

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the WLC Media Room

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

The Agenda was as follows:

1. Call WLC Budget Committee to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Discussion and Suggestions for Teacher Contract Negotiations
4. Discussion for Bottom-line Budget Goals
5. Review and Approval
 - a. August 16, 2016 BC Meeting Minutes
6. Other Business:
 - a. Schedule Next Budget Committee Meeting
7. Adjournment of Budget Committee

Present were Leslie Browne, Vice Chair; Christine Tiedeman; James Kofalt; Mary Guild; Edwina Hastings; and Ellen Pomer. Chair, Karen Grybko arrived later. Superintendent, Brian Lane and Business Administrator, Lise Tucker were also in attendance.

1. Vice Chair, Leslie Browne called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. No Public was present to comment.
3. Superintendent Lane presented salary comparisons as a preview to upcoming Teacher Association contract negotiations. He would like to offer a more competitive salary schedule as compared to other school in the region and similar size comparisons. He estimated the yearly teacher turnover rate at the district as 3-5 teachers out of 60 in the district and feels increasing salary will help with retention. There was much discussion as to how an increase to the salary schedule will affect the bottom line of the upcoming budget. The Superintendent also presented some ideas to offset the increase in salary schedule, including tuition reimbursement for teachers and changes to the health plan options.
4. Review was made of the big drivers to the increase in the budget: Health Insurance costs, the increase to Wilton taxpayers of the bond, and the Support Staff salary increase previously voted on. This alone represents a \$400,000 increase. Superintendent Lane is thinking of ways to reduce other costs. One possibility he discussed was the idea of the district purchasing transport vans for our special transportation needs. Chair, Karen Grybko suggested finding more creative ways to educate the students, cutting the roughly \$21,000 per student cost the district currently experiences. The Superintendent will look at various scheduling options to make the district more efficient.

Superintendent Lane is beginning the process with building administrators of producing a budget that keeps discretionary items level. He also reported on the recent acquisitions made by the new IT Director at greatly reduced cost than was previously anticipated.

5. The minutes of the previous meeting, August 16 were reviewed.
Christine Tiedeman made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Karen Grybko seconded the motion. Jim Kofalt and Mary Guild abstained. The rest of the committee voted in favor. The motion passed.
6. ***Jim Kofalt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m., Mary Guild seconded the motion. All voted in favor, the motion passed.***

Minutes Prepared by Leslie Browne and Mary Guild

Respectfully Submitted, Lisa Post, Secretary

FINAL 10/05/2016