

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

WLCS BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday January 15, 2019 – 6:30 p.m. in the 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 18, 2018 BC Meeting & Joint Session Minutes
4. Budget Committee Review and Planning Session
5. **FY 2019-2020 Joint Budget Session at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room**
 - a. Final Draft Preparation for Public Hearing
 - b. Warrant Articles
6. Other Business:
 - a. Schedule Next Meeting
 - b. Period for Filing for Elective Office is January 23 – February 1, 2019 until 5 p.m. (RSA: 671:19, RSA: 669:19).
 - c. WLCSD Budget/Bond & Notes Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the MS/HS Cafeteria (Snow Date: Friday, February 8, 2019).
7. Adjournment of Budget Committee

Attendees: Leslie Browne, Christine Tiedemann, Lisa Post, Pam Altner, Jennifer Bernet, Kevin Boette, Dennis Golding, Edwina Hastings, William Ryan and School Board Chair Harry Dailey.

1. Chair Browne called the Budget Committee to order at 6:35 p.m.
2. Public Comment:
 - Adam Lavalley, Lyndeborough Resident: Was concerned with funding and questioned the 6th grade substitute math teacher situation and contingency plans. SB Chair Dailey responded that the School Board will be voting on a long-term substitute and that there are plans for the rest of the year to bring the students back up to speed. Mr. Dailey addressed the 6th grade substitute and noted that at the next board meeting that person would be voted to go full-time for the remainder of the year and that there are plans in place to bring these students up to date.
 - Kelly Gibson, Wilton Resident: Concerned with problems in the Middle School/High School that are not being addressed and concerned budget cuts would negatively affect students. At the end of the meeting, she expressed concern for numbers of students in the classroom and the need for additional special education funding and was concerned about improved student achievement.
 - Jonathan Vanderhoof, Lyndeborough Resident: Informed the Budget Committee that if we were asking Mr. Lane or the School Board to come up with \$60K reduction based on our numbers that it is a much different number than the proposed SB budget and will require a larger reductions to reach the \$60K reductions. He also recommended that the Budget Committee should pick a number and offer that to the School Board without further explanation.

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3. Review and Approval of December 18, 2018 BC Meeting & Joint Session Minutes

A MOTION was made by William Ryan to accept the minutes as amended; Seconded by Dennis Golding. Voting: All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Budget Committee Review and Planning Session

Chair Browne reviewed the School Board's vote to accept the Middle School Reorganization while retaining teachers and noted that the Budget Committee has recommended a flat budget with the contractual increase of \$116,879 and opened the floor for discussion. Mrs. Post noted that the budget has increased 6% over the last four year, while student numbers continue to decline which means less revenue coming in from the state. She stated that we need to consider the taxpayers and make a recommendation for additional budget cuts giving only the final budget number to the Board. Mrs. Post noted that the increase in funding as not improved test scores or moral in the school. She felt the Budget Committee is not making the hard decisions that need to be made for the taxpayers and put a number that is a truly flat budget.

Mr. Boette spoke in support of the Curriculum Coordinator and new MS/HS Vice Principal and felt funding should continue to support the processes that have been put in place. He recommends a keeping the budget flat except for contractual obligations. William Ryan expressed concern over the cost of substitute teachers and paying teachers for having extra students in their classrooms and recommended bringing this concern to the School Board during the budget season prior to new contract negotiations. Mr. Ryan reminded the Committee that Superintendent Lane and publicly promised to have the test score up in two years; otherwise he would leave his position. Mr. Ryan noted test scores have not gone up and excuses are piling up and suggested giving the Board more money will not solve the problem. Chair Browne agreed that there are things that need to be addressed next year and feel that those same things have been concerns over the past three years. Chair Browne indicated that Strategic Committee has been tasked with some of these issues, test scores, utility and food service costs. Ms. Bernet questioned how cutting the budget would improve goals, there was a discussion of the where funds could be cuts from the proposed budget and it was noted by Ms. Hastings that the proposed budget is a flat budget to expenditures of FY18/19 with contractual and food services increase. Mrs. Post suggests with ADM numbers of 501, we need to start thinking out of the box to keep costs from continually escalating year after year. Mr. Dailey asked for permission to fill the seat of the absent School Board Representative in order to clarify the Board's positions to which Chair Browne agreed. Mr. Dailey noted that the District is part of a purchasing consortium and have signed contracts for oil, propane and electricity for next year. Mrs. Post suggested we ask Mr. Lane where the proposed budget could be scaled down as was done by previous superintendents. Ms. Altner questioned telephone increases (line 50 on our summary); Ms. Tiedemann noted that this is a total Object line. There was a discussion of budget numbers and how we arrive at the new motion for a budget number

A MOTION was made by Lisa Post for proposed budget of \$12,361,795.00 for FY 19/20; Seconded by Edwina Hastings. Voting: 4 Ayes, 5 Nays (Ms. Bernet, Mr. Boette, Mrs. Browne, Mr. Golding, Mrs. Tiedemann). Motion failed to pass.

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Chair Browne asked for comments regarding the proposed number. Ms. Bernet questioned how the decrease affects taxes. A discussion of the numbers provided are just a projected number and is not set in stone due to revenue and apportionment issues. Ms. Hastings suggested that the bargaining committee members be more prudent. Chair Browne indicated that the majority of the budget is in Salary and Benefits, Special Education and transportation costs which are locked in by contracts or government mandates which leaves approximately \$2 million dollars that we can have an effect on a school and suggested it does not leave much. Mr. Boette spoke against the motion and offered the following motion which is based on the 12,598,674 which included the contractual agreements and proposed food service funds minus the \$26,055K in oil which is also \$202,884 less than the proposed budget that was brought to us by the school board this year.

Chair Browne asked for discussion on the motion. Mrs. Post suggested that she would like to see an additional \$50K to 75K. Ms. Altner said she looks at it as splitting \$116, 874k and to be an additional \$60K reduction. Mr. Boette suggested it was a good note to send with our recommendations. There was a discussion on whether the SPED reserve could be used if the funds are needed rather than taking it out of the operating budget. Mr. Dailey suggested that you can only use the funds over an already budgeted number since the program has to be fully funded first. Mr. Dailey reviewed funds in the CIP. Ms. Altner would like to meet half way, for a total of \$84,439,050K.

A Motion was made by Kevin Boette for a FY19/20 recommended budget of \$12,572,619.00; Seconded by Christine Tiedemann. Voting: 4 Ayes, 5 Nays (Mrs. Altner, Ms. Bernet, Mrs. Hastings, Mrs. Post, Mr. Ryan). Motion failed.

After discussion Mr. Boette recommended that we would like an additional \$60K in cuts added to our \$12,598,674K and bring that to a discussion with the School Board next week. He felt this was a middle point for the Budget Committee. A discussion of whether funds could be saved in retirement positions not being filled. Mrs. Post suggested that over the past four year many improvements such as: personnel (Curriculum Coordinator, RTI), programs, math coaches, the Rise Program and full-day kindergarten have been made. Mr. Dailey hopes to see a return on investment in the next three years.

Chair Browne queried the committee whether to continue the meeting tonight. Mr. Bernet suggested she wanted to go back to last week's number. Mr. Boette suggested the following as a number: 12,598,674 – 26,055 – 60K which is \$86,065K and allows for contractual agreements. Chair Browne asked for a motion:

A Motion was made by Mr. Boette for a proposed FY19/20 Budget of \$12,512,619K; Seconded by William Ryan. Voting: 7 Ayes, 2 Nays (Mrs. Altner, Mrs. Hastings). Motion passed.

Chair Browne indicated this is the number we bring to the meeting next week, and she will put together questions for Mr. Lane: telephone and data increases and thoughts where they can come up with a \$60K decrease. Mr. Dailey confirmed the Chair would provide the committee's current working number and how it was arrived at.

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Mrs. Post brought up rolling averages and would like to make a motion not to support rolling average because of the apportionment issues and suggested this should be reviewed by the Strategic Committee next. Ms. Hastings suggested we have someone come in to educate the committee. Mr. Boette asked for clarification that the funding formula on the Warrant Article is 50% ADM and 50% Town Valuations. After discussion the Committee decided to post pone the vote until next week.

A Motion was made by Lisa Post to have the Budget Committee present the budget to the public at the Public Hearing; Seconded by Pam Altner. Voting: All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Browne questioned if Mr. Lane and others could answer questions from the public. Mrs. Post clarified that the Budget Committee prepares for and presents and takes questions at the Public Hearing and if something comes up that the Committee cannot speak to, it can be directed toward Mr. Lane.

5. Other Business:

- a. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 22, 2019 in the MS/HS Conference Room followed by a Joint Session at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room.
- b. Period for Filing for Elective Office is January 23 – February 1, 2019 until 5 p.m. (RSA: 671:19, RSA: 669:19).
- c. WLCSD Budget/Bond & Notes Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the MS/HS Cafeteria (Snow Date: Friday, February 8, 2019).

6. The Budget Committee adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

A Motion was made by William Ryan to adjourn the Budget Committee; Seconded by Christine Tiedemann. Voting: All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa C.M. Post, Secretary