

**TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
PROPOSED 2008-09 BUDGET AND WARRANT**

**JANUARY 15, 2008**

Board members present: William Baldwin - Chair, William Luongo, Elizabeth Kosta, Lori Aubrey, Michael Mascola, Arlene Champey, Lisa Withee and Emily Weston - Student Representative.

Board members absent: John Paone - Vice Chair and Steven Brown.

Budget Committee members present: Charles Balanoff - Chair, Michelle O'Neil - Vice Chair, Catherine Zerba, Jennifer Suech, Cheryl Hess, Elizabeth Quigley, Lisa Lambert, Darice Collie, and Margaret Winn.

Others Present: Richard La Salle - Superintendent, George Stokinger - Business Administrator, and Kathleen Smith – Assistant Business Administrator.

At the Timberlane Performing Arts Center, Greenough Road, Plaistow, NH, TRSD Budget Committee Chairman Balanoff opened the public hearing for the proposed 2008-09 budget and warrant at 7:05 pm with the roll calls for both the Budget Committee and School Board. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Balanoff read aloud the 2008 Timberlane Regional School District Warrant as follows:

To the inhabitants of the School District of the Towns of Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow, and Sandown, New Hampshire, qualified to vote in District affairs:

**First Session of Annual Meeting (Deliberative)**

You are hereby notified to meet at the Timberlane Performing Arts Center, Greenough Road, Plaistow, New Hampshire, on Thursday, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February 2008, at 7:00 p.m. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of warrant articles number 2 through number 5. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended and (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended.

**Second Session of Annual Meeting (Voting)**

Voting on warrant articles number 1 through number 5 will be conducted by official ballot to be held in conjunction with town meeting voting to be held on Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008, at the Town election polls in Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow, and Sandown, New Hampshire. Polls in Danville, Plaistow and Sandown will be open from 8:00 a.m. and remain open until 8:00 p.m.; the polls in Atkinson will be open from 7:30 a.m. and remain open to 7:30 p.m.

Atkinson Voters	Voting will be conducted at the Atkinson Community Center
Danville Voters	Voting will be conducted at the Danville Fire Association Hall
Plaistow Voters	Voting will be conducted at Pollard School
Sandown Voters	Voting will be conducted at the Sandown Town Hall

**Article 1 - Election of Officers (March 11<sup>th</sup> only)**

To choose the following school district officers:

Atkinson Voters	School Board Member	3-Year Term
Danville Voters	School Board Member	3-Year Term
Plaistow Voters	School Board Member	3-Year Term
Sandown Voters	School Board Member	No Vacancy
Atkinson Voters	Budget Comm. Member	3-Year Term
Danville Voters	Budget Comm. Member	3-Year Term
Plaistow Voters	Budget Comm. Member	3-Year Term
Sandown Voters	Budget Comm. Member	No Vacancy
All Voters	School District Moderator	3-Year Term

## **Article 2 – Operating Budget**

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$59,464,070. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$58,684,720 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Timberlane Regional School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Note: Warrant Article 2 (the operating budget) does not include appropriations proposed under any other warrant articles.

At this time Chairman Balanoff broke from the reading of the warrant to address the operating budget using a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation included an explanation of the budget process whereby building administrators submit their budget needs to the budget committee and school board. The committee and board analyze, reduce (where warranted while aiming to maintain quality education), and recommend a final budget to the public. The proposed 2008-09 budget went through four rounds of cuts, reducing over \$1,000,000 from its first draft.

He reviewed the needs based budget requests (an increase of \$3,954,107 from the 2007-08 budget), the committee and board adjustments (cutting the increase by \$1,127,104), and the offset of revenues (\$301,900) leaving a total proposed budget of \$59,464,070, reflecting a 4.46% increase over the 2007-08 budget.

Chairman Balanoff continued with the budget presentation by identifying the budget drivers which included salaries (new positions at both high school and middle school), instruction related costs (special services), and supplies (textbooks, equipment, transportation and food service – though the food service budget is offset by revenue). Other areas affecting the budget include facilities (new general mechanic and secretary), supplies (oil), insurances, food service equipment, high school renovation, etc.

He then noted that in the event the proposed budget does not pass, the default budget is \$58,684,720. The default budget does not cover the new positions, non-affiliated staff salaries and benefits, supplies, textbooks, repairs, equipment and the high school science renovation project.

Chairman Balanoff announced the Deliberative Session would be held on Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Performing Arts Center. He then introduced School Board Chairman Bill Baldwin to read and address the remaining warrant articles.

Chairman Baldwin read Articles 3-5 as follows:

## **Article 3 – Capital Reserve Fund**

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District raise and appropriate up to \$100,000 to be placed in the School Building Construction, Reconstruction, Capital Improvement and Land Purchase Capital Reserve Fund established in 1996, with such amount to be transferred from the June 30, 2008 undesignated fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1 of this year. *(The funds for this article come from the 2007-2008 school budget surplus, not from additional taxes.)*

## **Article 4 – Special Education Space Upgrade for Specialized Middle School Program (Autism)**

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District raise and appropriate up to \$144,000 to renovate and upgrade instructional space providing for the specialized needs of an “Intensive Needs Program” at the Middle School for highly disabled students and to authorize the District to withdraw up to said sum from the existing School Building Construction, Reconstruction, Capital Improvements and Land Purchase Capital Reserve Fund. This renovation will provide security, safety, and the ability to work intensively and individually with students while providing them with essential “life skills”. Currently this program occupies space that was not specifically designed for this unique purpose. *(The funds for this article come from the capital reserve fund, not from additional taxes.)*

## **Article 5 – General Acceptance of Reports**

Shall the Timberlane Regional School District accept reports of agents, auditors, and committees as written in the 2007 Annual Report.

Chairman Baldwin then introduced Superintendent Richard La Salle to address Article 4 – Special Education Space Upgrade for Specialized Middle School Program.

Mr. La Salle noted that the warrant article as written is self explanatory; however, it is important to convey that schools today are faced with providing programs for highly intensive needs students. One way to provide this need is to send students to an out-of-district program at a higher cost. Because Timberlane has a large number of special programs, it is more efficient and effective to offer the program here. Students do better emotionally when kept within district, staying close to friends and family, and in this case it costs less to operate the program versus sending the students out-of-district. Mr. La Salle stated this is a highly specialized program and concluded by encouraging the public to support this article.

Chairman Balanoff then opened the meeting to questions and comments from the public, Board and Committee members. There were none.

He adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Belcher, Clerk Pro Tem

Minutes completed and on file January 16, 2008.