

1 **WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**
2 **Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. in the WLC MS/HS Media Room**

3
4 **Committee Membership:** Karen Grybko, Chair, Leslie Browne, Vice Chair (Facilities Committee Rep.),
5 Lisa Post, Secretary, Pam Altner, Mary Guild (Facilities Committee Rep.), Edwina Hastings, James Kofalt
6 (School Board Rep.), Ellen Pomer (School Board Rep.), Christine Tiedemann, Harry Dailey (WLC School
7 Board Rep.).
8

9 The Agenda was as follows:

- 10
11 1. Call WLCS Budget Committee to Order1
12 2. Public Comment
13 3. FY 2017-2018 Budget Discussion
14 4. Review and Approval of January 10, 2017 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
15 5. Other Business:
16 a. Schedule Next Budget Committee Meeting
17 b. The Next Joint Session – 01/24/2017 Final Draft preparation for Public Hearing.
18 6. Adjournment of Budget Committee
19

20 **Attendance: All Budget Committee members present, Superintendent Lane, Lyndeborough Resident David**
21 **Roemer.**

- 22 1. The WLCS Budget Committee was called to Order by Chair Karen Grybko at 7:02 p.m.
23
24 2. Public Comment:
25 David Roemer, a Lyndeborough resident presented a wealth of material regarding the School District
26 from 2001 through the present: “Where it has been and where it is going.” The district’s peak
27 enrollment was 775 a year or two after the MS/HS was completed and the classrooms were full. In
28 2001-2002 the enrollment was 775 and the budget was \$7,518,778 and in 2016-2017 the enrollment
29 was 575 and the budget was \$12,278,636. The enrollments are down 25.8% and the budget is up 63%.
30 He stated that the cost per pupil has gone through the roof the last 15 years with enrollment down he
31 suggested a \$100,000,000 reduction in the budget. He suggested that staff be reduced reflecting the
32 lower enrollment numbers and that we should at least start cuts with a \$250,000 reduction. He stated
33 that the School Board under pressure from parents wanting small class sizes reinstated positions that
34 had been cut. He stated that even with small class sizes the district is not getting the performance
35 standards we are paying for compared to other districts similar in size and provided documentation to
36 all members from the State of New Hampshire Department of Education website (NH Schools and
37 District Profiles, Average Class size by District 2015, Cost per Pupil for 2001-2002 and 2015-2016, the
38 2012-2013 NECAP Math and Reading Results and Comparison with other similar districts). He suggested
39 that cost saving could also be found through shutting down LCS and moving students and the SAU to
40 Florence Rideout and the High School. He was asking the Budget Committee to cut the budget and that
41 people in Lyndeborough were hit without notice with a 10% increase in their taxes and many will be
42 attending the hearing to ask for budget cuts.
43
44 3. FY 2017-2018 Budget Discussion:
45 The Budget Committee discussed the 2017-2018 Budget with regard to Mr. Roemer’s concerns and
46 suggestions. Harry Dailey offered that the after the consolidated that cost split was 70/30 and it never
47 moved more than a percent of two over the years and felt this was an anomaly. Pam Altner questioned
48 whether the demographic of Lyndeborough was the cause of a shift in enrollment. A discussion of the
49 effect of recent property valuations in both towns, the increased costs of healthcare over the years,
50 increased Data costs, Special Education costs up because of the state shifting more of the cost burden to

51 the towns has driven the budget up which directly impacts the taxpayers and what could done to reduce
52 this burden and keep class sizes small and increase student achievement.

53
54 Superintendent Lane discussed the Rise Program and the savings that brought to the district, along with
55 the new Healthcare savings for the upcoming year. He reviewed the two additional positions will
56 replace two teachers will go a long way to increase student achievement. Additionally, he felt the new
57 schedule at the High School offered more opportunities for students to take additional classes and have
58 time in their schedule to receive academic support. He stated that we should see an increase in student
59 achievement by April and would be reporting this to both Boards. He stated that if the new High School
60 schedule wasn't working he would recommend reducing staff.

61
62 Jim Kofalt said that the increased costs are two times the rate of inflation and that the economies of
63 scales do not bear out here. He felt that consolidation is not a short-term solution but that we need to
64 strategically think in that direction to reverse the trend. Mr. Kofalt wants to get a subcommittee
65 together to look at this after this budget season. Mr. Dailey was in favor of forming a committee and
66 suggested that it would be a decade before enrollment numbers decline to the point of consolidation.
67 Karen Grybko wondered if we are managing the overhead because it is there. A discussion followed of
68 whether or not it was a good idea to close LCS.

69
70 Leslie Browne felt that the presentation was very persuasive for repurposing the teachers and felt that
71 the curriculum has to get aligned and that there was no one department or person to cut and a great
72 deal of the budget numbers were out of our control. Jim Kofalt suggested that the Budget Committee
73 needs to create a value for the taxpayer and reviewed areas of possible cost savings and discussed
74 \$200,000 -\$250,000 surplus at the end of the year shows that there is more wiggle room in the budget.
75 He was pleased with the cost savings ideas that had been put forth. He suggested that with Wilton
76 having a big hit with the Bond payment and Lyndeborough receiving the shock of an increase, that we
77 look at what we could defer for a year to provide savings. Superintendent Lane said the \$200,000 -
78 \$250,000 is only 2% of the budget and that they need this in the budget for unexpected expenses. Jim
79 Kofalt suggested that we look at the Warrant Articles. Leslie Browne suggested that we need to support
80 the CBA. Mr. Dailey said not supporting this would ultimately increase the budget. Mary Guild
81 questioned the why the District will be paying 85% of Healthcare premiums and Superintendent Lane
82 stated with this program there is a 12.5% savings in Healthcare costs with FSAs.

83
84 ***A Motion was made by Mary Guild to support Warrant Article #4 recommending \$12,531,065 inclusive of***
85 ***Bond payment, seconded by Ellen Pomer. Voting: 5 Aye, 3 Nays with two abstentions (Ms. Grybko and***
86 ***Mr. Dailey). Motion passed.***

87
88 ***A Motion was made by Leslie Browne to formally recommend Warrant Article#5 CBA Agreement,***
89 ***seconded by Jim Kofalt. Voting: All Aye with two abstentions (Ms. Grybko and Mr. Dailey). Motion***
90 ***passed.***

91
92 ***A Motion was made by Jim Kofalt to recommend to the School Board that Warrant Article #7 Capital***
93 ***Reserve go from \$75,000 to \$55,000 for this year and \$60,000 for each of the upcoming two years;***
94 ***seconded by Pam Altner. Voting: All Aye with two abstentions (Ms. Grybko and Mr. Dailey). Motion***
95 ***passed.***

96 4. Review and Approval of January 10, 2017 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

97 ***A Motion was made by Leslie Browne, seconded by Christine Tiedemann to accept the minutes as amended.***
98 ***Voting: All Ayes with two abstentions (Mr. Kofalt, Mrs. Altner). Motion passed.***

- 100 5. Other Business:
101 a. The Budget Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. prior to the Joint Session on Tuesday, January 24, 2017
102 Final Draft preparation for Public Hearing.
103 b. Lisa Post made a request of Superintendent Lane that the draft preparation session be presented on the
104 overhead screen and the Public Hearing and that the final presentation be added to the SAU Website.
105
106 6. Adjournment of Budget Committee at 9:21 p.m.
107 ***A Motion was made by Ellen Pomer, seconded by Christine Tiedemann to adjourn the Budget Committee.***
108 ***Voting: All in favor. Motion passed.***
109

110 Respectfully Submitted,

111 Lisa Post, Secretary

FINAL