Timberlane Regional School District Minutes

Type of Meeting	Tax Cap Subcommittee
Date	September 10, 2025
Facilitator	Justin Krieger
Attendees	Justin Krieger, Alyssa Kowalczyk, Marianne Springer,, Maria Watkins, Lou Broad, Laurie Herchenroder, Shawn O'Neil, Bill Coye, Sierra Dolce, Chris Tardiff Absent: Karen White, Elizabeth Kosta
Agenda	Previously disseminated and posted online.
Notetaker	Marianne Springer

Call to order at 6:03 pm
Approval of minutes from 8/13, 2025
Motion to *Approve* by: Lou Broad Seconded by: Alyssa Kowalczyk
10 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions

TOPIC: Other District Experiences Group

Discussion:

- In New Hampshire, there are only two multi-town districts using SB2 process with tax caps: Brookline-Hollis and Newfound. (Details below presented by Alyssa Kowalczyk)
    - Brookline adopted a tax cap of 8% in 2019. Originally a 2% tax cap was brought forward and it was modified to 8% at their deliberative session.
    - In Brookline, the 8% tax cap has not required an override yet, however with two new contracts for the upcoming warrant, the tax cap is expected to be a challenge this year.
    - Newfound adopted a 2% tax cap in 2012.
    - Newfound: Tax cap overrides passed at deliberative in 2014, 2023, and 2024
    - Newfound: Tax cap recessions were attempted in 2017, 2021, and 2025
    - Newfound: An increase from a 2% tax cap to a 5% tax cap failed in 2025
    - Newfound: Positions have been eliminated during the 2% tax cap duration.

Conclusions:	

Action Items	Person Responsible / Deadline

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TOPIC: TRSD Fiscal Group	
Discussion:	No additional information
Conclusions:	
Action Items	Person Responsible / Deadline

TOPIC: Legal Group	
Discussion:	Answers were provided to the following questions by Justin Krieger

- What is the impact on the default budget? **Unknown**
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- What happens to the operating budget if a CBA fails? **Nothing, cannot change the operating budget.**
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- If warrants get changed at deliberative to exceed the tax cap, what would require a three-fifths majority (override) **The votes at both deliberative session and on the ballot would require a ⅗ majority.**
- What would happen if there is a majority but not a three-fifths majority? **The legislation is unclear on this.**

Conclusions:	
Action Items	Person Responsible / Deadline

TOPIC: Legal Group	
Discussion:	Mr. Broad presented a detailed list of hypothetical considerations of a 2.5% tax cap on Negotiations

- The negotiating team would be limited to 2.5% of the relevant base and neither side could agree to anything that pushes costs beyond that ceiling.

- Discussions would shift to how the available funds are used and a series of tradeoffs among items associated with funds.
- Some cost components of contracts may rise enough to squeeze out wage growth.
- Good faith negotiations could be jeopardized.
- Attaining agreement, particularly on multi-year contracts could result in single year contracts or no-contract situations.

Conclusions:	

Action Items	Person Responsible / Deadline

TOPIC: Other Questions

Discussion:	Members of the committee did not raise any further research questions.
Conclusions:	Proceed to Presentation Planning and Schedule Additional Meetings

Action Items	Person Responsible / Deadline
Next meeting: September 24th at 6 pm.	

TOPIC: School Board Presentation

Discussion:	Justin Krieger presented a target date of October 16, 2025 School Board meeting for the committee presentation.

- Marianne Springer and Shawn O'Neil will begin drafting the report in conjunction with Justin Krieger and Maria Watkins. The draft report will be made available to the Tax Cap Committee prior to September 24th.
- Marianne and Shawn will present at the School Board meeting.
- All Tax Cap committee members are invited to attend the October 16th meeting.

Conclusions:	

Action Items	Person Responsible / Deadline
Next meeting: September 24th at 6 pm.	

TOPIC: Other Business

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Discussion:	Justin Krieger raised an invitation by the NH School Funding Fairness Project to meet with this group

- Provide information on legislators' voting records on education issues
- Discussion of upcoming education issues
- Solicit volunteers to serve as information hubs for the next legislative cycle.

Conclusions:	Members of the Tax Cap Committee expressed interest in this opportunity.

Action Items	Person Responsible / Deadline
Justin Krieger to follow-up with the NH School Funding Fairness Project	

Observers	None
Resource Persons	None
Adjournment	7:14 pm Motion made by Chris Tardiff, Second by Shawn O'Neil. 10-0-0.