

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, April 20, 2021
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School
6:30 p.m.**

The videoconferencing link was published several places including on the meeting agenda.

Present: *Alex LoVerme, Brianne Lavallee, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Mark Legere, Matt Mannarino (6:33pm), Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral, Jim Kofalt, Charlie Post and Paul White*

Superintendent Bryan Lane, Business Administrator Rob Mullin, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, Technology Director Mark Kline, and Clerk Kristina Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman LoVerme called the meeting to order at 6:29pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE ASSOCIATION OF NH-PRESENTATION

Ms. Jody Underwood was present representing the SDGA. The Association mission is “To help school board and budget committee members discover their powers and legal responsibilities”. Ms. Underwood provided an overview of the association including, membership benefits, information on webinars and seminars which are tailored to elected officials. Cost for membership is \$20 per year or \$200 per lifetime. All memberships are approved by the SDGA Board. Nonmembers can attend the in-person seminars at a cost of \$15, members \$10; breakfast and lunch are provided and donations are welcome to supplement the food. Webinar recordings are available to members and currently free for anyone. An email list of all members is used to ask questions and send invites. Virtual happy hours are held for networking. The Association creates model policies and write newsletters. They are not registered lobbyist and this is not their main focus. They work with legislators to shepherd bills that empower school board members and budget committee members to achieve transparency, accountability and local control. A list of bills they shepherded was provided. The model policies they focus on have to do with proper roles of the school board members, administrators and support students and taxpayers; use appropriate RSA’s and try to be as clear and concise as possible. She spoke of the differences between SDGA and the NHSBA (New Hampshire School Board Association) which included affordable dues which are at the individual level not a district level, they are a volunteer organization and nonprofit; NHSBA has paid employees. SDGA is made up of volunteers but not amateurs; they have experience on school boards, budget committees and as other elected officials. NHSBA emphasizes Board direction vs. management of the Superintendent. It seems to SDGA that they are protective of the Superintendent’s powers and do not put the elected official’s responsibilities first. She notes, this is a problem because there are many issues troubling SAU’s that arise because of a lack of oversight of the Superintendent and SAU office although notes it may not be experienced in this district. She spoke of her experiences with this. The school boards job is to set policies and supervise the Superintendent. SDGA helps school board members and budget committee members learn how to become empowered in these responsibilities. She spoke that the Superintendent hires lawyers from NHSBA for school districts, and as a result, their advice is in the benefit of administration and not for the benefit of school board members, taxpayers, students or parents. SDGA does not give legal advice but provides a forum to share experiences and learn from each other. She adds part of that may include helping to find lawyers who are not tied to the status quo in the school system. Mr. Post expressed that he and his wife have been members of SDGA for the last 5 years and has found it to be invaluable. The information is not “spoon-fed”, it is collaborative and the seminars are great; it has been a tremendous resource. He encourages others to listen to the seminars. Ms. Underwood noted the SPED seminar included the 2 main SPED people at the DOE; they informed them of what the law said they had to do. The DOE Commissioner, Frank Edelblut is a popular speaker at their seminars, they have had state reps and superintendents, and she named several. Information on upcoming webinars can be found on their website and also

blog posts and newsletters. A question was raised what the difference is between lobbying and shepherding a bill. Ms. Underwood responded she thinks they spend full time on it; they are registered lobbyist. That is one of the big differences. For SDGA it is not a full-time job for them and they only focus on a couple a year, things they feel are important where NHSBA does all education bills. A question was raised if the dues paid go toward the shepherding process or is it more volunteer. She responded it is volunteer; it is to pay for the rooms, zoom subscriptions, and mailings. They are very low budget and it's all volunteer, no one gets paid to go to the State House as the NHSBA does. Mr. Kofalt expressed he attended the SPED session which was really good and in-depth. He spoke favorably of another session regarding budgets. There is a variety of topics and he questioned if people want to get involved what are the upcoming webinars. They are "Toolkit for Newly Elected Board Members" on April 23 and "Money and Results" on May 14. Ms. Underwood reported they always have time at the end for questions. A question was raised if they have attorneys on hand if they needed to ask for legal advice. Ms. Underwood responded no, they don't pay attorneys to do that. They have attorneys they use on a volunteer basis to review their model policies. The president receives the SDGA emails and noted she may have a different answer. They have not had a need for this as "their experience has gone for miles on peoples questions". She doesn't think anyone has come to them with a legal question per say. Mr. Post added because it is collaborative, you are speaking to people in most of the other districts across the state; there is experience on many issues, it is "pretty thorough". It can be done at a meeting or an ad-hock basis. Ms. Underwood noted they do not give legal advice that is not what the organization does. Mr. Post has spoken with Donna Green, president who was able to answer his questions.

IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent Lane requested to add the following adjustments as action items: bus contract and mask wearing. There is also a speaker in nonpublic. Mr. Legere also noted the Board received a letter. Superintendent responded he would speak of that in his Board Report.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Legere and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to accept the adjustments to the agenda. Voting: eight ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Laura Manning was present, she wanting to bring forward the topic of face masks for discussion and hopes a vote will be taken. She commented the Governor has lifted the mask mandate last week and yet students are still subject to wearing masks. She reviewed part of the emergency order. She expressed to think that students are required to wear masks during PE is an awful thought. There are plenty of studies that show the ineffectiveness of masks as well as the harm caused by wearing them all the time. She believes it is doing harm both physically and mentally for the growth of our students. Wearing a mask full time is not natural. The fear that this has instilled on the population at large as well as the impact it has had on our youth, she believes will have long standing consequences, it has gone on too long. Masks should not be required to attend school; if people are concerned about their health they can choose to wear a mask. It should be a choice not mandatory.

Student, Jacob Manning was present and spoke that he is one of the kids who has gone through this mandate for about half the year. He states it honestly doesn't feel the same, we are at school but it doesn't feel like school. Everyone's face is covered so our own expressions to each other is muted which is important during these times especially, not only that we are also kept away from each other. It may seem like not much being told you cannot be near a friend whether it is just talking and having fun or actually helping them out; it can certainly make socializing feel discouraged in school. All we need to do is cover our face, stare at our desks and practically ignore each other. At no point was this more prevalent than on Friday, since many teachers did not show, a fair amount of my classmates were required to be in the gym at desks; at that moment I had never felt more isolated. That feeling of loneliness being able to see others though not really truly seeing them. I have observed my fellow classmates and although they comply most of the time, they don't show that they enjoy it or are even fine with it given how many times they have tried to take it off. The idea that you need to wear them even while you are in PE, which in most

situations is baffling since when that happens it, becomes harder to breath. Most would agree restricting ones breathing while doing gym would be most unpleasant. With all of that, he hopes the Board would reconsider their policy and follow the state and student's wishes.

It was noted Jacob is the first student to speak to the Board this year; he was thanked.

Ms. Alyssa Lavoie was present and commented she can't speak to the MS/HS but at the younger grades she thinks the public should know that although the state mandate has expired the guidelines that industries, schools and business are required to follow, the safer at home guidelines are still required through May 7. When the Board considers this, maybe, there is a difference between middle/high school and elementary/prek-5. She is the owner of Tumbleweeds and they had a case a week and a half ago; their kids don't wear masks therefore the entire classroom had to quarantine. This new variant from what she is hearing is causing kids to be more susceptible which is why we are seeing almost only kids and not adults. The consideration for masks is a big one although she thinks it is a challenge and not natural. In the school system, something to be considered is if they are wearing the mask it is not the entire class that has to quarantine. It is an impact on the mask wearing that is inconvenient but the 10-day quarantine is probably more inconvenient for the families if that is what needs to happen. Maybe the high school students are able to make better decisions with social distancing or stay home by themselves if they need to quarantine but the younger ones can't so there is a balance to masks wearing vs. inconvenience vs. how that impacts. She personally cannot wait until the masks and quarantines are completely gone. She thinks then it would be a different conversation when quarantine is not the requirement. While quarantine is still the requirement, if we can minimize the quarantine with masks and 3 feet, then she thinks that is something to consider.

Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined online in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

VI. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent reported a letter was submitted from a citizen regarding the appearance of WLC. He spoke with Mr. Mullin, Mr. Erb and staff here; there was an immediate evaluation of the situation. The citizen had commented the out-sheds were in bad shape. They are and were supposed to be replaced but we had to make budget reductions this year and they were not replaced. It was the intent. They will look to do it as we move forward. He notes regarding "Spankey's door" (the concession stand), his understanding was it was repaired last fall. He does not know why it did not happen. It was his understanding from administration, from the athletic director (AD) that it had been. He will follow up on this. Regarding the large amount of fencing in a pile behind the softball field, it's being taken care of. We cannot do this with the vehicles we have. We need a contractor to come in and physically remove the materials. That is in the process of being done. We have done trash pickup and the front of this building is in need of some grass. The individual was complimentary of the grounds but we need to be sure the higher grass is being taken down near the sheds. We are working on the situation. He is trying to figure out why the amount of fencing and material has been allowed to gather: he is working with the AD to determine how that happened and why. He has been working with the Superintendent Search Committee and they will have a presentation later as well as a discussion for nonpublic. He provided a list of open positions. Teacher contracts were distributed on Monday April 12; they are required by April 15. Teachers will return them by May 7. The remainder of the professional contracts went out on Friday, there was one error and they have been reissued. He thanked Ms. Spurrell for her hard work. Contracts are all being generated through the system vs. each being generated by one person. We will have open enrollment for health and dental and other benefits; staff can take advantage of things like 403b, vision plan and teachers will choose the number of pay periods. He has received the majority of the observation summative reports; they are signed by staff and placed in the personnel files. There was a concern in the past that they were not going in the files before and now they are; he keeps a checklist to be sure they are all accounted for. He sent out a reminder to staff to be diligent around COVID protocols and be sure we are all following the protocol and social distancing appropriately. We have had an increase of student cases in the community as well as parents and another positive case today. The second dose of the vaccine for the majority of staff will happen this weekend; because of break next week, any ill effects will not result in time away from students. Mr. Kofalt asked for some detail regarding the

number of teacher absences lately, he notes it was said that they were non-COVID related. Is this an anomaly? Superintendent responded there were a couple of days, Thursday and Friday we had to have classes in the gym. There were 2 classroom teachers out for COVID issues and the remainder were out for non-COVID related sick days and other personnel days and it just happened we had 7. When we have expanding issues with other people for whatever reason they became ill, that was the case. A question was raised if there is a time the Facilities Director or the Superintendent walks the grounds to check out the buildings such as once a month or a couple of times a month. Superintendent responded he did this as a principal in the past on a regular basis. It is not something he was asked to do and it's not something we have in place. Each principal walks the building daily to look for issues. He does not think the exterior is a part of that and is something will change. The AD can do this and report to the principal. It was noted it would be a good idea to have another set of eyes looking that is not in the building every day. It was noted the Facilities Committee did have regular walkthroughs and last time they were scheduled to walk the fields but it rained; it has been at least 2 years. A question was raised if the Superintendent responded to the person who wrote the letter. The Superintendent did not; he has not actually seen the letter but heard about it. Ms. Lavallee and Mr. Vanderhoof as individuals did respond to the person who wrote the letter. Superintendent will also respond. A question was raised regarding the person stating they were looking for reimbursement for supply expenses. Superintendent has the receipts and it is happening. Ms. Lavallee mentioned in the fall she did a walkthrough at WLC as a community member and noticed the bathroom needed repair and it is believed to have been budgeted to be fixed. Superintendent responded it would be done in June. Some of the bathrooms have trash bags over places for social distancing.

ii. Director of Student Support Services Report

Mr. Pratt reported during March, we spend some time looking at student's IEPs, at their achievement over the course of the school year and make some decisions in terms of whom we would like to offer ESY (extended school year). ESY is designed to prevent regression over the summer. He notes we do our best to identify the students it would be appropriate for. In this month's report, he talked about the different types of ESY and reviewed each. SPED ESY runs from July 6-August 5 at both FRES and WLC. The programs will run from 8:00am-11:30am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Students will be participating in basic subject areas and specialized programs as necessary. Preschool ESY will run the same weeks as SPED ESY, from 8:00am-11:00am on the same dates at LCS. RISE ESY will run a little longer as the students need a little more support. The older kids (WLC) will go from June 28-August 12 while the FRES program runs July 6-August 12 on Monday-Thursday from 8:00am-2:30pm. Embedded in all of this is related Services, OT, PT, and specialized reading that will come in and give a hand to students as appropriate. They are still working on staffing and still in process of talking with parents to see if they are interested in coming. They were not sure what the summer would bring in terms of COVID and kids not being outside a lot. Right now, we are looking at offering ESY to about 52 students, just above 48% of our students. In addition, are the transportation needs. With the increase in numbers this year, he will work in the context of the budget and as previously discussed with the Board, use ESSER funds to fill in those areas. Things are still in processes and he is looking to have contracts for staff issued sometime in May. He is looking forward to it; it is great to have the kids in the buildings over the summer. He confirmed 52 students will be offered to attend, he is not sure who will attend but based on parent response he would say at least as many as last year if not more. They still have 2 IEP meetings going on which may identify a few more students. Last year they had 42 students. A question was raised that last year there was some program for some students struggling with remote learning. It is assumed that is not being proposed this year or would not fall under ESY. Is this something that may be on the radar as being necessary or not. Mr. Pratt responded he only deals with ESY. We did have RISE students live and the rest were remote. He doesn't know about general education. Superintendent voiced in the approved budget for the coming school year there is \$20,000 for a summer program for struggling students K-5 to provide increased contact with teachers to bolster their skills and matriculate forward. There is some conversation around summer programming at the Short-term Strategic Planning Committee that will come to the Board and any additional can be paid with ESSER funds.

iii. Director of Technology's Report

Mr. Kline gave an overview of his report, which included talking about cybersecurity concerns. Last month he received daily messages and newsletters about hacking. It is a major concern within government and business communities. However, there is some good news, we don't use Microsoft exchange service nor do we use the Orion product from Solar Winds; these were compromised. It reminds us that cybersecurity concerns are important and become more important each year. Ransomware attacks in schools have increased significantly. It is one of those things that will take more resources from us down the road. At the last meeting, there was discussion of emails within our system; he felt he didn't answer the question well. Our email is encrypted so even if someone could syphon it off, they couldn't read it. Someone had asked if our email was HIPAA compliant. For schools HIPAA doesn't apply, there are exclusions within that law for schools and school nurses. It doesn't mean privacy of data is

not important, it certainly is and there are rules that we follow carefully. There was some discussion of Chromebook cases and he showed 2 examples. One of the cases has a place for a charger. With the new Chromebooks as long as the student brings it in charged, it should last all day. Around the 4th year, they would need to bring a charger with them. He has been discussing with the primary teachers whether Chromebooks or iPads are more appropriate. They thought the iPad may be better but it would be nice if it had a keyboard. He showed an example of a case for an iPad and keyboard. Pricing for 250 ranges from \$27-\$35 depending on which case. He didn't have a price with the iPad/keyboard but says could be about \$50 for each one. He notes he is not advocating for cases either way. He suggested discussing it with teachers and students and maybe test it out with students to see how convenient it is and ease of use before spending the funds. He informed members additional Chromebooks were obtained with COVID funds and are in the process of getting ready to go out to the 4th, 7 and 10th grade. Many units are reaching the end of life this summer in June or September and won't do any updates well if at all. There are about 3 updates a year in the Google realm once you get 3 out of compliance you run into trouble especially with state testing. It would be good to get a head of that and not have students use such old devices and batteries that don't last. Chairman LoVerme noted the totals for the 2 Chromebook cases are (\$35 each) \$6,750 or (\$27) \$8,750. He confirms he has most of the 7th grade units issued; he will wait until after break to issue them to the 4th grade. He has not been passing them out all at once, instead meeting with the students during advisory to go over care and ways to help save battery life, etc. He can get through about a grade a week doing it this way without disrupting classes. A question was raised if we have been prioritizing Chromebooks for remote students. Mr. Kline responded he normally sends out emails to the remote students asking when they would be available to come in and make the exchange. He just got the 7th grade units out last week and has not sent those emails yet but will continue to use that process. It does not seem to be a priority for most of the remote students by large; they have not come in to get them. As long as they are home and keep the device plugged in all the time the functions are the same, the new ones may be a little faster but not much.

b. Letters/Information

i. Enrollment

Superintendent reviewed district enrollment is 593. Generally, October 1 is used as an enrollment guide. We are only 2 students lower than October 1. The numbers have fluctuated. The Board had asked in the past why people are leaving and there does not seem to be a specific reason within the district. Most likely enrollment will stay consistent for the remainder of the year. It was noted there are new houses being built in Wilton that could affect enrollment.

VII. 2020-2021 YTD REPORTS

Mr. Mullin provided an explanation to variances in the YTD reports. He noted as we get closer to the end of the year, the Superintendent and department heads take a closer look at where we are to ensure we are within the budget for end of year. Over the past month, we have seen more purchases come through due to ESSER funds. In some cases, you will see that as a balance. They are going through and making sure to encumber funds for things they know will be purchased before the end of the year. He also added account lines to the YTD report. He reviewed the variances.

1100's Regular Education –There is a negative balance of (\$70,245.24) and is due to the recent purchase of Chromebooks. This will be offset by ESSER II funds once completed, applied for and invoices are in for reimbursement it will then be applied to the line items.

1300's Vocational Education –An encumbrance was placed on this account for an upcoming invoice.

2300's Administrative Services –This is due to an overage in professional services, legal SPED of (\$8,386.72) and a (\$8,131.23) ESSER II expense in software, line 1176.

2500's Business Services –This is due to the cost of consultants to assist in the business office and has remained consistent since the fall.

2600's Maintenance –This is due to underfunded Worker's Compensation accounts, it was not budgeted correctly to reflect the higher cost for facilities and kitchen personnel. He notes he spoke of this previously. It has been corrected in next year's budget.

2700's Technology Services –Medical insurance account line, this was underfunded or someone was not expected to take health insurance and did. Lines 1633-1636 relate to phone and internet accounts, during the switch over in the fall there was dual coverage for several months. That is reflected in the negative balance there.

5200's Transfer to Capital Reserve –The negative balance of (\$82,450) is due to the payment for the roof repair from last year. As of March 31, we had not received the funding from the trust account. We have since received these funds, which will be reflected in next month's update. He thanked Mr. Kofalt and Ms. Lavalley for signing the

manifests last week and this week. He reminded those whose turn it is to come in by Wednesday next week as the manifests will be ready for signature. A question was raised regarding the food service reports showing negative in revenue and it is assumed that is because of credit balances. The question is, if those numbers should be read as a positive. Mr. Mullin responded exactly, the budgeted line items were never set up for last year and left in as zeros. Mr. Kofalt noted he thinks it has a net zero set up for outflow. He notes it appears we are looking at a deficit of about \$32,000. Mr. Mullin responded it is the opposite; it is net positive of about that. He notes we have received (applied) almost \$100,000 in revenue so far this year and we had expenses of \$61,000 so far. Mr. Kofalt notes he is seeing \$131,000 in expenses. Mr. Mullin then agreed as he was looking at the balance instead. Mr. Kofalt notes it appears we are at about a deficit of \$32,000 and Mr. Mullin agreed. An explanation was asked for why we budgeted \$9,361 for all 4 accounts for phones and internet (under technology services, lines 1633-1636) and spent \$22,559 YTD. Superintendent responded it is for phones; we had 2 services overlapping at the same time. It was asked how long did they overlap for. Superintendent responded about 2-3 months and we are working with the vendor to get that down. It was noted that number is just going to grow.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Mr. White to approve the minutes of April 6, 2021 as written.

Voting: eight ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.

• BUS CONTRACT

Superintendent reviewed he received an email from Mr. Brown indicating he was not intending to sign his contract unless it was increased by \$5,484 which is more than budgeted. He did try to explain to him the daily rate with the number of buses etc. and what it means. The understanding of where Mr. Brown's numbers come from is unclear; it does not appear his numbers are accurate. At this point Mr. Brown has made it clear he will not sign the contract unless it is increased by \$5,484 over what we thought it should be. The contract we offered was for \$250,000. At this point, the Superintendent is at a loss as he has tried to go back and forth with him. He has pasted Mr. Brown's email in the document provided indicating what he is looking for, 2.5% increase vs. what was agreed to with the daily rate. The contract is for 180 days but when we don't have school we pay 55% of the daily rate and he is still waiting for an explanation why he is disputing it. His response has been, Mr. Lane I am sorry for the trouble but I won't sign the contract for less than the dollar figure he wants, \$252,253. Superintendent notes we will never be charged that much, we won't get to that point. He doesn't understand the concern. It was noted Mr. Brown was not present to explain. Superintendent confirms he did not invite him. He is assuming at this point that the only resolve is for Mr. Brown to speak directly to the Board or Finance Committee. It is up to the Board how they want to interact with him. It was noted when this was discussed previously the Board decided to go this route and not go out to bid. We directly contacted him and he gave us the numbers. The Board looked at his numbers and voted to go with those numbers. A question was asked if there is a math issue, did we budget correctly or does he really want more than he stated. Superintendent responded Mr. Brown said he miscalculated. A question was raised if it is too late to go out to bid for next year, is it possible. Superintendent responded it would be difficult as most likely bus companies have budgeted what they need for the contracts with other schools, is it feasible, sure. The contract Mr. Mullin offered was for \$250,000 and again he notes he does not think we will be charged that much using the rates and math, he has seen. It was noted Mr. Browne might be under the impression that we had 174 days vs. 176. Superintendent responded he would be correct, as we didn't finalize the calendar. The differential in the 2 days does not create a difference of that nature. He would be paid more money with more academic school days. He reviewed the math. He does not understand what the miscalculation is other than he miscalculated 2.5% when he gave the numbers. A brief discussion was had regarding the matter. Superintendent stated he does not have the authority to exceed the budget and neither does Mr. Mullin. If we go with \$247,046, we will be slightly over budget but it is negligible. That would have been accounted for in the number of school days and this is understandable. The number he is requesting/demanding does not click. The Superintendent did not want to obligate the district to something that he can't justify. Chairman LoVerme commented we definitely can't go over the budget.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Ms. Lavalley to send it out to bid (for bus contract).**

Mr. Mullin spoke in response to the bus company owner not wanting to sign the contract; he had made contact last fall with several other bus companies and reached out to a few of them. It is not the fact that they won't have the buses, it is finding drivers that is the most difficult part of supplying a new contract. It can take 6-10 months to hire and train people and they cannot guarantee they will be ready to go in September. Superintendent confirms there is a bus driver statewide shortage. Chairman LoVerme commented we will have to solicit people; if Mr. Brown is not doing bus service there may be drivers available. Mr. Mullin reports at the Board's direction he will contact the bus companies again and ask them to bid and let them respond in writing to the request if that is the will of the Board. A request was made to send the Board last year's contract and the proposed contract. Mr. Mullin will send this.

**Voting: eights ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

Chairman LoVerme confirmed the bus contract goes out to bid. Per the Superintendent, the contract does not need to be retracted since it has not been signed and Mr. Brown had returned it to us.

• MASK WEARING

Superintendent reviewed a document provided regarding the continuation of wearing masks. He understands the concern around wearing masks and agrees it is all those negatives brought up earlier but his concern is that in 11 months, we had 1 student test positive for COVID 19 and in the past 2 months, we have had 11. Without masks, the increase of exposure will grow. The state is seeing an increase in COVID cases in those under 20 although hospitalizations are down a little today. Currently the guidelines are 3-feet with masks. He spoke that classrooms would struggle to hit a 6-foot standard (without masks); we don't have the room to distance. As far as quarantining, we have been able to minimize that over 2 weeks and in creating the protocol the Board indicated to parents the students would be wearing masks. He does not have a handle on the number of parents who would not be comfortable sending their child to school without masks. The only age group that is able to receive the vaccine is 16-18 year olds. It would be inappropriate for us to ask or inquire; even if we knew this it just started this week. The full effect of the vaccine would not be until June if they were vaccinated now. There are less than 35 days of school left. He does not disagree with one thing Mr. Manning said but how do we balance the safety of students and rising numbers of COVID. He recommends to the Board we continue our mask requirement until the end of school. A question was raised regarding gym classes; Superintendent believes PE should be held outside weather permitting; it does say in the protocol PE classes should be outside. Discussion was had regarding wearing a mask during PE. Superintendent notes you could make accommodations for PE but his goal is to go outside as much as possible which would resolve the issue. A question was raised if the 11 confirmed student cases had symptoms. Superintendent responded to the best of his knowledge all of them had symptoms, they didn't feel well, went to the Dr. and tested positive. We have a number of situations of students being out for household contacts. Mr. Kofalt voiced he thought the guidance of 3-feet with a mask was gone. He spoke to the Commissioner of Education about a week and a half ago and he indicated there was a call on Monday night that Dr. Chan changed the 3-foot guidance to zero. Superintendent will check on that, he had not heard this. Ms. Lavalley attends Dr. Chan's conferences and did not have knowledge of this. Mr. Kofalt suggested that there are other situations where you could potentially have a relaxed policy. Superintendent expressed that with students and being in a school environment, you need to create a level of consistency. Students will not always make good choices. In his experience consistency and structure is important. Creating alternatives within the scenario is not effective in his experience. It was suggested there may be some scenarios with the older students where relaxing it may fit. Superintendent expressed he understands, however the school district had focused on being in-school 5 days a week and he believes if we don't continue to follow the process and protocol we are at risk of not doing that. His analysis of this is 35 more days of mask wearing is a balance we need to meet although it is the Board's decision. Mr. White expressed we asked the teachers to come back and be put in this position, we told them masks were required; we can't pull that away until they have input. They are not fully vaccinated, they are still able to catch/transmit and all the things that go along with that. We can't take away their safety net. He notes we got push back from the public in general with kids being out, quarantining and wanting them in school and not going fully remote, not closing down buildings and classes. We did that and now we are down to 35 more days it would seem a shame to throw that all away. We have been doing really well; we have this tuned in now. We have seniors graduating and if a student gets sick and if there are no masks, what if they have to be excluded from graduation; he doesn't think that is worth throwing it all away. He is not in support of relaxing the wearing of masks. Mr. Vanderhoof commented there are differences in opinion. His issue is with quarantining and until the state says, the only person with a positive test is the one to quarantine it is hard to put a whole building or class at risk of having to quarantine. He believes that would be more detrimental. He supports sticking with what we are doing until that changes as it allows us to keep the most children in the building. Mr.

Mannarino read part of the press release. Dr. Chan said lifting the mandate does not limit the importance of wearing facemasks. He provided some recent statistics regarding youth in NH. Mr. Mannarino notes the numbers do not support relaxing the mask requirement especially this close to the end of school. Ms. Lavallee reminded the group that we have to follow the quarantine requirements from the DHHS; the mask mandate is separate from that. We have had a protocol in place prior to the mask mandate. She gave an example; there was a recent case at FRES we had a need for 17 students and 2 staff to quarantine. It sounds like a lot but that was with wearing masks, if that was not in place, it would have resulted in the quarantine of 32 students, 7 staff members, 6 rows of students on the morning bus and 6 rows of students on the afternoon bus. She broke it down in financial terms; the decision would cost the average family to potentially miss 8 days of work if the case was discovered on a Monday. In the “no mask scenario”, it would result in 2496 lost work hours for families in our community. She bases her decision on data and at this time, it does not support not wearing masks. Mr. Kofalt suggested soliciting input from teachers and parents before the next meeting. The quarantine requirements would end on May 7. He believes that gives the Board the opportunity to revisit the issue. Ms. Lavallee clarified that “safer at home” order ends on the 7th and this does not necessarily affect the DHHS requirement; it is 2 separate entities although this may change. The next Board meeting is May 11. A question was raised if it would be possible for any of the senior/junior students to have classes outside on a nice day so they can go without masks. Superintendent responded everyone could go outside; teachers know this. Some classes are easier to do outside than others are. He would encourage this weather permitting and if the teachers want to go outside they can, no one is restricted from doing it. He will reiterate this with the principals. Ms. Lavallee spoke to clarify the reason for the 6-foot vs. 3-foot change for children, it is because there is data to support this for children, but there is no data regarding adults. She commends Mr. Manning (student) for coming in and speaking to the Board, she hopes it does not discourage him and praises him for participating in the process. It was noted that we have come a long way this year and we are toward the end and need to start thinking how we can prepare for next year. Vaccines opened up for 16-18 year olds. Chairman LoVerme would like to see us open here for students in our communities and surrounding towns who want to get the vaccine. He hopes more students will sign up for the vaccine. He acknowledges and understands what Mr. Manning was saying, he thanks him for coming. He encourages his friends to come and speak before the Board. Superintendent was directed to reach out to parents and teachers with a one-question survey. No action was taken from the Board.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Superintendent Search Committee

Mr. Post reported the committee met. Interviews were conducted with 2 candidates; Mr. Post, Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and the Superintendent were present. Two groups consisting of teachers/administrators and community members made up the interview teams. He notes the Superintendent was very helpful and supportive. It went very smooth and more discussion will be had in nonpublic. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral agreed it went smooth and thanked all who came and participated; it was helpful to have their feedback. Mr. Post noted even though they had not asked for grades, being in the school environment, the community members group gave each candidate a grade, A- and B-. He is excited for the next year.

ii. Short-term Strategic Planning Committee

Mr. White reported the committee met on April 15, the focus was to discuss grades from the 3rd quarter and identify any trends to prepare for summer school. WLC data is showing a trend in the positive direction. In a 2-week period, March 30-April 15, there was a 31% overall decrease in F grades, a 41% decrease in F grades among remote learners at the HS level, and a 26% reduction in students with one or more F's. Tutoring is in process and includes one remote student who is coming into the building. They are still working on the presentation for the Board to consider. They are looking at having 2 programs, one shorter program is competency replacement, to work on individual aspects that cause grades to be low and a longer program for students who are struggling and need a rerun of the entire class and allow them to get the credit and move on. In addition, an emotional reintegration program based with activities on Fridays for kids to come in, see each other and interact without any academics. They are hoping to include that in the final plan and plan to present in May. They didn't talk too much about FRES, as Principal LaRoche was not present. The committee touched on the mask mandate; the committee agreed it was not a good idea to relax protocol and recommends keeping it in place until the end of the year. They will include financials in the presentation and it should be covered by ESSER funds. Responding to a question, Mr. White reported FRES students are online for tutoring and there are 15-16 students at WLC that are all in-person tutoring. They are hoping the tutoring is leading to the good results at WLC they are seeing. They do not have data for FRES at this time. Mr. White spoke as a parent of students who are being tutored, they love it and he has seen improvements. It is 1:1 online tutoring with the teachers for an hour.

X. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/LEAVES

There is none to report.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Melissa Knight was present and thanked the Board for their consideration of keeping the mask requirement at school. She agrees with much of what Ms. Lavoie said. The elementary age group is at higher risk than before; she is proud of our district for keeping them in school and that is what is important.

Ms. Laura Manning questioned concerning next flu season, how will we react to that. Are we going to require masks again, rhetorical question. She commented we have a re-integration program and you don't see a problem with the masks and how it affects our students, again rhetorical question.

Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined online in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

XII. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. White reported that when the Short-term Strategic Planning Committee gives the presentation, all the guidelines that need to be followed would be included. They have not ironed it all out yet; they are waiting to see where the protocols are by the time summer hits. He thanked everyone for coming out and notes regardless of having the same or different opinions, it is important to have a place to come and be heard.

Ms. Lavallee commented she is happy to see all the attendees and thanked all for coming in. She made a public comment expressing as a parent who struggled with sending their child back to school and who has been back for a couple of months; she has watched the numbers increase. She expressed we need to be respectful that not everyone feels comfortable; it would be disheartening to see us change the protocols that have been in place all year. She has heard from parents who were concerned that we were discussing this tonight as they do not feel comfortable sending their child without masks.

Mr. Legere questioned if the Superintendent had heard from NHSBA and when are they coming in. Superintendent confirmed NHSBA would come for the next meeting. Mr. Legere asked for an update on the status of Title IX. Superintendent responded he had done some research; there are some webinars for Title IX coordinators. Ms. Amy Gelineau has been assigned as the coordinator for FRES; this is posted on the website. Training either has taken place or will next week at no cost to the district through Primex. He has a speaker planned to come in for August to do training with the entire staff to be sure we are in compliance. Mr. Legere asked if we could get a copy of the training and post that on the website. Superintendent will ask for this. Mr. Legere noted there was discussion of an email that should go out to parents regarding Title IX. Superintendent will send that out this week.

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral thanked the community for coming tonight, thanked Jacob Manning for speaking as a representative for his school; he represented them very well.

Mr. Vanderhoof commented that masks are not fun. He encourages you to reach out to your state representatives because it is essentially the states requirements for quarantining that is preventing him for voting for a change. If it didn't prevent the rest of the building from quarantining, then absolutely. Anyone who is sick can stay home and those who want to wear a mask can. He hopes we will get there sooner than later.

Mr. Mannarino made a public comment, he echoes what Ms. Lavallee said. He has 3 children in the district, one is distance learning and the other 2 are homeschooled. He is hoping all 3 will attend school in the fall and is hoping the trajectory of vaccines will continue and the numbers will support sending them back. It was a tough decision to keep his children home; they want to go back and he wants them to go back. He is hoping the numbers will support it in the fall.

Mr. Kofalt thanked Mr. Mullin for sending the bus contracts. He notes, that it says the Board may extend the term for a year and another year but interestingly enough, it doesn't say at what price. It seems the decision to extend the contract is entirely at the Board's discretion but there is no agreement on the price. It seems like a flaw in the

contract. Mr. Vanderhoof agrees it was. The Board reached out to him and asked what he wanted to do and he provided numbers. Mr. Kofalt would be interested in getting some clarification and hear what Mr. Brown's thought process was.

Chairman LoVerme thanked all the Board members for attending, thanked the teachers, administration and support staff for the great job they are doing this year. He talks to people outside our district and they still can't believe we have been in school all year. We have had bumps and hurdles but we keep the doors open to all our buildings. He is looking forward to next year; hoping it will be better. The vaccines are getting out there. He thanked the public for coming; he wants to see more people come or attend online. He notes we cannot assume what you are thinking; we need more people to be vocal whether its email or you come in and talk in person.

XIII. UNSEAL NONPUBLIC MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino unseal the non-public minutes from April 6, 2021 for purposes of review.

Voting: eights ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.

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

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Mr. White to enter Non-Public Session for personnel matters and to review non-public minutes RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (B) (C) at 8:26pm.

Voting: eights ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 9:52pm.

A MOTION was made to seal the non-public session minutes (of April 6, 2021 and April 20, 2021) by Mr.

Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee.

Voting: eight ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.

Ms. Lavallee spoke referring back to the previous discussion on wearing masks. She wanted to clarify that there was an update to the recommendations in January from Commissioner Edelblut. She will go back and look to see how it matches up with the Department of Health. Mr. Kofalt added that when he spoke earlier he was referring to a call with Superintendents on Monday the 5th. He didn't see the changes to the recommendations but was told about it. Ms. Lavallee can view the updates on the DOE website. She adds it does stipulate that we have to follow the Department of Health in regard to quarantining.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:54pm.

Voting: eight ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Fowler