's budget is 6.2%. To decrease the budget the Superintendent would have to cut staff, programs, and increase class size.

A discussion ensued regarding the exciting and positive events being held in the Performing Arts Center. Dr. McDonald felt that we have the possibility to make money from concerts, plays, and other entertainment. Dr. McDonald asked for the Budget Committee's direction towards the 2004-2005 budget. The Committee will vote on their decision at the next meeting.

Unfinished Business

a. December Meeting Date - On a motion by Mrs. Hess, seconded by Mrs. Quigley;

Voted: Not to hold second meeting in December

Passed: Unanimously

Other Business – Mrs. O'Neil will put together a fact sheet and the Committee will draft a letter to the editor to go to press prior to voting the budget.

Future Agenda and Dates

Next budget committee meeting is January 8, 2004, 7:00 p.m., SAU 55 Office

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

On a motion by Mrs. Withee, seconded by Mrs. Hess the committee adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Rothwell
Clerk