

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

WLCS BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING & JOINT SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET SESSION MINUTES Tuesday, December 11, 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 November 27, 2018 Meeting & Joint Session Minutes
4. Budget Committee Review and Planning Session
 - a. Committee Reports:
5. **FY 2019-2020 Joint Budget Session at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room**
 - a. Staffing & Benefits
6. Other Business:
 - a. Schedule Next Meeting
The next Joint Budget Review Session is scheduled for January 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
7. Adjournment of Budget Committee

Attendees: *Leslie Browne, Lisa Post, Pam Altner, Kevin Boette, Dennis Golding, Jennifer Bernet, Edwina Hastings, Alex LoVerme.*

1. Chair Browne called the Budget Committee to Order at 6:36 p.m.
2. No Public Comment at BC Meeting or Joint Session
3. Review and Approval of November 27, 2018 Meeting Minutes

A Motion was made by Dennis Golding to approve the minutes as written; Seconded by Leslie Browne. Voting: All in favor with four abstentions (Ms. Alter, Mr. Boette, Ms. Bernet and Ms. Hastings). Motion passed.

4. **Budget Committee Review and Planning Session**
 - a. Committee Reports:

Facilities: Chair Browne stated the Facilities Committee met with Chris Balch, State Representative, and discussed upgrading the WLC to LED lighting and this is an 179K item that on the CIP for 2021/22 to be completed by 2023. It is a large investment with estimated potential savings of \$40k per year. Mr. Boette suggested there are many other options. There were three basic options, first take lights out and replace with LED bulbs. The second is a magnetic linear strip which the fixture remains but replaces both the bulb and ballast; the third options is replacing entire fixtures which allows smart controls Each one is more expensive and comes with 20% rebates through Eversource. Mr. Boette suggested that there may be many options to financing this. There are options where a company will come in and replace all the lights and take the savings the first year so it doesn't cost us anything but they are making money up front and your electric bill is already down and in 4 to 5 years it is paid off. Then there is no investment. If we want a zero impact to the taxpayers, there are ways to get this done. Ms. Post questioned if they got other bids, Chair Browne believed they have talked with other companies and they are in discussions with others. Mr. Boette asked for contact information so he can provide a list of other companies to consider and stated that Eversource will come in with an engineering firm that will do a complete soups-to-nuts analysis. The other ongoing parking lot paving, roof repairs, chimney repointed at FRES.

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Strategic Planning: Lisa Post reported she did not attend the last meeting, nor did Jennifer Bernet. However, she reviewed the Strategic Committees' recommendations for the Middle School Re-organization with two staff reductions. Alternatively, if the Middle School Re-organization does not go through, that the committee had discussed recommending making a change to the Administrative Structure at WLC. She believed it was going to go the School Board for a vote tonight, but did not see it on the agenda. There was a discussion of the school-within-a-school structure with the intent to provide all students the ability to achieve their potential regardless of their actual grade with greater academic vigor. This is a long-term plan that would allow students to take higher level classes at an earlier age if they are ready. The intent is to start it as a pilot program with our student that could eventually bring tuitioning students in from other districts. They want a year to kick it off, find the bugs. They want to see academic improvement and want to see that it is working. They also discussed the full-day kindergarten model and that since it was so successful if we get these kinds of numbers of fifty plus kindergarteners a year that perhaps we will not need to worry about filling our schools. Mr. Boette contributed that NPR reported New Hampshire demographics stating it is the fastest growing state in New England and that we have a net import now of 20 and 30 year olds as well as families. Chair Browne suggested that although it sounds like a good idea, there are programs that have been put into place that seemed good but the reality is that there are issues with them; such as the 9th grade honor student taking 10th grade honors math classes causes teachers to spend a lot of time reviewing because the 9th grade honor student missed a whole year. She suggested unless you start this from Kindergarten, the student will always be behind because they are trying to catch up. Mr. Boette concurred with this. There was also concern over the Administrative Structure change in that the WLC has a lot of disciplinary issues that are handled by the Vice Principal.

Edwina Hasting questioned how much state revenue is coming in for kindergarten students to which Ms. Post replied \$1,100 per student.

Kevin Boette questioned the logistics of the budget process, recommendations and meeting dates. Chair Browne suggested Tuesday, December 18 for a for a review session. She tasked the committee members to come up with questions and concerns and that will be forwarded to Chair Dailey and Superintendent Lane to have the answers ready for the January 8 Joint Budget Review Session. Ms. Post asked Chair Browne to obtain the updated Budget Excel Documents from Christine Tiedemann for the upcoming meeting.

A Motion was made by Edwina Hastings to recess at 7:00 p.m. and reconvene at the Joint Session; Seconded by Pam Altner. Voting: All in favor. Motion passed.

School Board Attendees: Present: Harry Dailey, Matt Ballou, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Mark Legere, Charlie Post, Joyce Fisk, Carol LeBlanc, Miriam Lemire and Alex LoVerme (after Budget Co. Mtg.)

SAU Attendees: Superintendent Bryan Lane, Business Administrator Lise Tucker, Principal, Tim O'Connell, Curriculum Coordinator Julie Heon, Technology Director Kevin Verratti and Clerk Kristina Fowler.

5. FY 2019-2020 Joint Budget Session (7:06 p.m.)

NOTE: Line Item and Warrant Articles have been added to the Agenda

a. Staffing & Benefits

Superintendent provided an overview of the salary and benefits budget. The proposed budget shows an increase of \$230,956 mostly in salaries and wages of \$205,791. Salary for transport/van driver was moved

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from transportation to salary line as appropriate. The majority of the salary increases are driven by the CBA's (collective bargaining agreements). There are increases for 3 ABA Therapists for additional students moving in. He added we identified the RISE program saves about \$30,000-\$40,000 per student and the alternative to adding the ABA Therapist is increases in SPED. Employee retirement shows a decrease of \$11,733 for those staff who are not certified by the Dept. of Ed and those who are certified by the Dept. of Ed (such as principals, teachers, and nurses, superintendent) show an increase of \$64,451 for an overall increase of about \$52,000. The SAU performance incentive line is increased by 2.5%, \$1,162 (staff not in a CBA). He confirmed for Chair Browne the funds for positions that go unfilled such as the athletic trainer go back to the general fund at the end of the year. He would like to keep this position in the budget even though it has not been filled, in hopes of filling it and if not after another year it will be removed. A brief discussion was had regarding the RISE program and questioned has it become so successful that families may be moving into the district for this specific program. Superintendent Lane explained the increases are because the numbers of grades we are covering and doesn't see we are attracting more students per grade which would be the indicator you would look for. He further explained students are eligible to receive services at age 2 but it is difficult to diagnose them as they mature we are able to do more diagnostic work and they could have been living in the towns already although does not have data for this. He added there are similar programs in Jaffrey Rindge, Mascenic and Milford. If they do not have this in their district they could request to come here, pay for tuition (equal to per pupil expenditure) and the ABA Therapist. He confirmed the increases for the ABA Therapist are because of need and a change in certification for some (not part of CBA). Increases in CBA's are a total of \$116,879. Ms. Tucker confirmed the van driver salary is \$8,023 (not \$7,700 listed on the summary sheet). Superintendent Lane confirmed professional compensation for the consultant is for the reading program and is zero as it is no longer needed which is also the case for the substitute compensation as we had substitutes covering for PD. A question was raised regarding a line titled SAU performance incentive; what it was. Superintendent Lane explained that is a salary pool for those who are not affiliated with a bargaining unit (CBA), those are increases for people such as ABA Therapists, administrators, clerical staff, custodians; anyone who is not in a collective bargaining agreement. He determines how these are distributed and the scenarios vary by individual. Ms. Tucker added at the end of the year, those funds are distributed to the proper salary line.

b. Line Item

The line item budget was included as well as running totals which have been discussed. Proposed grand total is \$12,765,486, an increase over FY19 adopted of \$296,481 (2.38%). Ms. Post commented that she did the numbers and we are up just shy of a million over 4 years. Chairman Dailey reminded the group that FY17 was a full bond payment for FRES. Ms. Tucker confirmed the numbers for "principal on debt" (lines 500-502) are correct and the interest on debt is listed on separate lines (486-488). Mr. Boette requested to have a total student population including what we are expecting and what we have had. Superintendent responded that he didn't have all the numbers but we are at about 560 and the reason for the increase is due to kindergarten. Chairman Dailey requested for the next meeting to have a simple spread sheet with gross and approved budget, net budget and what the revenues are. A question was raised what kind of "stats" can be produced for the Ecolab caddy. Superintendent responded this is used to sanitize and power wash the bathrooms. Ms. Tucker added she does not believe the bathrooms are as clean as they could be because of how they are used and this is more efficient.

Chairman Dailey confirmed the agenda tonight includes the district calendar and suggested MS reorganization be on the agenda for January 8 as this may have impact on the budget.

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The Budget Committee will meet December 18 to discuss and come up with questions which will be sent prior to the meeting and discussed on the January 8 joint meeting.

Superintendent asked for the final budget number for the January 22 meeting.

Mr. Vanderhoof confirmed the Strategic Planning Committee discussed not be coming forward this year with any administrative changes as there are a lot of changes already.

c. Warrant Articles

Superintendent reviewed the draft warrant articles, #4 is the budget, and #5 is for the Buildings/Equipment & Roadways Capital Reserve (\$60,000). Discussion was had regarding adding a warrant article for the rolling average to level out spikes in the tax rate. The apportionment now is a 50/50 scenario around valuation and average daily membership. Changes would level out the tax rate, not change the amount paid (doesn't avoid taxes, avoids the spikes in tax rate). There is a document which was provided at the November 27 meeting showing the effect of rolling tax rate averages and is still available on the website. Concerns were raised that by changing this gives the appearance of a transparency issue and by keeping it as it is, is more transparent, if there are spikes, they should be explainable. It was confirmed this has zero effect on the budget. Discussion was had regarding when apportionment data was available. It was noted student data is available before valuation data; overall not available until about 6 months after the budget is approved. Superintendent Lane will check with the DRA if the Budget Committee officially weighs in on this article as recommending or not as it is not monetary but has a monetary effect. The Budget Committee is happy to provide an opinion. There was discussion regarding the wording of "Recommended/Not Recommended by the School Board" "Recommended/Not Recommended by the Budget Committee" vs. "Recommended by the School Board" "Recommended by the Budget Committee". Mr. Post requests to have the draft amended to match the first one. Chairman Dailey noted the warrant articles are put on the warrant by the School Board so essentially it wouldn't be on there if it was not recommended by the School Board. The language will be changed as requested.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Ballou and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to add the apportionment (rolling average) to the draft warrant articles (for future discussion). Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Lane confirmed voting on articles needs to be done by the January 22 meeting.

6. Other Business:
 - a. Schedule Next Meeting: The Budget Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the WLC Media Room. The next Joint Budget Review Session is January 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
7. The Budget Committee adjourned at 7:53 p.m.
8. ***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