

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, August 27, 2024
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School
6:30 p.m.**

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

Present: *Dennis Golding, Brianne Lavallee, John Zavgren, Michelle Alley, Darlene Anzalone (online), Geoffrey Allen, Diane Foss and Jonathan Lavoie*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Technology Director Nicholas Buroker and Clerk Kristina Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Golding called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Anzalone requested to move up the "Strategic Planning Committee Scope and Direction" discussion.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Anzalone and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to move up the Strategic Planning Committee Scope and Direction to after or before public comment.

Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

Ms. Lavallee requested to table all the policies under "Emergency Adoption", (remove the entire section). She notes it has to do with the Title IX changes on the federal level due to start August 1. We since have additional information in researching this, there is confusion with the state vs. federal laws. We followed up with council and Ms. LaPlante has had training. The Superintendent and Ms. LaPlante will meet on September 6 to look at the policies and cross-reference them with ours and bring back a recommendation to the committee. The Superintendent has confirmed that we are fine waiting to do that and not in any potential litigation, we would have to follow the law, our policy, as stands will cover that.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to table all the policies under "Emergency Adoption" (take out entire section).

Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

The Superintendent requested to postpone Mr. Pratt's report until the September 10 board meeting as he is unavailable this evening.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to move the Director of Student Support Services Report to September 10.

Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read. Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

Ms. Mary Golding commented that she is looking forward to a great meeting.

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Student Support Services Report

Mr. Pratt's report has been tabled until the September 10th meeting.

• STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE SCOPE & DIRECTION

Chairman Golding reported this has come up because we didn't seem to have a scope and direction and seemed to be stuck on the SRO and district report card. Ms. Anzalone spoke of the last committee meeting there was discussion regarding defining the scope more and getting the Board's feedback. Chairman Golding noted he believes that ultimately the role for a Strategic Planning Committee is a 1, 3, and 5-year plan that includes fiscal and educational goals. The Superintendent added or it can be something significant to research, we don't really want individual board members doing that and it can be time consuming; a

smaller committee could focus on that research. If we put together a 1, 5, or 7 year plan, the committee would do that and other than long-term planning, I don't know what the committee would do. Discussion was had that the SRO just continues to be discussed, and doesn't fall under that scope anymore. The Board approved discussion to be had with the town and administration and it seems to be falling flat right now. Superintendent added the next step is to get an updated cost from the Chief, low end, middle and high-end cost of recruiting someone and present that cost to you. Determine if you want us to move forward with it in the operating budget for 2025-2026, as we would have to find a way to fold that in. In the meantime, we want to keep talking to the community to see what kind of percentage they are willing to support us with, such as 20-80 split. If the cost were \$100,000, then we would need to fold in \$80,000 into the budget if the community supported the \$20,000. As far as the Strategic Planning Committee, he thinks we did good work, we talked about the report card, which is out there, and we talked about district goals. In his opinion, it should stay activated as an ad-hock committee when there is a specific need for it. Mr. Allen spoke about the SRO and the way he thought the Strategic Planning Committee is a part of it was a committee between the School Board and community where we are looking at things like, we know our attendance rates down the road, our resources down the road. He can see where it works hand and hand with the Facilities Committee down the road in terms of building out those resources. He looked at it with the exception of short immediate needs; it's looking at the pulse of our town and deciding what we will need for resources and how we want to reorganize where we are always ahead of the game and not necessarily reacting when we have a large class or no class. Ms. Alley spoke that she sees it as a way of how our school is looked at by the community and it is not always seen as being a great environment based on comments. Being new several years ago, there was not a lot of great things being said about it but now being here, it's a really great school, her kids love it, the classrooms are great, the teachers are great; it is how everyone perceives the school. She looked at reviews and it was really low. What does the town think about the schools in our communities? We should be planning for that in this committee. Ms. Anzalone spoke that one of the things we talked about in committee was getting more involvement, for kids to be able to do work-studies in companies or have internships and how we can let more parents know about the options. You hear about it in 8th grade but not much about it after that. Trying to get creative and open things up for the kids and get the community more involved with the schools as well. Chairman Golding noted, it all sounds great but he doesn't know that a monthly committee is needed, maybe quarterly or 3 times a year. Ms. Lavalley spoke about other districts having a strategic plan and the Superintendent had put together something for the Board a while ago on the purpose and process with examples of other districts plans. Do you feel as an administration that it is helpful to have a plan and she asked the Superintendent if he wants the Board to start working on that? The Superintendent responded the summer is the best time to do it as we have the time. When he participated in these in the past it included a variety of representatives including selectman, community, paraprofessionals, teachers, etc. a diverse group. One area is resources and it links to what Ms. Anzalone was talking about, how we are communicating with businesses and that may be a strand from the strategic plan that links to another strand, we talked about attendance and do we have the resources to maintain it. He read NH has the highest per pupil cost and lower enrollments in years, are we planning for that and not being surprised down the road. That tabletop discussion could be useful. Another strand could be technology and how are we planning for that. He is all for a strategic plan, he knows it takes time to get the documentation together to be sure we have everyone involved and have representation from all the different groups. There are former educators who have facilitated those discussions and he has been involved himself. It can be more manageable with a smaller district and identifying those strands and planning it out. Every district has a different set of priorities and one should be academics, which we have it as a goal. The data has to be reported out and needs to improve in certain areas and how do we do that in 3, 5, and 7 years from now. All these things are good things we talked about but they are part of the plan not the plan itself, they are specific strands and he gave examples. He thinks it would be worthwhile and thinks that is where the committee would come in. In the spring, they should meet and talk about where we see those strands, 4-5 different things and come to a consensus about what areas we want to spread out. Then the Board blesses it or not, it's really driven by the Board and what you want the committee to do and how you want the information provided back to you. He gave examples of what the strands could be and representation needed. He spoke of the Rotary and if we want to be involved in that. There are some drawbacks but it is good for kids and the community, it addresses Mr. Allen's comments and it is about resources and addresses Ms. Anzalone's comments about options for kids and trying to increase them. That is what the Rotary is, local businesses and people that are invested in service. He spoke of internships and taking advantage of that. If you want to do a planning session, we need to start planning now and plan for July and not all board members need to be available, July is tough for us too. A question was raised if everyone generally understands a strategic plan and is it sufficient enough for the committee for the Board to say we want a strategic plan created or do you want specifics on it. Superintendent noted the first is what do we want to do with this committee and do we want to proceed with purposeful strategic planning which involves stakeholders and building out programming to guide our decision making. It was noted we could have someone come in to do a 15 minute presentation this fall and speak about the benefits and drawbacks of engaging in the process, what is the purpose and questions can be asked such as how much time does it take and what is the cost associated. Discussion continued of wanting more involvement from the towns, it would be helpful to provide the information of what we are currently doing and hear what they would like to see. Superintendent suggested he gather some information and will send it out for review in September. It was noted examples of other towns is good for the committee to look at, it provides some direction of what it looks like etc. In a district as small as this and we have to be careful with every penny, the strategic plan is helpful to provide some guardrails on where we should provide our resources, not just money but time the Board and Administration is putting in. The Superintendent suggested we could send a meeting date through Ms. Anzalone, have that discussion, and report to the Board, or not, whatever the Board prefers. The Superintendent confirms there is no set meeting for the committee at this time, as they wanted to get direction and focus. Chairman Golding noted it sounds like direction and focus are academics, facilities, whether new, take away and growth in our ADM or the opposite and those are what we would focus on with this district. Superintendent

added there are other areas, like we focused on retention and did a good job with that. If we had a strategic plan that would have been there along with our academics, it would be an actual data point. Chairman Golding asked the Board if they want the Superintendent to gather the information and come back to the Board the 2nd meeting of September and make it an agenda item or set goals for the Strategic Planning Committee and let them continue on as is. Mr. Allen wants to go back, do his own research, and see what other districts are doing. He sees a lot of the planning committees create it for the Board, provide guidance in that plan especially since we have more than one community, and have feedback from them. When we as a Board have a committee, we need to provide direction for that committee. He would like to come back and take a look at this and say here is what I found, here is what other schools are doing, what he thinks would benefit our community so we put together a good product we would use. Then we can discuss it rather than spending time and effort into the other stuff that doesn't work. Superintendent added that Boards change and the strategic plan helps with the continuity, we dug into it, researched it, and designed resources. It's an important point for the School Board to maintain the consistencies and focus. Ms. Lavallee noted when you look at plans from other districts they have specific goals, is the committee looking for us to say yes create a plan and we as a Board will create the 3 or 4 goals or are you just looking for a thumbs up. Chairman Golding responded he thinks we as a Board should give them the goals to look at and flush out everything within those and come back to us with that. He suggests waiting to do this on the 24th. Ms. Lavallee noted on the 24th all members will bring back what they want to see as our goals and is it reasonable to say we will create 3 to 4 goals. Superintendent will look at the materials he sent about a month ago and look at examples and some information like what he sent before about plans and what their purpose is. That will give you something to look at and ground your thinking. When we come together on the 24th then you will have some information and we can have a rich discussion on whether we move forward with it or not, etc. ask good questions and bring ideas. There was no objection to adding it to the agenda on the 24th. A question was raised if we bring someone in and speak to the Board, is there is a cost. The Superintendent said if the Board wants to do that, he knows a couple people who have done it and wants to be sure that it is someone that could connect with our community and it is the right fit. We don't really need to bring someone in but if you want to that is outside of the district there is a cost associated. A question was raised if NHSBA does that. Superintendent responded that he would look into it and ask if they have any guidance documents as well, if so will send those out. Chairman Golding noted just as a resource for now. We will table this until September 24th, come back with ideas and move forward. He asked if all were in agreement, no objection heard.

VI. POLICIES

a. 2nd Reading

i. BEC-Non-public Sessions

Ms. Lavallee reviewed there are no changes since the last read. She asked for questions and comments, none heard.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to approve policy BEC-Non-public Sessions.
Voting: all aye; motion carried.*

ii. KB-Title I Family and Community Engagement

Ms. Lavallee reviewed there are no changes since the last read. She asked for questions and comments, none heard.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to approve policy KB-Title I Family and Community Engagement.
Voting: all aye; motion carried.*

iii. EHB-Data/Records Retention

Ms. Lavallee reviewed there are no changes since the last read. She asked for questions and comments, none heard.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to approve policy EHB-Data/Records Retention
Voting: all aye; motion carried.*

iv. JFABD-Admissions of Homeless Children and Unaccompanied Youth

Ms. Lavallee reviewed there are no changes since the last read. She asked for questions and comments, none heard.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Allen to approve policy JFABD-Admissions of Homeless Children and Unaccompanied Youth.
Voting: all aye; motion carried.*

v. EEAG-Use of Private Vehicles to Transport Children

Ms. Lavallee reviewed there are no changes since the last read. The Superintendent noted one of the things he always did when he approves the requests is have 2 adults in the vehicle at all times and he will expect the same here with the exception of the van but we can rethink that too. The concern is when we are transporting to events and cannot obtain a bus it can become complicated. Ms. Lavallee asked for questions and comments, none heard.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to approve policy EEAG-Use of Private Vehicles to Transport Children.

Mr. Lavoie asked if having 2 adults in the vehicle is something we want to add to the policy. The Superintendent replied no it is just my practice. It protects staff and he gave examples of situations when it is good to have 2 adults present. He doesn't think it needs to be in the policy, just giving the Superintendent the discretion is enough. It will be something he will ask along with if they passed the DMV driving record check and if they have insurance etc.

Voting: all aye; motion carried.

Ms. Lavallee voiced that the Policy Committee will meet this week and will go over the legislative changes.

b. Emergency Adoption - Tabled

i. AC-Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

This policy has been tabled.

ii. ACAA-Harassment of Students

This policy has been tabled.

iii. ACAA-R1-Student Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure

This policy has been tabled.

iv. ACAA-R2-Student Sex Discrimination /Harassment Complaint Procedure

This policy has been tabled.

v. ACAB-Harassment of Employees

This policy has been tabled.

vi. ACAB-R1-Employee Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedure

This policy has been tabled.

vii. ACAB-R2-Employee Sex Discrimination/Harassment Complaint Procedure

This policy has been tabled.

viii. JIE-Pregnant Students

This policy has been tabled.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to approve the minutes of August 13, 2024 as written.

Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Strategic Planning Committee Scope & Direction

Moved up on agenda, see above.

IX. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES

a. FYI-New Hire-Shylar Michalski-RBT-WLC

b. FYI-New Hire-Dayseanne Martinez-ABA-FRES

Superintendent reviewed the new hires.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Mel Jones spoke about policy EEAG noting she has questions and saying she agrees with the policy but with 2 adults in the vehicle that only leaves 2 student seats and you will have multiple parents driving, that is the only issue she has. Chairman Golding noted the Superintendent could answer any questions she has.

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

Ms. Mary Golding commented the Strategic Planning Committee is the "little engine that could"; she is always rooting for you. She hopes they find a focus and would love them to get a definitive answer on the SRO, yes or no. She agrees with the Superintendent to have a committee in action when needed, possibly creating a mission statement and build on that, one strand at a time. Great meeting again. You do tireless, thankless work, she can't thank you enough and the tone of the meetings; she loves everything. Thank you so much for all you do.

XI. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Alley thanked Ms. Lavallee and the Policy Committee for all their work on keeping the policies update.

Ms. Foss is grateful that Ms. Lavallee knows what she is doing on the Policy Committee.

Mr. Allen welcomed back the students, staff, teachers and everyone who works at and in the district. He spoke of spending the last couple of days wandering the halls and talking with some of the new teachers and attitudes seem awesome, people seem happy. The complaints from the children make my heart joyous because it means the teachers are really leaning into Principal Ronning and Assistant Principal Gosselin's leadership and straightening out some of the complaints we have had from parents in the community and teachers on what takes place in the classroom. It looks like things are off to an awesome start. The schools look great; facilities did an awesome job over the summer getting the schools ready. There is a new energy in the halls and it is nice to walk through. I appreciate each and every one of you how you can come back to school after a summer at the beach and have a smile on your face and go about your job because I don't know if I could do it. I appreciate all you do, thank you so much.

Chairman Golding commented that he was honored to be a part of the first PD day last Wednesday to speak with Ms. Lavallee in front of teachers and staff; it was an incredible experience. He spoke of being glad to see everyone and talked to a few of them. Everyone looked ready for work and really appreciated. He notes he can't believe any School Board Chair or Vice Chair didn't ever do that before. I think we would want to know all our staff and that we are available and here to talk to and show that we support you.

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

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to enter Non-Public Session to review the non-public minutes RSA 91-A: 3 II (C) at 7:19pm.

Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 7:27pm.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to adjourn the Board meeting at 7:28pm.

Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*