

TTA Local #4796
A Union of Professionals



Timberlane

AFT-NH, AFL-CIO

TSSU Local #6530
A Union of Professionals



Educators Serving Your Community

Timberlane Teachers' Association ~ Timberlane Support Staff Union

2018 VOTER'S GUIDE ~ TIMBERLANE REGIONAL BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Timberlane Teachers' Association and Timberlane Support Staff Union submitted pertinent questions to all registered candidates for the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee for our first annual public voter's guide. This guide is not an endorsement or recommendation of any one candidate, but an effort to assist residents in making an informed decision at the polls on **Tuesday, March 13, 2018**.

The following questionnaire was sent electronically to every registered candidate. If a candidate chose not to answer or did not email his/her answers by the deadline given, we informed them that this would be noted on the guide. We asked candidates to limit answers to a paragraph. **Answers are submitted as they were received from each candidate.** Thank you, candidates, for your willingness to serve the communities of Timberlane!

~ EACH TOWN WILL VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE ~

<u>Town</u>	<u>Term</u>
Atkinson	3-year term expiring 2021
Danville	2-year term expiring 2020
Plaistow	3-year term expiring 2021
Sandown	3-year term expiring 2021

Tuesday, March 13, 2018 RESIDENTS MAY REGISTER AT THE POLLS

<u>Town</u>	<u>Poll Location</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Atkinson	Atkinson Community Center: 4 Main Street, Atkinson, NH	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Danville	Danville Community Center: 169 Main Street, Danville, NH	8:00 am – 7:00 pm
Plaistow	Pollard School Gymnasium: 120 Main Street, Plaistow, NH	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Sandown	Sandown Town Hall: 320 Main Street, Sandown, NH	8:00 am – 8:00 pm

ATKINSON

- 1. Please briefly tell us about yourself and your background. If elected, what experience would you bring to the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?**

Phil Sherwood

My wife and I grew up in the district and graduated from Timberlane. I currently have two children attending district schools after my wife and I moved back to NH in large part to ensure our children both have the positive educational opportunities we both had. I have previously served in elected office as Majority Leader on the New Britain, City Council (CT). In the role I was charged with constructing, negotiating, and passing a \$240 million budget – of which about \$140 million was appropriated to education. I also served as the Director of Advocacy for NEA-NH for about two years and have direct experience with trends and challenges within the education profession.

- 2. Why are you running for the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?**

Phil Sherwood

I understand how budgets work and know they're more than a series of complicated spreadsheets – budgets are moral documents which reflect the values of the community. I care deeply about our community, students, and education professionals.

- 3. What do you consider to be the most important issues facing our students, schools, and the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?**

Phil Sherwood

A regressive tax system which fails to adequately fund education in an equitable manner is our biggest challenge. Additionally, educators are often not provided with opportunities to use their training and unique talents to educate kids and are often subjugated to “one size fits all” mandates. This is a national problem not unique to NH, nonetheless is a contributing factor for why 50% of new educators leave the profession during their first five years.

- 4. What do you perceive as the strengths of the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?**

Phil Sherwood

The strengths of the committee is its ability to set a positive tone to the budget process and set the stage for issues in need of being addressed.

- 5. What steps are you prepared to take to improve the budget process by the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?**

Phil Sherwood

I am willing to take steps that foster greater collaboration between community leaders, the budget committee, and educators & support staff. Too often the budget process demonizes union leaders, senior citizens or member towns. We need to recognize we all benefit from building vibrant communities through quality schools.

6. What are the district's greatest capital needs right now? How do you think those needs should be addressed?**Phil Sherwood**

Outdated facilities, locker rooms, and inconsistent technology. I hope to tour the facilities firsthand to develop a better understanding of the needs and priorities.

7. What specific areas of funding do you feel the district should add to or decrease?**Phil Sherwood**

I feel we should be investing more in early childhood education. The pay disparities between NH educators and MA schools just a few miles south of us worry me about our districts ability to attract and retain quality educators. In regards to cuts, I support doing an analysis of privatized services, consulting contracts, and non-bid services as there may be opportunities to fill these roles with existing in-house expertise. I strongly oppose voucher schemes designed to funnel scarce public education funds to for-profit/private institutions.

DANVILLE

1. Please briefly tell us about yourself and your background. If elected, what experience would you bring to the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?

George Manos	Todd McCormick	Shawn O'Neil
I have served on the town of Danville's Budget Committee and served on the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee.	I have been married to my lovely wife, Kim, for 20 years and we have 3 daughters who are in Elementary and High School. We have lived in Danville for 15 years. I have always had a passion for numbers and lived my life as a fiscal conservative. I am in IT sales and have been for the past 21 years, so I have worked hand-in-hand with very large organizations (predominantly health systems on extremely tight and scrutinized budgets) and their C-Level executives to help them identify areas where my systems could help them to save time and money in their budgets. Currently I sell Financial and Budgeting software solutions to the largest health systems in New England. I want what's best for our kids AND our taxpaying community, and I believe my life experience working well with others and my dedication to this district will be a positive addition to the TRSD budget committee.	Candidate did not respond to the survey.

2. Why are you running for the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?

George Manos	Todd McCormick	Shawn O'Neil
I believe that I can contribute to the process of completing a satisfactorily comprehensive budget that meets the needs of the school district and its towns residents.	I have been wanting to serve on this committee or in some capacity for the school district for some time, but previous employment positions involved traveling so it was not feasible. I've now been with my new company over a year and things have leveled off for me. I'm not required to travel, so now I'm confident I can dedicate the time	Candidate did not respond to the survey.

	<p>necessary to do a great job for my town and our district. I believe new faces, ideas and talents are constantly needed both in town and school district government and I feel it's time for me to step up and represent. I've dedicated my free time for more than a decade coaching kids in Danville and working alongside the PTA in the Danville Dads to provide families with an amazing experience. Even though I have been and will continue to be involved in these organizations, I feel I can give more.</p>	
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3. What do you consider to be the most important issues facing our students, schools, and the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?

George Manos	Todd McCormick	Shawn O'Neil
<p>Our students must continue to take advantage of the new tools, strategies, programs, and curricula that have been introduced to enable them to not only be competing but to succeed in their future endeavors.</p> <p>The Timberlane Regional Budget Committee must ask the hard questions of why have per pupil costs increased over other districts; what are the drivers and what are possible solutions to be posed to agency heads.</p> <p>Also, to take into consideration the impact of state education funding on the district and our community's concern about increased taxation relative to the school budget.</p>	<p>We live in a competitive world and having the absolute best education possible for our youth not only sets them up for success but also strengthens our society as a whole. Having a great school system drives all of our property values up. The added benefit of this is that it makes our communities desirable places to live. I am proud to have three children who are flourishing in this district and I want that to continue for them and for all of the children of this district. Education is uniquely funded in the state of NH compared to the rest of the country. The byproduct of no income tax and no sales tax means funding education falls completely on the backs of the property owners with very little assistance coming from the State (and it continues to be less and less each year). Unfortunately, this tends to pit the taxpayers, especially those on a fixed income, against the school district, and in</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond to the survey.</p>

	<p>some cases taxpayers who have children in the schools. This is an ongoing issue that continues to grow in our district as the price tag goes up. It is not going away and there is no white knight from the state house riding down to our SAU with a big check anytime soon. I intend to advocate for excellence in education at the price tag the taxpayers of our district can live with but I plan to do it in a respectful and courteous manner as opposed to an aggressive and divisive way. I also want to work on funding at the state level to help ease the taxpayer burden.</p>	
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4. What do you perceive as the strengths of the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?

George Manos	Todd McCormick	Shawn O'Neil
<p>We come together from diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and communities to find a path to fiscally responsibly propose a budget.</p>	<p>The TRBC has the ability to bridge the gap between the taxpaying community and the Administration through representation. This committee is meant to be the embodiment of the legislative body and to work hand in hand with the School Administration to come up with a responsible, fiscally sound budget to be voted on that allows the youth of our district to receive a great education while at the same time making sure that the taxpayers and their wallets are taken seriously.</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond to the survey.</p>

5. What steps are you prepared to take to improve the budget process by the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?

George Manos	Todd McCormick	Shawn O'Neil
<p>I will cite former Budget Committee member, Tony Cantone's suggestions which, if elected, I would propose:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>One-Time Budgeted Expenses:</u> To avoid the potential to have year-over-year budget increases on what 	<p>I intend to work together collaboratively with the other representatives, the school board, and the school administration, as well as the people who put us in office, for as long as it takes each year, to put a budget in front of the voters that the entire community of Timberlane can feel proud of.</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond to the survey.</p>

<p>are one-time expenses, the committee might consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A criteria be created by the BudCom that describes what would qualify as a one-time expense for which the Committee wants to have annual and prior year(s) visibility. ▪ That as part of the budgeting process the creators of the departmental budgets highlight in some fashion those budgeted expenses that meet the BudCom’s one-time-expense criteria. <p>2. <u>The Bid Process:</u> I believe that the SAU currently has a policy that determines what purchases must be put out to bid. I am not sure that there exists a comprehensive management strategy that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assures that all appropriate capital and expense purchases are based on a competitive bid process. b. Is being adhered to by all purchasing process owners. c. Assures visibility back to past and forward to upcoming bid requests. 		
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6. What are the district’s greatest capital needs right now? How do you think those needs should be addressed?

George Manos	Todd McCormick	Shawn O’Neil
<p>Some of the schools and their facilities are in long-neglected need of repairs and improvements. The overall goal has been stated in the 2016 Annual Report:</p> <p>“Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Process The district has begun a process of planning for its capital improvements for the next five or six years. Led by School Board member</p>	<p>I am a big fan of investing in facilities now in small increments as opposed to dealing with disasters later at a price tag that could be astronomical to the taxpayers. I’m very concerned with the recent reductions in the capital budget for the proposed operating budget for 2018-19 and I feel it may leave the entire district out on a limb in the</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond to the survey.</p>

<p>Sue Sherman, the CIP Committee spent the 2015-16 school year organizing a CIP process that mirrors that of most of our member towns. Through thoughtful, long-term planning it will now be possible to forecast future capital requirements for facilities, as well as major facilities upkeep planning and equipment... “</p> <p>(Timberlane Annual Report, page 4)</p>	<p>coming years when something big comes along that needs fixing or replacement.</p>	
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7. What specific areas of funding do you feel the district should add to or decrease?

George Manos	Todd McCormick	Shawn O’Neil
<p>I believe we should first address the per pupil cost as this may point to which areas should be examined.</p>	<p>At this point, I would not feel comfortable forecasting specific additions or decreases in funding. It is very easy to look at a large number and make claims that it can be done for much less simply because that’s what one “feels” in their heart. I am not an expert in education and I believe working together in a collaborative manner to come to a mutually beneficial solution is what is necessary in our district.</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond to the survey.</p>

PLAISTOW

1. Please briefly tell us about yourself and your background. If elected, what experience would you bring to the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?

Peter Bealo

- 1) 7 years as TRSB member
- 2) 6 years as Plaistow Budget Committee member
- 3) 4 years PLTW Steering Committee
- 4) 3 years TRSD Curriculum and Assessment Committee

2. Why are you running for the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?

Peter Bealo

With Eileen Dube retiring from this position I felt it to be a good idea to lend my experience to the BudCom to help stabilize and perhaps systematize its operation.

3. What do you consider to be the most important issues facing our students, schools, and the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?

Peter Bealo

- 1) The entire NH taxation system
- 2) This year, the BudComs unwillingness to consider actual needs of the district in setting a budget
 - a. Arbitrarily setting budget at 0% change
- 3) Though not strictly within the BudCom's prevue: How to attract and keep talented educators when other local districts offer higher salaries

4. What do you perceive as the strengths of the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?

Peter Bealo

Some very knowledgeable members: Dave Gerns and Michael Mascola to name two

5. What steps are you prepared to take to improve the budget process by the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?

Peter Bealo

- 1) Work with members to look beyond level funding of the district
- 2) Put a system in place to develop budgets, each year it has been different. This needs to change
- 3) I see that the 1st 3 meetings are poorly attended facilities tours. Offer BudCom members individual tours during the day and utilize those 3 meeting slots to do actual budget work

6. What are the district's greatest capital needs right now? How do you think those needs should be addressed?**Peter Bealo**

- 1) PAC outside repair – don't know how yet because I do not have cost estimate
- 2) I want a strategic plan in place to determine other capita needs
 - a. I restarted Strategic Plan Committee as SB Chair. Present Chair restarted from scratch this year

7. What specific areas of funding do you feel the district should add to or decrease?**Peter Bealo**

- 1) District MUST recognize contractual commitments going forward in setting budget. Ignoring them is NOT the answer!
- 2) Add funding for Elementary school enrichment & technology education – Maybe PLTW for Elem.

SANDOWN

1. Please briefly tell us about yourself and your background. If elected, what experience would you bring to the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?

Cathleen Gorman	Sheila Lowes	Chad Pimentel
Candidate did not respond to the survey.	Candidate declined to answer the survey.	I am currently a Computer technology Teacher at the Hampstead Middle School. I have been in this position for 8 years now. Prior to that, I have worked for both Hilton and Marriott Hotels as Director of Sales, Assistant General Manager and General Manager. I have my BA in Business Education, MB.E in Business Education and my M.Ed in Computer Technology Education. If elected I bring educational experience, budgeting experience and a willingness to work together to continue to make Timberlane the best it can be.

2. Why are you running for the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?

Cathleen Gorman	Sheila Lowes	Chad Pimentel
Candidate did not respond to the survey.	Candidate declined to answer the survey.	I am running for the budget committee because I want to make sure our students get what they deserve. Money is tight all around, but I do not feel that cutting staff or programs is the answer. We need to push the state to increase their funding to ease the taxpayer burden, but allow our students to grow and have the programs and support they need to be successful.

3. What do you consider to be the most important issues facing our students, schools, and the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?

Cathleen Gorman	Sheila Lowes	Chad Pimentel
Candidate did not respond to the survey.	Candidate declined to answer the survey.	I think the biggest issue facing our schools and our budget committee is money. How can we get our students what they need and do it in an affordable way? We need to be mindful of facilities. We need to be mindful of our academic and extra-curricular offerings. We need to consider not only how they benefit us now, but in the future as well. In a rapidly changing world, we need to be ready to adjust and move forward.

4. What do you perceive as the strengths of the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?

Cathleen Gorman	Sheila Lowes	Chad Pimentel
Candidate did not respond to the survey.	Candidate declined to answer the survey.	I think the Budget Committee has opportunity to make great things happen in the district. A committee that is respectful of each other and looking ahead in a collaborative way.

5. What steps are you prepared to take to improve the budget process by the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee?

Cathleen Gorman	Sheila Lowes	Chad Pimentel
Candidate did not respond to the survey.	Candidate declined to answer the survey.	I do not feel that I can fairly answer that question at this time. I have a perceived idea of what the budget process is at this time, some of it is factual, some is here say. I think it would be short sighted of me to talk about what I would try to improve when I have not been in the midst of working with the committee. I would need time to get into the process and see the “behind the scenes” work before I could fairly state what I would like to improve.

6. What are the district's greatest capital needs right now? How do you think those needs should be addressed?

Cathleen Gorman	Sheila Lowes	Chad Pimentel
Candidate did not respond to the survey.	Candidate declined to answer the survey.	Our buildings are our biggest investment. The foundation of our education if you will. If you do not maintain the foundation, the structure crumbles. We need to spend money to update and improve our facilities as are needed. I feel this has been under great scrutiny in the past years. Often the first place we look when we are trying to cut from the budget is our facilities. I think we need to commit to following a solid plan of improvements and invest what is necessary to keep our facilities in the condition that students and staff deserve.

7. What specific areas of funding do you feel the district should add to or decrease?

Cathleen Gorman	Sheila Lowes	Chad Pimentel
Candidate did not respond to the survey.	Candidate declined to answer the survey.	I do not think decreasing funding is going to help the district. We need to focus on where that funding comes from. We as a district struggle with high tax rates. Many of our residents are afraid of the future and fear having to leave. We need to look to the state and pressure our leaders to change funding so that the state is able to take some of the burden away from the taxpayers. I have heard many people say we are overstaffed and we should cut teacher positions or admin positions. I do not think this is the way to go. I would like to look at projected retirements and restructuring of positions as those retirements happen.