

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, November 9, 2021
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School
6:30 p.m.**

The videoconferencing link was published several places including on the meeting agenda.

Present: *Brianne Lavallee, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Dennis Golding, Matt Mannarino, Jim Kofalt, and Charlie Post*
(6:52pm)

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principals Sarah Edmunds and Kathleen Chenette, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, Technology Director Jonathan Bouley, Curriculum Coordinator Emily Stefanich, and Clerk Kristina Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Lavallee called the meeting to order at 6:36pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. 6:30PM JOINT BOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION

a. FY 2022-2023

i. Technology, SPED, Transportation, Food Services

Present: *Jeff Jones, Leslie Browne, Darlene Anzalone, Caitlin Maki, Lisa Post, Bill Ryan, and Christine Tiedemann*

Mr. Jones reviewed which budgets would be looked at this evening. **Technology** was first. Ms. LaPlante reviewed this is the 3rd draft of the budget and changes are highlighted in yellow. She introduced Mr. Bouley who reviewed his technology budget. He reported some accounts have been moved from school budgets into the technology budget. The biggest thing he tried to do this year was to eliminate duplicate software. We purchased a lot of software and a lot overlapped; some used for remote learning and funded by ESSER funds and grants, which added cost (to this budget). Our network is at its end of life, end of service, cannot buy support contracts for it, and no longer get updates or antivirus. It needs to be replaced. We are using E-Rate and have been qualified for \$94,000; we can get reimbursement from the federal government on qualified items for reimbursement. We would get 60% back on the \$94,000. Quote we received for the network replacement is just under \$100,000. We budgeted less than 60% back, which lowered some of his budget. They are looking to move to a 5-year rotation on computers. Purchasing 200 Chromebooks will bring us to 1:1 in grades 1-12 and allow us to replace 2nd grade in the first year. All else is pretty much a continuation of contracts. A question was raised regarding Google Spaces for Education and if this was being moved from another budget line or are we just increasing this (lines 33-36). It looks to be about \$14,000 of an increase. Mr. Bouley responded that it looks like we increased our Google license during the pandemic and it was free with the stipulation that we pay for it going forward. He thinks they did that to increase some of the Google Meet time limits and how many people you can allow in. He wants to trim that back to the lower tier. A clarifying question was asked if he is saying that we may have committed to spending money in the coming year. Mr. Bouley confirmed that for 1 year and he is working with the reseller on this and hopes to trim that down, as we don't need it for all students and only do for a few top-level accounts. It was suggested to look into seeing if it can be classified as a COVID related expense as it is shifting cost from last year to next but the reason was directly COVID related. A question was raised regarding 1:1. Mr. Bouley confirmed the 1st and 2nd grade do not have 1:1 currently (he believes it is 3:1 on iPads); we have 1:1 in grades 3-12. He read that part of the original the district vision wanted to be 1st-12 1:1. Most of this has been paid for with grants and COVID funds over the last couple of years. We can apply for an ECF fund to gain reimbursed up to \$400 per unit but it is not guaranteed. Concern was raised regarding the 1:1 use in the lower grades; it was requested to see data regarding the use of these in the lower grades and for what. Purchasing 100 units in the 2nd and 3rd grade; is this a tool that is being used enough to purchase one for every 2nd and 3rd grader. There are additional educational questions regarding if it is even something that should be pursued. Mr. Bouley noted 1:1 is still the gold standard. It was noted, that at the last meeting there was discussion regarding the MS using workbooks and it seems like we are going in a different direction here. A question was raised what kind of

assessments have been done on our use of software and are we sure it is all software that is being used? Mr. Bouley notes one of the requirements for keeping software is keeping statistics. Most of the software is not “his software” he manages it and does the updates. The teachers are the users. He looked at replacing some software for others and it is a tough topic for some but believes we can do more of that next year and trim it down to things we need. It was noted we can probably agree that we need the strategic plan for technology updated so that we have transparency and know what the costs are going to be especially since we costs increase. Mr. Bouley was asked to review which technology costs have rolled into the technology budget from other budgets, as it is not transparent looking at the spreadsheet. Mr. Bouley notes he may not have the exact lines but gave an example of line 6, MS software \$3,621 was not a “T” line (representing technology) and is rolled into line 5. Ms. LaPlante clarified that there were things classified as “software” and theoretically, it should fall in the technology budget; without that type of observation, it can be duplicated. A question was raised to clarify that it was in the MS budget and now is in the technology budget then we should see those decreasing in the MS budget. Ms. LaPlante responded no, the cost was shifted, anything that was technology was moved to the technology budget, and those lines were deleted (in the school budget) as the Principals did not have control over those. It gives a better vision of what each building looks like. It does show in the overall draft budget. She confirmed the function of the source never changed.

Mr. Pratt reviewed the **SPED** budget. For FY23, the budget request is \$1,166,441. The increase from FY 22 to FY 23 is \$145,280, an increase of 8.75%. There are 3 major changes/additions to the SPED budget. The out of district increase is \$71,900, which represents 49.5% of the total increase. We anticipate 2 out of district students next year. He spoke of the time between submitting the budget until the beginning of school, the SPED out of district situation is always in flux; this is the best representation of what we have with the data in front of us. SPED transportation (lines 87-90) have increased \$36,470 and represents 25.1% of the total increase. Transportation runs about \$280 per day. There are times we can combine buses etc.; one part of this is the out of district and the other is the SPED transportation provider Durham. We are up for negotiation this year and are working closely with them. We have had many bumps this year and last and are trying to figure out the best course of action; he has built in some increase. SPED tutors and contracted services (lines 23-27) has an increase of \$19,242, 13.2 %. We have more students accessing ESY (extended school year) and more students with deeper and broader needs. We had conversations at the Board level about COVID and time out of school and how that may impact some increase. These are the 3 major increases totaling 87.8% of the requested increase. There are a number of smaller increases representing 12.2 % spread throughout the budget. He spoke of being appreciative of the work and support that has been provided from the towns, Board and committees. He knows the money is always scarce but at the same time, it is his responsibility to provide his best estimation in consultation with many in this room representing the best possible picture he can provide; this is what he has presented. A question was raised regarding revenue and does it include the ESY programs that are necessary. Mr. Pratt responded we do not have any revenue from ESY; it is part of a student’s IEP and must offer it. We do get some revenue through Medicaid; the program has taken on an almost “psychotic personality” in terms of trying follow the rules. We have SPED aid based upon out of district placements but this has been going down due to a deductible of about \$50,000. We are not really recouping any money. Even though we have some revenues, none are ESY and ones we do have are going down. He confirms we are required to provide ESY if the IEP team deems it. A question was raised how you estimate the cost of out of district placement. Mr. Pratt spoke that it is part of the analysis we do if we have some students that may be progressing out, we look at what type of programs may be appropriate and the cost that we could possibly send them to. In this instance we are looking at \$50,000 per student; we had some carry over money last year and only need \$71,000. It is an analysis on programming however; we do not know if they get in there, it is our best estimate. He spoke of the Board, committees and towns committing to a SPED capital reserve, which is growing yearly and is a nice buffer to have if someone moves in or there is a need for a residential placement. He confirms there is no buffer built into the budget. A question was raised regarding no amount was budgeted for out of state tuition at the MS. Mr. Pratt confirms that is correct, there is not a need for it at the moment. A question was raised how many children are budgeted for FRES’s out of state tuition as it is a huge increase from last year. Mr. Pratt responds one was an adjustment from last year; we had a different pot of money for out of district and this references 2 elementary students. A question was raised, 2 students at \$154,000 as opposed to the actual of FY 21 of \$47,000. He confirms this is correct. It was asked how much is left in the SPED capital reserve account. Ms. LaPlante confirms \$248,000 once we make the obligated payments.

Ms. LaPlante spoke of the **transportation** budget. She did not provide a separated budget but it is included in the whole budget. She reports the reason is that our original transportation contract has an option for another one-year extension. We have a one-year extension now and the original has the option of this for 2 years. She needs to know from the Board if we will go out to full bid or offer a one-year contract to our current vendor. She confirms the lines

related are 887-890. She adds hopefully, we will have a better idea at the next meeting based on what the school board would like to do. A question was raised if the increases were based on fuel. Ms. LaPlante responds, no it doesn't have a rhyme or reason, she just looked at the worst-case scenario and hopes to be in line with that. The reason it looks inflated is because it was previously budgeted, then there was the realization of this one-year extension. What we are currently paying in FY 22 based on the current contract about \$7,000 more than budgeted. It is about 6% from FY 22 to FY 23. She has approximately a 4% estimated buffer.

Ms. LaPlante introduced Ms. Erin Smith, **Food Service** Director who reviewed her budget. She reports her budget overall is about \$11,000 higher than last year. Ms. LaPlante added it is a total of \$42,000 if we include the wages and benefits. Ms. Smith spoke noting the cost of food and milk is higher; this is her best educated guess of what it will cost us next year. She has added \$800 for things like aprons, chef coats, sheets pans, spatulas. This is her first year in school food services. She is trying hard to work toward making food instead of buying prepared food. She needs more tools; she is training staff on these processes rather than what was previously done. That is the only things she added or changed from the basic budget. A question was raised how it works with the free food program and are we seeing the actual expense. Ms. Smith responded that we have to buy the food first and need the money to buy it, then monthly after it is served, 1 breakfast, 1 lunch, free per student; she then submits the paperwork for reimbursement. Breakfast cost is \$2.46 and lunch is about \$4.32. Last year it was lower. Ms. LaPlante added we have to budget the expenditure and then see it back as revenue. She clarified for every lunch and breakfast served that money comes back to us through the USDA voucher that the State of NH provides. A question was raised if it changed from how revenue was received in the past. Ms. LaPlante reported total revenue for food service last year including the \$25,000 of the district portion, was \$176,257, which includes the value of the meals for students. She doesn't have accurate records to see what the student portion was and federal portion for free and reduced (F & R). It was noted in theory; we should not have to offset the food service budget with \$25,000 if we are being reimbursed for every meal. Ms. LaPlante agrees in theory. A question was raised if families are still filling out F & R paperwork and how does filling out the paperwork play into it. Ms. Smith responded we have about 125 families and are in the process of reaching out to those who didn't submit to see if we could collect more. She believes we have about 23% back. A question was raised if we get different funds back. Ms. LaPlante spoke that the additional revenue we get back does not come in through food service; nothing additional comes through food service. Regarding the \$25,000 that the district "kicks in"; we do not know if we will have the free food program next year. A question was raised if rates have been set for next year. Ms. Smith responded this is for next year she doesn't have prior years. A question was raised if it is tied to CPI. Ms. LaPlante does not know but will look into it. A discussion was had regarding it being surprising that according to lines 53-60 (new and replacement equipment) it does not appear that we have spent much money although it seems we hear yearly of issues such as sink broke, steamer broke etc. Ms. LaPlante responded she knows of some repairs that have been made but also there was cost for the purchase of large piece of equipment last year. She was wondering if it was categorized against a different expense, she is not sure. It was noted a steamer was purchased last year. Mr. Ryan added for several years the equipment replacement and new equipment was going into the facilities accounts and that was not that many years ago then it was separated into their own accounts. Discussion was had regarding if the facilities committee looks at the food service equipment and what may be needed. A question was raised if there is any equipment that may need to be replaced. Ms. Smith spoke that the dishwasher probably will need to be replaced it is definitely aging. The refrigerator has been serviced twice for not holding the temperature. Some of the things are just maintenance. The stove, she questioned if there are gas hookups; it works but is not the best. A question was raised since we are giving out free meals, could the stove be replaced with COVID funds. Ms. LaPlante confirms yes, it is a great idea. The administration team has been working on ESSER fund ideas and a list will be put together for the school board. A question was raised if it would make sense to have a capital reserve fund and a plan for what we may need to cover over the next few years plus what the cost would look like. It was noted that is a great idea, when we needed the steamer, it took so long to get the funding approved and if we had a reserve fund in place it would also help the taxpayers plan for the expense and help the kitchen staff. Ms. Browne reviewed that the dishwasher is on the CIP for this year. Ms. LaPlante spoke that the definition and purpose is broad enough that we can use it. Ms. Smith spoke that she was told the freezer and fridge were done 5 years ago, the seals and gaskets had to be replaced. She adds there is some work that needs to be done including the floor seals. We had the condenser in the freezer fixed as it froze up a month into school starting. It was noted that should be added to maintenance cost and should get it done.

IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent requested to allow the curriculum coordinator to report prior to the Superintendent's report.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Post and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to accept the adjustments to the agenda.

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

172
173 **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

174 The public comment section of the agenda was read.

175 Vice Chair called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

176
177 There was no public comment.

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179 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Tiedemann and SECONDED by Mr. Ryan to recess the budget committee meeting at*
180 *7:28pm.*

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

182
183 **VI. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

184 **a. Reports**

185 Ms. Stefanich reported on curriculum. The main thing she wanted to talk about is shifting from Star 360 to Iready.
186 She spoke of spending a lot of time talking with Mr. Bouley about the upload from STAR and had to manually
187 upload it and they realized there are other platforms that are more cost effective and do more. Iready will give us the
188 same thing and provide same reports; it connects to PowerSchool and is less expensive. We did find the major
189 challenge is adjusting to a new system. We have some hiccups in understanding and they will offer some training;
190 that was our only pitfall. She provided examples of reporting to the Board for review. A question was raised how you
191 will be able to compare this year from the last year. Ms. Stefanich responded it will provide the same thing, telling us
192 if students are on grade level or not, essentially its apples to apples. The only shift is they don't have a "blue rating"
193 which STAR has showing close to proficient, Iready only shows on grade level not almost at grade level. A question
194 was raised if we have to pay for extra training; first year is \$9,000 and half of that in subsequent years. Ms. Stefanich
195 responded that is the \$4,500 in the first year, getting us set up and training. She confirms it is part of the \$9,000. A
196 question was raised if she has concerns comparing apples to apples in prior years. Ms. Stefanich reports most are in
197 par, pulling from state assessments and tailored to that grade level. She doesn't see that will be a major difference. A
198 question was raised how long Iready has been around. Ms. Stefanich responded she remembers it in 2012. They have
199 had different iterations and updates. A question was raised if she was able to talk to anyone who was involved in the
200 decision of using STAR 360. Ms. Stefanich responded she spoke other curriculum coordinators and it seems like
201 most are moving away from STAR for various reasons of cost and other pieces. It was noted it sounds like what they
202 said when they brought STAR 360 to the Board. A question was raised if she spoke to anyone in our district who was
203 part of that decision to go with STAR 360; there should be people available who were involved as it was not that
204 long ago. Why did we choose STAR 360 and not Iready? Ms. Stefanich responded she was not able to reach out to
205 people like that but can follow up. It was noted Dr. Heon was a big part of that. Ms. Stefanich responded when she
206 spoke to Dr. Heon and the FRES Principal she learned that it was on the radar and discussed. She can follow up with
207 Dr. Heon to find out. A question was raised if it is approved, what can we have in place for parents to compare data
208 they receive. There may be a need to help parents interpret if students have improved or not. It was noted the report
209 does have grade level specifics, which is good; it would be helpful to have a plan in place for parents. Ms. Stefanich
210 responded they have a guide that goes home to help parents. We could put something on the website saying it's new
211 and coming and give an overview and show similarities and differences. Principal Chenette added we could have
212 conference with parents too. A question was raised, from an early literacy perspective have we had feedback from
213 the early learning teachers. Principal Chenette spoke that we have some great tools we use to fine-tune the data,
214 better than STAR 360 and we are relying on those measures. Ms. Lavallee noted one benefit she saw was not only
215 helping teachers figure out action steps but also if the student may require acceleration that is something we need in
216 the district. A question was raised when teachers look at that is there a way parents will also see that. Ms. Stefanich
217 responded those come in with the conversations teachers and parents have. Superintendent spoke that we have to be
218 intentional with gifted and talented, if Iready identifies them, how can we support that. There may be a program in
219 place he is not sure. It is something we have talked about moving forward. We are good at paying attention to
220 struggling learners but in general, it feels the gifted and talented get left to themselves because they are so driven. He
221 spoke of when he looks at this data; one mistake we make is comparing data from year to year and that one data
222 point. It is about individual growth rate, how much is reasonable at the quarter mark, half-year mark, is it a
223 reasonable expectation if they didn't meet, why and what do we do about it. Principal Chenette noted she appreciates
224 Iready has a "stretch growth". Ms. Stefanich confirms it will be for grades K-8, same as STAR. We can add it for HS
225 with additional cost, which we can explore later on if things go well with our students. She confirms the cost is less
226 and it is better.

i. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent gave an overview of his report. He tried to find some balance as there is a lot of good news. The LCS community clean-up day was awesome. There were not as many community members as hoped but the ones who were there completed a ton of work. It is great to see the playground in good condition and the wall was painted too. He would like to do more of this. We had a pretty amazing trick-or-treat day. We took the dressed up kindergarteners to WLC for trick-or-treat. He notes it was one of the best days he has had in his 27 years of education. It was great to see the kindergarten students with the MS and HS students. Some kindergarten teachers saw students they have not seen in a long time. It was a great day for the community and a great day for the SAU. He had a couple of conversations with Amherst Tool (part of Quabbin Inc.). Originally, he was going to ask for donations and it led to a good conversation. They have CNC machines and skilled workers. The discussion was regarding how we can get our kids to tour this plant and future ideas of internships. They have worked with Milford School District and it is a good opportunity to get our kids exposed to manufacturing. He will meet Friday with the president. The conversation was also, about how do we get kids to understand this is a viable path and get them exposed and excited about it. Their headquarters are in Wilton; this region can supply highly skilled labor and we would like our kids to be a part of it and not have to look just to Milford or ConVal. That is the next step, how we can build a partnership with them. A discussion was had regarding the potential of having a CTE program. Superintendent spoke that it would be great to take students in the van or they drive themselves, whether we call it a mentor program, CTE program etc. It is also about getting adults excited to work with kids. There is no reason we can't do it. We are talking about 2-3 students and if we can get them interested in that and land them an opportunity to work locally it makes sense. We need to find better ways to get kids excited about other programs. He spoke of providing Thanksgiving baskets to those in need in the community. The Village Store donated 36 cans of chicken soup; we have businesses and community members who are so open to be supportive and helpful to our communities. Regarding the balance of good news and bad, he reports the bad news is there are 3 more walls that need painting at LCS. He spoke of being concerned along with Mr. Erb about how many years it will take the rot to rot through. They need a tall enough ladder to reach the peak of the building for some of the painting. It is not necessarily bad news but wants to have the same attention paid to LCS as is with the other schools. There is also concern with the window seals. A question was raised when the next facilities committee meeting is. Superintendent notes we did talk about having the next meeting at LCS. It was noted it is important to have the facilities committee look at it, assess it and determine what needs to be done and the cost. Superintendent added Mr. Erb is looking at that and we do need to set some short and long term goals.

Ms. Lavallee recognized Mrs. MacPherson's students who sent notes and drew pictures to the volunteers on community day. She thanked them for doing this and Mrs. MacPherson for initiating it.

ii. Principals' Reports

Principal Chenette reported 593 is the number of items that our community donated to the Veterans this year. She spoke of the generosity of the community and it being a blessing each time they reach out. FRES had a card writing campaign; purpose was for children to understand what Veterans are and to be part of the process of giving back. We are excited to bring these things later in the week to the Manchester VA Hospital. A boy and girl from each grade level will go to represent our school; they will ride with Mr. Ryan so they can experience that. She thanked the students who stayed after school to count all of the items. She spoke of the great time the students had viewing the film that was created by the Historical Society and would love with permission to invite a handful of the students to come in and tell you of what they are learning and how they are extending that into their 4th and 5th grade classes. Board response was this would be great. Principal Chenette would also like to have the children who went to the VA to also come and share. She spoke of having a good turnout for parent/teacher conferences, which were offered, in person, virtual or by phone. Teachers are actively working to contact each parent they didn't meet with and those meetings will happen after school. She spoke of a concern shared previously about student absences and reports an average of 22 a day. These can be long periods, 10 days, 20 days and it being a real heavy lift for classroom teachers. They are doing great catching the students up when it's a day or two but difficult for the lengthy ones. Some do not come and pick up the missed work; it is a challenge to make up a live reading lesson with papers going home. She is concerned about this and eager to talk about using ESSER funds to help with this. A question was raised if it is the same students. Principal Chenette responded after a certain number of days, they get a call from her. She confirms they have the ability to log into the virtual classroom but no one has. If you are not able to access it, she ask parents to please call her and she will walk you through it. She confirms it seems the absences are excessive for the number of positive cases. She notes absences due to a number of things and can provide more detail information as it is monitored daily. She confirms there are families that are truant. Ms. Lavallee notes she likes what FRES is doing for Veteran's Day and believes these types of activities stick with the students and are great for the hands on interaction. She is thankful that Principal Chenette included reporting on the 4th and 5th grade regarding the history of the town

movie. Students gasped when they recognized things and it was lovely for them to hear the story of FRES. She also thanked the Historical Society.

Principal Edmunds reported so much has happened in the last month. The school approval for facilities has happened and we did a good job this year. Ms. Marjorie Schoonmaker (from the DOE) told us our building has made strides since the last time she was here. Mr. Erb was here and happy we passed with flying colors. In response to the data Ms. Stefanich and team are looking at, they have been working to adjust the schedule for MS, calling it “content literacy” and trying to target kids in the red and yellow areas. WLC is also collecting Thanksgiving baskets. There are at least 20 families we want to help this holiday and are still collecting items. Veteran’s Day is coming up and tomorrow WLC will host our first celebration. We are inviting Veterans and family of Veterans into the building. Student will be here, we will have 2 speakers, Major Adam Rickenbach, US Marine Corps, retired, also WLC teacher and Lieutenant Cornel Dennis Garnham US Army retired. Two Patriots Pen students will share their essays on what it means to be an American; the choir will sing the National Anthem and America the Beautiful. The National Honor Society will serve goodies in Mrs. Clark’s room. We can learn about them and they can learn about us. It is important to show this to our kids, allow them to show respect and meet the Veterans. It starts at 9am tomorrow everyone is welcome. The LED lighting project is under way at WLC. We have been working with each other and the electricians have been great, working after hours and in empty classrooms and will finish the gym on Thursday. The kids have been respectful of them and we expect it to be finished soon. Red Ribbon Week was wonderful, we talked about drug abuse, substance abuse, speakers came in, separate for MS and HS. She spoke of having a wonderful Halloween here. The Deputy of Education and Valerie Sununu visited our school to meet teacher, Andrew Tyler as candidate for teacher of the year. He did not get teacher of the year but he is teacher of the year for us. A question was raised if we have sent a HOBY representative in the past and did we initiate the process or does the student. Principal Edmunds confirms we have sent a HOBY representative in the past usually each year and believes Ms. Kovaliv does some prodding in the right direction. It was noted in her report they were looking for fund raising help to the DC trip. Principal Edmunds confirms that this year they are trying to do the trip without any buffer and doing fund raising for it. The kids asked for it and are excited about it. They are looking for ideas or anything you may have to help. The first payment is due Nov. 20 but they are not going until April vacation. It is based on 40 students, they probably won’t have that many and cost is about \$600 per student. Students will have the opportunity to be part of the ceremony of the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, go to all the museums, some real special things. It has been done in the past, just not since she has been here. A question was raised if they have started talking about Ecology School for the MS. Principal Edmunds responded, teacher, Cathy Blais has been in contact and things are in limbo, we are waiting on dates. She spoke of being proud of the faculty and students, COVID has hit the building hard in the past month, people keep showing up for the kids, and the kids keep showing up and doing their best. We have a different situation with absences; we have the same number of high absences, it is listed on the dashboard. She spoke of the real need for substitutes, teachers are keeping their Google Classroom up to date, and we are working hard to get students back up to speed. She spoke of the teachers and principals subbing too, there are just not enough substitutes.

Principal Chenette voiced appreciation for Ms. Smith dropping food off (for student) so they had their lunches and the parent was quite appreciative. She confirmed there are 30 students in the Chess Club. Ms. Lavallee added there are students that are sad that Chess Club only has one more week. If there are any volunteers who would offer time a day after school so that we can have more after school activities it would be great to have multiple programs. Principal Edmunds noted they had some MS interest, and doesn’t know if they can join. Principal Chenette responded that if you send a parent with them, we absolutely would host it.

iii. Curriculum Coordinator’s Report

See above.

VII. WLCTA

Ms. Andrea Petrone reported they always like to ask teachers for good news or anything-amazing going on. The parent/teacher conference came and went. Teachers always appreciate the opportunity to talk to parents about the amazing things going on in the classroom and set goals for the year. They thanked all the parents who came remotely or face to face. HS teachers are excited about Veteran’s Day tomorrow and Ms. Clark’s café. One of the AP science classes is collecting plastic film (wrappers etc.) trying to reach 500 pounds between now and end of the year and if they do one of the truck companies will donate a bench so they are trying to reach that goal. The MS started the National Junior Honor Society, they are thrilled and worked hard to get into that. The teachers appreciated the MS and HS administration for listening to their staff on how to better support their students including all the members LGBTQ community. Professional Development has been helpful in all aspects. They have been holding curriculum

committee meetings after school once a month, and talk about things that will help with curriculum and professional development to further their learning as teachers. At FRES, they have a holiday concert in December. They will do a coin drive for the turkey trot, had the Halloween parade, which was a huge success. They echo the concern Principal Chenette raised about student absences and are looking to partner together to find a solution. Ms. Petrone thanked the Board for allowing them to come and participate. It was confirmed the holiday concert will include grades 3, 4, 5 and it will be held in the evening.

VIII. PROPOSAL FOR MEDIA SYSTEM

Mr. Bouley provided a detailed list of the equipment to purchase. He notes he thought it would be easier with the funds the Board provided however it was hard to keep it under the budget. Some things were not available at all. He designed it to start with 10 mics, which can be expanded. It is mobile and can be contained and the speakers are on wheels. It can be moved from building to building. He and the Superintendent went to Hollis/Brookline; spoke to other districts about what they are using, some spent \$30,000, and some spent \$5,000 with varied levels of success. He took the best of what we could find and put together a package. He is hoping it is plug and play. He kept it just under \$10,000. Some items are 5-6 weeks out for shipping with no anticipation of that changing. We would be looking at some time the end of December if authorized to purchase. It is possible to have it up and running by beginning of January. A question was raised if we could use it in the gym for a large district meeting. Mr. Bouley confirms it has 10 mics and can add up to 16. It was noted there had been discussion of needing it to be utilized in both rooms, café and gym for district meeting. Mr. Bouley responded it would allow us to link up to multiple systems. The biggest piece is to digitize it to get it without the feedback. It should be the whole “kit and caboodle”. Superintendent added we do not need each member to have a mic; they can be shared. It was noted at the last district meeting there was outright anger about not being able to hear and the system didn’t work for people participating at home. Mr. Post was out of town for the last meeting and could not hear a thing, could not even follow it.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Post and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to authorize spending \$9,988.77 to come out of ESSER funds for the media system.

Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.

A question was raised how often we should be looking at updated ESSER funds as a Board. We should know where we are. Ms. LaPlante agreed and will provide monthly summaries of ESSER funds spent and obligated. Superintendent added we will discuss ESSER next meeting, we have done some brainstorming on this and will discuss then.

IX. POLICIES 2ND READ

- i. DAF-4 Procurement-Additional Provisions Pertinent to Food Service Program**
- ii. CBI-Evaluation of the Superintendent**
- iii. CBI-R-Evaluation of the Superintendent**

Ms. Lavallee reviewed these policies are ready for the 2nd read. There were no changes to DAF, changes were made to policy CBI as indicated by the Board to include a mid-year less formal evaluation, CBI-R is the evaluation form and only change was on the signature piece for “President of the Board to “Chairman of the Board”. Members are welcomed to provide feedback on the policies. Mr. Post questioned what the cadence of the informal mid-term review was. Ms. Lavallee reviewed at the last meeting, they policy committee had reviewed policy CBI and determined we should align the evaluation of the superintendent with what we do with the Principal and for the first 3 years of the Superintendent’s appointment we would review with them mid-year and at the end of the year. During Board discussion it was determined by consensus, we should always do an additional review mid-year but a less informal one. In looking at the timeline, we should have that meeting in January with Superintendent Weaver and in December have a nonpublic session for the Board to discuss what we would bring forward to the Superintendent. In January, the Chair and Vice Chair should meet with Superintendent Weaver to provide the Board’s information. All of these policies will return for a 3rd reading with no changes.

X. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Vanderhoof noted comments he made upon returning to public session from the nonpublic session were not included in the minutes. He questioned Ms. Fowler if she had these. Ms. Fowler responded she does not know and would have to go back and look at her notes. Mr. Vanderhoof noted if she does not have a record of it, he can send them to her. He notes it was regarding the motion to allocated \$3,000 from ESSER funds. He clarified for her it was not after a public comment but after the nonpublic session when returning to public session. She will go back and

look at her notes; there is no recording of this. It was agreed Mr. Vanderhoof will send her his comments and the minutes will be amended and return at the next meeting for approval.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof to table the minutes.

It was noted no motion is required; no action was taken.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Budget Liaison

Mr. Vanderhoof reported there is not a lot to report; most of what is happening is in the joint meetings. They are in support of funding for the D.C. trip. There was discussion around how they will get families to fill out the F & R paperwork. Most of what was done last week was to approve the minutes. He thinks everyone is happy with where we are at, at the moment. There are no arguments about formatting and things are where they should be which is a plus. We are where we would normally be. There are no major complaints that he can see. There is not a lot to report, the last meeting was almost all reviewing minutes. He is sure as we get closer to the deadline, there will be. He confirms there has been no discussion about warrant articles.

XII. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES

a. FYI- New Hire-Jamin LaPonsie-WLC SPED Paraprofessional

b. FYI-New Hire-Kyle Gilmore-WLC SPED Paraprofessional

Superintendent reported we have 2 new paraprofessionals; this is an FYI. The Board needs no action. Ms. Lavallee welcomed the new employees.

XIII. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Post spoke that it seems to be going pretty smooth, with inflation no one knows where this will go.

Mr. Kofalt spoke of concern regarding the overall number. He realizes so much is outside our control. He referred to the technology budget as an example, (he doesn't mean to pick on it) we have all these subscriptions, professional development and curriculum programs. How much are they being used? Someone "sort of" hinted at that before. Is it a subscription from 2 years ago that someone thought we needed and sometimes people log into it once in a while. He believes there will be a point where we have to make not necessarily tough decisions but exercise one additional level of discernment, what is being used, what do we need, what is providing value and what is not providing as much value.

Mr. Vanderhoof spoke about the 1:1 computers and how much time students are spending on that. He questions if that is the best approach educationally. He asked his 2nd grader and she says they use them once or twice a week, which is consistent with what the teachers reported 2 years ago to the Budget Committee. He feels like technology at that level, as far as a student sitting in front of a computer, could be isolated to computer class. For him this is more of the question, is this the best thing educationally, even assuming they are using them is that the best teaching method from what we have seen and if it is, are the teachers using it. The answer is no. He notes going through the budget, 50 for 6th, 50 for 9th and 100 for 2nd grade, it adds up quickly especially if we are not utilizing them.

Superintendent Weaver spoke that it is an important point. He notes this is the first district he worked in that had a vision for 1:1; typically, they are used at the upper levels. He thinks it's a really good question to explore what value are we getting if they are not using them regularly every day and is there a better way to allocate the resource. We will explore this. If you are right, they are only using them for limited time, does it make more sense to use carts?

Mr. Vanderhoof spoke of speaking with others who run charter schools and they will tell you that no students under 3rd grade will touch a computer. He notes it seems we have conflicting visions with this regarding MS going back to workbooks. He suggests we figure it out before we spend a ton of money. Ms. Lavallee questioned how much of the actual curriculum we have as at that level it has been in place for a while. She would like to see what Ms. Stefanich has to say about that. If we are not using it for an extensive amount of actual curriculum and it is just an "on top of", she agrees with Mr. Vanderhoof, are we getting the value from it. She does remember a 1st grade teacher being part of a discussion at the Board level and she raised the same concern. If she would have a classroom interaction she would rather have it in a different way and didn't see the value in the cost.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Vice Chair called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

Ms. Lisa Post commented that the Budget Committee went back to their meeting and what Mr. Vanderhoof was saying about technology was a concern that maybe the estimate on computers was a little high and what the usage really is, that was a concern by the committee. They had a conversation around how we can get parents to fill out forms for F & R lunches so we can get funding. She spoke to them about getting a lot of literature from other schools and having people fill them out regardless and it came up that the color of the paper was pink and that's a red flag. It would be easier to slip it in if it were the same color as the other papers. It is something we should think about talking about. Maybe we can do some events for the kids and have parents sign things while they are there just a way to get us extra funds for some of the programs to help out.

XV. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Golding commented he loves seeing this kind of stuff, things the kids are doing; it is excellent and he applauds them.

Mr. Kofalt is happy to see the Veteran's Day celebration and getting kids involved with the cards etc. He voiced appreciation for the media system proposal from Mr. Bouley and knows it was a lot of work.

Mr. Mannarino echoed the sentiments about Veteran's Day and comments that having Mr. Putnam, as part of the Halloween celebration was great, he was glad to see him recognized.

Ms. Lavallee echoed the sentiments of the Veteran's celebrations; she recognized Chairman LoVerme and Mr. White for their service, they are both Veterans. She voiced appreciation for the hard work on the media system and to everyone for their work on the budgets.

XVI. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (B) (C)

i. Review Nonpublic Minutes

A MOTION was made by Mr. Mannarino and SECONDED by Mr. Golding to enter Non-Public Session to review nonpublic minutes RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (B) (C) at 8:49pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried unanimously.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 9:01pm.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Golding and SECONDED by Mr. Kofalt to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:01pm.

Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Fowler