

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

WLCS BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & JOINT SCHOOL BOARD SESSION Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. at 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 October 24, 2017 Budget Committee 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, November 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the WLC MS/HS Conference Room.)
6. **Joint Session with School Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room**
 - a. FY 2018-2019 Budget
 - i. SPED
 - ii. CIP
 - iii. WARRANTS
7. Adjournment of Budget Committee

Attendees: Chair Leslie Browne, Karen Grybko (7:24), Lisa Post, Edwina Hastings, James Kofalt, William Ryan.

1. Chair Browne called WLCS Budget Committee to order at 6:32 p.m.
2. No Public Comment during Budget Committee Meeting.
3. The Review and Approval of October 24, 2017 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes were delayed until 11/28/2017 meeting as there was not a quorum due to abstentions.

A Motion was made by Edwina Hastings to delay the review of the minutes, seconded by William Ryan. Voting: All in favor. Motion passed.

4. FY 2018-2019 Budget Discussion:

Chair Browne opened a discussion on the handouts for the Joint Meeting. We reviewed the documents and questioned the increase in SPED transportation costs. Mr. Kofalt gave an update on the Strategic Committee's decisions. The STRAT Committee did not come to a consensus to recommend either the full-day Kindergarten or the unfunded balance retention to the School Board and felt this should be in a Warrant Article for the public to vote on but did come to a census that if full-day Kindergarten was approved the program would be kept at LCS and a study of location would be conducted.

5. Other Business: The next Budget Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the WLC MS/HS Conference Room followed by the Joint Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room

A Motion was made by Leslie Browne to recess and reconvene at the Joint Session; Seconded by Edwina Hastings. Voting: All in favor. Motion Passed.

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

6. Joint Session with School Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room: Minutes for Joint Session submitted by Kristina Fowler as follows:

a. Letters/Information/Enrollment Comparison

Superintendent Lane provided enrollment comparisons as requested. It is broken down by grade for June 2017 and October 2017. The total for the district in June was 570 compared to 537 in October.

• TAX RATE

Superintendent Lane reviewed the information provided on the tax rate which was finalized this afternoon. He explained looking at the apportionment, it is out to the 5th decimal place, and the change in apportionment is "next to nothing" and is consistent as anticipated. He noted a lot revolves around the bond and how it was structured. On the school portion only, Lyndeborough would see a decrease and Wilton an increase however you need to add the municipal tax of which there was an increase for both towns. In summary, Lyndeborough should have a flat tax rate unless there is change in valuation of your home, Wilton will have an increase.

b. FY 2018-2019

i. SPED

Ms. Moore briefly reviewed her budget noting there is no new information here as it was presented previously with the SAU and building budgets. In summary there is a decrease of \$109,145 (10.70%). Increases in operational cost include contracted O/T services, P/T services, psychological testing and counseling, transportation, and computer software. Decreases include contracted reading services, SAU operational costs, MS furniture (RISE program), SPED legal services, audiological services, general supplies, new equipment, replacement equipment, S/L supplies and most significant out of district tuition costs. It was noted without including the tuition the SPED budget is down by \$3,054. Superintendent Lane added other towns in the area see tuition increasing, the biggest reason we are not is due to the RISE program.

Superintendent Lane reviewed the running total of all presented budgets shows a decrease of \$193,436 (5.27%). Updated spreadsheets for budgets previously presented have been provided as there was a decrease in utility costs in the amount of \$20,901.

ii. CIP

Ms. Tucker reviewed the draft of the updated CIP. In 2018-19 the focus is on phase three of the roof project and the parking lot (patching) for WLC. The paving has been broken down into three phases now vs. one. First being the patching at an estimated cost of \$18,900, parking lot repaving will be year 2025 and paving the road in year 2026. There is a draft warrant article for the addition of \$60,000 to add to the capital reserve as previously discussed. Activity from this year shows the warrant article of \$55,000, entry doors and phase 2 of the roof replacement. An LED lighting project was added to be completed in 2022-2023 with the hope to start in 2021. Savings should then be seen in electricity as well as rebates associated with the project after completion. Mr. Kofalt would like to see the analysis that was done for the LED project, Ms. Tucker will provide this. The year listed for the last paving (1999) will be researched as it may not be correct.

iii. Warrants

Superintendent Lane reviewed the draft warrant articles which include:

#1-#03-election of district officers for moderator, school board members and budget committee members

#04 School District Operating Budget-no amount listed

#05 Collective Bargaining Agreement between WLC School Board and WLC Support Staff-no amount listed

#06 Special Collective Bargaining Unit Warrant-special meeting to address cost items if #05 is defeated

#07 Use of CRF or ETC and Taxation-sum of \$60,000 to be added to the Building/Equipment & Roadway Capital Reserve

#08 Other-to transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

c. Strategic Planning Presentation

• Full Day Kindergarten

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

Chairman Dailey reviewed the committee's findings, process, and options and how they came to the conclusion they did. A PowerPoint presentation was viewed and can be found with these minutes. He reported a significant amount of time was spent looking at research related to full day kindergarten, such as reports, data from our district, return on investments and they also spent time looking at facilities, student achievement and finances. The three options were, do nothing, implement it (the school board has the authority to) or put it before the voters as a warrant article. The committee decided to recommend to the board it be put forth to the voters as a warrant article. It would be important to educate the voters so they understand what they are voting on. This was a lengthy discussion with many opinions being shared. Superintendent Lane confirmed kindergarten would still not be mandatory if increased to full day. He confirmed the results of in-district testing for September indicate that 65% of the students are lacking skills that allow them to be ready to read as they enter the first grade this year. Grade 1 showed results that 26% are in the urgent intervention category. He and Ms. Moore confirmed there would always be a percentage in the urgent category and that percentage should be a single digit. Superintendent Lane added this is in coordination with their learning issues. Mr. Kofalt noted that the statistics may not represent the next year and that there is a lot of variability, making a case that first grade doesn't point us to what to do in all cases. Mr. Brock added that the data is not statistically valid as the sample size is too small. He suggests other school districts be looked at to statistically validate and would like additional information. The board will determine the next step if any.

- **Investigate option of rolling average funding formula**

Chairman Dailey reported that no changes can be made to the apportionment formula until March 2019.

- **Analyze feasibility for reserve fund warrant article**

Chairman Dailey reported the committee's findings regarding the fund balance retention (RSA 198:B, II). He explained it is a way for the school district to be able to set aside undesignated funds to be used for an emergency (such as a roof collapse) with the authorization from the Department of Education or to be used as a source of revenue to offset taxes to keep the tax rate level. Mr. Kofalt added it was a change in the RSA in 2012 that allowed school districts to retain funds such as towns do but with different limitations. Chairman Dailey noted this year there is a large amount being returned to the towns and a lowering of the budget but there is nothing to say the budget would not increase the next year. The determination from the committee was that they could not find a compelling reason to do this or not to do this. Ms. Grybko commented that she prefers a capital reserve for transparency and questioned how much oversight there would be. Chairman Dailey responded in the case of an emergency, you need the authorization of the Commissioner of Education and it needs to exceed any other source of funds we have. Superintendent Lane added it would be prudent is to limit the amount of funds that can be placed into the account for example you could indicate a maximum of \$250,000 and each year only \$50,000 is added. The concern from the committee was the tax payers may not want \$250,000 sitting in an account with the school district. The board will decide a next step if any.

7. The budget Committee Adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kofalt and SECONDED by Ms. Grybko to adjourn the budget committee session at 8:37pm. Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Budget Committee stayed for public comment.

Mr. John Vanderhoof questioned how influential was one of the slides that related to results of the in- district assessment. Chairman Dailey responded we wanted to see how our district was doing; it is a snapshot in time, just a sample but was taken aback that 52% are in need of intervention. Superintendent Lane added there will be another data piece coming. Mr. Vanderhoof commented that it is just one test and a small sample size. He continued to ask about the validity of the data and how "weighty" was it. Everything he has read for and against say that benefits trickle out at 3rd grade. Mr. Brock responded that he has read studies that it has benefits all the way into adult hood and there are studies that make the argument that there is normalization around 3rd and 4th grade. Mr. Vanderhoof commented that there seems to be a lot of information being presented that this is a

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

“silver bullet”; we have just added RTI and a curriculum coordinator to deal with these numbers. Chairman Dailey responded that he does not think the committee put a lot of weight into one data point. Ms. Lemire added she feels full day kindergarten is more effective because of the additional 600 hours of instruction. Mr. Kofalt, responding to Mr. Vanderhoof, felt it was too short of time and too small of a sample. He tends to look at where the study is from, and who funded it, there is a wide range of views. Mr. Vanderhoof questioned if it was implemented would there be testing for kindergarten. Superintendent Lane responded yes, it is similar; we will use this with the half day program now. Initially as kindergarten came in, they did not feel they were ready to even create good data. Mr. Vanderhoof commented where does the road end, then will it be full day preschool.

Budget committee departed at 8:49pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa C.M. Post, Secretary**