

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

Budget Committee FINAL Meeting Minutes January 26th, 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, Adam LaVallee, Lisa Post, William Ryan, Christine Tiedemann, Jennifer Bernet, Jonathan Vanderhoof (SB Budget Committee Representative)

1. WLCS Budget Committee called to Order by Leslie Browne at 6:30 p.m.

2. FY 21-22 Budget discussion

a. Budget Updates and Final Discussions

Committee discussed Draft 6 of the Budget. Chair Browne stated that the Board had reduced the proposed warrant amounts in their last meeting. Chair Browne also reviewed the balance in the trust accounts. Jonathan Vanderhoof confirmed the prior year voted warrant articles would not be reflected as funded until approximately June 30, 2021.

b. Vote on Warrant Articles

Kevin Boette stated that he was concerned about the cuts made to fossil fuels given the uptick in prices recently. Committee discussed the comparison vs. the 2019 actuals.

Mr. Boette reviewed the other items that the Committee had previously tagged to reduce; printing binding, maintenance training, and postage, which total \$5,942.

A Motion was made by Kevin Boette to reduce the budget by \$5,942, seconded by Dennis Golding. Voting: Jonathan Vanderhoof voted No, all others Yes. Motion passed 9-1.

A Motion was made by Jeff Jones to reduce the oil budget by \$5,000, seconded by Adam Lavallee.

No Vote: Kevin Boette, Christine Tiedemann, Lisa Post, Dennis Golding, Leslie Browne, Christine Tiedemann, William Ryan, Jennifer Bernet.

Yes Vote: Jeff Jones, Adam Lavallee. Motion failed 8-2

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

Chair Browne read the following for the Committee's consideration on Article IV: *To see if the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of \$12,973,077 for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents, and for the payment for the statutory obligations of the district. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)*

A Motion was made by Christine Tiedemann to approve, seconded by Dennis Golding. Voting: All in favor, Motion passed unanimously 10-0.

Chair Browne read the following for the Committee's consideration on Article VII: *To see if the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School Board and the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative Teachers' Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year, 2021-2022 \$24,148 Fiscal year Estimated Increase 2021-2022 19,546 and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$24,148 for the 2021-22 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)*

A Motion was made by Christine Tiedemann to, seconded by Adam Lavallee. Voting: All in favor, Motion passed unanimously 10-0.

Chair Browne read the following for the Committee's consideration on Article IX: *To see if the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$95,000 to be added to the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative Building/Equipment & Roadway Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum is to come from general taxation. This article is a special warrant article and is not included in the operating budget. (Majority vote required)*

A Motion was made by Christine Tiedemann to approve, seconded by Kevin Boette. Voting: All in favor, Motion passed unanimously 10-0.

Chair Browne read the following for the Committee's consideration on Article X: *To see if the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Wilton-Lyndeborough Educating Educationally Disabled Children Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum is to come from general taxation. This article is a special warrant article and is not included in the operating budget. (Majority vote required)*

A Motion was made by Christine Tiedemann to approve as written, seconded by Dennis Golding. Voting: All in favor, Motion passed unanimously 10-0

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

3. Presentation for Public Hearing

Jonathan Vanderhoof recommended changing the language on the tax impact so it is clear that the numbers reflect proposed budget vs. prior year (FY 20/21). Committee agreed to modify the language.

Committee discussed clarifying on the slides that the Retirement Contribution was “state mandated”. Agreement that this would be added.

Jonathan Vanderhoof recommended separating technology items out of the “Replacement Equipment” category on the presentation and moving to a “Total Technology” category (currently New Computers and Equipment). Jeff Jones will adjust in the next draft
LINE 965-967 Separate

Understanding Spending slide. Committee reviewed the district portion of retirement contributions and how to structure the slide. Committee reviewed the remainder of the slides and re-ordered to explain how taxes are structured before getting into budget details.

Committee reviewed Average Daily Enrollment and uptrend. Lisa Post pointed out that it was important that we add in where full day public kindergarten was implemented.

Committee reviewed the bar graphs and agreed to make some changes in order to provide better visuals to show trends.

Committee discussed the warrant articles and the degree of color that will be provided at public hearing. Christine Tiedemann suggested an introduction to the warrant articles stating that they are determined by the School Board but presented by the Budget Committee. Superintendent will be present to answer specific questions as in years past.

Jonathan Vanderhoof also requested that the Budget Committee present the total cost to taxpayers as opposed to the difference against prior year.

Adam Lavalley, Jeff Jones, and Leslie Browne agreed to divide the presentation.

Christine Tiedemann calculated the budget increase excluding warrant articles at approximately a 1.7% increase. Kevin Boette calculated the budget increase including warrant articles, assuming a +2.5% increase in CBA, is approximately a 1.93% increase over previous year. Committee agreed they were comfortable with the final numbers.

4. ***Public Comment: None***

A Motion was made by William Ryan to adjourn, seconded by Kevin Boette. Voting: All in favor, Motion passed unanimously.

Committee adjourned at 8:40PM

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

Next Meeting 2/2/2021 6:30PM (Tentative)

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Jones