

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING

WLCS BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING & JOINT SCHOOL BOARD SESSION MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 – 6:30 P.M. AT WLC MS/HS CONFERENCE 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 August 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes
4. Budget Committee Review and Planning Session
 - a. Committee Reports:
 - i. Facilities/
 - ii. School Board
 - iii. Strategic Planning
5. **FY 2019-2020 Joint Budget Session at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room**
 - a. SAU
 - b. Technology
6. Other Business:
 - a. Schedule Next Meeting
The next Joint Budget Session is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
7. Adjournment of Budget Committee

Attendees: Leslie Browne, Christine Tiedemann, Lisa Post, Pam Altner, Jennifer Bernet, Dennis Golding, Edwina Hastings, William Ryan:

1. Chair Browne called the Budget Committee to Order at 6:32
2. See Public Comment Under Joint Session
3. Review and Approval of August 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes
A Motion was made by Edwina Hastings to accept the minutes as written; Seconded by Dennis Golding. Voting: All Ayes with three abstentions (Pam Altner, Christine Tiedemann, and William Ryan). Motion passed.
4. Budget Committee Review and Planning Session
 - a. **Committee Reports:**
 - i. **Facilities:** Chair Browne reported that the meeting was postponed until November.
 - ii. **School Board:** Ms. Hastings reported that School Board had a discussion on the definition of a Flat Budget after Mr. LoVerme reported to the Board the Budget Committee was looking at. The Committee discussed that it is not recommending a flat budget but wants to look at what is presented over the budget season and look at the wants and needs of the schools, the achievement levels and number of students before making any recommendations on the budget this early. Mrs. Hastings indicated it might be helpful to look at the Boston Consumer Index.
 - iii. **Strategic Planning:** Ms. Bernet and Mrs. Post reported on the SPC's desire after a vote to support Middle School reorganization. Due to the recent poor testing results, Mr. Lane in

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54 an effort to improve student learning contacted the WLCTA offering two scenarios for
55 additional professional workshops for the teachers to increase student learning and
56 achievement. The teachers were not willing to make any changes that would “impact” the
57 CBA until negotiations next year. Mr. Lane apologized that he was “unsuccessful in
58 trying to work with them to create a positive change.”
59

60 Ms. Bernet attended the September 20, 2018 “School Funding 101” forum in Keene. Ms.
61 Hastings gave a brief overview of the presentation regarding the disparities between
62 property-rich and property-poor towns and how they affect the educational dollars. She
63 stated that they are “moving toward an income and sales tax” to support those school
64 districts where property taxes cannot adequately support local schools. She will email
65 Committee members the presentation information to be discussed at the next meeting.

66 *A Motion was made by Christine Tiedemann to recess and reconvene at the Joint Session; Seconded by*
67 *Pam Altner. Voting All Ayes. Motion passed.*
68

69 5. FY 2019-2020 Joint Budget Session at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room

- 70
- 71 a. **SAU:** Line-Item FY 19/20 Budget Proposal (non payroll accounts) will remain essentially the
72 same as the current fiscal year. While there are increases in some line items, there are offsets
73 by transferring costs from one line item to another leaving the SAU budget with a decrease of
74 \$31.00.
75
 - 76 b. **Technology:** Decrease of \$3,590.00 in total for the budget. Although there were increases in
77 software, items were moved to other line items. There was an increase to replacement
78 equipment. Contracted Services Contracts will need to be negotiated for FY 20-21 for Mitel
79 and Comcast. There could be a savings of \$5,700 yearly for call forwarding costs by
80 changing our main school phone numbers. Mr. Legere questioned line items 735 with \$5,000
81 amounts. Mr. Verratti indicated that the average costs for 5-7 year recycle on server’s
82 switches and access points are \$4,600. Chair Dailey noted there is a Technology Capital
83 Reserve fund which should be enough money for emergencies in the replacement cycle and
84 Mr. Verratti should provide back up of numbers.
85
 - 86 c. **CPI Index/Category Summary:** Chair Dailey asked the Budget Committee if they would
87 like to speak. Chair Browne indicated that the Committee was not looking for a “flat”
88 budget as previously reported. The Committee is looking for a return on investment, a good
89 education at a good price and will not make a recommendation on the budget until all the
90 budget information is presented and reviewed. Chair Dailey indicated that there were
91 contractual increases for CBA and increases in energy costs. A discussion of the meaning of
92 a “flat” budget was discussed at length. Mr. Post indicated that a flat budget meant no
93 increase to the taxpayers.
94

95 Superintendent informed the Board and the Committee of two unfunded mandates: lead test
96 which has not been clarified and technology infrastructure and security safeguards which will
97 be in this budget cycle.
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100 In response to question by Chair Dailey, Mr. Lane does not believe funds can be transferred
101 from one capital reserve fund to another. He will question the District Attorney and DRA.
102

103 Chair Dailey invited public comment prior to the Budget Committee adjourning: Mr. Fran
104 Bujak expressed his concern that contractual agreements in the CBA should be added to
105 budget lines.
106

107 6. Other Business:

- 108 a. **Schedule Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at
109 WLC Conference Room followed by a Joint Board Session at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room.
110 (The next Joint Budget Session is scheduled for Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.).
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112 7. The Budget Committee Adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

113 *A Motion was made by Christine Tiedemann to adjourn; Seconded by Pamela Altner. Voting: All in*
114 *favor. Motion passed.*
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116 Respectfully Submitted,
117 Lisa C.M. Post, Secretary
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