

# WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

## BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING- DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday November 19th, 2024, 6:32 PM, WLC Library

**Committee Membership:** Jeff Jones (Chair), Adam Lavallee (vice chair), Michelle Alley (school Board rep), Bridget Mooney (Secretary), Jennifer Bernet, Phil Brooks, Alex LoVerme, Bill Ryan, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Vacant – Wilton.

**Present:** Jeff Jones, Michelle Alley, Jennifer Bernet, Phil Brooks, Bridget Mooney, Bill Ryan, Jonathan Vanderhoof.

**Absent:** Adam Lavalle, Alex LoVerme, and Vacant - Wilton.

Chair Jones called the Budget Committee to order at 6:32 PM. He began with adjustments to the schedule. December 3<sup>rd</sup> will be a joint School Budget Committee and School Board meeting. December 9<sup>th</sup> will be a backup board and budget committee meeting if needed. The sound system discussion will be moved to the end of the meeting if there are no objections. There were none.

The approval of November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes is delayed until the next meeting.

There was a brief conversation on expected increases in the budget and how the board felt about them. Jonathan Van der Hoof questioned if the budget committee feels comfortable with the budget as is. Is there an appetite to cut, or do a deep dive into the budget? He notes there have been no questions in previous meetings about reductions. Bill Ryan questioned if the DOE had given any information on special education funding. Kristi Laplante indicated that no information has been provided.

Jonathon Van der Hoof indicated there must be an end goal for our budget. Jennifer Bernet questioned what contractual obligations meant. Kristi defined contractual costs, uncontrollable costs, discretionary costs, special education costs. Michelle questioned if there is a better way to deal with contracted costs, specifically to reduce special education costs. Peter Weaver said they are always weighing in house versus contractual needs and are not directed by cost but by need. Everything is negotiable.

Kristi Laplante gave an overview of the budget including wages and benefits, where increases and decreases come in, how they make decisions, etc.

Jeff wondered if the proposed budget cuts would impact student life. Kristi said it would not impact teachers, students, or test scores.

Jonathan questioned the staffing to enrollment relationship. Peter Weaver stated that this is an issue, and we need to discuss it as a committee. Is our philosophy to focus on core curriculum or offer a more comprehensive option?

Buddy Erb (facilities director) gave a presentation. He mentioned there \$20K deductions on fuel costs and increases for paper products. They need a new floor cleaning machine.

Kristi discussed the CIP warrants. She said grants and revenues are not ready to discuss yet. There was a discussion about unspent funds and how to deal with that issue. The deadline for warrant articles is February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

There was a sound system discussion. Airelle was not able to attend. Geoffrey Allen was on the phone line. Michelle Alley read a message from Airelle. Is this the year to ask for new things? Maybe add the sound system to a CIP.

Are there any questions regarding the budget. Jonathon Van der Hoof said we should go through the budget as a committee to identify cuts.

**Public Comments:**

There were none.

Bill Ryan moved to adjourn the meeting and Michelle Alley seconded the motion. All ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Bridget Mooney