

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING AND JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION
Tuesday, November 28, 2017
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School-Media Room
6:30 p.m.**

Present: Harry Dailey, *Geoff Brock, Matt Ballou, Mark Legere, Joyce Fisk, Carol LeBlanc, Alex LoVerme, Miriam Lemire arrived at 6:37pm and Charlie Post arrived after the budget co. mtg.*

Superintendent Bryan Lane, Business Administrator Lise Tucker, Director of Student Support Services Betty Moore, Principals Brian Bagley, Tim O'Connell, Curriculum Coordinator, Julie Heon, Director of Technology Kevin Verratti and Clerk Kristina Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dailey called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent Lane provided additional data regarding full day kindergarten as requested by a community member.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Jessie Salisbury, community member and reporter commented that communication has vastly improved.

IV. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lane reported an agreement has been reached with the WLCSSA contract negotiations and is being reviewed. This will be discussed in non-public session. State Representative, Carol Roberts will be present at 7:00pm to discuss SB 193 with the board and budget committee. He is working on an OCR concern and entered into mediation. He will be speaking with them tomorrow. He is meeting with the FRES PTO on December 5 to discuss SB 193. There is one last budget meeting regarding salary and benefits tomorrow. December 8 he is attending the statewide superintendents' meeting in Concord.

ii. Director of Student Support Services Report

Ms. Moore reviewed that an onsite visit from NHDOE took place regarding the RISE MS program which went very well. She does not have the written report however a one year approval has been verbally granted through perpetuity. Mr. Brock gave Ms. Moore praise for the program she created which has saved the district a lot of money and served the children well.

iii. Director of Technology's Report

Mr. Verratti reported storm damage in October which caused a loss of power at WLC. The system needed to be rebooted. This time all equipment came back up; there is no generator for this building and equipment has been lost in the past. Replacement of the camera backend at WLC was completed in addition to this; two cameras were added to cover blind spots. He will budget for two more low resolution cameras that need to be replaced. Google training was provided to 13 paraeducators, a survey will go out to them to obtain feedback. He made the board aware of several high profile data breaches in the news lately regarding school districts and student information. There is no immediate threat specifically to our systems but there is always a risk when data goes outside district walls and we do utilize several third-party systems that could be potential targets. All is being done to mitigate these risks. Mr. Brock thanked Mr. Verratti for his efforts.

52 **V. CONSENT AGENDA**

53 **a. Donation**

54 A donation was made from Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance Program and Brookside Mini Mart in
55 the amount of \$500 to be placed in the student activity account which will be utilized to enhance math
56 and science curriculum at FRES.

57
58 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and SECONDED by Ms. Fisk to accept the consent agenda.*
59 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*
60

61 **VI. 7:00PM JOINT BOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION**

62 **a. Carol Roberts, State Representative-Senate Bill 193**

63 State Representative Ms. Carol Roberts accompanied by Mr. Charles Denton provided information on
64 Senate Bill 193 (School Voucher Bill). Ms. Roberts provided information on the origin, process and
65 latest update of this bill which included the Senate passing it in March 2017 with a 14-9 vote, sent to
66 the House Education Committee, several hearing were held, it was retained in 2017 which means
67 additional research will be done and brought back to be discussed again and must settled by mid-
68 November. It was voted ought to pass on November 14 with a 10-9 win. There have been major
69 changes to this bill. Once it leaves that area and goes to the House Finance Committee, if it passes it
70 goes to the governor's desk for signature and becomes law within 60 days. She recommended reaching
71 out to people you know and ask them to get involved and talk to their representative in their towns and
72 let them know how you would like them to vote.

73 Mr. Denton provided information based on his interpretation of how this bill might affect a district like
74 WLC and how it relates to funding and spoke of new additions to this bill.

75 This bill allows for the ability for the state to channel \$3,500 per student via parents applying for an
76 educational savings account. The money is provided to you (parents) and you can spend it. Five
77 percent has been taken out of the \$3,500 for administration fees, parents will get \$3,300.

78
79 The eligibility stands for funds would include:

- 80 • Families at three times the poverty level- family of four earning \$75,000
- 81 • Students needing to attend one year of public school
- 82 • Entering first graders or kindergarten students
- 83 • Parents with evidence of failure to educate for two consecutive years

84
85 Any districts financial liability is limited to ¼ of one percent of gross budget, in WLC \$30,000. There
86 is a question on how the stabilization grant will also be funded. If students start leaving, the
87 stabilization will decrease. Mr. Post questions how he knows this and explains if you have 100 less
88 students then your budget will go down so the base they calculate that on is going down, taking a small
89 fraction off a fraction. Mr. Denton responds that this is new to the bill and something that needs to get
90 worked out in conference.

91
92 The bill now has a sunset clause that in 5 years the bill expires.
93

94 Discussion was had regarding home schooled students being enrolled into public school for a year to
95 obtain funding. Several members voiced they did not feel this would happen.
96

97 The state and community are responsible for these public funds your way to guide them is more limited
98 and left up to the parents.
99

100 Special education concerns are the discussion of another bill coming up but Mr. Denton did say that the
101 public school is not responsible and if you have a student who has an IEP or special needs, it doesn't
102 travel with them. Private schools still have the ability to choose their students.

Mr. Post noted the loss of funds follow the student so if the funds are cut, we would only get funds for those who attended school, but if they are not attending (home schooled) you wouldn't expect to get paid for them. Mr. Post also noted that it should be the parents who are able to make decisions that are in the best interest of the children.

Ms. Post noted she doesn't think we will see a huge change from what we see now and does not believe there will be a mass exodus or a need to be overly concerned.

Superintendent Lane noted the only requirement for home schooling is a parent has to write a letter to the SAU to indicate they are homeschooling, no educational plan is required. He hopes that parents would spend the funds in the best interest of the child to educate them in an appropriate manner as not all parents have the background to get the child to where they want to go.

Ms. LeBlanc commented she thinks it's a waste of resources and money since the bill expires in 5 years. "I believe it is an experiment being put on the backs of our students-which after 5 years will be gone" but does not think it should be much of a worry as most parents with children in private schools will probably not remove their children from those schools and enroll the students in public school for the required one year.

Mr. Denton explained there are some resources such as businesses can contribute profit tax receipts and get a credit which goes to a scholarship for children, you can get a grant in addition to this money and are other pots of money to give people choice that the public is paying for.

Chairman Dailey commented this is not our decision to make and feels more comfortable that it will not have a huge impact on our district but we just don't know.

Mr. Denton said the last DOE survey was estimated to have 6,000 home schoolers in the state.

It was noted that it is a parent's choice what they choose for their child.

Answering a question from Ms. Ashley Saari, Mr. Denton explained the bill says you have to have attended for a minimum of a year and doesn't say last year, it sounds like at any point of consecutive months, doesn't have to be school year, can be calendar year, can be winter spring and fall.

This was a lengthy discussion and varied opinions were expressed.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Susan Ciatto, parent noted SB-193 will have an effect and feels as a community representative, as a budget committee/board it is their responsibility to ensure that our public schools are able to run. She also commented that for anyone who feels public school is not adequately educating their child, they have the right to say "you are not serving my child and get on top of it." She urges the boards to remember the will of the constituents.

- b. Letters/Information**

- **Testing Data/Districts Without Full Day Kindergarten**
 - i. District Statistical Comparisons/Full Day Kindergarten**
 - ii. Districts With or Without Full Day Kindergarten**

Superintendent Lane reviewed the data on these documents and noted that he added a document which shows data from districts that do not have full day kindergarten as a concern was raised by a citizen that information provided was incomplete because it did not include this data. The data was obtained from the NHDOE website and compared third grade scores on the Smarter Balanced assessment for the past two years for reading and math. He noted he is not satisfied with the performance and we need to do a

more effective and efficient job but we are making strides. Mr. Ballou commented that we need to use the same internal test for five years as the state continues to change the test used, example NWEA, Smarter Balanced and soon NH Statewide Assessment and we cannot be jumping around. Superintendent Lane responded we are staying with STAR 360 for internal testing; teachers are getting used to it and using the data. As part of the process, FRES has identified some students with math issues and they opened an early math lab for students. The document which compares third grade test scores for all school districts served by one elementary school in a given town vs. WLC show our test scores for 2015-16 in reading were 13% lower than state average and in math 12% lower. In 2016-17 it shows reading 15% higher than state average and 13% higher in math. The document which shows data on statistical comparison for districts with full day kindergarten for at least three years that are of similar size to us, show our 3rd grade test scores for 2014-2015 are 17% points below the average in reading, 9% points below the average math. In 2015-16 (16-17 was not available at the time) we are 10% points below the average in reading and math. The third document shows 149 towns/cities in NH that have full day kindergarten and 55 that do not. Mr. Kofalt commented that this doesn't seem conclusive that there is a whole lot of benefit. Superintendent Lane responded the data shows we have students in need and Chairman Dailey noted there is no magical set of data points.

c. FYI 2018-2019 Budget

i. Curriculum

Dr. Heon reviewed the budget for curriculum which focuses on STEM related areas, math for FRES and science for MS. This budget includes payment for stipends in August for teachers and days after school for ongoing learning and discussion of implemented strategies and substitute pay for time to work with contracted professional development coaches during the day. It also includes durable equipment; supplies for the first year of implementation, annual consumable supplies in subsequent years would be approximately \$2,000-\$2,500. Total budget expense of \$34,317.91 which breaks down for FRES \$13,915 professional development for teachers summer and after school, substitute compensation \$1,950, social security, FICA, retirement and workers comp \$3,676.91 and for MS \$6,000 for professional development, \$8,026 for curriculum based supplies, \$750 for software (Project Lead The Way) annual fee.

ii. Grants/Food Service/Revenue/Line Item

Ms. Tucker reviewed the reports.

For **special revenue** (grants) funds she anticipates a large drop in Title IA which relates to free and reduced and enrollment, 2018-19 budget is \$85,000, 2017-18 budget was \$95,946, and Title IIA which is used for professional development of teachers, 2018-19 budget is \$25,000, 2017-18 budget was \$51,890. IDEA for special education, 2018-19 budget is \$145,228, 2017-18 budget was \$142,342, IDEA SPED Preschool, is budgeting the same as last year at \$2,424, REAP, (zero) \$0 budgeted, 2017-18 budget was \$7,321 and local for 2018-19 is \$1,000, 2017-18 budget was zero- \$0. This is a total for 2018-19 of \$258,652; 2017-18 budget was \$299,923.

The **food service** budget shows total expenses and revenue budgeted for 2018-19 \$215,000 compared to \$219,600 budgeted in 2017-18. In 2016-17 there is a net income loss of \$14,265.13 (revenue \$192,430.58, expenses \$206,695.71). Superintendent Lane added that 24% of our students are free and reduced which means they are 3X the poverty level.

The **general fund revenue** budget indicates a decrease in 2018-19, budgeting \$11,727,574, 2017-18 was budgeted \$12,086,972. Some of the decrease includes interest from trust funds, E-Rate, adequacy aid, and catastrophic aid. Including food service and special revenues, the total appropriations are \$12,201,226; 2017-18 budget was \$12,278,636.

The **line item** and **running total** show a decrease (without payroll accounts, benefits, and food service and special revenue funds) of \$178,660, 4.86%.

iii. Warrant Articles

Regarding article #05, CBA with support staff, Superintendent Lane reported a tentative agreement has been reached regarding negotiations but no details will be provided until it is voted on.

• Kindergarten Discussion

Superintendent Lane drafted language approved by the attorney, for a warrant article for full day kindergarten as requested. Cost to be offset by revenues made available by the State of New Hampshire on an annual basis. If approved Lyndeborough tax increase would be \$.08, and the Wilton tax increase would be \$.09. Recommendations have not been made on this article by either board. Superintendent Lane explained the attorney wanted both boards to understand if this is put forth as a warrant article and voted down full day kindergarten cannot move forward for one full year and the attorney's recommendation is if we can, and it is of importance, it be made part of the budget. In response to a question of how many teachers may be needed for this program, Superintendent Lane responded, two teachers for 36 students. Dr. Heon explained her concern from an academic point of view is the standards are based on 13 years of public education, meaning full day kindergarten through grade 12; most states in this nation have full day kindergarten. When students come to first grade and haven't completed the bulk of curriculum, they are already behind and are facing new material. It is a snow ball effect and some questions regarding the data are a consequence of our students not having enough opportunity to gain the skills in the prior year. Superintendent Lane responded to Ms. Post asking if full day kindergarten was not successful can we choose to stop it and he responded in reality since a full day kindergarten is not part of compulsory education the district could choose to reverse it and go to a minimum of half day. The only way to stop it if it is a warrant article is to have another vote. Ms. Browne questioned since we have extended day do we have to do the same and Superintendent Lane responded no because it is still an "extended" day. Chairman Dailey asked for clarification if you went to full day and then changed to half day, you could still have the extended day, Superintendent Lane confirmed yes, unless it has a time limit. Superintendent Lane confirmed for Ms. Post the \$105,700 included payroll, the program supplies and everything needed with the estimate of 40 students. Chairman Dailey added the furniture is a one-time cost.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Susan Ciatto asked for clarification on why kindergarten would be placed on a warrant and not in the school budget. Mr. Ballou responded the board voted to *draft* a warrant article. Chairman Dailey added it was the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee to put it on a warrant as there was a lot of contention around the extended day article. Mr. Post added, it has not been decided.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kofalt and SECONDED by Ms. Altner to adjourn the budget committee session at 9:33pm.

Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and SECONDED by Ms. Fisk to approve the minutes of November 14, 2017 as written.

Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.

b. Language for Non-affiliated Handbook

Superintendent Lane reviewed the language changes for the non-affiliated staff handbook. A brief discussion was had regarding rescinding of the notification.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and SECONDED by Ms. LeBlanc to approve (for discussion purposes) language changes presented to the non-affiliated handbook.

Voting: seven aye; one abstention from Mr. Ballou, motion carried.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Legere and SECONDED by Ms. LeBlanc to amend the language changes to add at the end, "Cannot be considered for rescinding without approval of the board".

Voting: seven aye; one abstention from Mr. Ballou, motion carried.

c. Transportation Bid

Ms. Tucker reviewed the quotes and recommendation for to/from regular education transportation. The recommendation is to award the bid to Butler's Bus Service. Mr. Steve Brown, Steve's Bus Service was present and spoke of concerns about the bid process regarding a new requirement that busses are to be no more than 5 years old (at the start of the contract), he could not bid equally due to his busses being older than this and would need to purchase 8 new busses. He responded to Ms. LeBlanc that the average age of his busses is 12 years old, the newest is a 2007 and a spare that is rarely used which is 2002. Superintendent Lane confirmed for Mr. Ballou, both bids presented are qualifying bids. Mr. Bruce Lyskawa, of Butler Bus Service was present and confirmed they run 250 busses and are a local and regional company in NH area. He spoke of there being a difference in new busses and old busses and confirmed the age of Butler's busses is 4 years old. He added the difference is due to efficiency of the product being made, they have "green diesel engines" and it makes a better atmosphere having a nicer bus. In good faith, he put a bid in. He also spoke of being shocked although understands wanting to keep business local, when you put out a bid and put your best bid forward, there is an expectation.

Mr. LoVerme questioned what restrictions were listed, Superintendent Lane responded, insurance bond, video cameras and an age restriction. Ms. Tucker added this is standard best practices. Mr. LoVerme questioned if there is anything relating to allergies and Superintendent Lane responded it would be an internal protocol and he is not sure if this is possible to create an environment free of allergens. Mr. Brown confirmed his drivers are first aid and CPR certified. Mr. Lyskawa responded his are not. A discussion was had regarding the 5 year requirement and the service Mr. Brown has provided. Discussion continued regarding whether a new invitation to bid should be asked for.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Brock and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to offer the opportunity to both to rebid with the removal of the 5 year old bus restriction and change this to 12 years.

Voting: seven aye; one abstention from Mr. Post (He was not present for most of the discussion) motion carried.

Superintendent Lane confirmed with the board the bid invitation will be opened up to all bidders.

Ms. Tucker reviewed the recommendation for SPED transportation. The only bid for this came from Durham School Services (previously known as The Provider). The recommendation is to award the bid to Durham School Services. Discussion was had regarding decreasing cost for transportation if the district leased another vehicle for the out of district SPED transportation runs.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Ballou and SECONDED by Mr. Brock to accept the bid for SPED transportation from Durham School Services as presented.

Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.

d. Tuition Policy

Superintendent Lane reviewed the changes in the draft policy which included adding language to tuition in students from other towns/districts. A brief discussion was had. This is the first read on the changes to this policy and will be brought back for a second read.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Post reported there was a lot of discussion about kindergarten and reviewing the numbers. The committee is not inclined to support kindergarten within the budget and in general they have concerns and reservations but it is still early. As they are receiving little pieces of the budget, they do not know the final number and are holding their judgement on the budget. He noted they are concerned about the other warrant article regarding holding funds which Chairman Dailey responded he doesn't believe that will move forward.

X. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES

There were none to report.

309
310 **XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

311 There were no public comments to report.
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313 **XII. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION**

314 There was no additional discussion beyond Chairman Dailey noting he feels good about the direction
315 things are going but wants to see the complete budget.
316

317 **XIII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A)**

318 *A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Mr. Legere to enter Non-Public Session to*
319 *discuss negotiations RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) at 9:51pm.*

320 *Voting: all aye via roll call vote; motion carried unanimously.*
321

322 **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

323 The Board entered public session at 10:09pm.
324

325 *A MOTION was made to seal the non-public session minutes for 50 years by Mr. Brock and*
326 *SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme.*

327 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*
328

329 **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

330 *A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Ms. LeBlanc to adjourn the Board meeting*
331 *at 10:10pm.*

332 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*
333

334 *Respectfully submitted,*

335 *Kristina Fowler*
336