

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

WLCS BUDGET COMMITTEE & JOINT SCHOOL BOARD SESSION MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. in the WLC MS/HS Conference Room & Media Room

Committee Membership: Chair Leslie Browne (Facilities Committee Rep.), Vice Chair Karen Grybko, Secretary Lisa Post, Pam Altner (Strategic Planning Committee), Edwina Hastings (School Board Rep.), James Kofalt (School Board Rep./Strategic Planning Committee), William Ryan (Facilities Committee Rep.), Christine Tiedemann, Dawn Tuomala, Charlie Post (SB Budget Committee Representative).

The Agenda was as follows:

1. Call WLCS Budget Committee to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Review and Approval of Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
 - a. October 24, 2017
 - b. November 14, 2017
4. FY 2018-2019 Budget Discussion
5. Other Business:
 - a. Schedule Next Budget Committee Meeting
(The next Joint Session is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the WLC MS/HS Conference Room.)
6. **FY 2018-2019 Budget: Joint Session with School Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room**
 - a. Carol Roberts, State Representative-Senate Bill 193
 - b. Letters/Information
 - i. District Statistical Comparisons/Full Day Kindergarten
 - ii. Districts With or Without Full Day Kindergarten
 - c. c. FY 2018-2019
 - i. Curriculum
 - ii. Grants/Food Service/Revenue/Line Item
 - iii. Warrant Articles
 - Kindergarten Discussion
7. Adjournment of Budget Committee

Attendees: Leslie Browne, Karen Grybko, Lisa Post, Pam Altner, Edwina Hastings, James Kofalt, William Ryan, Charlie Post.

1. Chair Browne called the Budget Committee to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. No Public Comment

3. Review and Approval of Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

- a. October 24, 2017

A Motion was made by Karen Grybko to accept the minutes as amended; Seconded by William Ryan. Voting: All in favor with two abstentions, Leslie Browne and James Kofalt. Motion passed.

- b. November 14, 2017

A Motion was made by James Kofalt to accept the minutes as written; Seconded by Edwina Hastings. Voting: All in favor with one abstention, Pam Altner. Motion passed.

4. FY 2018-2019 Budget Discussion

The Committee reviewed and discussed the School Board packet. The LED Project information provided by Lise Tucker which was distributed to Budget Committee members via email was reviewed by Mr. Kofalt. He was concerned that these groups sometimes promise savings and take a fee but the savings don't materialize as promised. He feels that it requires further analysis to decide whether to do it or not and if the project should be started earlier in order to capture greater savings. He will provide an update at future meetings.

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The committee reviewed and discussed the two handouts from Mr. Lane regarding the statistical test comparisons of Districts with full-day Kindergarten and the data for Districts without a full-day kindergarten and noted that the average proficiency scores were higher for districts without a full-day program. Mr. Kofalt stated that he does not support full-day kindergarten due to the state's record of initially providing funding and then withdrawing that funding down the line. Ms. Grybko stated that the Budget Committee in the past has not supported non-mandated programs. Mr. Kofalt questioned the Budget Committee on where they stand on this issue and all members present supported Mr. Kofalt's recommendation.

Ms. Post reviewed the Running Total for 2018-2019 Budget provided by Superintendent Lane. She suggested that the Committee Members compare the FY19 Proposed numbers to the FY17 Actual Expenditures rather than the FY18 Adopted Budget to get a more complete picture of the actual increase in the percent of change in the proposed FY19 budget with consideration of continued ADM decline which down 38 students from the 16/17 student enrollment actuals of 575. Ms. Post will provide additional information for the next meeting.

Chair Browne suggested that members provide their questions to the Chair via email prior to the next meeting.

5. **Other Business:** The next Budget Committee Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 in the WLC MS/HS Conference Room followed by the Joint Session at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room.

A Motion was made by Karen Grybko to recess the Budget Committee at 7:00 p.m. and reconvene at the Joint Meeting; Seconded by Edwina Hasting. Voting: All in Favor. Motion passed.

School Board Attendees: Harry Dailey, Geoff Brock, Matt Ballou, Mark Legere, Joyce Fisk, Carol LeBlanc, Alex LoVerme, Miriam Lemire arrived at 6:37pm and Charlie Post arrived after the budget co. mtg.

SAU Attendees: Superintendent Bryan Lane, Business Administrator Lise Tucker, Director of Student Support Services Betty Moore, Principals Brian Bagley, Tim O'Connell, Curriculum Coordinator, Julie Heon, Director of Technology Kevin Verratti and Clerk Kristina Fowler

6. **FY 2018-2019 Budget: Joint Session with School Board at 7:15 p.m. in the Media Room**

a. Carol Roberts, State Representative-Senate Bill 193

State Representative Ms. Carol Roberts accompanied by Mr. Charles Denton provided information on Senate Bill 193 (School Voucher Bill) officially known as the Education Freedom Savings Account Bill. Ms. Roberts provided information on the origin, process and latest update of this bill. She recommended reaching out to people you know and ask them to get involved and talk to their representative in their towns and let them know how you would like them to vote. Mr. Denton provided information based on his interpretation of how this bill might affect a district like WLC and how it relates to funding. This was a lengthy discussion in which a wide range of opinions were expressed.

• PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Susan Ciatto, parent noted SB-193 will have an effect and feels as a community representative, as a budget committee/board it is their responsibility to ensure that our public schools are able to run. She also commented that for anyone who feels public school is not adequately educating their child, they have the right to say "you are not serving my child and get on top of it." She urges the boards to remember the will of the constituents.

b. Letters/Information : Testing Data/Districts Without Full Day Kindergarten, District Statistical Comparisons/Full Day Kindergarten, Districts With or Without Full Day Kindergarten

Superintendent Lane reviewed the data on these documents and noted that he added a document which shows data from districts that do not have full day kindergarten as a concern was raised by a citizen that information provided was incomplete because it did not include this data. The data was obtained from the NHDOE website and compared third grade scores on the Smarter Balanced assessment for the past two years for reading and math. He noted he is not satisfied with the performance and we need to do a more effective and efficient job but we are making strides. Mr. Ballou commented that we need to use the same internal test for five years as the state continues to change the test used, example NWEA, Smarter Balanced and soon NH Statewide Assessment and we cannot be jumping around.

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Superintendent Lane responded we are staying with STAR 360 for internal testing; teachers are getting used to it and using the data. As part of the process, FRES has identified some students with math issues and they opened an early math lab for students. The document which compares third grade test scores for all school districts served by one elementary school in a given town vs. WLC show our test scores for 2015-16 in reading were 13% lower than state average and in math 12% lower. In 2016-17 it shows reading 15% higher than state average and 13% higher in math. The document which shows data on statistical comparison for districts with full day kindergarten for at least three years that are of similar size to us, show our 3rd grade test scores for 2014-2015 are 17% points below the average in reading, 9% points below the average math. In 2015-16 (16-17 was not available at the time) we are 10% points below the average in reading and math. The third document shows 149 towns/cities in NH that have full day kindergarten and 55 that do not. Mr. Kofalt commented that this doesn't support the benefits of full-day Kindergarten. Superintendent Lane responded the data shows we have students in need and Chairman Dailey noted there is no magical set of data points.

c. FYI 2018-2019 Budget

i. Curriculum

Dr. Heon reviewed the budget for curriculum which focuses on STEM related areas, math for FRES and science for MS. This budget includes payment for stipends in August for teachers and days after school for ongoing learning and discussion of implemented strategies and substitute pay for time to work with contracted professional development coaches during the day. It also includes durable equipment; supplies for the first year of implementation, annual consumable supplies in subsequent years would be approximately \$2,000-\$2,500. Total budget expense of \$34,317.91 which breaks down for FRES \$13,915 professional development for teachers summer and after school, substitute compensation \$1,950, social security, FICA, retirement and workers comp \$3,676.91 and for MS \$6,000 for professional development, \$8,026 for curriculum based supplies, \$750 for software (Project Lead The Way) annual fee.

ii. Grants/Food Service/Revenue/Line Item

Ms. Tucker reviewed the reports.

For **special revenue** (grants) funds she anticipates a large drop in Title IA which relates to free and reduced and enrollment, 2018-19 budget is \$85,000, 2017-18 budget was \$95,946, and Title IIA which is used for professional development of teachers, 2018-19 budget is \$25,000, 2017-18 budget was \$51,890. IDEA for special education, 2018-19 budget is \$145,228, 2017-18 budget was \$142,342, IDEA SPED Preschool, is budgeting the same as last year at \$2,424, REAP, (zero) \$0 budgeted, 2017-18 budget was \$7,321 and local for 2018-19 is \$1,000, 2017-18 budget was zero- \$0. This is a total for 2018-19 of \$258,652; 2017-18 budget was \$299,923.

The **food service** budget shows total expenses and revenue budgeted for 2018-19 \$215,000 compared to \$219,600 budgeted in 2017-18. In 2016-17 there is a net income loss of \$14,265.13 (revenue \$192,430.58, expenses \$206,695.71). Superintendent Lane added that 24% of our students are free and reduced which means they are 3X the poverty level.

The **general fund revenue** budget indicates a decrease in 2018-19, budgeting \$11,727,574, 2017-18 was budgeted \$12,086,972. Some of the decrease includes interest from trust funds, E-Rate, adequacy aid, and catastrophic aid. Including food service and special revenues, the total appropriations are \$12,201,226; 2017-18 budget was \$12,278,636.

The **line item** and **running total** show a decrease (without payroll accounts, benefits, and food service and special revenue funds) of \$178,660, 4.86%.

iii. Warrant Articles

Regarding article #05, CBA with support staff, Superintendent Lane reported a tentative agreement has been reached regarding negotiations but no details will be provided until it is voted on.

• Kindergarten Discussion

Superintendent Lane drafted language approved by the attorney, for a warrant article for full day kindergarten as requested. Cost to be offset by revenues made available by the State of New Hampshire on an annual basis. If approved Lyndeborough tax increase would be \$.08, and the Wilton tax increase would be \$.09. Recommendations have not been made on this article by either board. Superintendent Lane explained the attorney wanted both boards to understand if this is put forth as a warrant article and voted down full day kindergarten cannot move forward for one full year and the attorney's recommendation is if we can, and it is of importance, it be made part of the budget. In response to a question of how many teachers may be needed for this program, Superintendent Lane responded, two teachers for 36 students. Dr. Heon explained her concern from an academic point of view is the standards are based

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on 13 years of public education, meaning full day kindergarten through grade 12; most states in this nation have full day kindergarten. When students come to first grade and haven't completed the bulk of curriculum, they are already behind and are facing new material. It is a snow ball effect and some questions regarding the data are a consequence of our students not having enough opportunity to gain the skills in the prior year. Superintendent Lane responded to Ms. Post asking if full day kindergarten was not successful can we choose to stop it and he responded in reality since a full day kindergarten is not part of compulsory education the district could choose to reverse it and go to a minimum of half day. The only way to stop it if it is a warrant article is to have another vote. Ms. Browne questioned since we have extended day do we have to do the same and Superintendent Lane responded no because it is still an "extended" day. Chairman Dailey asked for clarification if you went to full day and then changed to half day, you could still have the extended day, Superintendent Lane confirmed yes, unless it has a time limit. Superintendent Lane confirmed for Ms. Post the \$105,700 included payroll, the program supplies and everything needed with the estimate of 40 students. Chairman Dailey added the furniture is a one-time cost.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Susan Ciatto asked for clarification on why kindergarten would be placed on a warrant and not in the school budget. Mr. Ballou responded the board voted to *draft* a warrant article. Chairman Dailey added it was the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee to put it on a warrant as there was a lot of contention around the extended day article. Mr. Post added, it has not been decided.

7. The Budget Committee adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

8. ***A Motion was made by James Kofalt to adjourn the Budget Committee; Seconded by Pam Altnr. Voting: All in favor. Motion passed.***

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa C.M. Post