

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

Budget Committee FINAL Meeting Minutes January 12th, 2021 6:30p.m. Virtual / WLC Library

Committee Membership: Leslie Browne (Chair), Kevin Boette (Vice Chair), Dennis Golding, Jeffrey Jones, Adam LaVallee, Lisa Post, William Ryan, Christine Tiedemann, Jennifer Bernet, Jonathan Vanderhoof (SB Budget Committee Representative).

Present: Leslie Browne (Chair), Kevin Boette (Vice Chair), Dennis Golding, Jeffrey Jones, William Ryan, Jennifer Bernet, Lisa Post, Jon Vanderhoof (SB Budget Committee Representative), Adam Lavallee, Christine Tiedemann

1. WLCS Budget Committee called to Order by Leslie Browne at 6:33 p.m.

Review and approve January 5th, 2021 minutes.

A MOTION was made by Dennis Golding to accept the 1/5/2021 minutes as amended; Seconded by Christine Tiedemann. Voting: 9 in favor, 1 abstain (Jonathan Vanderhoof), Motion passed.

2. FY 20-21
No discussion.

3. FY 21-22 Budget discussion
Adam Lavallee commented that the growth of Special Education should be highlighted in the presentation. The committee agreed that those numbers should be part of the presentation to the public.

The Budget Committee walked through each category one by one. Chair Browne stated that she would compile a list of questions and comments to be sent to the SAU for consideration and further discussion in the January 19, 2021 meeting.

Lisa Post and Jennifer Bernet left the meeting virtually at 7:00PM

Books and Printed Media- Discussed the use of 1:1 Chromebooks within the district and how printed media is not being used as much as in the past.

Insurance- Decrease of ~190K noted by Jeff Jones. No changes in budget proposed.

Disposal Services- William Ryan stated that it is contracted for 3 years and has been consistent. No change in the budget were proposed.

Dues and Fees- Adam Lavallee stated that the NH Association of School Principals and Competition Fees were increased substantially. No changes in the budget were proposed.

Electricity- No changes proposed. Christine Tiedemann noted one of the comments states “paper towels, toilet paper” which is not consistent with the category. Follow-up to be sent to SAU. Kevin Boette suggested to follow up with SAU on his proposal for installing more efficient light bulbs.

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Employee Retirement- Adam Lavallee noted an increase that offsets some of the decrease in insurance savings. Committee agreed to highlight this item to the public.

Fuel- No changes proposed.

General Supplies and Paper- Jeff Jones proposed reduction of 10% due to the investment being made in technology. Mr. Jones stated that reliance on printing and paper is a behavioral change that can be accelerated by decreasing available resources.

Health Insurance, Interest on Debt, Life Insurance- No changes propose.

Misc. and Assembly Expenses- Chair Browne asked Jonathan Vanderhoof about School Board Miscellaneous expenses for \$1700. Jonathan Vanderhoof was unsure on what the expense was being used for. Chair Browne will note as follow-up to SAU.

New Computers- Adam Lavallee noted that there is SPED equipment that should be noted under SPED for the budget presentation that falls within this category. Jeff Jones inquired whether some expenses could be delayed give the noted substantial increase in prices. Jonathan Vanderhoof stated that the Board had not considered deviating from the replacement schedule. Chair Browne noted the committee will revisit this number later to see if any costs can be delayed.

New Equipment- Committee discussed pest storage containers and clarified usage. Committee also discussed 504 vs Special Education and the difference.

New Furniture /Fixtures- Committee questioned why note mentioned "IEP" but it is not categorized under Special Education. Christine Tiedemann stated that the sorting for purposes of the review of the budget was done by Object as opposed to Function and the item is under Special Education.

Other Professional Services- No changes proposed.

Postage – Christine Tiedemann proposed to reduce the number closer to the actual number from 2020. The Committee will revisit the number at the end.

Printing and Binding- Dennis Golding proposed reducing the category to \$3500. The Committee will revisit the number at the end.

Professional Services for Inst- Christine Tiedeman stated the category is related to teacher development services. Jonathan Vanderhoof mentioned this may be impacted by the CBA with the teachers. Committee agreed no changes to the proposed numbers.

Professional Books and Services- Dennis Golding asked about the Curriculum Coordinator and money allocated in this category. The Committee discussed the benefits of grants acquired by the Curriculum Coordinator in the past. Jonathan Vanderhoof stated it is in the budget today but is open for discussion in the next School Board meeting.

Professional Services Contracted/ Instruction / Pupils / Property Liability Insurance / Purchased Services- No changes proposed.

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Rental of other Equipment- Committee discussed \$40k contracted which is consistent with prior year.

Repair and Maintenance Services- Committee discussed the locker repair line item. A discussion around the maintenance category ensued. Committee agreed with the number proposed.

Replacement Equipment/Furniture Fixtures- Committee discussed Operational Expenses and other line items. Jonathan Vanderhoof explained the cuts that were made after district meeting, which included some items buffered. Committee will ask for a more detailed summary of some of the replacement item increases.

Software- No changes proposed.

Teacher Retirement- Committee discussed the large increase from Concord and noted this for the public presentation.

Telephone- No changes proposed.

Transportation- No changes proposed.

Travel and Conferences - No changes proposed.

Transfer to Other Funds- Chair Browne mentioned that she does not believe the numbers have been updated vs. what was presented in November of 2020 to the Committee and will follow up with SAU.

Water / Sewerage – Dennis Golding questioned the increases. The Committee determined these were fixed and the numbers can stay as-is.

The Committee agreed to the following proposed reductions:

- *Postage and Fees- reduce to \$5500 (20%)*
- *Paper – 10% decrease*
- *Computer- Suggest to SAU to be smart about timing of purchases due to evolving environment on tariffs and noted current high prices in technology due to COVID.*

Lisa Post rejoined the meeting at 8:45PM

Lisa Post stated that she would really like the increase to be around 2.3%-2.5% and is concerned about the overall increase which may be caused by the CBA. Lisa stated that members of the public have reached out with concerns over tax increases and COVID has caused employment challenges. Kevin Boette stated that a large increase in the budget was due to the state re-allocating the percentage of obligations down to the local level this year. Adam Lavalley followed up that he believes the increase since 2010 has been modest on an annual basis. Jeff Jones stated that he is concerned about district meeting as there has not been much participation and feedback from the public during the process. Lisa Post stated that she has received feedback directly from Lyndeborough citizens, as noted above.

4. Letter to Public

Committee discussed proposed letter. Lisa Post sent comments to the Committee prior to them meeting. Ms. Post expressed concern over the tone of the language related to the rejection of the proposed budget by the public. Jeff Jones and Jonathan Vanderhoof commented that they agreed with Lisa's proposals. Chair Browne will take comments back and revise letter.

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- 144 5. Public Comment – Charlie Post mentioned that not hiring full-time employees could defray some of the
145 increasing benefit costs and should be considered as an alternative in the future.

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147 ***A Motion was made by Kevin Boette to adjourn, seconded by Denis Golding. Voting: All in favor,***
148 ***Motion passed unanimously.***

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150 ***Committee adjourned at 9:29PM***

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153 Next Meeting 1/19/21, 6:30PM Board and Budget Committee joint meeting, followed by Budget
154 Committee meeting directly after.

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158 Respectfully Submitted,

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160 Jeff Jones
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