

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, April 19, 2016  
Florence Rideout Elementary School-Library  
6:30 p.m.**

*Present: Geoff Brock, Harry Dailey, Matt Ballou, Jim Button, Mark Legere, Joyce Fisk, Carol LeBlanc, Alex LoVerme via telephone at 6:39pm and Charlie Post arrived at 8:27pm.*

*Superintendent Christine Tyrie, Business Administrator Lise Tucker, Director of Student Support Services Betty Moore, Principals Brian Bagley, Tim O'Connell and Clerk Kristina Fowler*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Brock called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

**II. ELEMENTARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH**

Mr. O'Connell honored students in Kindergarten from Lyndeborough Central School and first graders from Florence Rideout Elementary School as students of the month.

**III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Superintendent Tyrie requested to add the following adjustments to the agenda, nomination of a new teacher, a resignation of a staff member and a donation for the consent agenda. The request was granted.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were many public members present about half a dozen or so spoke in support of small class sizes and reversing the Boards previous vote at the last meeting which had reduced one fifth grade section, one section of Kindergarten, a section of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and added a 4<sup>th</sup> grade section based on class size policy. Concerns were voiced that the budget had already been passed, they had been told no teachers would be decreased and these cuts were made after this and since the salaries were in the budget they should not have been cut. Parents commented and were very clear that the smaller class sizes were preferred as this is a small community and felt very strongly they did not want them increased and felt that this should have been a decision they were included in. Some of the concerns were that there are a high percentage of special needs and at Kindergarten they are still learning their independence and are very distractible.

Mr. Dan Nelson, parent questioned why the decision to remove the teachers could not be brought back next year for 2017-2018. He also asked if there was a minimum number to the class size policy in which Chairman Brock responded there is not a minimum.

A parent questioned if an aide was in the class which the response was yes there a Kindergarten aide in all classes.

A parent asked if this could be brought to a vote and Chairman Brock responded to include the public we can, it needs to be posted and a separate vote by the tax payers.

Chairman Brock answered questions to clarify the rationale of the decision which was that they are entrusted to spend tax payer's money wisely and if there is opportunity to save money they are expected to take it also that funds would be returned to the town and not benefit the school. He also reviewed the class size policy and believes the policy should be looked at. It takes at least two meetings to change a policy. All Board meetings are posted on the school districts website and at post

52 offices. He further asked the public for input on when the public felt the final decision should be made  
53 on staffing. Should it be in the fall/December when the budget is being developed or in April before  
54 the teachers get their contracts? When does it make the most sense? After the meeting in April you  
55 can't reduce teaching staff but you can increase it. He has encouraged people to email them or call  
56 them.

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58 Mr. Dailey added that this is something they do every year and have forever. The policy is five  
59 students less than State standards and they did take that into account. None of these decisions are  
60 made in a vacuum. When they moved the 6<sup>th</sup> grade into the high school they spent dozens of hours to  
61 set this class size policy and found the numbers they are prescribing to are optimum class size policy.  
62 They found too small of a class size can be detrimental and they had a large group of people that  
63 looked at this. Most of the optimum at elementary were 14-18 and at the MS/HS they looked even  
64 larger at 18-20. Every study was different only consensus was smaller was much more detrimental.

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66 A lengthy public comment session was had.

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68 A parent asked if the Board would consider a revote.

## 69 70 **V. PRESENTATIONS**

### 71 **a. District Competencies/Professional Development-Dolores Fox**

72 Mr. O'Connell was asked to present first. See Below

### 73 74 **b. Class Size/Anticipated K Enrollment-Tim O'Connell**

75 Mr. O'Connell forgoes his presentation and asked that the Board move to a vote.

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77 *\*A MOTION was made by Mr. Legere and SECONDED by Ms. LeBlanc to amend the motion and not*  
78 *reduce one section of Kindergarten and not reduce one section 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.*  
79 *(Nominate original slate, 3 sections of Kindergarten, 3 sections of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 3 sections of 4<sup>th</sup> grade*  
80 *and 2 sections of 5<sup>th</sup> grade)*

81  
82 Mr. Dailey asked for clarification on the motion and Mr. Legere responded that it lines up with  
83 original staffing before changes. He believes additional information has come forward and believes it  
84 would have been helpful if it was available last time.

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86 Mr. Ballou noted he had to abstain from the conversation and vote last time because of "someone on  
87 there" and now it appears he doesn't have to. He is in favor of this motion and is in favor of looking at  
88 the policy.

89  
90 Mr. Dailey noted he will abstain as he feels it is too soon. He would rather wait a month. He respects  
91 that everyone has come tonight but two weeks is just too soon to change it again and we should wait  
92 until these numbers are even harder.

93  
94 Mr. O'Connell spoke to encourage the Board to make a vote stating that we are preparing for next year  
95 and planning starts right after the budget started. He noted it would benefit him to have a vote tonight.

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97 *\*Voting: six ayes; one abstention from Mr. Dailey, motion carried.*

### 98 99 **• District Competencies/Professional Development-Dolores Fox**

100 Ms. Fox gave a presentation on competency based education which is teaching and learning that is  
101 designed to ensure students are becoming proficient by advancing based on demonstrated mastery.  
102 She noted that it is no longer just the teacher recognizing strengths and weakness it is everyone

involved in the students education. Our curriculum is defined on competencies and has been vetted by a group of teachers.

Superintendent Tyrie reported that Ms. Fox arranged and delivered most of the professional development for the district in 2015-16 which was shared with the Board.

## **VI. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to report.

## **VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **a. Reports**

#### **i. Superintendent's Report**

#### **ii. Treasurer's Reports-November & December 2015**

#### **iii. Co-Curricular-Athletics**

- **Donation from PTO for FRES-two Pro Dunk Platinum Basketball Systems**

The reports have been reviewed by the Board.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Ballou and SECONDED by Ms. Fisk to approve the consent agenda. Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

### **a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting**

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Legere and SECONDED by Ms. LeBlanc to approve the minutes as written.*

*Voting: five ayes; two abstentions from Mr. LoVerme and Mr. Button, motion carried.*

### **b. Food Service Review/Waste**

Ms. Tucker reviewed the food service waste memo and in summary stated it was mostly on fruit, vegetables and whole wheat which are requirements of the Healthy Kids Act. She believes the food service managers and director are doing their best to come up with nutritious and visually attractive meals but she is hoping the guidelines will be less strict.

Mr. Dailey suggested looking at moving away from the program and doing it on our own if we are just getting a certain amount of money and just throwing it away. Ms. Tucker responded that we did look at this for LCS as it costing us more as we are getting a reimbursement of about \$200 and it costs us about \$10,000. This is why we are proposing to not be involved and let the teachers have snack and handle it that way. At WLC it is a bit different as it would be an adjustment for us to get out of the healthy kids guidelines.

Mr. LoVerme says that he usually gets a breakdown of dollars and this waste is just left over food from serving. He asked if there is a daily food waste log. He is suggesting they need to keep a daily log in dollars. They may need to order less of a particular product. He states "food waste is what is left over that has *not* been paid for by a student but what is left over at the end of the lunch period. You should be looking at not what is being thrown away but what is in the kitchen."

Ms. LeBlanc added that there is an education piece. This may be the only place they getting wheat bread and if they are throwing it out maybe we can help educate them about nutrition through the nursing program.

In response to a question from Mr. Legere asking where the deficit is in food service Ms. Tucker replied that it is a combination. It costs us money to provide meals and we are not getting the revenue.

Some of that expense can be the healthier meals or the meal counts that are going down slightly but not to what you would expect over the last few years.

Ms. Tucker added we are trying to address some of this deficit and has come to the conclusion that by decreasing one staff person we are more in line with the other kitchen managers. The challenge we will have will by relieving one worker will be serving and we are trying to work this out but we need to bring the deficit down. Responding to a question from Mr. Dailey, this is a part time position of 5 hours a day. The second thing is with breakfast and snack at LCS it cost close to \$10,000 and with that we are projecting to lose \$3,000 of revenue. It could be moved to FRES. The third was to bring up the breakfast and lunch prices. The Nutrition Services Division came up with an equity tool and based on this they require us to increase our prices by 5 cents for lunch. Breakfast is not a required increase and to make it gradual, I cut it in half to bring those fees up slowly.

Proposal for 2016-2017 is to increase breakfast at FRES to \$1.75 (current \$1.40) and \$1.85 (current \$1.50) at WLC and lunch fees at FRES to \$2.65 (current \$2.60) and WLC to \$2.75 (current \$2.70).

Mr. Dailey asked based on today's lunches served do we know how much that would bring in. This had not been calculated but rough numbers were done and it was also brought up that by increasing the amount it may cause a decline in sales. This will be looked at and firmer number will be brought back although Superintendent Tyrie noted we won't be able to tell the amount of increase that causes a decline but agreed this does happen.

Superintendent Tyrie reported we are projecting a \$40,000 deficit which will come out of surplus and this will affect how much will be returned to tax payers.

In response to a question from Mr. LoVerme on how much of that deficit is part of maintenance or food cost and labor, Ms. Tucker replied \$3,000 spent vs. budgeted of \$1,350. Further questioned she clarified that FRES has new equipment and at WLC we did some work on the freezer and sprinkler she will look at how old the equipment is there and if we should consider putting them in a replacement cycle.

### **c. Draft Work Agreement-Snow Plowing**

The draft was reviewed and will be brought back for the next meeting with adjustments.

## **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **i. Facilities Committee**

Mr. Button reported he was elected chair of this committee. They spent some time looking at the "overview" and they looked at historic problems and looking at those items over a certain dollar amount as well as the ongoing development of the maintenance plan and how this will help them keep on track and take care of the buildings. They spoke of the bleachers, destratification fans, summer work on the WLC roof, siding at LCS, FRES roof trim and bleachers. There are three items for the Board to weigh in on. The first is the piping for the oil tank at WLC. We previously spent money to get the specifics for the project and since have bids on this.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Button and SECONDED by Mr. Legere to accept the proposal for the required project from American Tank Company (Paul Church) for \$39,950.*

*Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Button spoke of the possibility of the Facilities Committee being charged by the School Board to look at what is needed to bring up the athletic fields and does the Board wants to give them this charge. Chairman Brock feels it would be a good idea to have a plan and Mr. Ballou added it would be part of the CIP.

Mr. Button reported they have a proposal from Fieldstone Land Consultants for \$2,800 to field access design to address drainage up to the athletic fields. Paving has been discussed and it seems premature to do so if you don't know what you really need. We need engineering to study the drainage and have it done right; this proposal would give us that plan.

Mr. Dailey mentioned this is a road to nowhere and at best if we were to create a parking lot or have it "open" it's really not a road that should be used. He believes Northern Lights did an engineering study previously several years ago. Mr. Ballou also indicates a study was done.

In this case, Mr. Button withdraws the request for Fieldstone.

## **ii. Elementary Building Renovation Committee**

Mr. Dailey reported they had discussed painting at FRES in the winter and then decided to put it off. Originally Keeley did it and we asked Ms. Tucker and Mr. Erb to obtain another bid. (Bids were reviewed) "Typically I would go with the low bid, originally Keeley did it."

*\*A MOTION was made by Mr. Ballou and SECONDED by Ms. Fisk to accept the proposal from Hill Brothers Painting and Contracting as recommended for painting.*

*\*NO voting took place.*

Board members further reviewed the proposals.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. LeBlanc and SECONDED by Mr. Legere to accept the proposal for painting from Keeley Painting Company.*

*Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

It was noted that Keeley lists a one year warranty and Hills doesn't indicate and Keeley has a level of detail in their proposal such as removing all the trash.

Mr. Dailey gave a follow up report on the carpet at FRES. He is being told there is no problem with the combination of products. The carpet manufacturer says if we pull it up without grinding the mastic they won't cover it. They recommend having a deep cleaning with deep water extraction. He is concerned if we do anything other than that it will void the warranty and we are not sure exactly what the problem is as there is no hard evidence. Each is saying it is the other, but we don't really know so we are slowly crawling along to get there.

In response to a question from Mr. Legere regarding the baseball fields, Mr. Dailey reported he met with Steve Elliot and it is more of a town issue than a school issue. It is drainage coming from the road and he put up some kind of dam and gravel but will keep an eye on it. Mr. Dailey will continue to work as the liaison.

## **X. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES**

### **a. Resignation-ABA Therapist-Haley Smith**

- **Resignation-BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) Jennifer Campbell**
- **New Hire Spanish Teacher-WLC Marie Ainaire**

Superintendent Tyrie informed the Board of the resignations and new hire.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Ballou and SECONDED by Ms. Fisk to accept the nomination of Marie Ainaire, WLC Spanish teacher.*

*Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

258 Mr. Dailey noted this is pending her certification which Superintendent Tyrie responded this will  
259 automatically happen through the University.

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261 **XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

262 Ms. Jessie Salisbury, reporter encouraged everyone to look at the wonderful fox mosaic the students  
263 did.

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265 A parent questioned if the RISE program going to WLC which Ms. Betty Moore responded that there  
266 is no RISE program there as we do not have student that require it now at the MS/HS but if they do we  
267 would revisit it.

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269 **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

270 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Ballou and SECONDED by Ms. Fisk to adjourn the Board meeting at*  
271 *9:26pm.*

272 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

273  
274 *Respectfully submitted,*  
275 *Kristina Fowler*  
276