

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE  
EMERGENCY PUBLIC HEARING & SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, May 5, 2020  
Lyndeborough Central School  
6:30 p.m.**

Due to the state of emergency declared by the Governor regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, and subsequent Emergency Order #12, the Board Chair determined that the physical presence of a quorum within the time required for Board action is not reasonably practical and therefore authorized participation of Board members via videoconferencing/audio.

Present: *Alex LoVerme at LCS. The following members participated remotely: Jonathan Vanderhoof, Mark Legere, Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral, Charlie Post, Paul White, Brianne Lavallee, Jim Kofalt, and Carol LeBlanc on telephone.*

*Superintendent Bryan Lane at LCS, Online participation: Business Administrator Beth Baker, Principals Brian Bagley and Bob LaRoche, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, Technology Director Mark Kline, Curriculum Coordinator Julie Heon, and Clerk Kristina Fowler*

The videoconferencing link was published several places including the newspaper and on the meeting agenda. The agenda included the Superintendent's email to be used for written public comment.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman LoVerme called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**II. PUBLIC HEARING-UNANTICIPATED REVENUE RSA 198:20-b**

Chairman LoVerme reviewed this public hearing is held per RSA 198:20-b for unanticipated revenue. Superintendent added, in accordance with the RSA, anytime the school district receives funds in excess of \$5,000 the School Board has to vote to accept those funds. In the special revenue fund, we budgeted \$256,442 and anticipate receiving/spending \$367,228. This is an increase over \$110,000. Chairman LoVerme asked for questions from the Board. Questions were raised regarding the source of the money. Ms. Baker explained money comes in and gets spent and nets zero. She has provided a schedule of grants and listed each grant title, grant number, FY 20 budget vs. FY 20 allocation. Questions were raised if we knew for example of the \$48,000 coming in from the IDEA grant. Ms. Baker notes to some extent what you budget for grants is not that relevant as the funds coming in are spent. Sometimes you budget the same amount every year, if you get more that is a good thing. Superintendent added we are estimating 10 months in advance from when you will spend them. As the year progresses our needs change, the amount of funds that we are eligible for changes. As the eligibility changes and funding changes, that is when we found out we have additional funds. It was noted that money was taken from the SPED fund (capital reserve) of \$52,000 by the last Board. A question was raised, since we have these funds now can we put money back in the SPED fund? Ms. Baker confirms that was used to cure overages for FY 19, that year has closed. She adds it was approved by the auditors; they are well aware of it. It was confirmed many grants are good for 2 years. Discussion was had regarding if there is tracking of the grants, what is spent for each year. Dr. Heon confirmed the grant for robotics will expire the end of this month and we already paid for expenses for supplies during the second half of the year. Mr. Pratt spoke regarding the IDEA and preschool grants. These are 2 year grants and there can be some roll over. He notes we budgeted certain amounts for each one of these grants; we will be expending those amounts, any funds left over will be rolled over. Concern was raised that the Board needs to apply where the funds will go. Superintendent explains grants are very specific such as robotics has to be spent on robotics, engineering for engineering etc. We can only spend the funds on the areas we received the grant for and this is part of the grant application. He confirms we accept the funds once and it can branch into the next school year, we don't need another hearing for those funds. Discussion was had regarding how it gets applied, how much will be spent this year and next year and how much is returned to the tax payer. Ms. Baker confirmed that there are 3 funds, food service, general fund and grants. None of the 3 shall meet. You won't see grant funds going to tax payers. Grants are issued to the school and if the funds are not used it is returned to the state. Superintendent confirms there were ten million in unspent funds last year (not from our district) which is a result of districts not using all of their grant money over a 10-year period. He has sent a memo out to review our grants; we should spend all that we are entitled to and it is shown to Board members through the manifests. Discussion was had regarding how grants are monitored. Superintendent explains the person who manages the grant sends a report to the Business Administrator which is uploaded to the DOE, it is specific, dime for dime, dollar for dollar and has to be approved by the state. We have to show what we applied for is what it is being spent on. He also

has to approve it as well as the DOE one more time. All is strict accounting that goes back forth to the state and school district, not just for us but any school district. Discussion was had regarding if the grant is used first, does it mean there are funds left in the budget that were budgeted but not used. Dr. Heon explained (robotics grant), it's for activities that are above and beyond what is budgeted. It can be for extra pieces of equipment that are not budgeted. These are not entitlements, it is competitive and we have to submit a plan with activities above and beyond district responsibilities. They also cannot supplant district funds; it can't be for anything we paid for in the past. Superintendent confirms we can only spend grant funds on items not budgeted on. The money has been applied for and does exist, the School Board has to either accept it or not. Concern was raised there is not a lot of detail of where it is going and there should be. Superintendent notes he provided a document that does explain the grants, where the funds are and what they can be expended for. The discussion continued regarding how the money is spent and on what. Mr. Pratt spoke that for example for next year, if he saw an increase in speech/language he could access those funds for additional students that came in. It was expressed it is hard to anticipate all the SPED needs for the following year, you can't anticipate new students or additional services that may be needed. This is what we would use grant money for and the chance of not using it is slim. Mr. Pratt voiced he has never returned a dollar of IDEA grant money, there are always things that come up and this is what it is for. Management of the grants was discussed. A question was raised when the Board will see a plan on how the grants will be dispersed. Superintendent has a good deal of it now and he can provide that within a week. Concern was raised how will the Board know each one of these pieces will be spent, when will they hear back how the \$48,00 for the IDEA grant and how it will be managed, what will go to this year, next year and what it's for. Superintendent responds within the SPED account, once we have an expenditure that exceeds the budget dollar figure, we would let you know since we are not doing transfers and are still providing YTD expense reports, you will see an account is over and we have to tell you how it is going to be paid for. Discussion was had that it's hard for the Board to keep track of grant money. Superintendent explains that is his responsibility in coordination with the Business Administrator, SPED Director and Curriculum Coordinator to have full knowledge of where those things will be spent. He confirms each grant has a very specific end date. Robotics is May 31. There are reallocation grants; we have to tell the state if we are not going to spend this then the state reallocates it. You apply for it and that's where those funds come from. We don't have access to the funds until the state gives us the opportunity to apply for them and that doesn't happen until the fall. Dr. Heon confirms Title 1 will roll into next year, it expires the end of Aug. and some funding for the Summer Academy will roll over to the fall, Title 4 cannot be a 2 year grant and will expire the end of Aug. Title 2 can be 2 years however since we have lots of summer PD it will be expended by the end of Aug. Mr. Pratt confirms both the IDEA and preschool grants will roll over through Aug. 2021. New grants are released in June and we can apply for activity either beginning of July or sometime after.

Chairman LoVerme asked for public comment.

Ms. Lisa Post questioned what effect will the COVID-19 situation have on these grants. Superintendent responded he doesn't have a full answer for this because we don't know what our restrictions will be after June. We would still be able to expend on things we didn't anticipate. If we will expend funds on things due to COVID-19 there is CARES Act money and he is not sure when that will become effective and may be able to spend some of that on SPED.

Concern was raised, based on the way we are allowed to expend these funds the Board should take a closer look at how we budget these funds. Perhaps we could have utilized these funds better and saved the tax payer some. Ms. Baker spoke about the risk of budgeting for grant funds that are not received. She believes it would raise alarms although it shouldn't. There are incredible controls around grants, each grant is assigned a person, the grant is input into a grant management system through the state, she is notified when its created, she creates new general ledger accounts, she tracks it all on the financial system making sure there are funds available for purchase orders to be created, each has an expiration date with specified activities. The danger is if it budgeted high it makes the budget look high and we are not really increasing the budget. She makes sure none of the lines are overspent. Superintendent adds grants are not guaranteed money, if we hope to receive \$30,000 for example and we don't, this is a risk.

Mr. Pratt spoke of the distance learning grant which are funds the DOE has allocated to districts based on the size of population and is projected to use for activities relating to distance learning. We are looking at it as a way to plan for next year and a way for excess expenses due to remote learning; it's a small amount of money but will help.

Chairman LoVerme closed the public hearing at 7:12 PM.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Post and SECONDED by Mr. White to accept the grant funds as described.*

Voting: via roll call vote, eight ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.

Superintendent confirms the Board has approved the acceptance of funds in the amount of \$110,786 from the grants as described.

### **III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Superintendent informed the Board of two adjustments, the Town of Wilton has requested to split the May payment and an additional resignation.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Mr. Kofalt accept the adjustments to the agenda.*

*Voting: via roll call vote, eight ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment section of the agenda was read. Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

Mr. Adam Lavallee spoke to Chairman LoVerme noting he received an email from Chair Browne of the Budget Committee regarding the revenue committee. He will send Chairman LoVerme an outline of his ideas for this committee.

Superintendent confirmed for Ms. Jo Anne Dufour, that the WLCTA is on the agenda under distance learning.

### **V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **a. Reports**

##### **i. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent continues with the Commissioners calls and has outlined in his report what is being discussed. Distance learning is moving forward for the remainder of the year. There are not many issues being reported with technology. The flex day from what he understands is a welcomed addition. Teachers are beginning to clean their rooms starting today. Some adjustments have been made in the schedule for those who needed it. Administration in both buildings are finding ways for students to return materials. He thanked the custodial staff and all staff for all their work. A committee is being created to talk about what the fall will look like, hoping to have more information from the Governor and Commissioner shortly. All teacher contracts have been distributed; due back on May 8, other contracts will go out soon. Seniors were polled and 22-0 want to have graduation at the drive-in; more information to come. Kindergarten registration will be May 13, 6pm-8pm; curbside. He spoke to members of the WLCTA regarding end of year procedures and to look at ways to plan constructively for next year. This resulted in an email he sent to all staff that we will have a committee to talk about those things. He has had a request from the Town of Wilton which we will talk about later. He received an email from the Wilton Cares group which is working with people in the community that need help. He sent out an email to language/arts teachers to ask for student submissions (letters/poems) to be delivered in particular to senior citizens. The Cares group will also be making masks and handing these out. He thanks the volunteers and is happy to work with them.

#### **b. Letters/Information**

##### **i. General Assurances FY 21**

Superintendent provided the General Assurances for FY 21 this goes hand in hand with what Ms. Baker spoke of regarding rules around grants (it includes the rules). We are required to share this with the Board. There is list of all the federal grants we receive and additional document which shows what the grants are for and how we spend them. He notes the text comes directly from the DOE. No action is needed on this. A question was raised that the last page seems to be specific to Georgia and questions if it is relative to NH. Superintendent responds yes. Superintendent confirms it is signed by Chairman LoVerme and part of the requirement is that it is given to the Board prior to sending it to the DOE.

##### **ii. NEASC Continued Accreditation**

A letter was sent to Principal Bagley regarding awarding WLC continued Accreditation for the next 10 years in NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges). We have a 2 and 5-year plan which is submitted.

Superintendent and board members voiced appreciation for all the work that was done. Principal Bagley confirmed regarding the one standard not met, the group knew it was something they needed to work hard on. It continues to be worked on and he does not anticipate this being an issue next year. The first report of progress and planning is due February 1, 2020.

## **VI. YTD EXPENSE REPORT**

Ms. Baker reviewed the report looks quite different from 2 weeks ago. One hundred and one purchase orders have been closed which released \$236,312 in encumbrances. As of April 28, the report shows an ending balance of \$397,818.24 (after special meeting in November). There are still open purchase orders; this is still a dynamic/ changing number. With this unique situation of remote learning a lot of things were not spent: \$117,000 in general education and SPED transportation and transport for field trips and athletics, supplies across the district not needed, maintenance, officials, nursing services and graduation expenses.

A question was raised if things like stair treads that were taken out of next year's budget could they be purchased this year. Superintendent responds that is a Board decision. Support was shown for safety related items. Superintendent can bring forward a list of maintenance issues for discussion (lockers, door hinges and stair treads). Mr. Vanderhoof noted these were not safety issues, the Finance Committee would not have moved these forward for reductions if it was. Superintendent suggested if a member wanted to bring this forward on the next agenda for discussion, they can request it during board comments or communicate with the Chairman prior to the next meeting. If it is on the agenda he will bring the information.

## **VII. DISTANCE LEARNING**

### **a. WLCTA**

Superintendent reports we are moving along with distance learning and the WLCTA wanted the opportunity to speak to the Board.

Ms. Jo Anne Dufour spoke regarding a brief statement she sent the Board on how teachers are feeling about distance learning. They met with the Superintendent on Friday and had some lengthy discussions about the end of the school year and planning for next fall. There are many different approaches to end the school year. One concern the WLCTA has is we as a faculty and families gave up a much needed break in terms of vacation week to try to accommodate distance learning however, in the last School Board meeting the Superintendent reported the state had given districts some latitude as long as we met the required hours of instruction. Many districts in our area are ending May 29 for students and using the last week to help teachers and faculty collaborate and plan. There is a 5 week stretch ahead of us. They want to revisit whether or not it would be good to have students who reached the required instruction time to end and have teachers work in conjunction with building principals to find a tiered approach for a solid and seamless fall understanding students and parents need to repair the difficulties of being teachers for their children and for teachers to assess how this went. They were given 2 days' notice to come up with plans that are not they typical way of providing instruction. She complimented her colleagues for doing such an amazing job; it is teacher appreciation week. She notes they are feeling the stressors and all need to support each other as human beings and would like the Board to support them in assessing if the 29<sup>th</sup> of May for those students who met the requirements, they then can shift the focus to start planning and continue it with a select committee. They would like to start this sooner than later as the later time is also a time for faculty to take a break. It is a stressful time, not business as usual. She thanked the Board for their time and is open for questions.

Ms. Lavallee spoke regarding the productivity of her personal students has become less and less as this continues and questions if teachers are experiencing this. Ms. Dufour spoke that she imagines teachers are trying to keep engagement as much as possible but also hearing from families this is a difficult task. They are trying to engage students without overwhelming them with this style of learning and teaching. Ms. Lavallee noted it is a fine line and wanted to know how other parents were reacting. She believes by the end of May the younger kids will be exhausted. She feels families and children will be feeling this and parents may be returning to work by then which will affect

218 how they are able to educate their children and how they will be able to maintain the same levels of participation. She  
219 feels the teachers are giving 110% but the students only have so much to give.

220  
221 Principal Bagley voiced appreciation for the teachers. He acknowledges that students and parents are struggling. He  
222 adds we are getting good work, there are some who don't give us much. He envisions as we go students will struggle  
223 to stay engaged. Principal LaRoche voiced appreciation for the teachers. He has seen a bell curve in the work. At first  
224 it was difficult getting on line and then it hit its stride and recently has heard from parents struggling to keep the  
225 students on task and saying they are overwhelmed. There is a balance of teachers getting the best work from the  
226 students and the challenges at home. Parents are involved with trying to teach their children and do their own work  
227 from home. It is a challenge.

228  
229 Superintendent voiced appreciation for the teachers with all their efforts and to Ms. Dufour as a school counselor. He  
230 spoke if a student has completed the competency based work, the teacher can provide enrichment assignments and  
231 focus on students who need extra help. Para's are available to provide help also. One of his concerns he discussed  
232 with Mr. Pratt revolves around SPED and making sure we follow the IEP required services that we have to give by  
233 law and if we don't do that we have to supplant that after the school year. If we close the books for all teachers on the  
234 29<sup>th</sup> and SPED teachers still have to work through the 5<sup>th</sup> that creates a level of inequity. He is not sure how that  
235 would work.

236  
237 Mr. White spoke of his experience educating his children at home and expressed they have started to lose focus and to  
238 finish the day they are working until 4 pm/5 pm. They didn't get the break they probably should have. He doesn't  
239 think the 7 days will make or break it. It's getting very hard to get through the same amount of work on any given day  
240 due to their attention levels.

241  
242 Mr. Vanderhoof notes he believes the WLCTA asked to be on the agenda back on the 27<sup>th</sup> and it didn't seem like there  
243 was any communication with administration on what this would look like or how it would work prior to that.  
244 He questioned if there was a reason for bypassing administration and coming straight to the Board. Ms. Dufour  
245 responded it was not a matter of bypassing, it was trying to be sure we were put on the agenda to have a voice in this  
246 platform. She notes in the past the Board wanted more time to schedule those types of meetings.

247  
248 Mr. Vanderhoof notes when we were talking about the calendar and planning for this year and next year that "we kind  
249 of left out administration". Ms. Dufour disagrees, personally she did have conversations with her school principal and  
250 did have a meeting with the Superintendent and the rest of the executive board. They are just trying to have their  
251 voices heard as part of the stake holders in the school district that have contact with student's day to day and wanted  
252 to present a unified front that we are trying to do the best for the students but noticed their exhaustion. She is trying to  
253 keep focus on their mental health as a school counselor which is a different role than some of her colleagues.

254  
255 Mr. Vanderhoof recognized this is not easy for everyone but questions how eliminating a full week will help. He feels  
256 this is a topic that should have been brought up prior to eliminating a planned week off that could have helped  
257 rejuvenate some of the people involved. Ms. Dufour notes she believes it was presented at the last board meeting and  
258 introduced by the Superintendent but then it was moved into changing vacation. She feels it may have been lost in the  
259 discussion and is bringing it up so it can be completed. There was conversation about the state allowing districts to  
260 end school early required instruction was met and support students who may need remediation. She felt it was  
261 important information to provide but it is up to the Board to decide.

262  
263 Mr. Vanderhoof expressed the last paragraph in her letter says it was difficult for faculty and parents to sacrifice their  
264 vacation, but a survey was sent to parents which overwhelmingly indicated they wanted to forgo the vacation and the  
265 WLCTA agreed to that. He adds, the letter also says the Superintendent left out or did not revisit this valuable  
266 information regarding the fact he could have ended school early regardless of having vacation or not. The letter also  
267 says he reported at last board meeting the state has given latitude to end remote learning when they have met the

requirements. He points to board minutes which include in 3 separate areas regarding exactly that but is accused of not bringing the information forward. He questioned if this was justified. Ms. Dufour responded with all due respect, she is not accusing anyone, just asking the Board to look at options. Mr. Vanderhoof believes planning for next year would be more effective if done closer to the fall given that it may look different as things evolve. He also concerned having a larger extended summer could accelerate the “slide” by pulling them out 2 weeks before.

A question was raised if SPED waivers are specifically around IEP and 504 requirements and when do we anticipate getting more information as the rulings will directly impact what the needs are. Superintendent confirms that information has come in since his report was written and asked Mr. Pratt to respond. Mr. Pratt informed the group that Secretary DeVos made no recommendations for waivers to Congress as Congress would have to approve them. Administratively the only waiver she made was the progression from students going from early childhood to the 3-year-old preschool for special needs which gives us some flexibility in terms of evaluations. Everything else in terms of student’s kindergarten and above there are no waivers. There is an expectation we are meeting a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment at all times.

A question was raised about ESY; is there a plan. Mr. Pratt notes he has spent a long time with other SPED directors and calls with the DOE. No direct guidance has been provided from either federal or state government in terms of what will/will not be allowed for ESY. We are in the middle of identifying students as we speak. The plan at this point is that we would be doing remote ESY for all students with the exception of students in RISE who would come in on a 1:1 limited basis. Also some of the preschool students may come in on a limited basis. All other therapies would be remote and plan to start in July through first or second week of August. All of the plans could change pending directions coming from DOE. Superintendent added ESY is to alleviate students from regressing with academic progress. Mr. Pratt confirmed there were students lined up to receive ESY prior to remote learning as part of their IEP and those numbers are stable and what we would expect. Individual reviews are being done of each student and will move forward with the recommendations either through the IEP or a remote team meeting.

Discussion included we may be doing remote learning in the fall, if we shorten the school year it will create other issues including issues for hourly staff, a letter was received from the WLCSSA requesting the Board not cut the year short, and the issue of “seat hours” was brought up last meeting. Discussions continued including, wanting to see the kids continue to learn through the end of the year, acknowledgement of the struggles, students will start summer a week early without the school break, (it was noted it is 5 days not 2 weeks,) if the kids are not focused and the teachers continue to put out work it is not doing anything, students can only absorb so much, the extra 5 days would be used more wisely as a family unit, students are overwhelmed, if the vacation had continued as planned this may have been a different discussion, and ending early on the 29<sup>th</sup> creates a long period break away from school. Superintendent does not advocate one way or another. He notes if students completed competency based work, learned what they are supposed to learn, those students can be given enrichment assignments that don’t need to be assessed and teachers can work with students who are struggling and do not meet the competency. If teachers want to plan some fun things to do, they can do that. The social emotional learning piece is important too. He does understand there is burn out, teachers are struggling and were thrown into it without any preparation; we all were. They and the rest of the staff are doing an outstanding job. If the Board chooses to end the 29<sup>th</sup> he does not know what this will look like for all teachers and the hourly staff, he knows we cannot have more PD as it is not allowed by the contract.

A question was raised to Ms. Dufour what the WLC counselors, teachers and principals have said regarding this. Ms. Dufour spoke that there was a Union meeting. The membership spoke to varied issues as well as about a tiered model and remedial work, some were in support of that. Many were concerned about the students. They wanted to be sure the School Board heard their concerns, this is long stretch, this is not the normal kind of learning and wants to be sure we are supporting the students as best we can as well as each other through this process. Team collaborating time is missing as well. She did not speak to the vice principal at WLC, but there were teachers at the HS who spoke to Principal Bagley and to coordinate with administration.

Chairman LoVerme spoke of concerns that he keeps hearing students are struggling but yet we want to end school a week early. He doesn't feel we should let the struggling students struggle even more; do we start the next year with teaching the last month of the previous year. We can't start (for example) a 6<sup>th</sup> grader off in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade if we didn't complete the previous year. It is his opinion we would just be giving up on the students and the last week of school can be focused on the students who really need the help.

Mr. Vanderhoof asked the letter from the WLCTA president be entered into the minutes. (see attached)

Mr. Post expressed referencing the letter received from the WLCSSA on April 14, we can't just pull the switch without affecting other things like the hourly staff. They were asking for the exact opposite of this. He believes this would be a mistake to adopt this to end the school year early.

Ms. Leblanc commented she agrees with Superintendent Lane.

Chairman LoVerme questioned if a member of the Board wanted to make a motion to end the school year for students on 29<sup>th</sup> of May and teachers continue to June 5 and collaborate for next year.

Mr. Vanderhoof noted we would need to go through an approval process as we are only allotted 5 PD days and we have already had those; they would have to agree to allow another 5 days. He doesn't know that we have enough information to do any good planning for fall. It would be easier to do if we could have everyone in one room. There are additional hurdles to get over if we want to end the school year early more than just taking a vote.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof to continue as planned and end on June 5.*

Superintendent clarifies no motion is needed if there is no change to the last day of school. The only appropriate motion would be to change the last day.

*Mr. Vanderhoof WITHDREW his motion.*

Discussions continued including there is not enough information to effectively plan and may need to be discussed at the next meeting, more information would be needed regarding the "struggling students" as there really are 2 different groups of students; some are struggling academically and some emotionally. Feedback is asked for from administration about participation at the different grade levels and quality of work, what percentage is struggling emotionally and what percentage is academically. Superintendent notes we should have good data on students who have completed the competency based scenario. It may be a factor in creating the tiered scenario and not providing new material but making sure the student gets to where they need to be. The next meeting is on May 26 (3 days before May 29). He would work with building principals and counselors to obtain the information for the Board. He confirmed a letter of agreement with the WLCTA would have to be drawn up in order to add PD days. This has not been drawn up at this time or discussed with the Superintendent. He would be happy to work with the Union. If the Board voted to end on the 29<sup>th</sup> there is not clarity of what the last week would look like, however it can still be done. Concern was raised it doesn't make sense to decide on May 26 as there is not enough time for parents and staff to plan or plan PD. Superintendent notes he was not sent the communication the Board received, only after the Board received it. In interpreting the document if days were available to use for PD, now they are not. but used a day or two to debrief to find out from teachers what worked and what did not. There is a possibility of finding math curriculum or an activity such as field day like we typically do, that would be appropriate. He believes we could come up with activities for staff in a couple of days. Concern was raised the hourly employees were told they would be paid through the rest of the year and now they will not have anything to do.

A question was raised of how the teachers will be able to determine if the student has met the requirements and competency. How could students possibly reach the same level as expected when in school. Superintendent spoke in

looking at the past assessments it showed many students were above where they were required and could use that as a measure. There are assessments that can be given that students would have to return.

A question was raised by Ms. Petrone, when teachers will have time to prep and plan for the new year as there is a lot to consider. Superintendent responds if we need to do this regardless of whatever else is needed we will do this. The committee can be created, it's a paid committee and if we need PD over the summer we will find ways to make it work. It would be the responsibility of administration. We will need a plan to determine the achievement gap and level of readiness to whichever situation we have.

## **VIII. GRADUATION**

Superintendent informed members that the drive-in will be opening and they will require it be held at 4pm vs. 5pm and will need to be gone within 1 hour 45 minutes which should not be an issue. There is a fee that didn't exist when he first spoke to them of \$1,500; a portion of that (1/3) will go to the food bank in Milford. The sound will cost about \$600-\$800 and the staging itself is about \$600. There are funds available; approximately \$6,000 in graduation funds across the district not spent. Graduation can be held June 5 at 4pm with a rain date of June 6. He will work with Principal Bagley and staff to figure out logistics. It appears the graduates can walk up one at a time to get their diploma. Everyone needs to stay in their car except the graduate. Regarding awards, we can have a virtual piece, the scholarships can happen on that day but normally would not be part of the ceremony. They will get caps and gowns; distribution will be done when they hand in their materials. No objections heard.

## **IX. ACTION ITEMS**

### **a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting**

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Mr. Legere to approve the minutes of April 21, 2020 as written.*

*Voting: via roll call vote, eight ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

### **b. Technology and Review Committee**

Mr. Vanderhoof informed members this was brought forward by the Budget Committee; next meeting is May 19. He does not believe there will be an issue if the Board appoints a couple of members to each committee. He can bring the information back to the Budget Committee to select their members. Because there will be recommendations coming back to the Board, he suggests the Board should form the committee. There is no concern regarding membership being split by town. The Technology Committee intent is to review and update the technology plan and the Revenue Committee was to look at ways to bring in more funds from building and property usage.

Mr. LoVerme and Mr. Post volunteered for the Revenue Committee.

Ms. LeBlanc and Ms. Cloutier-Cabral volunteered for the Technology Committee.

Mr. Vanderhoof will inform the Board which members from the Budget Committee will be on each committee.

### **c. MS Accelerated Option**

Superintendent reviewed starting in January he worked with staff, Dr. Heon, Ms. Edmunds, Principal Bagley, and school counselors to find a way increase rigor at the MS that parents and community have been asking for. Teachers did a great job with the Challenge Option but students were not opting in because it was not seen to be an advantage. We looked at STAR assessment, came up with a concept to create an accelerated option for a section of students in grades 6 and 7. Minimum requirements are to be 1 grade level ahead in STAR assessment, (it would be very clear for parents), and have a teacher recommendation. Engineering and math curriculum for an example would be more challenging and students need to do more independent work. The goal is to prepare students in grades 6, 7 and 8 to become honors students in HS. In mathematics every student involved would be ready to participate in Algebra 1 in grade 8. This provides other options in math and other areas. Teachers are supporting this moving forward; we ask the School Board to support it is as it is a change in curriculum. Mr. Vanderhoof voiced concern regarding the requirements and strongly feels no student should be discouraged from participating. Superintendent noted it is across all subject areas not just one in order to keep the MS model. Parents would have the ultimate decision whether the student participates or not. The teacher recommendation is also very important especially for those students who are

on the border. It is about 1/3 of the class that meets the requirements. Students would be allowed to opt out if felt it was not for them. Mr. Vanderhoof has concerns that it is discouraging students who want to step up. Chairman LoVerme added if there are too many students the ones that are truly accelerated can become bored and held back if all the classmates are not accelerated. Superintendent notes the charge from the community is for an accelerated program. Superintendent confirms the difference between this and the Challenge Option is that program was not successful because the student didn't think there was something in it for them. In this scenario, there is something in it for them long term. The Challenge Option was specific to units; this is a program change. They qualify themselves for higher level classes as they progress through school. Superintendent spoke there will be an achievement gap due to distance learning and we will need to figure out where those gaps are and find ways to bring it up quickly. For students who are academically motivated, it will happen quicker. The data we will use is from Sep., Nov., and Jan.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Kofalt and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to approve the MS Accelerated Program. \**

Discussion continued. Concern was raised by Mr. Vanderhoof that we should attempt to accelerate every student. He wants an accelerated program but wants every student to have a chance. It was noted to open it to all students creates logistical problems as half of the class may want to participate but then after 2 weeks a large number want to drop out; trying to shuffle them into other classes may be an issue. Using STAR assessment and teacher recommendations you are not restricting it, it is setting a bar and if students want to be in the program they need to meet that bar. It does provide some leeway with having two different factors in making that decision. It allows for those students who may not test well or perform well. The incentive should be if they want to get into that class they need to perform well. Superintendent confirms the primary requirement is they have the reading skills and numeracy skills. The variance is about 2 grade levels; the teacher recommendation is really important not just can they handle it academically but can they emotionally and have the self-discipline to do it. Questions were raised if you have a student who passes the tests how does the teacher know a lack of motivation is not due to boredom. Superintendent responds he has a strong faith in the teachers to know who has the capability to do this type of work. Parents are also a deciding factor. Superintendent notes we have to look at all data points to be sure we make the right decision. The student is the most important factor by showing what they can do. He confirms if a student consistently performs well but does not test well; he believes teachers will know this and conversations would be had with the parents and student. He confirms class sizes for this would be about 18 in the accelerated program for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and about 16 and 15 in the other classes and other grade would be about evenly split.

*\*Voting: via roll call vote, seven ayes; one nay from Mr. Vanderhoof, one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

Superintendent noted quarterly updates will be provided to the Board.

#### **d. Copiers/Printers**

Ms. Baker reported she has been working with Mr. Kline on pricing out a new copy contract for next year for copiers and printers. She has provided information in the board packet which includes replacing 33 pieces of equipment, (10 copiers, 23 printers), retaining 8 printers, eliminating 9 printers and moving one copier from WLC to FRES. Five bids were received. They are recommending going with Budget (lowest bid) for \$39,763.45. Research was done on the company who has been around for a while and do service school districts. Reference checks were positive. This is a 5-year lease, a municipal lease, we would own the equipment at the end of the 5 years. It does include a supply agreement and is guaranteed for 5 years and also includes a print management subscription. The lease is billed once a year, sales and service twice. Over 2 million copies per year are allowed, modeled around our current usage. If any overage, we will be charged, if less we will receive a rebate. She confirmed we did not monitor usage before and believes the tendency is to print in color more often than is needed; people are unaware of the cost of color printing. She believes the management tool will require the person to put in a code for color printing. Usage reports will show which copiers are getting the most use and which ones are printing in color. It gives management the opportunity to ask why and try to educate staff. At the end of the 5 years we can do a new lease and keep the equipment or not replace the equipment for a year or two and get sales and service only. She confirms there is no specific wording needed for the motion.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to approve the contract with Budget for 5 years.*

477 *Voting: via roll call vote, eight ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

478  
479 • **TOWN OF WILTON REQUEST**

480 Superintendent informed members he received an email from the Town of Wilton asking if the town can break up  
481 their May payment into 2 payments, 1 in May and 1 in June each for \$315,397.84 This is in order to help them with  
482 the Government being closed and not receiving collections. Ms. Baker had said it will not be detrimental to us, our  
483 cash flow is good. Chairman LoVerme noted when the district needed a favor the town came through for us and  
484 supports paying back the favor.

485  
486 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Post and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to allow the Town of Wilton to break up*  
487 *the May payment in 2 equal payments one in May and one in June.*

488  
489 Mr. Post noted it is important to take note the towns and state are really going to struggle with revenue coming up this  
490 year when you think of where the revenue comes from its lottery, meal tax, fuel tax and people are not able to make  
491 their mortgage payments and are struggling. It will take a long time to get out of this.

492  
493 *Voting: roll call vote, eight ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

494  
495  
496 **X. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

497 **i. Budget Liaison**

498 Mr. Vanderhoof reports the committee has not met since the last meeting and will meet on May 19.

499  
500 **XI. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/LEAVES**

501 Superintendent informed the members of 3 resignations; at WLC, Ms. Karis Welsh MS Science teacher, Ms. Donna  
502 Garnham, food service and a hand carried resignation from Ms. Beth Baker, Business Administrator who will be  
503 leaving as of June 30.

504  
505 Chairman LoVerme noted he is sorry to see these folks go; he voiced appreciation for the job they have all done.

506  
507 **XII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

508 Public comment section of the agenda was read.

509  
510 Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.  
511 There was no public comment to report.

512  
513 **XIII. SCHOOL BOAD MEMBER COMMENTS**

514 Mr. Post thanked the public for joining (about 54 people). He informed members that Ms. Laura Gifford, LCS school  
515 nurse has been running a project and volunteering to construct COVID masks making them nights and weekends.  
516 They have been used in the community at places such as Market Basket. If anyone is interested in volunteering to sew  
517 or provide materials she has started this out of the goodness of her heart and done a great job. Superintendent added  
518 she has also provided them to students at LCS.

519  
520 Mr. White thanked everyone for coming out tonight, participation is appreciated. Teachers are doing a good job, keep  
521 it up. It's going very well.

522  
523 Mr. Vanderhoof commented an accelerated option for any grade level is a good idea but doesn't think we give the  
524 students enough credit for knowing where they are at and where they want to be. Telling a student in the MS they  
525 cannot do something they want to do because you don't think they are capable is a sad precedent. He hopes this  
526 doesn't happen. He hopes you are as open as you can be for the students who wants to challenge themselves.

527  
528 Mr. Legere echoes the sentiments to those people joining in remotely, it is great to see folks participating.

529  
530 Ms. LeBlanc thanked everyone for participating and commends the teachers. She requests to add to the next agenda  
531 the list of maintenance only issues to be reviewed.

Ms. Lavallee echoed what everyone has said thanking the public for showing up tonight, and to all families, teachers and staff who are helping.

Mr. Kofalt echoed the same comments to all who are here.

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral voiced appreciation for the participation, it is very helpful. To the teachers and faculty; we appreciate you so much, this an amazing thing you have been doing and during teacher appreciation week with us needing to teach our kids we have a deeper appreciation of what you do. Thank you for being so patient. She concurs with Chairman LoVerme we are sorry to see those leave who have resigned. Thank you for all the great work.

Chairman LoVerme gave a shout out to the teachers, administrators, and everyone involved in school. He spoke of a person who lives in Pennsylvania, a past graduate at WLC, who has been following the school for quite a while. He may move back to this town because of where the education has gone over the past few years. He is very impressed on what has been happening here pre-k-12. He is glad to share that with us and being from someone who lives out of state. Regarding safety, they used to say safety is in numbers and now it is dangerous to be in numbers. He spoke of a number of people who had lunch together in an employee break room and 4 out of 6 have the virus. They were not wearing masks. Be safe, wash your hands, soap and water is better than sanitizer. If you go out, please wear a mask. He voiced appreciation for everyone, faculty, staff and board members.

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Post and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:18pm. Voting: roll call vote, eight ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Kristina Fowler*

## School Transition both end and reintegration proactive plan.

The WLCTA would like to engage in a meaningful dialogue and a proactive approach to supporting our students through the end of the school year with the district leadership.

Once students have met the required number of instructional hours, they should be done their school year. We are noticing the toll that remote learning is having on students, families, and faculty. The teachers and faculty have unilaterally created a remote plan with great success. We know that it does have its limitations. One is the face-to-face time another is the additional time needed to facilitate this process, especially on families, but on faculty as well.

Mr. Lane reported at the last school board meeting that the state has given school districts the latitude to end remote learning when students have met the required hours of instruction on May 29<sup>th</sup>, Merrimack and Milford are also ending on 29th. Conval is ending remote learning on the May 29, 2020. Hollis-Brookline is approaching things from a tiered approach. Once students have met the required number of instructional hours, remote learning can end. Teachers and staff will continue to work for that final week. This would give leadership, faculty, and staff time to collaborate and plan for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. This seems to be alleviating the stress and duress on families and recognizes that students need a break. Many school districts are taking this approach. Others are taking a tiered approach to the end of the school year. Ending for those students who have met their requirements and competencies. Adding supports in the final week to facilitate remedial instruction. If there are students who will need remedial interventions or services, there will be some built in time before the final day of school to help facilitate that for them. These measure and decisions are showing support for students and families' mental health. It seems like good practice to allow families to rebuild relationships without the hardship of being an instructor/teacher of remote academics.

Once students have completed instructional hours, faculty would have another stretch of time to plan logistics for the fall. Collaborate for a safe reintegration. These students have been through enough we really need to have a solid, but flexible plan so it will be as seamless as possible. We understand that things may change come fall because these are uncertain times, but we will have spent time supporting each other as humans, educators, professionals to be ready for and be the best we can be for our students. We are looking for clear direction from the school board, superintendent and other district leaders, but we must have a voice in these discussions as we are on the front lines. We are your first responders and we triage daily and believe that responding with empathy and supporting the social emotional part of our students will be most valuable. We want to foster resiliency in our students and give them those messages that they can do this and have done a great job in a very different and confusing world. Moreover, because of this hard work they have completed their requirements.

In closing, families and faculty sacrificed a much needed break to support our students. However, the Superintendent left out or did not revisit this valuable information about the fact that he could end early regardless. This just does not sit well. I have also listed some resources that can help us moving forward. We are hopeful that the school board will consider these matters and give us direction.

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Dufour,

WLCTA President

**Looking Ahead to Reopening Schools:** A number of organizations have developed guidelines and recommendations for the reopening of schools for the 2020-21 school year. Here are several:

- American Federation of Teachers: A Plan to Safely Reopen America's Schools and Communities
- Center for American Progress: Ensuring Equitable Pathways for the Class of 2020 Amid the Coronavirus
- Education Trust: A P-12 Education Agenda in Response to COVID-19
- Council of Chief State School Officers: Phase 2--Restart and Recovery
- Brookings: Avoiding the COVID-19 Slump: Making Up for Lost Time
- Aspen Institute: Recovery and Renewal Principles for Advancing Public Education Post-Crisis