

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING & JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

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 WLCS Budget Committee to Order
2. Public Comment
3. FY 2017-2018 Budget Discussion
4. Review and Approval
 - a. October 25, 2016 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
5. Other Business:
 - a. Schedule Next Budget Committee Meeting (Next Joint Session - 12/6/2016)
6. FY 2017-2018 Budget – **Joint Session with School Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room**
 - a. SPED
 - b. CIP
 - c. Warrants
 - d. Technology Student Survey
 - e. Standardized Test Scores
7. Adjournment of Budget Committee

Attendance Budget Committee: Karen Grybko, Leslie Browne, Lisa Post, Mary Guild, James Kofalt, Ellen Pomer, Christine Tiedemann, Harry Dailey.

1. Budget Committee called to order by Chair Karen Grybko at 6:30 p.m.
2. Public Comment
 - a. Miriam Lemire, a Lyndeborough resident, attended the Budget Committee meeting to ask why there was a tax increase to Lyndeborough residents. Jim Kofalt explained how the budget is broken down by population of students by town. Harry Dailey explained that the attendance numbers are reported for town valuations by the “average daily membership and the school rate is set by the DAR. He questioned whether there was a total shift in the numbers or whether Wilton numbers were truly dropping. We agreed to look into the matter further.
3. FY 2017-2018 Budget Discussion
 - a. Jim Kofalt suggested the committee look at the line items in the budget to try and hold the budget down with knowledge that the payments on the bonds would be elevating the budget for the next three years. A discussion of the 30K for a new Language Arts program was appropriate for the upcoming budget. A discussion on students’ overall achievement scores at the grade level over time and trends in testing would help identify gaps in the system. Jim Kofalt thought with the Smarter Balance testing being aligned with the curriculum in theory we should be doing better than we are and questioned how the district evaluates itself. The Budget Committee will request a 10-year overview of student achievement testing at the Joint Session. It was noted that the district plans to rehire the 5th grade teacher position.
4. Review and Approval
 - b. October 25, 2016 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

A Motion was made by Mary Guild, seconded by Leslie Browne to accept the minutes as written. Voting: All in favor with one abstention. Motion passed.

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55 5. Other Business:

- 56 a. The next Budget Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. with a Joint
57 session to follow at 7:00 p.m.

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59 *The Budget Committee briefly recessed to attend the Joint School Board meeting.*
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61 Present: *Geoff Brock, Mark Legere, Charlie Post, Joyce Fisk, Carol LeBlanc, Matt Ballou (6:38pm), Alex LoVerme (6:49pm),*
62 *Harry Dailey (7:00pm)*
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64 *Superintendent Bryan Lane, Business Administrator Lise Tucker, Director of Student Support Services, Betty Moore, Principals*
65 *Brian Bagley, Tim O'Connell and Clerk Kristina Fowler.*
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67 6. FY 2017-2018 Budget – **Joint Session with School Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room**

68 a. SPED

69 Ms. Moore explained that all of these figures had been seen before as part of the schools and AU budgets. All
70 those accounts have been collected here and the budget is inclusive of all special education costs for the
71 district. The proposed budget is \$1,024,593 which is an increase of \$44,880 from \$979,713 in the adopted
72 budget for 2016-2017. She reviewed the decreases to include: \$800 in legal services based on prior year
73 expenses, \$1,500 in professional development as one of the staff is no longer pursuing a CAGS course, \$670 in
74 dues and fees due to eliminating the NH Association of Special Education Administrators membership which
75 was for the building coordinator, \$750 in replacement equipment at LCS as preschool equipment had been
76 updated last year and \$37,085 in private in and out of state tuition at the HS due to a change in placement.
77 She reviewed the increases to include: \$2,400 in computer software for the MS for the autism curriculum
78 encyclopedia program as two students will transition into the 6th grade, \$1,500 in new furniture and fixtures
79 for MS for workstations to be used in the RISE program, \$1,300 in ABA therapy supplies for all applicable levels
80 at each school, \$67,478 in public, in state tuition at the HS which relates to tuition for existing out of district
81 students as well as an addition of one student, \$2,160 in psychological testing services for all applicable levels
82 as there is an increased need for evaluations at different levels for all schools, and \$13,860 in special
83 education transportation which relates to year three of three of the current contract and additional out of
84 district services needed. She reiterated the primary drivers in this budget are transportation and tuition.
85 Responding to Ms. Browne, Ms. Moore explained with recent approval for a new program, they are expanding
86 to the MS as two students will transition to the 6th grade. Superintendent Lane added that this would be
87 \$120,000 per student if we had to go outside the district for this program and we are saving at least 70% of
88 that although these are not exact figures, this is money we would pay one way or the other. Chairman Brock
89 further added that the autism program saved the district a lot of money and the feedback is that parents like
90 it. Responding to a question from Chairman Brock inquiring on the status of previous discussions on the
91 possibility of "tuitioning in" other students, Ms. Moore replied that they are open to that and currently have
92 eight students now and had started with three. Other districts have looked at their program and many are
93 starting their own. Each student needs a therapist. There are 111 students that are serviced in special
94 education (have an IEP). District enrollment is about 570. Responding to a question from Ms. LeBlanc,
95 regarding student progress, she explained it is a benefit to stay within their community and parents are so
96 supportive that the student can be in their neighborhood school. They have discharged one student and
97 another is transitioning into the sixth grade. Superintendent Lane added it helps the student it is designed for
98 but also helps other students to be sensitive to create that level of compassion. Mr. Dailey requested
99 information on how many 504's there are and how much the autism program is saving the district.
100

101 b. CIP

102 Members reviewed the document. Superintendent Lane explained that the first phase of the roof at WLC was
103 completed and the door locks are done. They will continue to move forward to complete necessary projects.
104 Superintendent Lane informed members he has spoken with both police chiefs about COP Sync and they
105 believe it is valuable; therefore, it has been added back in the budget.
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- c. Warrants
Superintendent Lane reported that both documents have been reviewed by the attorney. The first contains articles 1-3 for election of officers and second containing articles 4-9 mostly financial in nature. **Article 5** relates to the CBA with the teachers, at this point we are in progress and have another meeting on Monday. It is public knowledge that Schoolcare will come in and talk about healthcare changes. All staff is welcome to attend on November 29 at WLC in the media room. **Article 7** relates to whether there will be money added to Building/Equipment and Roadways Capital Reserve Fund, currently the balance is \$241,649. **Article 8** relates to the Technology Advancement Capital Reserve Fund and whether there will be money added to that, the balance is \$24,756. He explained we are looking at creating a greater level of fiber and we would hook into the town to connect with the schools, library, police and town hall. It doesn't appear to be financially beneficial to go to LCS right now. Educationally Disabled Children Capital Reserve Fund is not listed as there is not a need as it is just under \$250,000 and is appropriate. Ms. Tucker added that it has not been used in a couple of years. Both groups discussed article 8 and what the appropriate use for this fund is, does it include infrastructure, how much should be in it but in any case it should be well planned out. Superintendent Lane reported the fiber would be \$14,000. Both groups discussed article 7 and members shared concerns of not adding money to this fund with balancing the tax rate for the community. A decision will need to be made by the last meeting in December on both articles.
- d. Technology Student Survey
Superintendent Lane reviewed the survey from the 9th grade students. It shows a good number can access the internet from home and a small percent who cannot, some think they should use them more, some less, it shows we are making use of the materials although there is still room for improvement. We have about 4-5 in reserve and these devices have some durability to them. One key thing is the teachers are sensitive to the ones who don't have access. We will experiment with letting the 9th graders take them home. There will be a policy and protocol involved. Mr. Dailey recommends parents are notified via letter and have them sign an acknowledged of receipt. Mr. Ballou's only concern is content filtering and Superintendent Lane will check on that.
- e. Standardized Test Scores
Superintendent Lane reviewed the scores. He noted in some cases there are problems that the students have not been exposed to which could contribute to the scores. For example, most don't take physics until their senior year, how can they do well until they have been exposed to it although he is not saying this is the only reason. We need to use this as a diagnostic. He explained Common Core and Smarter Balanced. He confirmed accommodations are made for special education students. Budget Committee members requested a 10-year overview of scores.

7. The Budget Committee adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

A Motion was made by Ellen Pomer, seconded by Leslie Browne to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Post, Secretary