

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 15, 2022
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, Brianne Lavallee, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Dennis Golding, Matt Mannarino (6:34pm), Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral, Jim Kofalt, and Charlie Post (6:38pm)*

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent requested to add personnel matters to the nonpublic session.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and SECONDED by Mr. Golding to accept the adjustment to the agenda.

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

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Chairman called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment. There was no public comment.

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Director of Student Support Services Report

Mr. Pratt provided an update on staffing; there are little changes since last year. A combination of district staff and contracted service staff are used in special education. At LCS one change from last year is that, the preschool teacher is doing all the case management. There have been increases to speech staff, especially with the younger students the need has increased. With speech, they are also trying to do more “push-in” services; it makes sense with students being able to interact/speak with each other although there are still some “pull-outs”. Last year we had employed a full-time (1.0 FTE) school psychologist and this year we have .50 FTE school psychologist and a .50 FTE social worker; this is working well. The testing is coming from the psychologist and implementation of IEP and counseling is provided from the social worker. Two additional ABA’s have been added due to the increase in the RISE population. There are not a lot of changes from last year and student/staff ratios are pretty much the same. There are 112 students identified as needing special education and services are going well. He is pleased with the district staff and contracted service staff; they are all working hard.

ii. Director of Technology’s Report

Mr. Bouley reported 156 new helpdesk tickets were created, an increase of 85 from the prior 30 days, which was expected due to the holiday break. Many tickets were generated after the technology professional development (PD) day with staff asking for access and information. New staff member Dimitris Alexandrou has had several weeks of orientation and is being self-sufficient. This allows Mr. Bouley time to work on project work like security analysis and the network. He spoke of the technology PD day being a great experience for him. He is not an educator and found it interesting from a technology standpoint. There was a lot of information about compliance and cybersecurity making sure all are safe, students and staff using technology. Feedback was obtained that staff felt it was well worth it. He has done a full security analysis and gap analysis; it provides a suggested roadmap and is working through an

implementation plan and timeline and how to present this to the Board. He hopes to do this during a nonpublic session because it has information that can be used in inappropriate ways. The network upgrade took time finding out how many devices are being used. They found a lot of old gear plugged in and not running. No one knew what the equipment was or why we had it; some was a security risk and some were just sucking up power. He reached out to the prior IT Director on some things; he was very helpful. He reports having a productive month. Ms. Lavallee voiced appreciation for the clean-up he has been doing and how much it will help the district in the long run. She questioned if the PD sessions were recorded. Mr. Bouley confirms they were not and noted Chair LoVerme and Mr. Vanderhoof attended the PD sessions. He notes there were 84 people online and the session went smooth, not many difficulties. Chair LoVerme voiced appreciation for the sessions and noted he bounced around from room to room. He agrees it would have been nice to have it recorded for the Board and new staff and suggests this moving forward. Mr. Bouley spoke that they had to pivot quickly to remote due to the inclement weather. Superintendent added going forward sessions will be recorded and will be contributed to a PD library.

b. Letters/Information

i. Enrollment

Superintendent reviewed at the end of January enrollment was at 573. It has remained steady throughout the year with little change.

ii. Professional Development Day

Ms. Stefanich reported the technology professional development day held February 4 was a success. A survey was conducted at the end, which gave them a ton of information. She agrees it is a good idea to build a PD library. Ms. Lavallee spoke that she loved the details put into the courses offered. She questioned if Discovery Ed was a supplement to the curriculum or is it replacing something. Ms. Stefanich responded we are getting it free for 5 years as a result of a grant. It provides resources for staff to pull from; an example is virtual field trips to Washington, D.C. It is more to supplement the curriculum than replace. A question was raised if teachers are using Hapara. Ms. Stefanich responded the MS uses it and they are looking to expand it to other grades as well. It was noted the escape room appeared to be a newer concept and questioned if it is being used. Ms. Stefanich did not spend a lot of time in that session. The idea is to do content in engaging ways. Principal Edmunds spoke, noting teacher Margaret Dwyer set up the escape room and you had to figure out clues and puzzles to get out. It is a different way to engage students. A question was raised if we are seeing more student engagement. Principal Edmunds responded that Ms. Dwyer has used them and there may be another MS teacher using them; this was the first step to get teachers to try it. Superintendent spoke that it takes a lot of time to set it up. It is a great way to get kids to collaborate and review. It was noted it appeared to bring everything together and had social skills included. Ms. Stefanich commented that one teacher has used Discovery Ed for substitute plans. A question was raised if there are plans to follow up and see if what was learned has been implemented. Ms. Stefanich responded yes she has been talking anecdotally with staff and having another survey in a couple of months would be helpful. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke regarding his experience with the escape room session. He commented it was great; you could easily build an escape room. Once it is built, you could use it year after year with students. Superintendent spoke that some were nervous to have the school board members joining the PD sessions online. He thinks it was great and the teachers appreciated it. He added by participating it showed a genuine interest in what teachers do for a living. It means a lot and goes a long way. He expressed one of the goals is to break down walls; this is an example. He welcomes all the board members to participate in future PD. Mr. Vanderhoof added, all the materials were there (for escape room) and anyone can take that and make an escape room, kids could make them. Superintendent commented it might have been a first for SAU63 that board members participated in PD with staff; it is a good direction to head in. Chairman LoVerme expressed it is important the Board know what the teachers are doing and learning and teaching each other. He adds it would be nice to get us more involved in what our staff does. We care about they are doing.

VIII. DISTRICT MEETING DISCUSSION

Ms. LaPlante spoke looking for direction regarding meeting set up etc. to make sure we have the right equipment, space and masking needs. Discussion was had the schools have optional masks and district meeting should mirror what the schools are doing. It was expressed in the interest of making everyone feel safe; we could have a designated all masked area. This was discussed including logistics of this. It was suggested to use the stage for the Boards similar to last year. It was noted the meeting will be online and people can ask questions, they cannot vote if they are not in person. They can drive in to vote. There will likely be more people than last year. Discussion continued regarding masks. It was noted, if it is just optional, people can sit where they want and there is no need to dictate who people sit with. Superintendent spoke that we will set it up with as much space as possible. Fire code dictates that the chairs have to be tied together; we could do one forward and one backwards. Ms. LaPlante expressed, she respectfully discourages drive up voting. That was allowed for a one-year option; we would need to check with the ballot clerks to see if they

could even accommodate that. Chairman LoVerme does not believe they have the staff for it, and agrees voting should take place in the building. Superintendent questioned if we need to have a backup plan if technology fails, and notes we do have a snow day planned. It was expressed that as far as the remote option, it should be understood you are an observer, should not have interactions, if you want to ask a question you need to be in person as they have not been verified as a registered voter. As far as technology issues, the people who are voting are present and not online (no back up is needed). It was suggested, that this be posted prior to the meeting and make the community aware so they are not surprised. Superintendent supports having masks optional without a segregated area for mask only with seats staggered. Discussion regarding this continued with most supporting only optional masks all in one room. It was noted in this scenario it may be a case of what works in the schools does not work here. There may be those who have health/serious concerns and do not want to sit with those unmasked; it does not need to be a separate room, we can designate an area in the same room. It is a matter of giving people the options that make them feel safe. It does not need to be as extreme as 2 separate rooms. This and the logistics of it were discussed. A question was raised how would check in work. Response is there would be no separate lines, all enter and check in, in the same line. Board members were polled on if there should be a separate small masked only area in the same room; 6 members (majority) supported this. It was acknowledge all voters will vote at the same time, no separate lines. It was pointed out it is up to the Moderator how voting is handled. Superintendent informed members that he, Ms. LaPlante and Ms. Fowler would be meeting with the Moderator next week. A brief discussion was had if there is enough room on the stage for the budget committee and board members. Administration will be on the floor in the front seats, meeting will take place in the cafeteria. Last year the biggest concern was the risers. It was suggested to set it up as a normal year as much as possible with the podium back the way it has been years prior. A question was raised if we have a presentation for the warrant articles. It was suggested to go over them. Article 5, CIP capital reserve-Mr. Vanderhoof will do. Article 6, SPED capital reserve-Chairman LoVerme will do. A question was raised regarding voicing recognition for Mr. Dailey. Ms. Lavallee noted that in the minutes from January 25, there was discussion regarding the date of future district meetings. She understands a warrant is not needed but it was discussed whether or not to provide information to the towns that we may change the date in the future depending on the school district calendar. Ms. LaPlante spoke that she believes the intent was if there is a change in date that it would be well publicized. Ms. Lavallee questioned when we talk and vote on the calendar we will talk about this then. Ms. LaPlante responded yes. A question was raised if the article needed to be rescinded. Ms. LaPlante confirms it does not. Ms. Lavallee added that we should, when we discuss it next year, make it known we are discussing it in order to allow the community to weigh in.

IX. YTD REPORTS

Ms. LaPlante provided the year to date report through January 31. She reported we are in good shape: they cataloged and inventoried all the open PO's and sent them back to the building levels to either purchase or close them. This is an ongoing process. On March 1, she should have a better idea of what closed and how much we have left. She is not finding any red flags of over budget or potential for over budget. Requests for PO's will be approved through building principals before it comes to her. She will discuss any expenditures with the Superintendent from here on out and if there are any lingering invoices for larger ticket items they can better define and answer questions. Ms. LaPlante confirms she will work on new guidelines with purchase processes and will share with the Finance Committee before releasing it to the building level. A question was asked regarding the status of the audit. Ms. LaPlante responded there would not be a final available for the March 5 district meeting. The auditor is hoping to have a summary audited statement and a lot of the delay goes back to the significant coding misclassifications with the grants. The auditors have done the fieldwork and have all the information they need; they are just analyzing now. She is hoping to have it for April 1 but this is just what she is hoping.

X. TREASURER REPORTS

Ms. LaPlante spoke of hoping to have the Treasurer's Report through at least June 2021 for the Board but does not have it. She has been working with the district treasurer but has been unable to get it. She informed the Board it would not be part of the annual report and hoping to have it as a supplement to the report for district meeting. She did meet with the Treasurer again today to be sure that she has what she needs. She is working on tightening up deadlines. There will be additional discussion.

XI. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Mr. Post to approve the minutes of January 25, 2022 as written.

Voting: six ayes; two abstentions from Ms. Lavallee and Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Mr. Golding to approve the minutes of February 1, 2022 as amended.

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

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Technology Committee/Survey Feedback

Mr. Kofalt reported the committee met today and are now working through some survey questions that he would like to have ready for the district meeting. They will work on doing some online collaborating of the survey documents prior to the next board meeting. He recognized Ms. Stefanich and Mr. Bouley for the work they put together and providing a starting point for discussion. They would like to aim the survey toward faculty, parents/community and students. There will be slightly different questions on these. They will have an online version (preferred way) and a paper version and making it available at the district meeting and town meeting. The idea of the surveys is to gather enough information to be useful but not so much that it deters people from filling out the survey. He reported Mr. Bouley brought up that recently he secured grant funding for some new technology and there may be another round of funds available at some point; if we have data around broadband access we may have an opportunity to tap into that as well. Regarding the technology document, they have some initial pieces; it is starting to come together and it's expected on March 1st to have something to present to the Board for review and be ready to go for the district meeting.

ii. Finance Committee

Mr. Kofalt reported the committee did not meet due to scheduling conflicts.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Melissa Knight, Wilton commented the microphones are great but is still having difficulty hearing some as the mics are not turned on.

Chairman called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment. There was no additional public comment.

XIV. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral was impressed with the PD report. She thanked Mr. Vanderhoof and Chairman LoVerme for providing feedback.

Chairman LoVerme thanked everyone for coming in and participating online. He looks forward to seeing you all at district meeting and voting. He thanked the staff here and those at home.

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

i. Student Matter

• Personnel Matter

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Kofalt to enter Non-Public Session to discuss personnel and student matters RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (B) (C) at 7:35pm.

Voting: via roll call vote, seven ayes, one abstention from Chairman LoVerme; motion carried.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 9:08pm and moved to non-meeting regarding negotiations.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Golding to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:28pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Fowler