

# WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

## WLCS BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, December 18, 2018 – 6:30 P.M. WLC MS/HS Conference & Media Room

**Committee Membership:** Chair Leslie Browne (Facilities Committee Rep.), Vice Chair Christine Tiedemann, Secretary Lisa Post (Strategic Planning Committee), Pam Altner, Jennifer Bernet (Strategic Planning Committee), Kevin Boette, Dennis Golding (School Board Rep.), Edwina Hastings (School Board Rep.), William Ryan (Facilities Committee Rep.), Alex Loverme (SB Budget Committee Representative).

The Agenda was as follows:

1. Call WLCS Budget Committee to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Review and Approval of December 11, 2018 Meeting & Joint Session Minutes
4. Budget Committee Review and Planning Session
  - a. Committee Reports:
  - b. Schedule Next MeetingThe next Joint Budget Review Session is scheduled for January 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
5. Adjournment of Budget Committee

**Attendees:** *Leslie Browne, Christine Tiedemann, Lisa Post, Pam Altner, Kevin Boette, Dennis Golding, Jennifer Bernet, Edwina Hasting, William Ryan.*

1. Chair Browne called the Budget Committee to Order at 6:40 p.m.
2. Public Comment was taken after the budget discussion: Charlie Post, Lyndeborough Citizen, wanted to discuss student population trends and indicated the DRA published the ADM numbers which dropped down to 501 and over the last 5 years dropped 17 percent based on the Average Daily membership. He indicated that the jump in school taxes were due to inaccurate revenue numbers and suggested the Budget Committee take this into account in setting the budget for the upcoming year. Mr. Post noted the proposed budget is up 3+ % and we just saw an increase of 3+ % which is a 6% increase over the past two years and that is a problem. Mr. Post indicated we can't do anything about going backwards but as Bill knows, people are upset over the school tax increase and people are upset that the Town of Lyndeborough has to subsidize it with their reserve funds and buy down 1.7%. Mr. Post suggested that the Budget Committee use their authority to present a budget number and stick to it and not let it get picked apart. A discussion followed by the Committee members whether they felt it necessary to explain to the School Board how they arrived at the proposed budget number.

3. Review and Approval of December 11, 2018 Draft BC & Joint Meeting Minutes

**A Motion was made by Kevin Boette to approve the minutes as amended; Seconded by Edwina Hastings. Voting: All in favor with two abstentions (William Ryan, Christine Tiedemann). Motion passed.**

#### **4. Budget Committee Review and Planning Session**

Chair Browne reviewed Budget Committee positions that are up for reelection. For Lyndeborough, Pam Altner plans to run for reelection and Christine Tiedemann is undecided for Wilton and Edwina Hastings will not be running as she is moving out of the district. Chair Browne urged Wilton members to reach out to those who might be interested in filling the open positions. The period for filing is January 23 – February 1, 2019 up to 5:00 p.m.

Chair Browne suggested that the Budget Committee look at the bottom line number and if we feel that the bottom line number needs to be lower or higher and that the School Board would appreciate our

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suggestions as to where changes are being made. Ms. Post felt that we offer a number only and not suggest individual items to be cut as we not able to affect how the School Board spends money but can only approve a budget number. She also indicated that we need both Revenue numbers and DRA numbers to accurately figure our budget and that the current number posted by the DRA is 501 students which will mean the District will receive less revenue from the state in the upcoming budget year. Mr. Boette commented that we need these numbers in order to have a completed look at the budget. There was a discussion regarding DRA and ADM numbers and the affects they have on the budget. Mr. Boette indicated that we should be looking at both those numbers that affect the both budget and numbers of teachers and staff needed. Edwina Hastings compared 2018 expenditures to the sum of the dollar difference of \$365,304 which is \$68,823. Ms. Tiedemann replied the dollar difference was from 2019 to 2020 and that she can run the numbers in this way if the committee would like. Ms. Hastings continued that the student population from 2006 to 2018 is down 242 students and noted the decline is a trend. Mr. Boette suggested in recent years with the numbers he has in front of him appeared to be flat. There was a discussion of the inclusion on Kindergarteners in some of the numbers and that the state revenue pays \$1,100K per student whether or not the child attends a full or half day. Chair Browne will request updated revenue numbers from Mr. Lane.

Chair Browne asked the Committee if they had any questions or concerns regarding the budget presentations in the last few months. Ms. Hastings was concerned what was happening with lead in the schools and if they have applied for grants. Chair Browne will follow up on this. Christine Tiedemann was concerned about the EcoLab Carts for the Middle School bathrooms and the conditions they are left in. She asked Buddy to speak to the committee regarding the need for this and a committee discussion followed. Mr. Boette noted the only real need in the budget is the increase in salary from the Warrant Article that was voted in last year. He stated there is enough in the budget that they don't need the full \$238,000 because rate of inflation is stable and rate of salaries has been negotiated. He is in favor of the salary increase and that is it because there have been fund balances remaining for the last three years even after they have bought other things they wanted. Chair Browne confirmed that Mr. Boette is in favor of the \$116,000K over last year's budget. He stated that it is his starting point and confirmed the difference between the 19 and 20 budgets is \$296,481K. Ms. Post recommends the Middle School change which will result in the two salary reductions and Ms. Altner expressed her support. Chair Browne confirmed that reductions are not in the current budget and Mr. Boette added that the School Board will make their decision on this after the budget season. Ms. Post stated there was a discussion at the Strategic Committee Mr. Dailey wanted it to be transparent and included in the budget discussion, however, Superintendent Lane suggested that this could be done after the budget was set and that the funds could be put in an account and if not used would go back to the towns. Mr. Boette said it was unfortunate that things that affect the budget are not brought forward before the budget is decided. Ms. Post suggested we get revenue and funding numbers from Lise Tucker as the numbers were just released from the DRA. Mr. Boette would like to see those numbers before the next meeting. Ms. Post suggested we look at budget increase at FRES. Ms. Tiedemann noted last year FRES's budget increased between 8-9% to that Mr. Boette noted the 7.2% increase over last year. There was a discussion of the \$52,000K for SPED transportation and if that is still in the FRES budget. Ms. Tiedemann said the number would show up in Contracted Services. Ms. Hastings noted that there is an increase of \$78,000K in transportation. There was a discussion of the purchase of the van and the expectation that transportation costs would have declined. Mr. Boette questioned the fuel and electricity increase to which Chair Browne responded they projected inaccurately on the cost and under budgeted for the current year which is driving the increase. Pam Altner opened a discussion regarding Professional Services for Instructional Program Improvement expenditures and how in order to match the numbers up we need to look at different line items, Chair Browne was going to look into

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the discrepancies. Chair Browne questioned the Committee on their standing regarding the Warrant Article regarding 3- or 5-year rolling average funding. Mr. Boette felt that this would be helpful in smoothing the ups and downs. Ms. Post would like to speak with the Lyndeborough Selectman before having a vote. There was a discussion regarding whether a 3- or 5-year average would be better. A vote will be taken at the next meeting. There was a discussion of inviting Superintendent Lane to come to a Budget Committee meeting to discuss where he felt cuts could be made.

Chair Browne reviewed information we would like to have before the next Joint Session:

- ◆ Average Daily Numbers for the Year that will affect Revenue in June 2019
- ◆ October and current enrollment
- ◆ Numbers for the impact of the Van purchase on transportation costs
- ◆ Information regarding Led Abatement, if and when we have to do that
- ◆ Electricity and Fuel Expenditures vs proposed and where they stand regarding contracted rates
- ◆ Clarification by object regarding Professional Services for Instructional Program

5. Other Business: The next Budget Committee meeting is Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at WLC MS/HS Conference Room followed by a Joint Session at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room. An additional Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2019 in the MS/HS Media Room.

6. The Budget Committee adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

***A Motion was made by Lisa Post to adjourn; Seconded by Pam Altner. Voting: All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa C.M. Post