

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**WLCS Budget Committee & School Board Joint Session Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at 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 12/12/2017 Budget Committee & Joint Meeting Minutes
4. FY 2018-2019 Budget Discussion
5. Other Business:
  - a. Upcoming Budget Committee Meetings:
    - i. **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.
    - ii. **Tuesday, January 16, 2018** at 6:30 p.m. in the MS/HS Conference Room.
    - iii. **Tuesday, January 23, 2018** at 6:30 p.m. in the MS/HS Conference Room followed by Joint Meeting- Final Draft Preparation.
  - b. Discuss Open Committee Seats (1 Lyndeborough/2 Wilton)
6. FY 2018-2019 Budget Review Session: Joint Session with School Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room
7. Adjournment of Budget Committee

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

1. Chair Browne Called the Budget Committee to Order at 6:34 p.m.
2. No Public Comment
3. Review and Approval of 12/12/2017 Budget Committee & Joint Meeting Minutes  
A Motion was made by James Kofalt to accept the minutes as writing; Seconded by Leslie Browne. Voting: All ayes, with 4 abstentions (Pam Altner, Karen Grybko, Edwina Hastings, William Ryan).
4. FY 2018-2019 Budget Discussion: Chair Browne opened a discussion of the handouts from the School Board for the Joint Session. Reviewed the Warrant Article for full-day Kindergarten along the proposal by Bryan Lane to change the Middle School Model for 8<sup>th</sup> graders because of declining enrollments which cuts two positions resulting in a 90K savings. The Committee also discussed the necessity of the Math Coach which is currently in the proposed operating budget. There was discussion regarding the additional curriculum costs including Handwriting Without Tears. Chair Browne indicated that the Handwriting Without Tears has been in use and questioned the need for additional curriculum.
5. Other Business:
  - a. Upcoming Budget Committee Meetings:
    - i. **Reschedule the Tuesday, January 16, 2018 to: Monday, January 16** at 6:30 p.m. in the MS/HS Conference Room.
    - ii. **Tuesday, January 23, 2018** at 6:30 p.m. in the MS/HS Conference Room followed by Joint Meeting- Final Draft Preparation.
  - b. Discuss Open Committee Seats (1 Lyndeborough/2 Wilton): Karen Grybko does not plan to run/Dawn Tuomala does not plan to run/James Kofalt does plan to run for his seat. Discussion of Committee Members reaching out to ask citizens for run for the open seats, and Karen Grybko suggested putting it on the Lyndeborough/Wilton Residents' Facebook page to reach out to the public and let them know these seats are open. Lisa Post will post the seat openings on Facebook.

**A Motion was made by Leslie Brown to recess at 6:59 p.m. and reconvene at the Joint Meeting; Seconded by William Ryan. Voting: All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

## WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

### 6. FY 2018-2019 Budget Review Session: Joint Session with School Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Media

**School Board Attendees:** Harry Dailey, Matt Ballou, Miriam Lemire, Mark Legere, Charlie Post, Joyce Fisk, Carol LeBlanc and Charlie Post.

**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 and Clerk Kristina Fowler

Chairman Dailey gave an overview of the next steps which includes a joint budget and warrant discussion and then the Budget Committee will adjourn and the School Board will have discussion on the budget and warrants and take preliminary votes. The Budget Committee is welcome to stay to hear that discussion.

Superintendent Lane informed members they have the latest running total numbers. Discussion was had regarding the bottom line, MS proposal, and kindergarten with concerns raised and opinions shared. Questions on the budget running total were answered such as if the latest transportation bids were included, if MS proposal numbers and kindergarten were also included in the running total. Superintendent Lane and Ms. Tucker confirmed that warrant article #04 (budget) needs to be updated to reflect the latest budget bottom line and corresponding tax rates. It was confirmed the new SPED transportation numbers (based on last bid) are included in the running total document as well as the MS proposal numbers however kindergarten is not in the budget, it is still shown as a draft warrant article. The running total shows a bottom line budget of \$12,309,579 which is a decrease from 2017-18 adopted budget of \$234,964. The new bid for regular transportation is not awarded yet (bids due January 11) therefore current regular education transportation numbers are used in the budget. Ms. Tuomala questioned the differences in tax rates between warrant article numbers #07 (kindergarten) and #08 (capital reserve) and wondered why warrant article #08's tax rate is higher for a \$60,000 expense and warrant article #07 is for \$105,700 expense and has a lower tax rate. Chairman Dailey responded that the tax rate is lowered on warrant article #07 due to revenue and expect the tax impact to be based on \$57,545 (not \$105,700). Superintendent Lane gave a brief overview of how it is calculated however he will review these tax rates again for confirmation. Superintendent Lane confirmed for Ms. LeBlanc the savings (decrease) of \$90,000 for the MS model's proposed changes are included in the running total, however, the School Board can decide not to support that. Chairman Dailey reminded the group that the budget number going to the public hearing and district meeting is put forth by the Budget Committee, the School Board and Budget Committee votes are taken separately regardless of having joint discussions. After public input at the public hearing the Budget Committee could decide to change the number or not change the number.

Ms. Post questioned if we receive adequacy aid relating to a change that happened in 2012 where you get a certain percentage of "the ones you lose". Superintendent Lane confirmed for Ms. Post, we do not qualify for this and are not receiving monies; this relates to a lawsuit with Londonderry and other districts which was settled.

Mr. Post questioned the wording of article #07 (kindergarten-such cost to be offset by revenues on an annual basis) and if there was a reason it was worded this way which he states implies all cost is covered and it is not. He requests instead the wording be clearer. Superintendent Lane confirmed this is the language from the attorney however his recommendation would be once we know if we are going to have it as a warrant article it should go to DRA and discussed with the attorney.

Ms. Post stated "personally she feels the budget is too high when she compares it to 2017 actuals, the numbers have dropped and we continue to increase; trending over time it adds up". She believes there is plenty to "reign in" and would like to see a significant drop. Chairman Dailey noted in past practice if the Budget Committee recommends lowering the budget they would give specifics on what they think should be cut.

Ms. Tucker confirmed \$178,388 is currently in the Building /Equipment & Roadway Capital Reserve and the activity of what was spent is shown on the provided CIP. Ms. Tucker confirmed monies in the capital reserve can only be used for its designated purpose.

Chairman Dailey confirmed all monies not expended are given back to the town, the School Board chose to not take action regarding a reserve fund warrant article this year.

Ms. Tucker confirmed food service is running a deficit of \$19,378 which is a little worse than last year and it has fluctuated year to year. The only change in regulations currently is regarding sodium reduction.

## WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Budget Committee will meet on January 15 and come to some consensus in preparation for the January 23 Joint Meeting. Chairman Browne confirmed they will take formal votes on the budget bottom line and other warrant articles. Chairman Dailey confirmed the School Board will take preliminary votes this evening.

7. The Budget Committee adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

***A MOTION was made by Mr. Kofalt and SECONDED by Ms. Altner to adjourn the Budget Committee session at 7:34pm.***

***Voting: All Ayes; motion carried unanimously.***

***Note: School Board Chair Dailey invited the Budget Committee to stay to listen to the School Boards discussion of Warrant Articles.***

***Respectfully Submitted,***

***Lisa Post, Secretary***

DRAFT