

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING & JOINT SCHOOL BOARD SESSION

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Committee Membership: Karen Grybko, Chair, Leslie Browne, Vice Chair (Facilities Committee Rep.), Lisa Post, Secretary, Pam Altner, Mary Guild (Facilities Committee Rep.), Edwina Hastings, James Kofalt (School Board Rep.), Ellen Pomer (School Board Rep.), Christine Tiedemann, Harry Dailey (WLC School Board Rep.).

The Agenda was as follows:

1. Call WLCS Budget Committee to Order
2. Public Comment
3. FY 2017-2018 Budget Discussion
4. Review and Approval
 - a. November 15, 2016 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
5. Other Business:
 - a. Schedule Next Budget Committee Meeting (Next Joint Session - 12/20/2016)
6. FY 2017-2018 Budget – **Joint Session with School Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room**
 - a. Grants
 - b. Revenue
 - c. Food Service - FY 16-17 Forecast
 - d. Line Item
7. Adjournment of Budget Committee

Attendance Budget Committee: Karen Grybko (6:45), Leslie Browne, Lisa Post, Pam Altner, Edwina Hastings, James Kofalt, Ellen Pomer (6:40), Harry Dailey (7:00 Chaired S/B Meeting).

1. WLCS Budget Committee called to order 6:40 p.m. by Leslie Browne
2. No Public Comment
3. FY 2017-2018 Budget Discussion
The Committee discussed the request for playground equipment, new Reading program and standardized testing scores, and tax increase affecting Lyndeborough tax payers. Jim Kofalt felt there was a need to take a longer view of the budget and a need to wait and look at total numbers. There needs to be accountability with testing scores. With the upcoming two years of overlapping bond payments, tough decisions would have to be made and deferring expenses was discussed. Karen suggested that we need to allocate resources where they need to be. Jim Kofalt suggested that we encourage cost-savings ideas. Karen Grybko wanted to be mindful of the tax increase in the December bill to Lyndeborough residents.

4. Review and Approval of November 15, 2016 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
A Motion was made by Leslie Browne, seconded by Jim Kofalt to accept the minutes as written. Voting: All in favor with 2 abstentions. Motion passed.

5. Other Business:
 - a. The next Budget Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Joint S/B Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room.

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48 *The Budget Committee briefly recessed at 7:03 p.m. to attend the Joint Board Meeting at 7:07 p.m.*

49 **Present:** Harry Dailey, Matt Ballou, Mark Legere, Charlie Post, Carol LeBlanc and Alex LoVerme
50 Superintendent Bryan Lane, Business Administrator Lise Tucker, Director of Student Support Services Betty
51 Moore, Principals, Brian Bagley and Tim O'Connell and Clerk Kristina Fowler.

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53 6. FY 2017-2018 Budget – **Joint Session with School Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room**

54 Superintendent Lane informed the Committee he would discuss the question about standardized
55 testing at the next joint meeting.

- 56 a. **Grants:** Superintendent Lane gave an overview and indicated there is not a lot of change and
57 this is basically level funded.
- 58 b. **Revenue:** Superintendent Lane gave an overview highlighting that the comment section give
59 the explanation. There is an increase of \$209,970 projected.
- 60 c. **Food Service & FY 16-17 Forecast:** Lise Tucker reviewed the 17-18 analysis which includes
61 comparisons to the 15-16 actuals, 15-16 adjusted budget and the 16-17 adjusted budget. There
62 are no more federal snacks at LCS. She was hoping to keep things level funded. There has been
63 an increase in unemployment based on Primex rates; rates for food service workers are higher
64 than other staff. We have the same staff with the exception of one reduced part-time person
65 at WLC. Some adjustments have been made to bring the budget closer to the actuals of the 15-
66 16 budget. She is hoping to break even.

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68 Ms. Tucker responding to a question from Mr. Kofalt asking if there is anything fundamentally
69 different that would change the numbers, Ms. Tucker responded that our participation seems
70 to be a little higher and she is hoping this will continue. In the past couple of months there has
71 been a \$4000 increase. Mr. Legere reminded the group that there was a price increase and we
72 are seeing the effect of that increase. Ms. Tucker added the counts in participation have
73 increased. Superintendent Lane explained there are state laws which relate to the student's
74 food service accounts being in arrears and that they are trying to be diligent with the
75 accounting. Lisa Post asked if there was assistance for families and Superintendent Lane
76 explained there is the free and reduced program although some parents do not want to ask for
77 assistance. Ms. Tucker noted there is a fund set up to help families and community members
78 have donated. Superintendent Lane added all donations are appropriately taken care of
79 through the business Office. Mr. Bagley noted there is also the WLC Cupboard which offers
80 assistance to students as well.

81 Ms. Tucker reviewed the forecast this year 16-17, we have almost 20% of the revenue at this
82 point, expenses are at about 24% and a lot of that is setting up for the year. When she
83 compared this from the prior year, we had a \$13,000 loss and this shows a \$900 loss and she is
84 optimistic. Projecting, she feels we would almost break even or be \$8000-\$9000 below.

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86 Vice Chairman Dailey asked if it made sense to separate and encumber the expenses like we do
87 with other budgets in which Ms. Tucker replied we could add another column for
88 encumbrances. Superintendent Lane recommended we bring this back monthly.

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90 Mr. Kofalt asked for an explanation on the REAP Grant as we got back more than budgeted and
91 questioned if it is an anomaly in which Ms. Tucker responded that it was from a category 1e-

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rate from the WLC building projects. Superintendent Lane added that e-rate is dissipating and Ms. Tucker further added this could change.

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- d. **Line Item:** Superintendent Lane distributed the line-item document at the last meeting but had not gone over it. It encompasses the same information just in a different format and if this format is more helpful, we can use this going forward, it is a representation of exactly where things are and where they have come from. Chairman Dailey wants to look at January for trends.
 - e. **Warrants:** Superintendent Lane informed members that “warrants” will be on the agenda until finalized and the first three are for elections, four is for the budget, and five is for teacher negotiations which are going along nicely. Schoolcare came in to discuss a variance in program negotiations which would create a cost savings. There are about 30 people not affiliated with a bargaining unit and we would look to have the School Board change procedures and handbook to have those health insurance plans changed to have a greater savings down the road. If we are talking to the teachers to change, the administration should change too and he will ask that the plan change for the SAU. The rest of the warrants are as listed.
 - f. **Follow-up Information re: Enrollment/Cost Analysis:** Ms. Moore reviewed the cost analysis comparing New England Center for Children and the RISE Program. The total estimated cost per student at the New England Center for Children is \$165,596 and the total estimated cost for the RISE Program per student is \$69,815. Superintendent Lane noted there is about \$94,000 per student in savings. Vice Chairman Dailey added that it is actually that amount multiplied by the number of students we have in the program (8 students confirmed by Ms. Moore) which would be approximately \$700,000 in annual savings. Ms. Browne asked if we could charge \$70,000 to other districted to bring a student in. Ms. Moore responded that she believes there is a maximum allowable but we could charge the tuition charges which is decided by the state. We would charge for related service and some other fees. Superintendent Lane added that the question is, “is it worth the strain and stress on the program and do we have the room to do it.” Vice Chairman Dailey felt it is something to consider. Ms. Moore noted we have had three schools visit our program in preparation of their own program. Vice Chairman Dailey noted that what Ms. Moore had proposed several years ago is working and saving s significant amount of money. Ms. Moore added that the students are benefiting so it’s a win, win situation and the students get to stay in their community and with their siblings.
 - g. Superintendent Lane is looking into leasing a vehicle from Hillsborough Ford to bring students to Tech Classes at Milford and also for athletics. He will do a budget analysis for the next meeting.

128 7. The Budget Committee adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

129 *A Motion was made by Leslie Browne, seconded by Ellen Pomer to adjourn the Budget Committee. Voting: All*
130 *in favor. Motion passed.*
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132 Respectfully Submitted,

133 Lisa Post, Secretary