

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BUDGET COMMITTEE

Location: Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School – Media Room: 7:30 P.M.

November 18, 2014 FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Vice Chair Mark Altner, Leslie Browne, Kelly Eshback, Karen Grybko, Cary Hughes, Ellen Pomer, Lisa Post, and Secretary Dawn Tuomala.

Attendance:

School Board Member(s): Geoffrey Brock, Harry Dailey, Matt Ballou, Francis Bujak, James Button, Joyce Fisk, Mary Guild, Alex LoVerm, Carol LeBlanc

Superintendent Dr. Christine Tyrie, Director of Student Support Betty Moore, Principal Brian Bagley, Principal Tim O'Connell, Administrative Assistant Kristina Fowler

The Agenda was as follows:

1. Call Budget Committee Meeting to Order – in Media Center
2. Joint Session WLC Budget Committee & School Board Budget Presentations:
 - a. SAU
 - b. FRES
 - c. Middle School
3. Other Business
4. Adjourn of Budget Committee

1. Call Budget Committee Meeting to Order – in Media Center

Vice-Chairman Altner called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Lisa Post was introduced as the new Budget Committee member from Lyndeborough.

2. Joint Session WLC Budget Committee & School Board Budget Presentations

a. SAU Budget

Dr. Tyrie began by explaining that the busing contract has not come in at this time. The consolidation will allow the Towns to recognize enough of a savings to keep the FY16 budget under a 1% increase including the bond payment. Since the last meeting the heating oil contract has been determined and will cost the District \$3.169 per gallon with Ciardelli. The Health Insurance has come in at 9.4% instead of the original estimated 10%. The budget is being adjusted regularly to realize the differences. There are 27 people who aren't covered by the collective bargaining agreement so they will create a pool to draw salary increases from due to performance. The Town of Lyndeborough has indicated that they will no longer be providing a crossing guard or plowing LCS parking lot so these costs will need to be added into the budget.

Dr. Tyrie stated that they have now hired a new Business Director Lise Tucker. Dr. Tyrie reviewed the SAU budget describing the significant changes. The SAU budget is divided into thirds between the Superintendent, business and SPED. On page 4 the SAU has a 7 year replacement cycle picking the oldest machine and replacing it. The custodial salaries will be shared with LCS. Managing and fixing the network are 2 different issues. The solutions to the problems are expensive ones. They need to maintain the system and become pro-active and not so reactive. They will need to consider fixing the network at WLC. The total SAU budget is 1,070,617 down \$186,049 or a 14.8% reduction. This is

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due in part to the moving of the SAU to LCS next August saving \$30,000 in rent. They will only need to pay for one month. They will take their own desks and filing cabinets purchasing only a minimum amount of new equipment.

b. FRES Budget

Principal O'Connell presented the FRES Budget explaining the leasing of equipment, the purchase of a new bike rack, the replacement of teachers computers. There has been a lot of shifting of costs between the various schools some budgets are up significantly while others will see reductions. All of the teachers and staff from LCS have been moved to FRES. All personnel have been included within the budget and will be reduced after the staffing decisions have been made.

Dr. Tyrie explained that they have calculated that they need to have 3 substitutes per day. They will have a long term substitute for maternity leave. This also includes having student one-on-ones that they are legally required to have. This will continue to be monitored but this is the historical information that they presently have.

They will have the summer reading at FRES but nothing at LCS as they are too young to read. There will be costs in the nurse's calibration of the audiometer and the software SNAP program. Salaries for the BCBA and ABA therapist are now located in each school budget, previously they were in the SAU Budgets.

They have determined that they need to increase the band width for the network service. The decision has been made to stay with TDS for the phone system only and then to go with Comcast for a faster connection. TDS has only 6 meg of speed while the Comcast will provide 75 megs. The slow speed hinders much of what they need to do. They are in year 3 of a 5 year contract with TDS and it will cost money to have the switch but it will be worth it since the math class is on line and the testing will also be online. This will meet the needs of the school in the future and with the renovations, FRES will be wired with the faster capabilities so we can take advantage of the new technology.

They will have an increase in the secretary line due to an increase in hours. They have made a best guess at the propane costs since they don't have the system up and running at this time. The improvements at FRES including new insulation will help with the heating costs.

They are planning on purchasing 2 new promethean projection systems with interactive white boards. Every class room has one but they are looking to add one to the art and one to the computer lab room. They are purchasing 38 ibooks; presently there are 18 at LCS that are used by the 3rd and 4th grades. There are 20 at FRES which only serve the 4th grade students. They are going to leave 2 boards at LCS for the kindergarten and pre-school rooms. The board in the 4th grade is one of the first models and they have to replace the bulb 4 times per year. The school board decides what to do with the old technology whether to destroy them, post the list for staff or put them on the open market. There was discussion of how to decide to purchase verses leasing of computers. The choice is whether to get them all up front and then pay for them over the 3 years with interest charges or purchase over time and not have all of them at once. They are going to consider creating a 5 year replacement cycle. The budget is up to \$3,708,170 or a \$723,370 (24.2%) increase. This is with the consolidation of grades 1 to 5 at FRES.

c. Middle School

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Principal Bagley presented the middle school budget describing how meeting with Department Heads they were to keep the budget down by purchasing on the real needs and not their wish list. Everything that is on the list is contained in some type of a plan. They have put athletic uniforms in the schedule as part a schedule and they are planning on replacing some old desks and chairs.

They want to fill every classroom with interactive white boards adding 8 this year and another 7 next year. This is part of a three year plan to have a board in every classroom. The teacher replacement computers will be in year 2 of the plan and are proposing another 10 this year. Under the supplies line the science lab supplies and equipment are a large part of this expense. This also includes the math common core journals.

The substitute teacher numbers need to be justified by Dr. Tryie. The present numbers estimate that there are 3 to 4 per day which seems high. Repairs and maintenance of the tennis court took place in October. Included in the budget are championship jackets that were taken out years ago. They have been lucky to have winning teams and feel that it isn't proper to ask the same people for money each year for these jackets. The total for FRES is \$2,156,227. Food service will be presented on December 9th as a separate item.

Questions on the budget to date were taken. There was a question about the LCS playground and why it wasn't a separate warrant article. The School Board can choose whether to leave it in the budget or make it a separate warrant article. Mr. Altner would like to see what you can purchase between \$5,000 to \$15,000. They need to take an inventory of the equipment and determine which will be appropriate for a 2 to 5 year old child playing on. The liability insurance is dependent upon the amount of mulch and whether it is up to the mark where it is supposed to be. When the present equipment was purchased it came with a \$50 million dollar liability equipment policy that was attached to it. They will see if there is any money left over to purchase some of this equipment from the bond project.

Repairs and maintenance are continuing on the LCS well; the question was raised if it wouldn't make sense to put in a mitigation system instead or would it be cheaper to have a new well drilled. Bottled water is presently being brought into the school. They might be able to do some of the permanent fixed under the bond. There was investigation into a filtrations system that would be substantial and not an inexpensive fix. There has been some recent work done to raise the cap (a low cost measure) to see if that will address the issues. There will be additional testing done next week.

The library presently at LCS will be contained within the classrooms to encourage the children to start reading as early as possible. At that age they don't need a full library.

3. Other Business – None at this time

4. Adjournment

The next meeting will be a joint meeting on December 9, 2014 at 7:00 PM; location Media Center. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Ms. Browne; all in favor. The School Budget Committee was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Tuomala, Secretary