

1                               **WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING & JOINT BOARD SESSION**

2   **Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 6:30 P.M.**

3   **WLC MS/HS Conference & Media Room**

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

- 10       1. Call WLC School Board Budget Committee to Order  
11       2. Public Comment  
12       3. FY 2017-2018 Budget Discussion  
13       4. Review and Approval of December 20, 2016 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes  
14       5. Other Business:  
15           a. Schedule Next Budget Committee Meeting  
16               The next Budget Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the WLC MS/HS Conference Room.  
17               (Next Joint Session – 01/24/2017 Final  
18               Draft preparation for Public Hearing).  
19       6. FY 2017-2018 Budget – **Joint Session with School Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room**  
20           a. Review  
21           b. CBA  
22       7. Adjournment of Budget Committee  
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24   **Members Present:** Karen Grybko, Leslie Browne, Lisa Post, Mary Guild, Edwina Hastings, Ellen Pomer, Christine  
25   Tiedemann, Harry Dailey.  
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- 27   1. The Budget Committee was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Chair Karen Grybko  
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29   2. Public Comment – No public present.  
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31   3. FY 2017-2018 Budget Discussion  
32       Karen Grybko read a letter she was copied on that was sent to Superintendent Lane. A discussion of  
33       residents' and school's needs considering the continuing decline in enrollment numbers affecting the  
34       budget, as well as, above state average per-pupil cost and below state average scores along with the need to  
35       support the students with the two new proposed positions and requiring structured goals and reporting. A  
36       discussion followed on how the DRA sets and reports enrollment numbers and who and when those number  
37       are reported to the towns. It was decided this would be asked of Superintendent Lane during the Joint  
38       Session. Ms. Hasting shared that there was a meeting on Education Concord Thursday if anyone was  
39       interested in attending.  
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- 41   4. Review and Approval of December 20, 2016 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

42   **A Motion was made by Mary Guild to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Leslie Browne. Voting:**  
43   **All Ayes with one abstention by Karen Grybko.**  
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- 45   5. Other Business:

- 46       a. The next Budget Committee Meeting is Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the WLC MS/HS Media  
47       Room. (Next Joint Session–01/24/2017 Final Draft Preparation).  
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49   *The Budget Committee briefly recessed at 7:04 p.m. to attend the Joint session and resumed at 7:08 p.m.*  
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**Present:** Geoffrey Brock, Harry Dailey, Matt Ballou, Mark Legere, Charlie Post, Carol Joyce Fisk and Alex LoVerme.  
Superintendent Bryan Lane, Director of Student Support Services Betty Moore, Principals, Brian Bagley and Tim O'Connell and Clerk Kristina Fowler.

6. FY 2017-2018 Budget – **Joint Session with School Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room**

**Review:** Superintendent Lane discussed the letter sent by a Lyndeborough resident requesting that the Boards are mindful of their spending. The DRA's reporting procedure and schedule was reviewed by Superintendent Lane who said the State notifies the Town Managers of the enrollment numbers in October. In addition, he discussed that appears enrollment numbers for Lyndeborough will remain the same with 26.9% share projected. Mr. Post stated that Wilton's enrollment numbers are trending downward while Lyndeborough enrollment is flat. He also stated that total enrollment is down 10% over the past four years. Mr. Post questioned why costs were not dropping with the decline in enrollment. Superintendent Lane responded that even though enrollment numbers are down, they are not down significantly to consolidate class sizes and eliminate teachers, and that with a lower number of students, the less the State pays and when there is a reduction in class size the Federal government gives funding and also that the district pays for mandates are required. The Rise Program at WLCS has lowered SPED costs significantly. The State's contribution for SPED is down significantly. Mr. Post thought coming in flat on the budget is good but if the decline in Wilton's numbers continues, Lyndeborough will be looking for greater relief as above state average cost per student rises and below state average performance continues. He continues that two teacher positions have been eliminated and replaced with two positions that will assist in improving student achievement. Mr. Post said these positions need a description of their duties and goals to benchmark against. Mr. Post asked for regular reporting and analysis of the results to the Board

Superintendent Lane would be writing a letter to the editor, newspapers, etc. to get the information out to the public.

A discussion followed of costs that are beyond our control are the health and retirement. The state added this burden to the district as Federal funds are drying up. The Federal government allocates funds by students and if enrollment declines the Federal funds decrease. Matt Ballou said there has been a change in employer contributions that affects local towns with the 10% for employer and 1% for employee. Superintendent Lane will get comparisons and funding information.

Mr. Dailey commented that the budget savings does not include the new snow employing costs as he received an email from the Town of Wilton regarding costs of \$12,160. Neither the Facilities Committee nor the Superintendent had seen that quote. Mr. Post will follow up with the Town of Wilton.

- a. **CBA:** See 12/28/2016 Memorandum from Superintendent Lane. The contract is a restructured salary schedules that will allow the district to retain and attract quality teachers. A change in teacher's health insurance plan will be a significant savings to the district in health insurance premiums. Ms. Grybko questioned the salary increase over the three years and how the "steps" work. Superintendent Lane said it varies \$1,000 per year until the 5<sup>th</sup> year \$2000 after that \$1,500 a year until 10 years it is \$2,000 a year. Superintendent Lane responded to a question by Ms. Grybko that staff development, where one person would be trained and then would train the staff, is example of a "special" summer project that would provide a cost savings in the long run.

b. **Warrants: #4 – Operating Budget of \$12,251,065** excluding the bonds coming up for Wilton. This is a reduction of \$27,571 compared to the approved budget from the current school year of \$12,278,636. This is a percentage reduction of 0.23%.

**#5 – Collective Bargaining Agreement:** The following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year: 2017-18 **\$36,891** / 2018-19 **\$134,253** / 2019-20 **\$140,020**. **#6 Special Collective Bargaining Unit Warrant:** If Article 5 is defeated, authorize the Wilton-Lyndeborough cooperative School Board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Warrant Articles 5 cost items only. **#7 Raise and appropriate \$75,000 for CIP.** The wording for this article will be changed as the committees had made the decision last year not to take the funds from the fund balance. A discussion followed over tax impact, need to have funds to maintain schools, the Facilities Committee has done a good job of outlining future needs, catastrophic needs would generally be covered by insurance. There is \$241,000 in Capital Reserve. The CIP will be in the District Report. **#8 To raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for Technology Advancement Capital Reserve:** After discussion, this article was withdrawn.

Leslie Browne brought up an issue with the lap tops that are sent home with students not having “Word” on them and her son is unable to do his Computer Class assignments. Matt Ballou said they are moving away from Word to a Google platform. A discussion followed that Google Docs replaces “Word.” Superintendent Lane said he would look into this matter.

Mark Legere pointed out Warrant Article #4 Operating budget number needed to be corrected.

7. Budget Committee Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

***A Motion was made by Leslie Browne to adjourn the Budget Committee, seconded by Ellen Pomer. All in favor. Motion passed.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Post