

# WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

## WLCS BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING & JOINT SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET SESSION MINUTES Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the 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 October 23, 2018 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. SPED
  - b. CCIP
  - c. Warrant Articles
  - d. School Tax: re Lyndeborough
6. Other Business:
  - a. Schedule Next Meeting  
The next Joint Budget Session is scheduled for Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
7. Adjournment of Budget Committee

**Attendees: Leslie Brown, Christine Tiedemann, Lisa Post, Jennifer Bernet, Kevin Boette, Dennis Golding, Edwina Hastings.**

1. Chair Browne Called the Budget Committee to Order at 6:34 p.m.
2. Public Not Present
3. Review and Approval of October 23, 2018 Meeting & Joint Session Minutes

**A Motion was made by Christine Tiedemann to approve the minutes as amended; Seconded by Kevin Boette. Voting: All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Budget Committee Review and Planning Session
  - a. Committee Reports: No new reports
  - b. Chair Browne after reviewing the October 23 meeting minutes noted an area of concern was the \$10,000 used for dues and fees which is used for the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Maine Ecology Trip and noted it was in last year's budget as well. She is waiting for clarification from the Superintendent if the decrease of \$11,151 for furniture and fixtures is accurate.

**A Motion was made by Christine Tiedemann, Seconded by Edwina Hastings to recess at reconvene at the Joint Session at 7:00 p.m.**

*Attendees: Harry Dailey, Matt Ballou, Mark Legere, Charlie Post, Joyce Fisk, Carol LeBlanc, Miriam Lemire and Jonathan Vanderhoof, Superintendent Bryan Lane, Director of Student Support Services Betty Moore, Principals Brian Bagley, Tim O'Connell, Director of Technology Kevin Verratti, Curriculum Coordinator Julie Heon and Clerk Kristina Fowler*

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

- a. **SPED:** Superintendent Lane provided an overview of the special education (SPED) budget. The proposed budget is \$1,041,899 including grants, with \$918,962 being requested from the general fund. Overall the reduction is \$16,339 from the current budget with \$47,100 of that being in transportation which reflects a change in student placement allowing for consolidation of routes. Some of the increases include tuition of \$11,398, and contracted services for school psychologist of \$20,300 are due to the increased need. These are IEP (individual education plan) driven. Tuition can fluctuate depending on who moves in or out. He spoke of a potential \$50,000 expense due a potential out of district placement which is unknown at this time and likely not known until spring. There is, however, the SPED capital reserve which could fund this scenario. He confirmed if this out of district placement didn't happen, the \$50,000 would not be expended unless we had a student move in and needed to be used for this purpose (which can happen at any time). He also spoke of a student who is aging out and that expense is budgeted until October only. A brief discussion was had regarding transfers and he confirmed the School Board is the only body that could make a transfer such as this. There is one transfer this evening for this FY; transfers are part of the board packet (to/from with explanation). Superintendent Lane noted in transportation, we have been able to reduce a route and continue to look for ways to be cost effective; other districts are increasing in SPED and ours is decreasing. Responding to Ms. Lemire regarding IDEA funds, he confirmed this is not a guarantee of funds but a prediction. This will be discussed during the revenue session and will show a reduction in IDEA funds; we usually budget for a slight reduction as we expect this. Ms. Browne questioned how much is in the SPED fund (capital reserve) and Ms. Moore replied about \$250,000. Superintendent added to his knowledge, this fund has not been used and no additional funds have been added to it. Ms. Moore confirmed the increases in contracted services are all IEP driven. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke of the Superintendent previously saying that there would be savings with the addition of full day kindergarten due to (potentially) being less of a need. Superintendent confirmed he does believe this is going to happen but with only 4 months of data he doesn't have enough to reduce the expense at this time. It is his full intention to report data to the Board and reiterated over time he believe the reduction would happen. Ms. Moore confirmed the room dividers are for FRES and HS. She also confirmed the need for additional books and curriculum materials for the Functional Life Skills Program to accommodate students transitioning from FRES to MS, Superintendent reviewed the cost for the RISE program vs. the cost of New England Center for Children as the cost effectiveness of this was raised previously. Overall cost for New England Center for Children is \$1,555,385 vs. RISE program \$962,725, which is a savings of \$592,661. The Superintendent confirmed students are enrolled in the RISE program through an IEP.
- b. **Facilities:** Superintendent Lane reviewed the updated facilities summary which was provided. The areas for increase are primarily around repairs and maintenance with a slight increase in administrative costs. Repairs and maintenance increases overall are \$32,797 which include replacing the stage curtain at FRES \$8,000, replacing bathroom stall partitions at WLC \$12,000 (12 stalls), installing rubber stair treads at the Middle School, installing ADA signs at WLC \$6,057, and preventative maintenance \$1,880. Regarding utilities, using the information we get from our sources, this is what we are expecting for utility increases; overall 61% increase. One reason is for the increase is we under anticipated what the increase would be for this year and are looking at about \$25,000 deficit for this year which will need to be made up through funding. A floor burnisher and Ecolab caddies (power wash bathrooms) were removed from the budget last year and again added to this budget. He confirmed the testing for lead is a water test and would be done this year and we would look to funding from the State through grants for this. He confirmed there is a

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\$10,000 increase in the updated budget for air conditioning at WLC that was omitted in error on the first copy which was also removed from last year's budget. Mr. Vanderhoof asked for clarification regarding the Ecolab caddy storage container as it appears to be twice as much as the caddy itself. Superintendent clarified it is for a replacement outside shed and would be placed at the top of the field and is not related to the Ecolab caddy. He confirmed the expense for the air conditioners would go out to bid, this would be two units with the compressor; cost estimated by the vendor. Mr. Boette suggested putting money into materials to have the students build a shed, make it as part of a project, instead of purchasing a container. Superintendent confirmed that the container which was requested is air tight and lock tight and would eliminate a mouse problem. Responding to Ms. Tiedemann, he believes it is a 20-yard shipping container. Mr. Ballou spoke of a prior discussion regarding putting the air conditioners on the Capital Improvement Plan and wondered if there was thought given to this. Superintendent Lane confirmed it is up to the Board.

***A MOTION was made by Mr. Ballou and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to put the air conditioners on the Capital Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman Dailey reiterated the expense for the air conditioning will be removed from the budget and added to the CIP, His personal recommendation is when the MS bond expires and there is a spike from \$60,000 to \$176,000, he recommends adding it there and vote in 2021. Superintendent Lane will this forward to the Facilities Committee.

Mr. Boette spoke of electricity costs as he has found currently long term contracts are more cost effective which is different than previous years. Superintendent Lane confirmed we are in a consortium, a buying group and it is annual. Superintendent Lane will look into it. A question was raised if you are using the heat pumps more, you would think you wouldn't use oil and they would offset each other. It was explained prior to the renovation, there were multiple boilers in the building, now there is only one and it has to satisfy the classrooms before it will send heat to the SAU. Chairman Dailey noted at some point the Board may want to discuss converting over to propane which would increase our buying volume and may save enough to offset the cost.

Mr. Vanderhoof, referring to the replacement boiler on the CIP, questioned if it should be replaced sooner. Superintendent explained the issues he believes previously had to do with the outside venting not closing correctly and believes it affected two days last year but will find out. Chairman Dailey confirmed at the time of the renovations, it was felt that it was not warranted for replacement and several thousands of dollars were spent assuming we could get more time out of it.

- c. **CIP:** Regarding the CIP, the Superintendent noted it will be included in the annual report. He informed members the bathroom stall lines have been reduced (per Facilities Committee vote-2 lines at \$4,000 and \$8,000) and the \$60,000 warrant article piece was agreed upon a couple of years ago.
- d. **Warrants:** The draft warrant articles were reviewed. Article 4 is the district operating budget and Article 5 is for \$60,000 to be added to the Building /Equipment & Roadway Capital Reserve Fund. He has included draft language for an article to change the apportionment formula. If the Board approved this, it would need to go to an attorney for language approval. Last year the Strategic Planning Committee reviewed this with the goal of gaining some stability over time. It was determined that a change could not be made until 5th year and the Board is now eligible to put forth a warrant article for this. The apportionment now is a 50/50 scenario around valuation and school (ADM). Changing the formula would take the spikes out of the equation and even things out

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over time. Mr. Post suggested examples of the math so that people can understand this, you don't want people to think it will solve the problem and it won't. Superintendent Lane confirmed sooner or later you pay the same amount of money, this just evens it out. Superintendent Lane will bring back examples of what it would be going back to 2010.

- e. **Lyndeborough Tax Rate:** Superintendent Lane spoke regarding the tax increase in Lyndeborough and the concerns that were raised at the last meeting. He has included documentation of an email showing when the information was received the Monday before the Board meeting. He had not viewed this prior to the meeting as it did not come to his attention. He has since reviewed the information and in looking at the budget, it had a reduction, the apportionment stayed pretty much the same. You would think there would have been a reduction; the issue is on the revenue side. There was a reduction of \$32,522 and \$165,000 of that were the monies not spent on the building project and returned to the towns. He added the Board Chair had previously noted it was a one-year thing. We did get an increase from kindergarten aid. Overall, there was a concern raised at the town meeting, we presented that there would be a reduction and there was a budget reduction. Looking at the school district meeting, the budget we presented was the budget and the apportionment presented is the apportionment we have. The only difference is the building money we didn't have. We anticipated high and the (approximate) \$160,000 was a factor.

Chairman Dailey informed members the Wilton Select Board got their information to set their tax rate which is not approved by the DRA yet; the total looks to be up 5.6%. He also noted IMPACT fees came up at the Wilton Select Board meeting.

A brief discussion was had regarding unassigned fund balances and the towns can take money out of the unassigned fund balance and use that to fund taxes. The school district cannot do this. The Superintendent added there is an RSA that would allow school districts to create a fund like this and it was brought to the Strategic Planning Committee and was not moved forward. Chairman Dailey agreed and noted it was not approved the year prior. Mr. Boette commented that he thinks overall we do a good job controlling our budget and the only one we don't is SPED and there is a fund for that. Chairman Dailey believes you cannot hold more than 2% (according to the RSA). Superintendent Lane believes it is a percentage of the valuation of the town that is where the maximum comes in responding to Mr. Boette questioning if the reduction in revenue was because of a change or assumption in the prediction. Superintendent Lane confirmed with CAT Aide we are responsible for funding a student need and if we go over it can be "catastrophic" and Medicaid can go up and down, it is variable. Last year we predicted high, there was no specific reason for the reduction. We have been conservative in our scenario and revenue which will be coming to you soon.

6. **Public Comment:** PUBLIC COMMENTS Ms. Kelly Gibson, parent was present and questioned if the Board or Budget Committee at any point, will be discussing having more opportunities for trade like programs. She spoke of being deeply concerned that many students do not attend college or graduate high school and some who have the potential to go to an "ivy league school" and didn't graduate. There are many low income families that cannot afford school and some don't have the direction through home or school. She thinks the best service that any school district could do is to consider how to improve opportunities for students to obtain a trade. She is concerned that the district doesn't offer many courses outside the standard courses. She would like more opportunities for youth. Chairman Dailey responded we have had those discussions at several board meetings.

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Ms. Gibson spoke regarding Ms. Tiffany Rotollo, and that “a good percentage of her caseload is coming from Wilton and Lyndeborough.” She spoke of there not being a lot to do for the youth and not everyone can utilize the Boys and Girls Club as she suggested at previous meetings but it was not voted for as a source of afterschool care. She spoke of wanting opportunities for her children and there being a lack of programs for teens. She wants to see fewer teens in front of the judge and asks if there is an intention to create more programs for teenagers. "If parents are working it is more funding for everything, are you going to provide more programs for teens," she asked. Chairman Dailey responded that we are always looking at more opportunities for students at all levels. Ms. Gibson commented she would like to see some changes, more action not just communication. She wants to see the number of our delinquent youth decrease.

7. Other Business:

a. Schedule Next Meeting

The next Budget Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the WLC MS/HS Conference Room, followed by a Joint Session at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room. The next Joint Budget Session is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

8. The Budget Committee Adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

***A MOTION was made by Ms. Tiedemann; Seconded by Mr. Golding to adjourn the Budget Committee at 8:01 p.m. Voting: All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously***

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa C.M. Post, Secretary