

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

WLCS BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING & JOINT SCHOOL BOARD SESSION MINUTES Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. in the WLC MS/HS Conference & 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 11/28/2017 Budget Committee & Joint Meeting Minutes
4. FY 2018-2019 Budget Discussion
5. Other Business:
 - a. Schedule Next Budget Committee Meeting
(The next Joint Session is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2018 Budget Review Session 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. Staffing and Benefits
7. Adjournment of Budget Committee

Attendees: *Leslie Browne, Lisa Post, James Kofalt, Christine Tiedemann, Dawn Tuomala, Charlie Post (SB Rep.)*

1. Chair Browne Budget Committee to Order at 6:34 p.m.
2. No Public Comment
3. Review and Approval of 11/28/2017 Budget Committee & Joint Meeting Minutes

A Motion was made by James Kofalt to accept the minutes as amended; Seconded by Lisa Post. Voting: 3 Ayes, 2 abstentions (Christine Tiedemann, Dawn Tuomala)

4. FY 2018-2019 Budget Discussion: Reviewed and discussed School Board handouts for the upcoming Joint Meeting. There was a brief discussion of Superintendent Lane's 12/6/2017 memoranda, which the Budget Committee had requested at the last joint meeting, in addition to Staff/Student Trends provided by Ms. Post, both of which will be revisited at the next meeting.
5. Other Business:
 - a. The next Budget Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the WLC MS/HS Conference Room followed by a Joint Budget Review Session at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room.
 - b. A Budget Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the MS/HS Conference Room.
 - c. A Budget Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the MS/HS Conference Room followed by Joint Final Draft Preparation Meeting.

A Motion was made by Christine Tiedemann to recess at 7:01 p.m. and reconvene at the Joint Meeting; Seconded by Chair Browne. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

* (Joint Minutes provided by Kristina Fowler, Clerk)

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Joint Session with the School Board in the MedialRoom:

Budget Committee Present: Leslie Browne, Christine Tiedemann, James Kofalt, Lisa Post and Dawn Tuomala

School Board Present: Harry Dailey, Geoff Brock, Matt Ballou, Miriam Lemire, Carol LeBlanc Charlie Post (arrived after budget co mtg.), and Alex LoVerme arrived at 6:42pm.

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

6. FY 2018/2019 Budget:

b. Staffing & Benefits

c. Warrants

Superintendent Lane reviewed his staffing and benefits proposal which included changes to the MS model, staff reductions of one 5th grade teacher (will be absorbed through a retirement), two MS teachers and at the SAU Office, consolidating human resources/payroll and accounts payable (currently two full time positions) into one position. These salary reductions are a combined total of \$162,900. Discussions were had and various opinions were voiced regarding the MS proposal. The slides of the presentation can be found with these minutes. He noted concern from both Principals about changing the level of staffing and classes getting larger. He confirmed all understood the logic but they would prefer not to lose staff and of particular concern were the changes to the MS model.

The changes he is proposing to the MS model include having four teachers teach two sections of English, social studies, math and science for grades 6 and 7. Class sizes would increase to 24 in grade 6 and 16 in grade 7; math classes would be smaller by creating a remedial class for those who need additional support. Unified arts classes of music, health PE, and world language would be at 24 for grade 7 and 16 for grade 6. FACS, computer education and tech education and art classes would be at 16 for both the 6th and 7th grade. Eighth grade would have a dual certified person who teaches English and social studies with class sizes of 21. Due to dropping enrollment at the HS, the person who teaches two sections of 9th grade science would also teach two sections of 8th grade science with class sizes of 21 and 22 in grade 9. The changes allow for most students to earn one high school credit and possibly two in some courses. HS and MS run on the same schedule, the new model can be accomplished with some adjustments.

Some of the concerns raised to him previously include morale, classes being too large, will the 8th graders be considered MS, are we meeting minimum standards and some of the advantages of this model are ability to earn HS credit, more flexibility in scheduling, ability to take advanced placement language classes, reduce cost (\$90,000) and more efficient use of staff.. Some of the discussion from members included: one of selling points for consolidation was the MS model especially for the sixth grade, opportunity and options it provides for the students, class size, response to declining enrollment, timing of the changes (is this the right time), current MS model and what it provides and the possibility of a hybrid model.

Regarding changes to the SAU staffing which was briefly discussed, Superintendent Lane explained he is tasked to look at all systems to see if we can become more effective. This recommended combined position would be a salaried position, year round with the benefits outlined in the fulltime employee handbook. The savings of combining the positions, with salary and benefits is approximately \$20,000.

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It was noted no recommendations have been made to any warrant article to date. The contract for the WLCSSA has been ratified by the school board and the union therefor the numbers for article are solid. Superintendent Lane provided a summary of each warrant article with tax impact, the numbers that are presented in the latest budget running total reflect all previous presentations and changes to staffing and benefits including the MS model. Ms. Browne noted the budget committee has not set up a separate meeting as they have done in the past but is sure they will. The consensus from the school board is to bring back the MS discussion for a future meeting.

6. The Budget Committee adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Tiedemann and SECONDED by Mr. Kofalt to adjourn the budget committee session. Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Post, Secretary