

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, May 11, 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 Lavalley, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Mark Legere, Matt Mannarino, Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral (6:48pm), Jim Kofalt, Charlie Post (6:34pm) and Paul White*

Superintendent Bryan Lane, Business Administrator Rob Mullin, Principals Peter Weaver and Bob LaRoche, 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 6:30pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. PUBLIC HEARING-UNANTICIPATED REVENUE RSA 198:20-b

The Public Hearing started at 6:30pm. Superintendent reviewed the school district received unanticipated ESSER funds in the amount of \$304,147.14. In accordance with RSA 198:20-b, the school board needs to hold a public hearing and take school board and public comment. Superintendent asked for public comment relating to the public hearing from those present and each person online; none heard.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to accept (and expend) the unanticipated funds.**

A question from the Board was raised if we will we get that dollar amount and didn't we have to apply for this; should we accept the funds now or hold hearings when we know what they are to be spent on. Superintendent confirmed we will receive that amount and have applied. We needed a plan, we have a plan and when we expend the funds, we will put that forward to the DOE and they determine if it is accessible under the ESSER grant and reimbursable. He spoke that in the past there were SPED funds across the state that were not fully expended (not by our district) and that could happen again in this case if we do not spend all the funds by September 2023 and hopes the district would. Superintendent recommends the Board be provided with a spreadsheet showing how the funds are expended and when received to reflect an amount of transparency. The original question was clarified that it was a question of timing; we will not get that amount now. Superintendent responded it would be appropriate to accept the full amount now as this allows the Business Administrator's Office to expend the funds and unless you accept them, we cannot expend them.

**Voting: seven ayes; two abstentions from Chairman LoVerme and Mr. Post, motion carried.*

Chairman LoVerme closed the Public Hearing at 6:35pm.

IV. THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION

Superintendent introduced Barrett Christina, Executive Director joined by Will Phillips of NHSBA. Mr. Christina reviewed in speaking with the Superintendent, he is aware some questions had come up relating to the NHSBA advocacy efforts. He spoke of how they come by taking certain positions on certain bills. Every year the NHSBA posts their annual Delegate Assembly, this year held in October. NHSBA as about 160 member school boards and at the Delegate Assembly, the school board can send one voting delegate although it is open to all school board members who want to attend. Any school board is allowed to submit a proposed resolution, similar to a petition warrant article. They Board of Directors reviews and determines to support it or not. At the Delegate Assembly members gather, discuss and debate, sometimes amend the proposed resolutions, if it is adopted, it goes in the continuing resolution "bucket". After adopted for 3 consecutive years, it moves into the Statement of Beliefs (a policy manual) and becomes an official position. Those resolutions are guided by our members, open to debate and we have proposed to amend some existing resolutions. He does not recall eliminating any existing resolutions but is sure it has happened. NHSBA thinks of it as a constitution if you will that NHSBA members have adopted and it is up to NHSBA to advocate with respect to those positions/bills. It is not Mr. Christina or the NHSBA Board of Directors making decisions on the resolutions, each is debated, discussed and put out to a vote of our members. These are online and he provided copies. If you have not attended any Delegate Assembly you are invited to do so. Each school board has one voted delegate; others can come and watch the process. They also provide trainings and guest speakers. They often ask the winner of NH School Board of the Year to talk regarding their initiatives that may be related statewide. January through June they provide weekly legislative updates. They list the bills they are tracking, supporting, and opposing. They put in "calls to action" if a bill that is pertinent to our long standing resolutions, they ask school board members if they agree, to contact their local representatives and support opposition to the bills and perhaps testify. This year there is more activity from school board members due to zoom. Positions are adopted by our

member school boards, not Mr. Christina or the Board of Directors. Mr. Post thanked them for coming in. He spoke regarding one of the concerns they had was during the legislative sessions this year NHSBA lobbied aggressively against some of the bills and local people were concerned we were using taxpayer dollars to lobby against their interest and thought it was not allowed to be used to lobby any position. Mr. Christina voiced you are probably referring to RSA 15:5 which speaks to state money not local; public money yes, there is a difference between state and local money. NHSBA does not receive any state money. Mr. Post expressed we get money from the state, which gets comingled; he believes it is a valid point that state money flows to us to NHSBA. Mr. Christina understands it gets comingled; state money is only used for adequacy. NHSBA does not receive state money. NHSBA dues are paid by local money not state money. He adds you probably have other vendors who lobby as well. Transportation companies are at the state house all the time. We look at ourselves as vendors. Mr. Christina was asked if you view yourself as a vendor. Response, we are a membership organization and the school boards pay dues and we provide a service. He agrees to some degree; we provide a good and a service. For your dues, we provide legal assistance, policy services, and trainings. He highlighted the percentage of money NHSBA spends for legislative advocacy service is about 5-7% of their budget, it is not a significant portion of the overall operation. A question was raised if they pay lobbyist. Mr. Christina is a lobbyist and a staff member of NHSBA. He reports to the state every quarter. Rebecca Wilson, Director of Governmental Relations is also a registered lobbyist. A question was raised in your view is the only state money we receive adequacy. Mr. Christina responds, talk to the business administrator, he understands money is comingled. It was noted the flow of revenue is not just for student adequacy. Mr. Christina notes the state money is supposed to be used for state, for educational purposes. Mr. Post expressed there are other funds that flow, it is not just adequacy; you can understand a constituent would be concerned about that and surprised if you are going to lobby that you wouldn't put a firewall in-between public funds and the lobbying. He notes NHSBA does some great things for us, but need to do some work on their model policies. He has real concerns. Mr. Christina asked Mr. Post if it is the fact they lobby or the position they take. Mr. Post responded it is the fact that taxpayer money is coming from people and you are working against their wishes. It was suggested if Wilton-Lyndeborough School Board hears from their constituents and believes they should advocate differently on certain positions then go through NHSBA resolutions and propose to remove or amend one of the existing resolutions. It was expressed someone is going to be on the wrong side of the lobbying efforts. Mr. Christina understands the concerns and some have chosen not to renew their memberships because of their lobbying efforts. He was asked if NHSBA has considered stopping the legislative advocacy services. He answered no, not as long as He (Mr. Christina) has been a member. Mr. Christina expressed that you are dealing with lots of vendors that probably do lobbying and he understands the public interest in vouchers, public education advocacy funding is probably more significant that what your waste company or oil company is lobbying for; that gets back to state or local money. He is respectful that people have different views from NHSBA whether school boards as a whole or individuals. Members are free to present contrary resolutions etc. The expectation from most members is that NHSBA will be on the state house advocating on behalf of the policy manual. Mr. Post suggested perhaps we should have an RFP (request for proposal). Mr. Christina doesn't know how many vendors do what they do; he is not saying they are a monopoly. Mr. Kofalt spoke regarding RSA 15:5. That RSA specifically requires that such agencies segregate those funds. He questioned how NHSBA members are handling that today. Mr. Christina responded off hand he does not know, he thinks there are a couple who create separate accounts but cannot speak to specifically how the 160 school districts handle it. A question was raised if Mr. Christina has advised them on how they should handle it. Mr. Christina has not been asked. Mr. Vanderhoof voiced in 2012 they were given a decision that they were to be separate accounts for specifically paying dues annually, they have to put that money into an account, pay the dues and close the account. That is what the decision said, once the decision came down, the NHSBA was in fact lobbyist, he was referring to an article he read. Mr. Christina was not familiar with the article Mr. Vanderhoof was referring to but notes, Merrimack may be 1 school board that does that. Mr. Vanderhoof pointed out that Mr. Christina had testified there. Mr. Vanderhoof will forward him the article. The discussion continued including that NHSBA had lobbied against SB 130 and HB 20 and seemed to be laser focused on school choice based on the number of emails NHSBA has sent out to members. It seems to have become a central issue. A question was raised why are we taking local taxpayer money and handing it over to an organization that spends a considerable amount of time that seems to lobby against bills that go against the political philosophy of many. NHSBA has been working on state funding all this year, they don't always testify. They have testified in right to know law, bills that seem to eliminate control relating to local authority to granting credit, the bullying law, relating to district property. There may be a difference in opinion of what RSA 15:5 says. It was noted the number of emails on school choice exceeded the other bills. Mr. Christina explained that it could be because there are multiple hearings on those voucher bills and it is obviously a big issue at the state house this year and the more high profile, the more attention it gets, not just by NHSBA but statewide. Discussions continued regarding NHSBA being a vendor; the bus company for example, we pay them, they provide a service and that is the relationship with them. In the case of NHSBA, you position advocacy/lobbying as part of the service you provide to school districts. There is a fundamental difference there. In one case, we are paying for a transportation service and the other we are paying for a broader service that includes lobbying. Mr. Kofalt, voiced the concern is we are taking taxpayer money and using it to lobby for bills that the taxpayers may or may not agree with that is a moral issue, a conflict of interest. Mr. Christina asked Mr. Kofalt if he thinks there is one bill in the legislature that everyone agrees on. Response is absolutely not but as a taxpayer he disagrees with paying taxes that are specifically earmarked for lobbying. Mr. Phillips voiced in talking about RSA 15:5 the organic difference is there isn't any difference between NHSBA and the oil company (example), for purposes of that statute. We stand in the same position as all those other companies. He notes, you will never have a full consensus on how public money is spent or not, some want more programing and some less. NHSBA has a Statement of Beliefs that guide their legislative advocacy in the same way board members guide how they spend public money. Some may disagree but that is what you are elected to do. As far as RSA 15:5 we are no different than the oil company, we use the same money, you may disagree with the positions the oil company is taking but that is not how our lobby works. Our lobby works based on the number of

member school districts, and the member districts are the ones who direct our services. As long as local money is being raised to pay for the public school and you have a bill that will take money from the schools you still have to pay for the schools. If you take that money and send it somewhere else all you are doing is raising taxes. Mr. Kofalt expressed he is arguing the bill. When I contract with the bus company (example) I am not contracting for lobbying services. I am not taking a chunk of money from taxpayer dollars and buying lobbying services. If the oil or bus company wants to pursue their own interests, they are welcome to do that. NHSBA has said that you are not pursuing your own interest you are pursuing the interest of the Delegate Assembly that is composed of a representative from each school board. We are in essence as members who contract with you to lobby; that's the fundamental difference. Ms. Lavallee expressed the oil company (example) does not give us a forum to lobby. She has participated in the Delegate Assembly; there is a process in place to do that. The taxpayers have an itemized line for this in the budget. The information is there, it is very transparent. The taxpayers voted for our budget and this association. We have been members for years and although there may have been some taxpayers who do not agree with the lobbying efforts, there are those who do and she has been contacted by many who do agree. The process is there and outlined. She does not understand the continued debate on this. Mr. Vanderhoof voiced it's not about the number of people that are agreeing or disagreeing, it's the fact they are lobbying regardless if it's 5-4 or 9-1 taxpayers, you are still taking money and acting against the interest of some person. A question was raised who applies the resolutions to the bills, who does that. Mr. Christina explained the bills start trickling in, mid-December or January both he and the government relations go through the list and try to ascertain what it is about. They get an LSR, an initial request to bill but you do not see the language. When the language is published in January you start to identify the bills pertinent to public schools and pertinent to the resolutions in the manual and we make a decision to track etc. Mr. Vanderhoof asked who makes the decision regarding prioritizing, tracking it or following it or oppose etc. Mr. Christina, Executive Director in conjunction/conversation with the staff, other stakeholders, DOE, school board members across the state, superintendents, etc. but it falls to Mr. Christina as Executive Director to make the determination. He is on the phone with taxpayers all the time this time of the year. Mr. Vanderhoof notes NHSBA has a direct line to make their point based on what this says. Mr. Christina responded they call on NHSBA as they rely on our expertise knowing the law and how a bill will impact school districts. A question was raised if NHSBA would consider a membership, which the school district could opt out of the portion of dues that are dedicated to lobbying. Mr. Christina responded we are a membership organization and do not offer ala cart services. A question was raised if school boards are aware they lobby when they join. Mr. Christina has never had a new Board come in and ask about the legislative advocacy services; it is posted on their website they are not hiding it. Mr. Phillips adds there is a description on the public website, the resolutions are on the public website and when they hold new board member orientation, they typically give them a description of the different services they provide. Mr. Christina spoke regarding an earlier question about withholding the membership amount that goes toward lobbying; he didn't check the cost of WLCSD dues but guesses it's about \$4,000 and 5% of \$4,000 is about \$200. Mr. Post noted NHSBA does do a lot of good work; the deliberatives are appreciated but this is a concern. He notes, earlier you equated what you do to what we do. We are directly elected and NHSBA is not elected. If a citizen does not like something a board member said, they call the board member and they have a conversation and the board member may change their mind. We are elected for a purpose and for a term. That is the difference, and NHSBA does not have that, there are layers, it is suggested NHSBA consider this. Instead of having NHSBA go and testify, have our delegate, Ms. Lavallee testify. A question was raised if NHSBA supports candidates. Mr. Christina confirms no, they don't get involved in any sort of election issue or candidates at local or state level. It was noted that it was the NHSBA aggressive manner that they lobbied for those two bills that elevated this not just here but across the state. Any executive director should be concerned about public criticism that could be mounting, and it is mounting and as a member it is suggested they get in front of that. A question was raised what other associations do we budget and pay for. Superintendent named a few such as The NH School Administrators Association and they do have lobbying, the Principal's Association although this was taken out of the budget but they do lobby. It was noted NH Association of School Business Officials (NHASBO) is not very active at the legislature but any of the professional associations such as nurses association, principals, special education association etc. lobby. It was noted that there have been times NHSBA has collaborated with other associations to lobby together. Mr. Christina agrees there are times when collectively the associations feel it is prudent to put through a single voice, maybe a couple of times of year. A question was raised if Mr. Christina knows where they fell on the voucher bill. Mr. Christina confirms they were opposed. It was asked if Mr. Phillips could send some information/clarification to Ms. Lavallee regarding RSA 15:5 to see if it leaves the district open to any liability and how other districts are handling it. Mr. Christina will send this information. Mr. Vanderhoof will send the article that he referred to prior in the discussion. Mr. Christina thanked the Board for the opportunity and hopes he was able to clarify the process and why they advocate for what they do. They were thanked for attending.

Mr. Vanderhoof questioned who has been on the Board the longest and if they had ever been asked to participate or not with NHSBA other than it being stuck in the budget. Chairman LoVerme has been on the longest. Mr. Legere pointed out there are policies regarding this. Mr. Vanderhoof is aware there are stock policies that say you will be member. It was noted the policy was voted on and passed years ago so someone was.

V. SUMMER PROGRAM PRESENTATION-Short-term Strategic Planning Committee

Mr. White reports the committee went over the FRES numbers; cost is \$3,600 plus transportation but this would not affect anything as it is in the budget. Superintendent is working on getting numbers for transportation. It is a 12 day program, Tuesdays-Thursdays July 6-29, 3 instructors 12 hours in total. They will offer reading, math and music for the social emotional needs. There will be a program coordinator for 15 hours for the whole program at \$30 per hour. The total cost is \$3,600 plus transportation and the budgeted amount is \$20,000. All students at FRES will be invited and he provided the numbers of students

that teachers have identified; we will do our best to get them there but all are welcome. At WLC, there are 2 separate programs, one is competency recovery where students are missing just one or two pieces, 8 day program and cost is \$1,920 and the other is for whole credit capture where students need the whole class over again. The recovery competency is MS summer school is for 15 days, includes social studies, English, math, science with teacher salaries \$2,160 and summer school program for HS is social studies, English, math and science for 20 days is \$4,320. There is also a social emotional program on Fridays with no instruction more reintegration and social aspect, at a cost of \$1,100 for supplies and staff. The total for both MS/HS programs cost \$9,500 plus FICA and NH Retirement. ESSER funds can be used, this does qualify and won't affect the budget at all if approved by the Board. It was confirmed that if FRES goes over the budgeted amount, ESSER funds can be used. ESSER funds will cover MS and HS programs as they were not budgeted and we would not be a need to tap into the budget to cover it. It was confirmed this was part of the plans for ESSER funds. A question was raised if the programs are planned for in-person. As far as Mr. White understands, it is. Principal Weaver added the plan is for in person but the issue is if students are still reluctant to come, we can't just let them fail because they are concerned about health and safety. Despite everything is changing, we may not even have a mask policy; he believes there will be less learners in the summer program. A question was raised if it is believed the fact we offer remote is why we have such large numbers. Principal Weaver responded research is telling us the remote learners are struggling more. There are more resources in school than at home. Many students are alone especially HS students. It has been a real struggle; are those students ready to come in, he doesn't believe they will be for June 14 when the program is scheduled to start. A question was raised if it would be the same teacher teaching in-person and remote. Principal Weaver responded, he is not sure yet. There are 4 teachers, one for each content area and we need to find a way to support them. He would prefer students come in, it is the best way to learn. He cannot predict what is going to happen until we have all the final grades and if they are willing to come in over the summer. It was noted the tutoring program was supposed to be in-person and now it is not; it works because it is one on one will it more of the same. Principal Weaver expressed it's going to be different, kids will be in different places and not every student has the same need. The teacher has to be dynamic and understand the kids are in different places. A question was raised, given that people will want to travel this summer and may want to be remote not due to COVID but due to it being easier. Principal Weaver expressed if a student/family wanted to do remote he thinks it is a one to one conversation and needs to be a compelling reason; he does not believe vacation is that reason, health and safety is. He adds we need to be careful about how we explain this to families the first priority is in-person, we do have students still that are anxious about coming to school and taking their masks off and need to find a way to work with those kids. He is thinking remote will not be an option come fall and we need to get the students up to speed. Some have lost a year, to year and a half. He would need guidance from the Superintendent and school board if a student wants remote while on vacation. Superintendent clarified there is not a need for a motion regarding the budgeted funds.

It was suggested to have a more accurate number on attendance to the program. Superintendent noted the school board meetings in June are the 8 and 22nd and he can have a definitive number for the last meeting. Mr. White expressed that they want to start the program on June 14 for competency recovery.

A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to expend up to \$18,000 in ESSER funds to cover the MS/HS summer program as described in the presentation.

It was suggested to have a more solid numbers to vote on than a guess. It is almost a 50% increase. It is noted it is a good program.

Mr. White AMENDED his MOTION to replace the \$18,000 with \$12,000.

Voting: five ayes; four abstentions from Mr. Vanderhoof, Mr. Post, Mr. Kofalt, and Mr. Legere, motion carried.

Superintendent will come forward with final numbers.

VI. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent Lane reported the following adjustments under letters/information, the lighting project for WLC, food service revenue and expenditures (no action needed on either) and a nomination for a curriculum coordinator and an additional resignation.

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

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

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Nick Hanson, Lyndeborough, was present and spoke about the resignations on the docket: technology director, food service director, Superintendent, business administrator, Steve's School Bus is out for bid, we just learned the FRES Principal job is not getting renewed which was posted once and twice which obviously shows no one is chomping at the bit to come work here. We understand there was a committee for the superintendent search but have not heard anything about the interviews done a few weeks ago leaving us to believe the decision has not yet been made. Peter Weaver announced to his staff that he was applying for the Superintendent position, which means we are down yet another Principal. The district had 2 Principals, we are wondering what has happened to this district. Is there something we can do to keep one that would stay for another year maybe if we can get the FRES Principal to stay along with Steve's School Bus for one more year this would help the district maintain stability for our students. Steve's School Bus drivers are liked by kids and parents and is accommodating to our schools. Mr. LaRoche has done a fantastic job during COVID and taking all protocols to stay healthy and safe. My understanding is the kids like him and have already gone through enough. With a new Principal starting and COVID, he questioned what can we do to keep Mr. LaRoche. He states that was a question, what can we do to keep Mr. LaRoche. Chairman LoVerme responded it is a personnel matter discussed in nonpublic. Mr. Hanson spoke of a personnel matter regarding a harassment issue and is someone being vindictive and not renewing his contract. Chairman LoVerme responded we can't discuss that. Mr. Hanson voiced "that is convenient". Chairman LoVerme notes it is not a matter of convenience. Mr. Post expressed he can address the superintendent search, the committee has been meeting; it is a similar issue with the resumes, some candidates have jobs and a component has to be nonpublic. There will be another interview cycle Thursday with a teacher group and a community group coming including selectman. It is down to a couple of candidates and he is confident we will have a Superintendent by the time Mr. Lane leaves. Mr. Hanson expressed we just want the kids to get a good education. He feels the school has done a good job with Mr. LaRoche leading it. With everything that has gone on with our children, with COVID and new staff, how much do you want to put these kids through in a single instance? These kids need continuity; they are not developed to see new faces. Wouldn't you rather want to give the kids a familiar face that has done an impeccable job. Just because people don't like what he brought to attention. I want to see you all vote on that tonight. Chairman LoVerme responded we are not going to vote on that tonight. Superintendent voiced the Board has a nonpublic session and can bring up issues at will and can make a decision at any time but has to be done in nonpublic under the RSA. Mr. Hanson voiced you can vote tonight to extend his contract. Superintendent notes the Board has the authority to hire the Superintendent does not. He notes no one is giving me a straight answer, can you vote to keep Mr. LaRoche. Chairman LoVerme responded if it is brought up by a board member. Mr. Hanson asked for a motion. It was pointed out we are in public session. A member of the public asked why can't you do that in public. Response was it is a nonpublic matter.

Mr. Jeff Allyn, Lyndeborough spoke regarding having 2 children at FRES and he is a tax payer and wants to say the rumor mill is going crazy with what is going on with staffing; the FRES Principal. Unlike some people, he doesn't care if his kids like the Principal, he cares that they get a good education. He has been with the district for 4 years now, has nothing but good to say about the staff, they care and go out of their way, they expend their own funds. He has reached out to their current teacher and said call me if you need stuff for the class; you shouldn't spend your own money on my kids education. He understands we have had a year with a lot of "crappy times" and a lot of staff changes. He completely understands you can't talk about it in a public forum, he respects that and he wouldn't want you talking about him in a public forum. Taxpayers/parents of this school board deserve some continuity, some decisions and we deserve to be let in on what we think is best for our children, that is why we elected each and every one of you to be here. He has concerns as a taxpayer and parent. He is going off the rumor mill because he is not getting any feedback and he does recognize that is not entirely the Board's fault based on the sensitivity and nature. When we are losing a Superintendent and the outgoing Superintendent is choosing not to renew contracts for existing people and who as a citizen, taxpayer and parent think he has done a good job. He hit his benchmark of the 5 year plan and in "crappy" times. He thinks the school board and district have handled this very, very well and he applauds you all and staff about that but he is concerned you are getting rid of a Principal that he feels has done a good job. As an administrator and leader he is giving his teachers and his people what they need to educate my kids. His kids have come leaps and bounds in the last 2 years. He doesn't care about the reasons if it's legitimate and legal reason, he gets it but we need information but barring that if it's just because they don't think he has done a great job in a crappy situation. We are moving into a new year and new Superintendent, let's see how the current staff, current principals, current administration work with the new Superintendent to continue to give our students the education they deserve and need and as a taxpayer he pays for. He would be disappointed if they choose to not renew Mr. LaRoche's contract for at least one year and see what happens. He encourages the Board to take care of that tonight because they deserve continuity.

Ms. Jody Gibbons, Lyndeborough expressed they had a public vote for Erin Stewart a few years ago and would like to see the same thing with Mr. LaRoche tonight. It is believed that was a vote on a position. Mr. Vanderhoof responded if there was a vote

to hire someone it would be in public but if there is discussion around that it would be in nonpublic. All hires are done in public as you can see (on the agenda), we will vote on these later in the meeting but there is no discussion around it. Superintendent spoke that it is his understanding, he was not present, that there was a decision made by the Board that a position was not warranted. Public spoke that they wanted the position to stay; there may have been some desire to keep the person but the issue was about the position itself. When the Board voted to keep the position and a RIF was not required, Ms. Stewart stayed on and that is something that has to be discussed in public as it was about a position, not a person. Chairman LoVerme noted that it had to do with the number of students in the class.

Ms. Laura Manning spoke regarding an email she sent the Board and is sure they are all familiar with what she is going to say. She sent most of it in an email. There are links to the studies about wearing masks. She asks the Board to get rid of the masks or make it optional. She believes it is violating the civil rights of the students based on the Constitution and read part of her email relating to this. Under this law, we can argue it is illegal to require students to wear masks in school as it obstructs the respiratory airway, impairs the child's breathing; she believes the NH Constitution and unconstitutionality of the masks is why the governor listed in the k-12 is exempt from wearing masks in this emergency order. Had she known this months ago she would have brought it to the Board a long time ago. In all actuality, do you really think the kids are not hanging out with each other unmasked. This is based on science not political and science falls on the side of unmasked. The poll the Superintendent sent out didn't say anything about masks being an option rather than it was worded in favor of having the masks; she finds this skewed and misleading. If the families were provided all the facts and options, she thinks it would have come out differently. Mr. Lane said 61% of the families responded does that mean the 39% don't care or have an opinion. If it was optional would they have responded or given a different response; something to think about. She thinks the kids shouldn't wear masks as it is unconstitutional and their breathing is being restrained and it's restrictive.

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

VIII. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent reported we have open positions and listed those in his report. There were 19 candidates on Friday for the Principal. There was a candidate who wanted to apply but we had closed it before he did and planned to apply over weekend. He did not think that was fair and reopened it. Open positions and number of applicants were reviewed. The goal is to have these brought to the Board for the next meeting in May. The superintendent search is up to the search committee and the school board, he has no say or influence and is not involved other than making sure the process is run and to accommodate them. He did provide results of the survey and it was consistent to keep masks worn, as it exists. Regarding Title IX, we sent notices through open enrollment to staff and filled all the requirements of the law as he understands them. The Board asked him to respond to a citizen and is playing phone tag. For the first time, he can say all of our WLCTA course reimbursement money will be expended except for about \$1,000. He applauds the staff for reaching out to expand their knowledge base and increase degrees. It is difficult to work full time and attend classes. Superintendent confirms the Title IX notice was sent in an email through the alert system. Mr. Legere did not recall seeing but Mr. Vanderhoof and Chairman LoVerme do. It was asked to obtain a list of what courses the teachers took. Superintendent noted a lot of it revolved around using technology for teaching practices at the beginning of the year; one or two are working on leadership practices. He can provide a list. Superintendent confirmed the CBA says any person who is an employee (covered by the CBA) is able to access funds. If a person was leaving and wanted to take a course in July, that would not be funded.

ii. Business Administrator's Report

Mr. Mullin thanked our custodial staff, who during the spring break, worked tirelessly to complete a deep cleaning of all three school buildings to get them ready for the last six weeks of the school year. He spent some time in the buildings and was impressed by the condition of the classrooms, hallways, and other common areas. This staff has been key to keeping our positive cases to a minimum during the pandemic and deserve our thanks for all their hard work. The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) at Florence Rideout spent several days during the break painting and redecorating the Teacher's Lounge at the school to kick off Teacher Appreciation Week. He thanked them for all their hard work and fundraising to create a brighter and more comfortable space for the staff. Also during the break, every classroom and office area in all three buildings received a HEPA-Filter air purifier. These machines were sized properly for each specific space, were pretested by teachers and include a medical rated filter of H-13 which filters out 99.95% of particles .21 microns or larger which includes the Influenza and COVID virus particles. With lifetime guarantees, these units will help ensure the health and safety of our students and staff for many years to come. He thanked Mr. Post and Mr. Kofalt for signing the manifests and Mr. Kofalt and Ms. Lavallee this evening for signing them. At the last school board meeting, he was directed by the school board to go out to bid for transportation with a 3-year contract. He sent out 3 bid packages including one to the current contractor. Bids are due May 21 and the bid opening is May 24 before the next school board meeting therefore the Superintendent will have some information and perhaps recommendations.

iii. Principals' Reports

Principal Weaver reported Spirit Week was a big success, kids and staff needed it. They still tried to balance masks wearing and social distancing which was a challenge but they did it. Spirit Week was a turning point for our school community. We had

Teacher Appreciation Week and he gave a shout out to the PTO. In 26 years in education, he has never seen the PTO invest in as much as this PTO has. It's a handful of motivated family members doing something for kids and teachers. They did a great job. He suggests you give them a shout out in public if you see them. It is May and that is crunch time for the MS/HS; we are trying to wrap up our testing. Many kids are trying to get to the finish line. Teachers are in the process of making prescriptions for kids identifying which need to do summer school, and trying to communicate with parents. We are preparing for 8th grade step-up, preparing for graduation, awards night and 8th grade promotion and still have social distancing and masks. We are still in this boat trying to figure out what to do but he believes we are on our way. Graduation is an interesting experience at the Drive-in. We are trying to make it as if we are in the gym. We will have the color guard, are working with the American Legion and will recognize community members in service. We have 3 kids joining the military. The car pods will be family pods, it's not clear if they will need to be masked. The Milford Drive-in is billing us to use the facility on June 5 at 11am and will return the funds to be used as a scholarship. Currently it's a gentleman's agreement but as soon as the contract is signed they should be recognized for this. It was noted that some of the senior projects are really interesting and for next year could the community come in and have the students present some of their topics. Principal Weaver responded thinks perhaps in April or May or even if it was available as a video collage. Next year it will be a class; the way it is done now is effective but not efficient. Because it starts in August or September, some kids take until April 21 and still have more to do. They take their passion and learn something they are interested in and show us how 12 years of education at Wilton-Lyndeborough helped them. He hopes next year in January or early December would be when the students would present and he will try to open it up to as many people as possible assuming there is no social distancing etc. needed. A question was raised at this point in the year how is the mask issue going in the school, is everyone able to keep it on all day. Do you have a feel if it was made optional, are there going to be specific groups that may have an issue with it. Principal Weaver responded it would be foolish for him to speak for those groups. In general, it's been more of a struggle. There is momentum where the community is opening up, most of us have had shots and the research is changing. There is a lot of conversation about wearing masks. We did a good job keeping a lid on clusters and breakouts at WLC. Communities have done a good job of respecting the guidelines; the kids are good about it. He believes the mask rules is sort of starting to walk back but we are 4 weeks away before we end school; let's get through this period but have a real conversation of what should change. In summer school, will we require masks and social distancing? He defers to the Board; we want the best decision and to honor what the community wants. There will be families not ready to have no masks. He would need help from the Superintendent with having those conversations. It was noted it might be an issue regardless; just because there is only 4 weeks left doesn't mean there shouldn't be a decision. Principal Weaver expressed every business and school district is having this issue because we don't have the answer, there is no clear path. It is traumatizing for some kids and families. It will be a difficult conversation and he is looking forward to being a part of it and we should hear from everyone possible. The subject of bullying was brought up regarding some wearing masks and some not. Chairman LoVerme expressed we will need answers and will have to hold staff accountable for the bullying. Principal Weaver believes that is fair. Will this be an issue of discrimination, we have to have that conversation, we can't assume it is not a big deal. Principal Weaver would like to think students would feel safe to wear a mask if they are concerned for their safety without being bullied.

Principal LaRoche spoke that his report talks about progress in the school. He had asked the reading specialist to pull up some data on where students are at grade level. This is the easiest way for a layperson to understand. Grades 1-5 in reading and math are all where they are supposed to be except for grade 1. They looked back at where the 1st grade was entering and it was .7; those kids did improve by .5 and students came and went from remote to hybrid to in-person. STAR 360 will be in the next 2 weeks and will compare the data from this and in June and compare remote to in-person students. They are happy with the progress especially given the pandemic. Students are 3-3.5 feet apart, can take their mask off at their desk, at lunch and have many masks breaks; he looks at it as a phase in approach to masks off. They have been in close contact with the nursing staff and they provide feedback on what they can do and we are staying at the level of what we can do. State testing is this week, remote students can't test remotely therefore all remote students are coming in for testing in reading and math. Grade 5 is testing in science. Testing does not take up all their time. The remote students meet in the lobby, wear masks and keep their distance. Teachers did a great job; there were only one or two who opted out of testing. Teachers have a two-week window for STAR 360 and which will be done about June 4. There are a few students in the tutoring program that are remote and have not looked at remote for the summer academy but will talk with parents if they want to do it that way. There are 6 classroom teachers and 1 for social emotional which is music. There will be snack and break time built in. They are seeing groups of 6 with spacing out and can be unmasked. They recommended to the committee to consider tutoring in the fall. There will be changes in the summer and fall and there will be a lessening if not complete unmasking. They are doing fine with reading and math, it's the science piece but it is a hands on activity and we used a different one which was easier with remote. They talked about what their goals are for the year and one was with copies and utilizing technology. The black copies were budgeted \$756,000 and used \$293,000, color was budgeted \$119,000 and used \$16,000. This is saving the district money and he will keep trying to do that; all schools are below what was budgeted and it's a positive thing. They wanted to improve reading and teaches have focused on this using W.I.N. (What I Need) and differentiation. He worked with (Fire) Chief Norse in the fall and they had some noted deficiencies, which have been fixed. There were just a few minor thing noted on the recent inspection. He worked with the PTO to provide the slide which is up and running and new swings: this was a nice community project between the school and PTO. The PTO redecorated the teachers' lounge. He notes we were short on the curriculum coordinator and RTI and everyone stepped in and did a little bit of work and did the duties. One of his goals was to work with district personnel and technology made a great leap forward. He reports, everything is moving in a positive direction at FRES. Mr. Post thanked him for providing the data on scores as they wonder where students are this year. It is encouraging that they are on track and hopefully those falling behind will get some tutoring. Principal LaRoche responded in elementary there is not a consistent ahead or behind with remote or in-

person because the remote students had family support at home and were able to keep up and some excelled. Mr. Vanderhoof asked that he elaborate on the masks, are there issues when they have it on/should have it on etc. Principal LaRoche responded at elementary they never don't have it on, they seem to like to wear it and wear it as a beard, tuck it under their chin and you have to tell them to pull it up. The younger children chew on it; he doesn't think it is as effective when it is wet. They do have extra children's masks and when they do that they give them one. A question was raised if there are any more issues now vs. in the beginning. Principal LaRoche responded they seem more comfortable with it, as with anything if you have been doing it for 9 months. He is sure they would like to take it off and every opportunity they get they do take it off. A question was raised how these grades compare to last year. Principal LaRoche has not compared it to last year, typically students at FRES have been at or slightly below. This is mid-way and the 5th grade reading is at 6.2, that means they are reading above their level early on. This is instructional reading; what the teacher would use while teaching the class. There is independent reading where you go home and read it, comprehend it and what we use is STAR 360, Fountas and Pinnell that gives you a letter connection. This is grade level and the easiest to describe. He clarified the state is forcing the remote students to come in for the testing. If they don't take the test they are an opt out. He was asked to email Chairman LoVerme what he went over in his report. He will do that. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral noted this looks great.

Superintendent/Principal Lane reported on LCS. Teacher's quarterly fill out student profiles whether the student is meeting/not meeting proficiencies or mastering expectations; 80% are ready for 1st grade, this with 25% of the school year to go. Students are doing well, when they get to FRES will have less differentiating, and teachers can start on target. There are some who will struggle during their entire academic career, some remote students are struggling without technology; we don't have many remote students left only 4, most have come back. It looks strong with the numbers of students moving on. He points back to the year we began full day kindergarten, the last year we had kids coming into 1st grade without full day kindergarten, we had about 30% ready to go into 1st grade and to read and now we have 80%. It's a team effort; he thanked all the teachers and parents for their efforts. There are 36 registered kindergarten students for the fall and anticipates it will look to be about 48-58 with still 3 classes of 16-17 per class. The kindergarten class is swapping rooms with preschool as the room is larger and in similar size to the other kindergarten classes. We are moving out of COVID and moving the nurse to a larger space than where she originally was. Neither room has a bathroom and there is no space to add one. There is a bathroom 25 "kid steps" away and access to an emergency door for parent pickup. He has done some statistical analysis around the district as we were required to get burn rates for PPE materials. We are no longer getting free PPE from the state and we are not needing it as much anymore. We have been seeing the statistics and with the small number of students, the nurse sees, the space is sufficient. We have Welcome Day for incoming kindergarten students to meet their teacher and tour the building. We will have an activity during the morning as a group, we typically don't see all of them. Principal LaRoche and his staff will welcome our kindergarten students for Step-up Day on June 2 and will be back to LCS for lunch. The end of the year celebration is scheduled for June 4 and June 7. A question was raised if kindergarten students were wearing masks. He confirms the students are not wearing masks, some do because they choose to. A question was raised if we had 1 positive test in kindergarten or have there been any. Superintendent believes there were 2-3 positive tests and believes 2 in preschool but he can get that information. The cases did not appear that transmission happened in the building but at some other setting. We did quarantine as appropriately and had some staff test positive as well.

b. Letters/Information

i. Information Request-Mask Feedback

Results of the one question survey regarding mask wearing was provided. He confirms there was not an option for optional wear. Results from the staff was 86% to wear masks and about 60% for parents with one parent not being able to access the survey, he did take this into account, also had 4 nonresponses.

• FOOD SERVICE

He provided a document regarding food service showing numbers provided by Mr. Mullin of revenue \$173,271.35, expenses \$157,127.19 and a surplus of \$16,144.16. He noted there had been a concern in the past that the district had to make up for shortages. Because the Federal Government will pay for meals, we will not be in a deficit for the first time in a long time. We will have a little more time before now and the end of school. We have not accumulated any debt because it was being paid for. There are no problems with the ala cart menu items. He thanked Ms. Deb Roske and food service staff for doing a wonderful job and without Ms. Roske, we would have been in major trouble. There is \$25,000 budgeted that would be transferred to food service, which will not be necessary and will go back to the unexpended fund balance and to taxpayers. There was a concern around free and reduced lunch applications and are people applying or not and this does not matter. Next year this program will be continued by the Federal Government and if the trend continues, there will be a surplus next year also. A question was asked if the number of the free and reduced applications no longer impacts the funding formula. Superintendent responded it does not because they pay for everyone. Our numbers for free and reduced did not diminish, they stayed the same and we will not lose Title I money.

• LIGHTING PROJECT

Superintendent provided information on a lighting project for WLC. There is no action needed on this tonight. He is hopeful it comes forward at the next meeting for an action item. This has been a topic of discussion in the community as well. Eversource has stepped up more than in the past. The project costs about \$122,105.95 as quoted by the company World Energy Efficiency Services. Eversource agrees to pay 60% of this which is a much higher number than in the past. If it is decided to move forward, the school district would be responsible for \$47,621. Eversource estimates a potential annual savings of over \$20,000. In reality,

you could change the lighting and efficiency at WLC and the project would pay for itself. From that point forward, all would be savings for the district, that is a win, win. The question is the \$47,621 is not a budgeted dollar figure for next year. If the Board wanted to move forward, we would need to do so prior to June 30. We would separate it into two accounts (repairs/maintenance HS/MS). It appears our fund balance with offsetting revenues/expenditures will be at least \$500,000, which would go back to the taxpayers. In particular, we spent less in money than budgeted in heating at the MS/HS and would have \$34,000 not expended. This would keep it in the facilities budget. He is not suggesting or thinking it is prudent to take action tonight. If you have questions in the coming week, he can put those out to the company and we can advance those to the board meeting. The proposal is good through mid-June. He does not know if Eversource will continue the 60% piece, which is a big cost savings to the district. Mr. Legere noted that there is a line in the CIP for the LED lighting project. Mr. Vanderhoof responded we have eliminated that. The document has not been updated and is on the website. It was suggested that the Facilities Committee meet next week and determine if there are funds that can be used from the capital reserve. Superintendent confirms the Board can choose at any time to release funds from the capital reserve, Building and Roadways fund. The Board can do that vs. taking it from the fund balance. It was noted we should look at the roofing schedule to make sure the funds are there and for the coming years. Superintendent will put out a note to the Board members and others to see when they want to meet. He can have all the information on the Building and Roadway fund at that time. Chairman LoVerme believes we are tight on that fund and should be careful on spending money out of there. Mr. Post believes the proposal looks good with a good return on investment. It was noted we do not have a way to validate the numbers. Something similar was done in Lyndeborough. Superintendent added even if it took 3 years, this is a long-term project that will benefit the district over time. It's pointed out that the question is where to pay it from. Superintendent clarified the Board would need to decide by June 22 and better to decide sooner as the work would be done over the summer and worked around the summer program, and cleaning. It was noted the original memo says it is good through May. Superintendent responded he misinterpreted that. He confirms the estimates came from the company not Eversource; we would not pay Eversource. A question was raised if there has been any discussions around maintenance, the total cost ownership, is there more or less maintenance required, and is there hidden cost that negatively impact that payback. Superintendent responded his understanding is these units as a whole last longer, the ballast and bulbs. The payback is based on energy cost. He will do some more research. He believes you will pay more and they will last longer. He does not think it is appropriate to make a decision this evening nor does the Board need to. He thanked Mr. Mullin and Mr. Erb for bringing it forward.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Mr. Post to approve the minutes of April 20, 2021 as written. Voting: eight ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Finance Committee

Mr. Kofalt reported the committee met for the first time last week and they spoke about the purpose of the committee and focusing on a more detail review of the financials than what is typically allowed for at the Board meetings. There was some discussion of stepping beyond that and it was decided the committee should have a narrow scope and if there was an issue, it could be brought to the Board and essentially ask to broaden the scope. There was discussion about a revenue committee that was previously proposed or approved and it was decided it was outside the scope of the Finance Committee but wanted to bring it up as something that was a concern and something the Board should consider reviving. They discussed their meeting schedule. Standard meeting date will be the Wednesday between the 2 board meetings. They elected Mr. Kofalt as Chair. They spoke of the composition of the committee because they subsequently received a roster that included some budget committee members and going back to the original minutes this Board created this committee without any budget committee members on it. He feels it adds value to have a budget committee member on it. He would like a motion to approve a budget committee member to this committee. He prefers one budget committee member, it's a small enough group they could have an alternate but he prefers the one member. They had asked for an update on the hiring for the business administrator and discussed the audit findings. Fortunately, the last audit was clean; it did not have any serious findings. As always the case with these things there are certain recommendations as to some practices that should be standardized and measures that should be taken. They will continue to go through that list. Some of this has already been addressed and some the Board is responsible for ultimately. The general feeling is that there are things they need to follow up with and make sure they are taken care of such as the IT policies which he believes are in line with HB 612. We need to be sure we check all of those boxes and report back to the Board these things have been taken care of. Mr. Vanderhoof believed it had been discussed that the Board wanted budget committee members on that. Mr. Kofalt agrees it makes perfect sense and wanted it to be formalized by the Board.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Kofalt and SECONDED by Mr. Post to add a budget committee member to the Finance Committee.**

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral voiced there are budget committee names listed to the committee on the website. Mr. Kofalt responded it is on the roster because it was updated that way. He looked at the original minutes when the committee was created and it was not there. A question was raised if this was communicated to those budget committee members. Mr. Kofalt reports, those budget committee members were part of the meeting and everyone is happy with the arrangement. Mr. Post added, one person and one

alternate and they will go back and forth. Ms. Lavallee informed the group she has a scheduling conflict and asked if there was another board member willing to take her place. Mr. Kofalt confirmed the last meeting was originally scheduled to be in person.

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

A question was raised regarding the revenue component. Mr. Vanderhoof agrees it is a separate piece. Mr. Kofalt sees the Finance Committee as having a “fairly narrow” scope and not to generate new ideas or propose strategic moves but to keep a close eye on things.

ii. Superintendent Search Committee

Mr. Post reports the committee met last night and have a very aggressive timetable. The Board will need to come in a week from tonight, next Tuesday to do the final interview process and ideally make a decision. Mr. Post believes we are close to making a final decision. He thanked Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and Mr. Kofalt for all their help. There have been a lot of twists, turns and unexpected changes. There is a lot of concern heard tonight; we have a plan and will execute it well. A question was raised if the community and staff members are the same for this round of interviews as the last. Mr. Post responds they are although he did not hear back from some of the community members; interviews will take place this Thursday at 6:30pm and the Board will interview next Tuesday. The committee may need to meet on Friday to review feedback.

X. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES

a. Appointment-Hannah Schwack-Trovitch-FRES Elementary Teacher

Superintendent reviewed the recommendation for nomination.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to appoint Ms. Hannah Schwack-Trovitch, FRES Elementary Teacher. ***

A question was raised regarding the salary structure. Superintendent responded at this point it is almost level as we hired someone higher than budgeted and this is less. He will provide ongoing accounting.

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

• Appointment of Emily Stefanich-District Curriculum Coordinator-contracted service

Superintendent reviewed the recommendation for nomination although the Board does not typically approve these hires, he felt it would be better to bring the recommendation. He was clear with the candidate regarding Board expectations around creating a schedule with transparency and the requirements for this position.

Superintendent confirms she will work 32 hours per week and this is flexible. She is not retired; there is no real “lookback” to say she can only work so many hours per week. If we have PD coming up, she can work more hours that week and flex in that direction. She would talk to the new Superintendent about a schedule and what makes sense for the district. Contract is for 210 days. She has a little grant writing experience; it will be a learning process.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to appoint Ms. Emily Stefanich as District Curriculum Coordinator, contracted service provider, salary of \$70,000 with no benefits provided.

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

b. Resignations

Superintendent reviewed the resignations. Vacancies will be for the 21-22 school year.

i. Mark Kline-Technology Director

Mr. Kline is moving to Vermont and has a position there.

ii. Deb Roske-Food Service Director

Ms. Roske did not cite specific reasons. The Superintendent spoke with her regarding to see if there was something we could do to retain her. She declined.

iii. Luke Reiter-WLC-HS English Teacher

Mr. Reiter has family and will be moving back to Minnesota. Ms. Maggie Dwyer will move into this position and we will hire for a MS English teacher.

• Amanda Miller-WLC-MS Math Teacher

Ms. Miller has a change in a family scenario and needs to be home more regularly. There is no vote needed, as contracts for 21-22 were not handed in.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Manning spoke based on some of the previous discussion tonight. She had originally asked someone to come this evening who investigates the virus but he could not attend. He looks through a microscope all day and says that the holes in the masks are larger than the virus. She asked if she heard it correctly that air purifiers were installed that kills illnesses and diseases; she questions if we still need the masks, Mr. Mullin responded they are an additional tool to help the spread in the rooms, they do not

guarantee the virus would not be spread but it helps. It improves the chances of it not being spread. Ms. Manning voiced if given as an option, it will be a handful to start and will slowly increase the numbers who take the mask off. She doesn't know if bullying will be an issue because everyone was wearing them so those who generally choose to take them off, she can't see them saying you are a "wuss" or something. By continuing, you feed into the fear and anxiety these kids have by continuing to allow/mandate them to wear it. There are no deaths in anyone under 18 in NH in the research she has done and the symptoms have been mild. If this is voted to keep them on, is there an end goal, what kind of numbers or achievement do you need to get rid of them. Has there been any conversation that has happened. Chairman LoVerme responded it was not discussed. Ms. Manning expressed it is something to think about, what the end goal is to get rid of these.

Mr. Allen spoke that he is not a mask guy, both his kids go to school and don't care about the masks, they will/will not wear them. He is not worried that, the bullying may be more for the kids who don't wear the masks in his mind because that seems to be what the public opinion is these days. He is always for free choice. While the ventilators may not be a guarantee that you won't catch COVID neither is the mask, my kid wears it everyday and managed to pick up COVID supposedly at school and brought it home. As a parent, his kids don't care/mind about wearing/not wearing a mask. I know some people's kids who would be terrified to go to school if people were not wearing masks. He sees both sides of it and believes it is my choice at the end of the day as a parent. Partly, he gets to voice that opinion by coming here and talking to you. He thinks 99% of you do a good job. He thinks you have done a great job with his kids and his family. He appreciates that you listen to him when he comes up here. He thinks you honestly do care and whether or not he agrees with you, he thinks you have his kids best interest at heart and that means something to him. He asks that you let him as a parent decide if his kids are going to wear masks and that would come through a discussion with them. By forcing them, you take away that right I have as a parent. I am asking you give him that choice.

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

Ms. Lisa Post, Lyndeborough spoke. There is a NHIAA committee for the interscholastic athletics committee on Thursday; she received a lot of requests from parents asking that we look into removing the mandate for masks for HS competitive athletes. It is open to the public and wonders if you could have our athletic director participate and represent our district and put it on the website so parents who are concerned can find it easily and log on and at least listen to the conversation. She congratulated everyone from teachers to staff to the Board, everyone who made this year happen for the kids. You did a good job holding the line; you are one of the few in the state that was open all year, you should be proud of yourselves and our teachers. She thanked everyone who went to these efforts and considered every angle before making decisions and she appreciates that. Superintendent spoke that it is his understanding the NHIAA meetings are not normally open to the public. If it is, he doesn't believe there is a public forum. If parents want to voice an opinion they should email Jeff Collins who is the Executive Director and his email is jcollinsnhiaa.org. He is unaware if this is open to the public and Mr. Miller is not a member of the executive council and to the best of his knowledge is not allowed to speak but he will check. Ms. Post responded she did have a back and forth communication that it was going to be open to the public to view but didn't get an answer if they could speak or not. Superintendent responded he is a committee Chair and he thinks Mr. Collins will respond to his email. He will send Ms. Manning Mr. Collin's email.

XII. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Kofalt commented on the PTO activities, he looked through the Star Wars pictures and it looked like it was a lot of effort and fun. He especially liked the "great teacher you are" cake, kudos to them and he thanked the Milford Drive-in for their offer and is looking forward to seeing how it turns out.

Mr. Mannarino thanked all the parents and staff for responding to the survey question; that will help us move forward with decision making.

Mr. Vanderhoof spoke regarding the NHSBA membership. He knows it was brought up earlier that it says in one of our policies that we will be members, he suggests to change it to be voted on annually and perhaps any membership. He has never seen a vote to be part of NHSBA or any other association so he is opposed to it just being a vote by budget proposal it should be an active vote. He would like to see that changed. He agrees it is time to make masks optional and let people live their lives the way they see fit. We are over a year with data of this being bombarded to everyone in every direction, every radio station, and every TV station, everywhere you can see. Product ads are telling people to go get vaccinated. Everyone knows the deal, everybody has read, and read and read and can make up their own minds if they wear a mask or not. That is his opinion and he is happy to vote that way. It was mentioned about students being anxious and he saw this in his own kids, it was an "eye opener". Schools are kind of the only place where they are forced to wear a mask. He believes it is something we created and have to deal with, just pushing it off to summer just to hope that everything goes away is a bad tactic. He thanked the PTO for supporting our schools, the slides and teacher appreciation; you do a lot of work and we appreciate it.

Mr. White thanked the PTO and everyone on all the committees for doing this work, we are moving in a good direction. He is steadfast on his decision he made last time about the masks. There is a short period of time left, we have something working lets not reinvent the wheel. He believes it keeps getting pushed off meeting to meeting and we can spend our time on better things like how we will open school instead of going over the same topic over and over. We gave parents an option of not wearing masks that is remote learning. We argued the protocols until we were blue in the face and should not change the rules with only 4 weeks to the end of school, it's kind of silly. He respects everyone's decision and opinions; this is just his.

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral gave kudos to the PTO and volunteers who do an outstanding job and went above and beyond this year. It is nice to see a lot of parents and community members at this meeting. It helps us to make decisions on how you want us to act on your behalf. Regarding the Principal Reports, it's nice to hear of all the activities and positivity. The superintendent search has been a wild adventure and is happy to present it going forward.

Mr. Legere echoed the praises of the PTO, the slides, the teacher's appreciation week, the teacher's room at FRES. It is not just them stepping up, it's them involving the community members that are not PTO members, posting things on social media for donations, one of the sport teams got new uniforms, seniors got t-shirts; they rally the community to help. He thanked the organizations and folks for doing those things and thanked the community for their donations and getting involved. We have been through some tough budget times, the community said they would step up and do things and now they are, it's great. Thank you.

Ms. Lavallee echoed what Mr. Legere said.

Mr. Post thanked the PTO for all their efforts. He notes Mr. Legere is right, the community is getting involved and stepping up, contributing; that's what we want. He bought some great plants at FRES. He sympathizes with the mask position. He thinks there must be light at the end of the tunnel. It is time to start relaxing this for summer school; we should plan on masks being optional. For the fall, it should be mask optional unless it gets worse. He knows what it is like to have COVID and he wore a mask and doesn't think it did him one bit of good. We have a few weeks to go and he feels it may cause mayhem changing it now in the next few weeks but he would support Mr. Vanderhoof's motion.

Chairman LoVerme thanked the PTO. The head of the PTO is here tonight and a round of applause was given. He adds they are very active. As far as mask wearing; we need to start to thinking about opening school, we don't have many meetings left to talk about the opening of school. We know how this one will close, the way it is. We have to look at next year. As far as masks, he in one all day. If we make them optional, they are optional but we should not let our guard down on everything else like sanitizer etc. It helps keep people aware of the cleanliness, if they are wearing a mask and sneeze they are not spreading the droplets 8-10 feet around the room. It is time as a society to move on but we need to keep in the back of our mind at a moment's notice if it spikes we need to turn it around. We will run into opposition but we are the ones who have to make the final decision. Having everyone here is great, wish more would speak up but it is the most we have had in a while. Pass the word we appreciate it if they come to meetings.

XIII. UNSEAL NONPUBLIC MINUTES

Chairman LoVerme voiced he learned today that we do not have to approve nonpublic minutes. He learned this in a right to know seminar and they should not be sent electronically. The Board will look at them. He will send the slide presentation out to the Superintendent and he can forward it to all the members. We shouldn't do this anymore.

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

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kofalt and SECONDED by Mr. White to enter Non-Public Session to discuss personnel matters and review nonpublic minutes RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (B) (C) at 9:40pm.

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

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 10:52pm.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Mr. Post (for purposes of discussion) to retain Mr. Robert LaRoche as FRES Principal.

Voting: three ayes; five nays from Mr. Post, Ms. Lavallee, Mr. Kofalt, Mr. Mannarino and Mr. White, one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion failed.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Legere and SECONDED by Mr. White to adjourn the Board meeting at 10:53pm.

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*