

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, March 3, 2020
Florence Rideout Elementary School-Library
6:30 p.m.**

Present: *Matt Ballou, Miriam Lemire, Carol LeBlanc, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Mark Legere, and Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral*

Superintendent Bryan Lane, Business Administrator Beth Baker, Principals Brian Bagley and Bob LaRoche, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, Curriculum Coordinator Julie Heon, and Clerk Kristina Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROBOTICS PRESENTATION

Teacher/coach Andrew Tyler along with the robotics team consisting of Brooklyn Furze and Justin Marcinuk provided a presentation of the robot they created. Grants were received to help them get started. The students had basic instructions for the robot with a standard kit that included many parts. Flexibility was given in the creation of the robot. They competed with teams from all over NH and the teams can have sponsors such as BAE. The competitions are free; this year it was at SNHU. The team placed 21 overall in the entire State, and won the Judges Award. The two-person team shares the mechanical design together and a lot of programing was done. The presentation included the robot picking up a block, moving back and forth and spinning completely around. There is a MS robotics club, the Lego League Team, who also did well this year. There are 8 students in that group spanning all grades 6-8. Next year the HS team will double in size and increase again the year after that. The Board recognized that the students put a lot of work and effort into this and congratulated them on their accomplishments.

III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent requested to add a resignation and a hired replacement to the agenda. He noted additional slides have been provided for the Board to review as well as STAR 360 assessment scores. The Principals will speak to the scores and Principal Bagley provided an approval letter from NEASC.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lemire and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to accept the adjustments to the agenda.

Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public was reminded complaints regarding employees or students should be directed to the Superintendent in accordance to policies KE and KEB.

There was no public comment.

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent reports a draft of the slide presentation for district meeting and script were sent to the Board. He has received some feedback. Adjustments can be made as the Board wishes. He notes there was some information that came to him in regard to the language of the warrant articles. Two articles are for capital reserve funds and have specific language to be raised by taxation. He explained this language is there because it is possible the capital reserve funds can come from the fund balance at the end of the year and this is why; there are alternatives for these particular warrants and not for the others. Budget Committee Chair, Ms. Browne is in the process of finalizing the presentation on the budget and once it is received it will be put on the website. She requested some information around comparative tax rates and per pupil expense. This information was provided. The Principal searches are complete; Mr. LaRoche is the Principal of FRES and Mr. Peter Weaver, the Principal of WLC and will start in the fall. Superintendent welcomed them and thanked all who volunteer their time to participate in the process (about 40 people beyond the Board). He met with the MS staff today and will again next week. In looking at the data from

STAR 360; it is promising. There are students in the MS who are testing one grade higher or above. Looking at this and listening to the community at large, he is working with the MS staff and Principal Bagley to bring a program to challenge those students on a daily basis; modify the curriculum so it is more in-depth. He thanked both Dr. Heon and Principal Bagley for their efforts with this. He did reach out to Principal LaRoche to discuss how they can modify efforts to challenge those students in 4th and 5th grade who are excelling. He confirmed, if they are able to come up with a program for the MS it will be implemented in the fall.

ii. Business Administrator's Report

Ms. Baker's report focuses on print management services. She made arrangements to work with SPC (Specialized Purchasing Consultants) and have them to go out to bid for us. They are putting together a large bid now of more than 69 million prints. She is hoping to get newer equipment within the budget. She notes we are not required to use them if we don't like the bids. Chairman Ballou voiced he has worked with SPC in the past with positive results; they are responsive and saved money for the district.

iii. Principals' Reports

Principal Bagley reported Christian Balusek, the Geography Bee winner, has qualified for the State competition. He competes in March and hopes to make it to Nationals. The NEASC letter has been shared with the Board which awards WLC with continued accreditation. The report is not available yet; the Steering Committee will present to the Board once it is. He notes the whole staff worked hard and came together as a team to accomplish this. He spoke of the STAR 360 test scores. In comparing these to what the Board saw in the past, you can see the difference our teachers and students have made. The teachers are committed to the students and it is nice to see it pay off. The work will continue. Grades 6-8 have improved by at least a grade level. Superintendent adds that the MS scores for grade level equivalency in math for grade 6 for example, is at 7.8 and you would expect to see it at about 6.6 this time of year. The 7th grade had struggled last year in 6th grade and are at 9.6 and the 8th grade is at 9.2. This is a great tribute to the students and staff for working hard; things are moving in the right direction. A question was raised about the percentiles as it appears that there is a disconnect between grade level equivalency and the percentage; you would think it would be higher. Dr. Heon explained there is a large formula which she can send to the Board; it is based on millions of students taking the test at each grade level. The expected level of equivalency was .5 and .6 at that time and in terms of percentile, anything above 65% is exceptional. It's not just what a student would score but based on what grade they are in and what levels they are able to test at. She confirmed grade level equivalency is not based on competency, it is based on their own testing. Concern was raised, for example, grade 6 has a grade level equivalency of almost 8th grade but is at the 56 percentile; we have seen this before where we had great scores with STAR 360 and low scores with the State test. Dr. Heon added anything above 50th percentile is good and we still have students who are scoring way below the percentile. Superintendent added that there is no specific correlation to the State test and wouldn't say it is definitive, but we are trending in the right direction. A question was raised if this means the students who had full day kindergarten are doing better because of it. Dr. Heon agreed it absolutely does. There are 10 students who didn't attend our kindergarten and are still considered below our students who did attend. They were not at grade level when they entered first grade. The fall scores compared to the year before are considerably higher. The State standards are more challenging than they used to be and are based on students having full day kindergarten; without it we were always playing catch up.

Chairman Ballou commends WLC on NEASC continued accreditation. To have this certification to say we are doing things appropriately and effectively is great and also congratulates all on the improving scores.

Principal LaRoche provided an overview of his report including speaking about the alumni's generous donation to pay off student debt. The donor wanted reassurance for the money to go to where he wanted and hopes others will take into consideration what was done and pass it along. Mr. LaRoche confirms as of that day the slate had been wiped clean on debt; it can change immediately after that however. Assigning classrooms has started; they are being prudent and efficient in placing students so they can access education. Locating (some) SPED students in one classroom with a SPED teacher to co-teach will ensure students don't have to be pulled out and will eliminate the amount of paraprofessionals you need. Kindergarten information night in the past was after registration had started. This year he has flipped that and information night will be March 4 at 6PM. Information will include transportation, health services, teachers will be present and they will go over what a day in the life of a kindergarten student looks like and documentation that they need to bring for registration. Registration starts March 18 and continues during school hours from there on. The Artist in Residence has completed the work along with the students which is impressive.

Mr. LaRoche introduced Ms. Michelle Locke, RTI teacher/coordinator who spoke of having a good understanding of what RTI means and the growth of the program. She spoke of the 3 tiers, 1 being all day, every day students getting what they need and the teachers doing the instruction, tier 2 is for students who are not making the gains they hoped for and are separated from the classroom, The WIN program comes in to specialize instruction and tier 3 is for students who need intensive support. She notes they all work together from tier to tier. Over the past 3 years, in year 1 they focused on infrastructure and looking at recourses, and some curriculum. Year 2 was training, coaching and added research based interventions plus data driven instruction and got everyone on board. It took them to year 2 to understand the benefits of STAR 360; children are not numbers and data provides us with a place to start. We learned how we can use the data to see where the students were on that day and can drill down to specific skills per student and help us individualize instruction. All teachers are using this in both buildings. Year 3 focused on maximizing student learning experience and outcomes. We are exploring different delivery models like co-teaching, different ways, different grade levels and are seeing amazing results with an increase in student confidence. She notes there is great news in the scores from grades 3,4 and 5 in math. She looks at different data points than Dr. Heon does. She looks at the “scaled score growth” which tell her how much growth the student had. In 3rd grade students made growth of 44.5 Nov. to Jan. and WIN students in tier 2 average growth is 72.5. Grade 4, scaled score growth of 59.5, Nov. to Jan. and WIN students 84.5. WIN kids need to make more growth and bridge the gap. Grade 5, scaled score growth is 32 Nov. to Jan. and WIN kids averaged 42 points growth. Superintendent noted where we end up is where we end up but we are trending in a positive direction.

A question was raised to Principal LaRoche regarding how he is grouping students since we only have 2 sections; is it a high class and low class and asked for clarification on how it works. Principal LaRoche explained when you set up classrooms like that (high and low) students don’t reach their potential. He is grouping students by finding skills they are competent on, not all students with an IEP are in one class, it is based on what the student needs are that can be served in the class; they will be heterogeneous, we only have 2 classes. It is not “tracking” students.

iv. Curriculum Coordinator’s Report

Dr. Heon expressed that Michelle Lock has become a valuable service to us. She guides staff and works positively with the rest of the staff to accomplish these results. Teacher feedback on math PD was positive. Dr. Heon reiterates that when we have an early release day or workshop day it is invaluable for teachers. We were fortunate to have grant funding to pay for the resources for the PD at all the schools. She commends Mr. Andrew Tyler who is in his first year here and has become an invaluable addition to WLC. We are able to build on what he is doing this year. We will add an automation and robotics unit. This year students participated in computer science coding in 6th grade and making an app. We will add a new robotics class, a programming class and begin with Java. Mr. Tyler has been training in Python which is another programing language. He will be able to teach advanced placement computer science the year after. In addition to STEM, adding 2 new STEM courses to MS will be Science of Technology and Medical Detectives. MS teachers are already teaching a unit on energy. By adding CAD (computer aided drafting) and offering both semesters CAD 1 and 2, at the end, students can sit for the Autodesk Certificate. It was determined through research this is the industry standard. Chairman Ballou voiced being pleased that we have introduced so much technology that other schools are not doing around us. Dr. Heon added that Mr. Tyler and Ms. Amy White are working on their computer science certification. The State has encouraged us to train teachers throughout the State to obtain certification; before there were only 8 teaches in the State with it. Mr. Tyler is just finishing his paperwork and Ms. White has one course to take this summer and we will have 2 teachers working with the entire STEM program.

b. Letters/Information

i. Enrollment

District total is 578 for February. Superintendent reported November through February is consistent. About 2-3 years ago we had about 530 students, probably 25 of those are due to full day kindergarten but the other 23 are newly enrolled into the district. The idea that the increase is due to kindergarten is only partially true. It was noted it is positive to see the kindergarten numbers going up as there was speculation but it is clear we are increasing enrollment; the trend is there.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Trust Fund Interest

b. Treasurer’s Report-January 2020

Reports were previously provided to the Board for review. Superintendent noted the trust fund interest is listed and defined by account. The Treasurer’s Report is for January 2020; we are still in good shape now.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lemire and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to accept the consent agenda. Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.

VII. DRAFT SCHOOL CALENDAR 2020-21

Superintendent reports the Board tasked him to move forward with the 174 plus 6 calendar. He made one modification from the last draft; the 6th PD day was moved to the middle of the year. He gave it to the WLCTA; they will look it over and give feedback once it comes up for a vote. It is contingent upon the contract passing and having the Board vote now would be premature. It will be brought back to a Board meeting. A question was raised if there was clarification with the WLCTA that 174 plus 6 is ok. Superintendent responded that they didn't get back to him with any information but they did receive it. No action is taken by the Board at this time

VIII. DISTRICT MEETING

The draft slide presentation and script for district meeting was reviewed; Superintendent requested feedback. Additional slides were provided from Chairman Ballou for Board consideration or could be used as handouts instead. Suggestions for changes included adding cost of the CIP project for next year (slide 18), removing the last bullet regarding the Professional Growth Committee (slide 4), adding the teacher education levels to the CBA slides vs. having it as a handout as it validates what is being said with data. A concern was raised that there are a lot of busy slides regarding the CBA. Superintendent explained that the slides relating to colleges and employment will progress as Mr. LoVerme is reading them. He will not read all of them and did request to add these pieces. The slide regarding the NH Scholars was added as Mr. LoVerme requested to know about the positive things we are doing. Superintendent had asked for statistics from Ms. Kovaliv and Principal Bagley and this is information he received. Discussion was had regarding the slides Chairman Ballou provided. He noted he has done some of this from other districts in the past. This gives you an idea where we are as a district and other things that have come up. The information all came off the DOE website. Superintendent noted Chair Browne had asked for per pupil expenditure which was sent to her. A concern was raised that the data should be consistent, it is not clear as it crosses over different school years. It was noted this is the most recent information on the DOE site, not all the same years are available. It was suggested we note these points in the presentation. Superintendent explained the graduation rate and dropout rate are different. Graduation rate does not include the students who received a GED/HiSET; the completer rate does. This information can be available along with test scores and not in the presentation. It was noted the slides providing trends over a period of years are good but the ones with single years do not tell you much without any background knowledge; they are not as helpful. It was suggested to take out the first slide from Chairman Ballou's slides. Superintendent will make modifications and send out to the Board for review prior to noon tomorrow and asks the Board to check their email. Once Chair Browne has sent her presentation we will post the entire presentation on the website which was noted at the public hearing to be helpful.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lemire and SECONDED by Ms. LeBlanc to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting as written.

Voting: five ayes; one abstention from Chairman Ballou, motion carried.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lemire and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2020 meeting as written.

Voting: five ayes; one abstention from Chairman Ballou, motion carried.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

XI. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/LEAVES

- **Resignation-Sarah Jackson, RBT, LCS**
- **Hired-Lindsay Britton, RBT, LCS**

Superintendent reviewed the resignation of Sarah Jackson, RBT at LCS and announced her replacement is Lindsay Britton. There is no change in the budget scenario.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment to report.

227
228 **XIII. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

229 Ms. Cloutier-Cabral voiced this was an exciting meeting with lots of good news and a great way to end the year
230 going into district meeting. She thanked everyone for their hard work.
231

232 Chairman Ballou voiced appreciation over the last 12 years for administration and teachers providing all the
233 information requested, educating the students and doing their best. Based on the charts today, we have some highly
234 educated teachers and he is proud of this district. He wishes well to those staying and those leaving.
235

236 Ms. Lemire questioned the status of the slide at FRES. Superintendent apologized for it not being completed yet,
237 however they have run into some issues obtaining a contractor to do the work.
238

239 Mr. Legere questioned the status of the coaching slate. Superintendent notes contracts have not been signed yet but
240 all positions are filled except MS baseball. Mr. Legere thanked Mr. Malin Segal, PE teacher for helping with the
241 WJAA this year.
242

243 Ms. LeBlanc thanked Chairman Ballou for all his years on the Board, his clear head and for chairing the School
244 Board.
245

246 **XIV. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C)**

247 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Lemire and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to enter the non-public session to*
248 *discuss personnel matters RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C) at 7:56pm.*

249 *Voting: all aye via roll call vote; motion carried unanimously.*
250

251 **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

252 The Board entered public session at 8:12pm.
253

254 *A MOTION was made to seal the non-public session minutes by Ms. Lemire and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-*
255 *Cabral.*

256 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*
257

258 **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

259 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Lemire and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to adjourn the Board meeting at*
260 *8:13pm.*

261 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*
262

263 *Respectfully submitted,*

264 *Kristina Fowler*
265