

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, June 8, 2021  
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School  
6:30 p.m.**

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

Present: *Alex LoVerme, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Mark Legere (6:35pm), Matt Mannarino (6:33pm), Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral, Jim Kofalt, Charlie Post and Paul White*

*Superintendent Bryan Lane, Assistant Principal Sarah Edmunds, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, Technology Director Mark Kline, and Clerk Kristina Fowler*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman LoVerme called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Superintendent Lane reported the following adjustments, resignation of the school nurse at FRES, 3 nominations and a right to know request response. Chairman LoVerme added an employee related action item.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Kofalt and SECONDED by Mr. White to accept the adjustments to the agenda. Voting: six ayes; two abstentions from Mr. Legere and Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Leslie Browne, Wilton, voiced concern regarding the decision made about the Superintendent of Schools. She spoke of having a great deal of respect for Ms. Edmunds and Mr. Weaver, they are very good at their jobs and thinks it is unfortunate to pull them out of a job and put them in other positions. She notes we discussed things that could potentially happen if we did not find a candidate and pulling internal candidates was not one of them. She thinks the decision was made behind closed doors and without input. On the website, there were 2 search committee meetings posted and no minutes posted on what happened. She knows groups of people were put together to interview and offers were put out. She questions how the decisions to put in internal candidates was done and is looking for clarification why it was the best decision and why not go to the superintendent organization to get an interim to fill in for a year while we continue our search. She thinks it was made out of desperation and is not good for the long-term. Mr. Post expressed he read Ms. Browne's correspondence. He explained when you do a superintendent search there are things you cannot do in public. Candidates are applying for work (while employed), the notion that all meetings should be in public is incorrect; interviews that are done with staff and the community is the same thing. He has sent out the minutes to be updated, this was an oversight. He believes Ms. Browne attended the first meeting as a member of the public. She agreed she was present but not on the committee. Mr. Post notes they did have several meetings, some open to the public and others not. He voiced he is proud of the decision they made; it is important to promote within an organization and we have great candidates who will do a great job. He disagrees with her and notes her correspondence seems like a personal attack on him, which is fine as he is an elected official as well as her. He questioned if she would like him to read her correspondence. Ms. Browne responded you are welcome to read it. Ms. Browne voiced concern about the way they went about making the decisions and his agenda leading into this. Mr. Post questioned her comment, what his agenda was leading into this. Ms. Browne, expressed he has wanted to cut positions and save money. Mr. Post responded he wanted to explore the option, this is the public's money, you were the Chair of the Budget Committee, you would think you would be concerned about how public funds are spent. Ms. Browne responded, of course. She didn't make the decision. Mr. Post responded nor did I, I was a member of a Board of 9 and

on a committee. Chairman LoVerme explained the Board picked a committee, there were faculty members and they went on the recommendation of the committee and the Board chose. Chairman LoVerme was not part of the committee. In the beginning they chose not to use the superintendent search (organization) avenue because we wanted to save money. It was \$15,000 of taxpayer money. Ms. Browne expressed, understood, but this is the CEO of our organization; it's kind of a big deal. She does not agree with the decision and wanted to express that. Mr. Vanderhoof questioned if that was a discussion in the committee. It was noted that this was talked about at a Board meeting; it was initially discussed prior to the first meeting.

Ms. Alyssa Lavoie commented regarding the superintendent decision, no matter what is chosen, either way you will have pros and cons. This is a more controversial one and as someone who was on the committee and interviewed other superintendent candidates, she is thrilled with the decision, is glad we did not go in that direction and will have to wait and see. She hopes it all does work out. She is looking forward to seeing what happens and did have the privilege of interviewing other candidates. She thinks that perspective helps to appreciate this.

Chairman LoVerme read public comment from Mr. Bill Ryan who asked it be made public. He read, having witnessed first-hand this past year of the underlying problems the kitchen staff have dealt with very professionally and all in the best interest of the students and district. He feels it is very unfortunate the Board has not asked to personally sit and talk with Deb to see if there is a way for her to continue as Director for another year. She brought the lunch program to higher heights than it has seen in years all the while dealing with the help shortage. If he is not mistaken in his beliefs, he feels the Board as professional representatives of the people; owe this much to someone who has given her all to the district in very trying times. If not through a negotiation maybe an exit interview, as to why she decided to leave. He looks forward to seeing the results of the district audit next year and to see who can answer for the incorrect numbers that will be questioned. It is time for this school board to be much more supportive of the total support staff because they are the foundation of a solid business. Too often, they are taken for granted. Thanks for your time.

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

## **V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

### **a. Reports**

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

Superintendent gave an overview of his report. He listed the open positions and will be adding an anticipated biology teacher. He is bringing 3 additional nominations for this evening. Interviewing is ongoing consistently. He thanked all the teachers and administrators who are doing the interviewing before it gets to him and making sure we have quality people to work with students and the district. He included a document regarding references for World Energy Systems. The Board wanted to know if there were other organizations this group had dealt with. He spoke with a group in Newport and Milford who both felt it was a good experience, extremely positive and are seeing a reduction in cost. Part of his function is to recommend teachers for recertification, all (who are due for recertification) and returning) have gone through the process, and there were a couple who did not pay the fee yet. Currently we have 1 person left and a reminder has been sent. If certifications lapse beyond June 30, there is a delay in getting it and a late fee. Summer Academy preparations are going well; Ms. Tammy Cargill is spearheading that and will provide him a list of bus routes tomorrow which will include a drop off at the Boys and Girls Club. The RFP for food services will go out tomorrow. Manifests are being signed as we speak.

#### **ii. Principals' Reports**

Ms. Edmunds is reporting for Principal Weaver. She reports they have been very busy at WLC. There has been a lot of opportunity to celebrate the students in May and June. There has been so much student success, which Mr. Weaver wrote about including, Harrison Krug, and Kevin Lachance being selected to the Scholar Leader Awards Celebration, Elisabeth Jacob was accepted to Stanford MIT Artificial Intelligence Program for the summer, and Samantha Boette won both the 100 and 200-meter D4 championship races and is a 2 time state champion. At the end of May, they had a kickball tournament to take a break from the stress of testing. Fifth grade Step-up Day took place with a tour of the school and students met their teachers. Parents came in; there was a panel to answer their questions. It all went well. Graduation went off very well. It was wonderful to see so many of the board members there. We have some very happy graduates! Eighth grade promotion is Thursday at 10am in the gym and will have an online option; a Google Meet will be sent out to parents. Interviews have continued and they have a promising Spanish candidate. Summer

school is fully staffed; they are ready to go and excited for the social-emotional fun on Fridays. It was noted graduation was wonderful as well as Awards Night. Ms. Edmunds agrees and notes it is wonderful when the community supports the kids and it doesn't happen everywhere.

Superintendent reported for Principal LaRoche. His report goes over the state assessment and STAR results. The State results do not necessarily correlate or mirror the STAR results. STAR reflects more accurately, what students are taught in the classroom at a particular pace. The curriculum coordinator and Principal would need to disaggregate the data of both tests and find out where the deficiencies are and next year target which students need help through the W.I.N. Program. There was a 1<sup>st</sup> grade parent who brought in vegetable plants for the staff and Principal LaRoche wanted to be sure to thank Ms. Trudeau from Lyndeborough. It was noted Principal LaRoche spoke of the disconnect between the tests; it was asked if the Superintendent thinks that is a result of the year we went through. Superintendent explained, hypothetically, when the kids took the state assessment we didn't have the tutoring program in place, not all was working well and for us to have test results drop, if you have 80 students, just 2 struggling can create a huge differential. He does not have a specific answer. What needs to happen is we need to look at the data. The curriculum coordinator is coming in and will work with the new Principal. He guesses that the spring last year took a toll when we were fully remote with students who may or may not be successful in that arena. Academic learning happens better when you are in the building. We were still trying to figure it out as a state and country. He thinks it will take a little time for kids to catch up. STAR shows looking at a national norm they are moving in the right direction and our students are on the grade level where they should be. The question is, the state assessment is only 2 years old and does STAR line up with what the state is assessing. Star was made to align with the previous assessment. When the state changed the assessment, it takes a while for those things to happen. Principal LaRoche did say there might be a different test that is more efficient or effective than STAR and it is something to consider.

Superintendent/Principal Lane reviewed we have 41 kindergarten students; enrollment is moving in the direction he anticipated and will have more over the summer. He reviewed enrollment for the first few grades and notes if enrollment increases as it is trending in these grades it will increase enrollment for the district overall. Another 10-15 students would garner another \$60,000 in revenue, which would pretty much pay for the cost of the teacher. If we had to increase staff down the road, it would be offset with the revenue. LCS hosted 28 new kindergarten students for next year who came in and toured the building. Academic Profiles will go home at the end of the week. The End of Year Celebration was last Friday; we had 12 parent volunteers. He formally thanked the kindergarten students for giving him a book of pictures of what he can do when he retires. Some suggestions were fixing cars, taking a nap or swing. There are 15 kindergarten students attending summer classes. The roof project is coming up quick. Mr. Post voiced regarding the student population that they did hear from many candidates that we are in a great position of growing compared to the rest of the state. Superintendent notes one thing to watch out for as more homes are being built is the are impact fees. He believes there is \$60,000 of impact fees and when you create the budget, look at those fees as it can be used to offset a project, a contract or if there is unanticipated SPED expenses, you can use it for that. Keep in mind the time limit is 7 years if you don't use them by then the money goes back to the builder. He did speak with the new business administrator about this.

## **b. Letters/Information**

### **i. Updated Salary Comparison**

Superintendent provided an updated salary comparison, which includes the nominations for this evening if approved. Looking at salary and benefits as listed, there would be a surplus of \$130,000 to the district as of right now. The number can shift up or down.

## **VII. LED LIGHTING PROJECT**

Superintendent provided a couple reference checks he obtained for World Energy Systems. The Superintendent of SAU43 and his assessment of the work done is provided in the document. He also spoke to Ms. Mary Thomas from Tech Resources. They are a defense contractor and have some stipulations that needed to be met. She was very clear there needs to be a daily walkthrough from the Facilities Director and Principal as often as possible to make sure things are going as appropriate and keep on schedule. He confirms the Board can wait until the next meeting to vote but the sooner the better for scheduling purposes due to the cleaning schedule. It was noted he mentioned the defense contractor highly recommends a daily walkthrough; one may take that as a negative. Superintendent responds he thinks because they are a defense contractor they have requirements they have to meet. There was nothing negative. Mr. Post reported he spoke with the municipal side of the utility company about the program; they said the contractor should have given a written quote and we still need to see that before signing. They gave him a name and is waiting to get a call back. This is the 60% part of it. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke that we have that in the paperwork; it was on the back.

164 It was all attached and had all the requirements with the fine print and how they got to that number. They did that step.  
165 Superintendent recalls this as well. It was noted if it is not acted on now we may not be able to act on it. Mr. Legere  
166 voiced usually the utility companies have a certain amount that is tariffed that they need to spend in the year and if not  
167 could face penalties, that is his experience. A question was raised how it should be paid, the general fund vs. capital  
168 reserve. Superintendent confirms cost is approximately \$48,000. A question was raised if that money is in this year's  
169 budget. Superintendent responded there should be approximately \$20,000 savings in electrical bills if you get the  
170 project done. The other \$28,000 is not in the budget at this time. If the Board chose to take it from the Building &  
171 Roadways capital reserve, it will have no effect on the budget. There is a sufficient amount of money in that capital  
172 reserve (Building & Roadways) to take care of that. The CIP shows the lighting project was moved to the next 2 years.  
173 If the Board decides to do it now, funds would have been taken from there anyway, this was the intent but now it is at a  
174 reduced cost. Concern was raised taking the \$20,000 out of "savings" and a question was raised if it can be taken out of  
175 this year's funds. Superintendent expressed because the work would not begin until July 1, we have to have the  
176 expenditure in the same fiscal year but you could have some overlapping. It creates an issue with a final number and  
177 getting that to the DRA on time as that sets the tax rate. He also adds it may be an issue with the auditor. If you took it  
178 from the capital reserve, it would not be an issue.

179  
180 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Kofalt and SECONDED by Mr. White to go ahead with the lighting project, paid for out*  
181 *of the Building & Roadways Capital Reserve.*

182 *Voting: seven ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*  
183

184 • **RIGHT TO KNOW REQUEST RESPONSE**

185 Superintendent reviewed this request is from an organization that is requesting information and read what they are  
186 asking for, "All training or educational materials for your school system that pertain to the race, ethnicity, religion,  
187 sexual orientation, or gender of students or employees (class/classes). To narrow the scope of our request we are  
188 specifically seeking training materials that would promote one of the classes over another or any materials that would  
189 instruct or imply that employees or students of your district treat anyone different based on their class. Please also  
190 include any material that would imply that one class is inherently better or worse than another or where one class  
191 should be cognizant of their class when interacting with others of another class. Any training material that specifically  
192 mentions a race or ethnicity, including but not limited to: African American, Black, Caucasian, White, Hispanic,  
193 Latin/o/a/x, Asian, or Indigenous." He forwarded it to the Board and to attorney, Dean Eggert from Wadleigh, Star  
194 and Peters and he sent it back with language to respond appropriately. The request was sent to every Superintendent in  
195 the State of NH from this organization. He questions how the organization will go through all materials requested. The  
196 response at this point, per the suggestion of the attorney; we do not have training materials, of that nature, we don't  
197 train staff for that, we don't instruct staff, the only thing that may come close to that is anything around bullying, Title  
198 IX and/or antidiscrimination policy. All of our policies do not necessarily specifically note or mention a given race it  
199 may say gender but it doesn't say other than that and those are things that come from OCR. That could be considered  
200 training materials. Under Title IX, this summer administrative staff will be going through a training but we do not have  
201 the materials as a workshop. We will go back to them if these materials are not part of your request let us know and we  
202 won't produce them as well as curriculum; they want to know every single book we teach, every single text book,  
203 every single novel we would have to go through them, then print and there would be a cost for that. He questions, do  
204 you consider curriculum a training material; it is not well defined as far what they are looking for. He heard on the  
205 radio that Manchester is having sensitivity training with their staff around racial issues and the concept around lawsuits  
206 etc. We don't have those materials; if they want our whole curriculum, science talks about gender, maybe math does,  
207 history; he doesn't have that information. We could reproduce the things, and they say it can go by electronic  
208 submission but will the file be so big it will not send. This is why he asks if these materials are not what you are asking  
209 for please let us know. We have 45 days to comply if they want all the curriculum. I had 5 days to respond to the email  
210 and tomorrow is the 5<sup>th</sup> day, I need to respond, and this is on the advice of the attorney. A question was raised if this is  
211 an organization or a member of the Press. Mr. Kofalt spoke that it is NH Insider, which is Press. He is on a fishing  
212 expedition, to make this kind of request this broad is ridiculous he thinks. He agrees this is an appropriate response.  
213 Superintendent felt it was appropriate to have the attorney language and is sure there will be many responses that go  
214 out that will be similar. A question was raised what the Superintendents Association thought was. When Mr. Legere  
215 read the right to know request, it sort of sounded like they are looking to see if the districts are teaching critical race  
216 theory. Superintendent responded that could be a part of what the agenda is behind this, there is a section of state  
217 legislature going through that has some specific language around teaching controversial issues and how that should  
218 happen, if it should happen, the manner of which it should happen. The one thing they did get from the Superintendent  
219 Association was to contact your attorney and make sure you are responding. The Association does not take a stance  
220 one way or another.

221  
222 **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

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

224 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to approve the minutes of May 25,*  
225 *2021 as written.*

226 *Voting: seven ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

227  
228 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to approve the nonpublic minutes of*  
229 *May 25, 2021 as written.*

230 *Voting: seven ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

231  
232 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Mr. White to approve the minutes of May 18, 2021 as*  
233 *amended.*

234 *Voting: seven ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

235  
236 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Mr. Legere to approve the nonpublic minutes of May*  
237 *18, 2021 as written.*

238 *Voting: seven ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

239  
240 *A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to approve the minutes of June 2, 2021 as*  
241 *written.*

242 *Voting: five ayes; three abstentions from Mr. Vanderhoof, Mr. Kofalt and Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

243  
244 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and SECONDED by Mr. White to approve the nonpublic minutes of*  
245 *June 2, 2021 as written.*

246 *Voting: five ayes; three abstention from Mr. Vanderhoof, Mr. Kofalt, and Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

247  
248 **• EMPLOYEE ACTION ITEM (Superintendent Retirement)**

249 Chairman LoVerme spoke about when Superintendent Lane first took this position 5 years ago. He spoke of this being  
250 a tough job and he doesn't know of any supervisor that has not had disagreements. Superintendent Lane ran into this;  
251 he has done a lot for this district. If you had students in the school 5 years ago, we were a struggling district. He had his  
252 work cut out for him; we had just finished FRES, all the students 1-5 were at FRES, 6<sup>th</sup> grade moved up to WLC. He  
253 did a lot with curriculum and personally had a hand in developing everything in the district. We have come a long way  
254 and have some good people working with us because of Superintendent Lane. This is the next to last meeting for him  
255 and like someone said the other day at graduation, come September when the students will be going off to school  
256 again, he will probably hit the snooze button once or twice. He presented Superintendent Lane with a "gold record" on  
257 behalf of the School Board. A round of applause was given and he was thanked and congratulated. Chairman  
258 LoVerme expressed this was not paid for with taxpayer dollars.

259  
260 **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

261 **i. Facilities Committee**

262 Superintendent confirmed the committee did not meet.

263 **ii. Short-term Strategic Planning Committee**

264 Mr. White reported the committee met on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, had 2 agenda items; mask summer policy and food service in the  
265 summer. The question was raised if the district had to provide snack or lunches during the summer. Superintendent  
266 confirms no. A document was provided listing the committee's proposal. Mr. White reports as we move to the summer  
267 the committee feels the mask protocols need to be adjusted. All of the agreements and current protocols are set to  
268 expire at the conclusion of the school year. We need to revisit the current protocol and adjust as necessary to fit the  
269 needs of our district. While the committee does acknowledge there is definitely a split in opinions from the faculty as  
270 well as students and parents, we have worked hard to meet what we feel is a comfortable place to help everybody. The  
271 committee proposes the following language for the summer. For the summer months ahead, the district will be shifting  
272 to a mask optional policy. Due to the smaller class sizes and ability to open windows and the option of class outside,  
273 along with the expiration of current agreements and protocols, we feel this is a good time to transition. We would like  
274 to request that those who may not have had a chance to be fully vaccinated by the start of the program please continue  
275 to wear a mask until the vaccine has reached its full level of protection. This will help to ensure we can have a safe and  
276 effective transition. If you are fully vaccinated and wish to continue wearing a mask, you can do so. We will not be  
277 requiring anyone to show proof of vaccination. It's more of a policy more than a protocol. We are hoping the policy

can be on the honor system. How well this transition goes will depend on everyone being respectful of one another and their person choices. The committee is sure we can have a smooth transition, move forward, and continue to put our focus on the education of students. These things can move back as easy as move forward. This is what he would like to see go out to parents. Mr. White reports it is open to discussion; it was written that way as to not put pressure on anyone or separate groups and to be as delicate as possible to not offend any group. Right now, the teachers are split about 50/50 at WLC regarding wearing masks. Ms. Edmunds confirms it is now skewed more toward teachers don't mind not wearing masks. Mr. White notes the weather is getting warmer and rather than make these calls on the fly every day, if we do this for the summer it will give a good indicator as to how it will go and how the students will treat each other. Discussion was had regarding language in there about vaccinations and what was the need for that. Mr. White explained they wanted to ask those who have not been vaccinated to wear a mask to help those who are not comfortable. There won't be anyone standing at the door asking but they wanted to be respectful. Discussion was had then it is not really a mask optional policy. FRES staff is 100% comfortable, this is more for WLC but would be district wide. It was noted if you are saying we are requesting, you are leaving the door open for people to say thank you for asking, request denied. There is also no distinction from vaccinated or recovered. There are people who don't want to be vaccinated but are recovered from COVID. There is a bit of inconsistency by saying we are requesting and it being on the honor system if you are not vaccinated. Mr. White notes that is why it was left as a request and not a requirement. It was noted it is a move in the right direction. Suggestions were made for changes to the language. It was expressed there is nothing enforceable in it; it is not effective. Mr. White explained we have been shadowing the CDC and everywhere he goes he sees signs say we kindly request; we would continue to mirror the state. Discussion continues regarding the language. The second paragraph is redundant and there could be some different interpretations. The spirit of it is appreciated but sometimes there are unexpected consequences. Mr. White notes they did receive feedback from teachers and some family feedback; it seemed to be a middle ground. It was suggested to simplify it and use the first line. It was noted the comfort level is changing so rapidly. Discussions continued and it was asked if the protocol and MOU expire, do we need to do anything. Superintendent confirms the MOU's expire at the end of this school year and as far as the protocol, there was not an end date. The current protocol reads at the top, 2020-2021 school year therefor it would no longer be in place. He confirms the MOU indicates it would end earlier than the school year if the pandemic ended earlier. Superintendent confirms in order for the Board to allow mask removal you need to vote to say it is optional, if we go with past practice, he would not allow a person to be in the building with a mask due to security reasons. It does not say that one way or another in our policy or dress code. As a Principal, as a matter of security he wouldn't allow it unless it was religious garment or nurse wearing a medical mask in certain situations. A brief discussion was had about this. If you want to make masks optional for the summer program or the fall, you would need to vote and put that language out to the community. It was suggested since the mask requirement has been dropped, we should simply say the mask requirement has expired and is effectively optional.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Kofalt and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to make masks optional effective at the end of this school year and direct the Superintendent to inform the public.\**

Discussion continued. Mr. Vanderhoof asked to hear the motion. Mr. Kofalt explained the motion is effective at the end of the school year, mask wearing is optional, if there happens to be any specific prohibition, it is allowed, it is not required, and we are asking the Superintendent to inform the public of that. It was noted during flu season people will want to wear masks. Mr. Kofalt notes if there is a need in the future to act, we can act in the future. A question was raised if it was better stated to send out a letter saying it has expired instead of voting on it. Discussion continues that they are splitting hairs, regarding wearing masks, and security issues.

Superintendent clarified the motion, as he understands it. As of the end of the school year, June 10, masks will be optional within the school buildings the Superintendent is directed to inform the public.

*\*Voting: seven ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

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

### **a. Resignation-Danielle Cambray-1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher-FRES**

Superintendent reviewed the resignations of Ms. Cambray 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, who is moving on to a MS science position and Ms. Danielle Berube, school nurse, is going to Hollis/Brookline District where she resides. Ms. Cambray did not sign her contract; no need for the Board to accept her resignation but would need to for Ms. Berube.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and SECONDED by Mr. White to accept the resignation of Ms. Danielle Berube, FRES school nurse.*

Voting: six ayes; one nay from Mr. Legere, one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.

**b. Appointments-Pending**

Superintendent reviewed the nomination for Ms. Alison Bowman, HS English teacher at WLC.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and SECONDED by Mr. White to appoint Ms. Alison Bowman as the HS English teacher at WLC, at a salary of \$42,000, Masters, step 2.*

*Voting: seven ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

Superintendent reviewed the nomination for Ms. Jessica Hill, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at FRES. She worked with us as a Title 1 tutor at FRES.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Mr. Kofalt to appoint Ms. Jessica Hill as first grade teacher at FRES, at a salary of \$43,500, Bachelor's step 6.*

*Voting: seven ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

Superintendent reports we will now need to find a Title 1 tutor.

Superintendent reviewed the nomination for Ms. Elizabeth Graves, kindergarten teacher at LCS.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Kofalt and SECONDED by Mr. White to appoint Ms. Elizabeth Graves as kindergarten teacher at LCS, at a salary of \$38,000, Bachelor's step 2.*

*Voting: seven ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

Superintendent informed the Board he sent a letter out to parents today announcing the School Board has elected Ms. Kathleen Chenette as FRES Principal. He reviewed some of her background noting she was a strong candidate with both parents and teachers. When the School Board met with both candidates, both were quality candidates with experience and the Board brought forward Ms. Chenette. Mr. Post added, she was a very strong candidate; it was a good decision. Superintendent has given her the task of picking her administrative assistant and that should be done by next week.

**XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Melissa Knight, Wilton, questioned if LCS has a Principal. Superintendent confirms it is Peter Weaver. She spoke that she doesn't know Principal Weaver personally but coming to the Board meetings, she is really excited he will be the Superintendent. She was not on the search committee and didn't interview the other candidates. She really loves his energy and his enthusiasm and thinks he will make a great Superintendent for our district. She thanked the Board for their time and everything, it is really important to her that our kids stay in school. She acknowledges there were a lot of challenges and a lot was scary and unknown but thanks them for everything they did for keeping the kids in school.

Ms. Alyssa Lavoie thanked the teachers, Board members, and Superintendent Lane. She spoke of knowing him for 22 years as she graduated from Alvirne High School in 2003; he was her school Principal and had the pleasure of knowing him as a student and as a parent. She has a level of appreciation coming into the district a few years ago knowing what challenges it is from a Principal level and appreciating what he did for the district. It is a tough position as Chairman LoVerme had said. You will never make everyone happy and you have to make the hard decisions. Twenty-two years later, congratulations on your retirement.

Ms. Melodie Jones, questioned if the Board voted on getting contracts for a cafeteria agency, if they decided on interviewing for the director's position, or if no decision had been made at all. Superintendent responded candidates for the director's position are extremely limited and not very strong. If there are candidates out there who would like to come forward to take the position he is sure we would be glad to interview them and consider them to bring forward to the Board if viable candidates. The Board has not made a decision at this time on how to move forward. An RFP will be going out to potentially privatize the service. Ms. Jones asked what does that mean for the employees.

Superintendent responded part of the RFP process would be that we would like to maintain/retain those people working in the program as the new process came forward. Ms. Jones voiced they would work for the new company and no longer work for the SAU. Superintendent confirmed that is correct. She added, from what she understands working for those companies, they ship you to where ever the “need” is. Superintendent responded that would be a discussion between the employer and employee.

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

## **XII. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Kofalt thanked the Superintendent and congratulated him on his retirement; he had a long commitment to public education and we have all seen that commitment first hand. He thanked him and congratulated him.

Mr. Mannarino thanked the Superintendent for his service and contributions and congratulated the students mentioned earlier; great job Harry Krug, Kevin Lachance and Elisabeth Jacob.

Mr. Vanderhoof spoke that he was here for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade information night. He has noticed several times that the blue chairs have to be most uncomfortable chairs he has ever sat in and suggests they should be replaced or put on a rotation to be replaced. He spoke regarding Mr. Ryan’s comments, this is the second time he has heard something about numbers being wrong and he has not heard anything officially. If there was something going on he thinks the Board should have a nonpublic to discuss. He heard it mentioned from a member of the public as well. He congratulated the Superintendent for his retirement and thanked him for serving here for 5 years; he appreciates it.

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral thanked the Superintendent for everything he did; he brought kindergarten here, we didn’t have it before he came. Superintendent notes, he didn’t, the Board did. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral adds, you had a whole lot to do with it and this is the legacy piece and she appreciates it. He has done a lot for our community and there is so much more we can’t talk about it all; she appreciates it and congratulated him.

Mr. Legere thanked the administration staff who were involved in the planning and organizing of the end of year events. It was great for the district and for us to see. He thanked the Superintendent for his long career in education and questioned how many students he has graduated over the years. Superintendent responded over 14,000. Congratulations!

Mr. Post congratulated the Superintendent, he had a long career; his work this last year has been incredible. How much he took on and what he accomplished. He held the district together this year. His speech at graduation was moving. The crowd was pretty loud and then there was dead silence from the students, the faculty and parents and Board. It was good advice. He thanked him. In regard to the superintendent search, you will never make everyone happy and we probably could have done a better job communicating. He apologized and will get the minutes put up and we will review what we did. He is happy with the choices they made. He thinks we are in a good position.

Mr. White thanked everyone on the Board for what we have done this year and the teachers for pulling it off. He congratulated the Superintendent for his service; he is looking forward to next year.

Chairman LoVerme thanked all the staff that are leaving the district for other careers, they have made impacts in the school no matter what position they held, and we won’t forget them. He is sure they did something in their class or in the day that they will be remembered by. He thanked the Superintendent for the 5 years he gave us. He thanked the Board; there is one more meeting left this summer. Get some rest; forget about it for 2 weeks. He welcomes the new staff to their positions especially those who have to sit in front of the Board. He thanked the public who attended in person and online.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

*A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:12pm. Voting: seven ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Kristina Fowler*