

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, August 10, 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, Matt Mannarino, Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral, Jim Kofalt, Charlie Post (6:35) and Paul White*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante,, Principals Sarah Edmunds, and Kathleen Chenette, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, Technology Director Jonathan Bouley, Curriculum Coordinator Emily Stefanich, 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.

• RECOGNITION OF MS. DEB ROSKE

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral, on behalf of the School Board, gave a special presentation honoring Ms. Deb Roske, former Food Service Director for all her endless efforts and contributions to the students and school district. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral also expressed appreciation for the entire food service team, Melanie Jones, Jamie Skinner and Bill Ryan.

III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent Weaver reported the following adjustments, an additional recommendation for appointment of an industrial arts teacher and a first read of policies DAF-1-3 and 10.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. White to accept the adjustments to the agenda.

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

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Jeff Jones of Wilton spoke regarding COVID protocols and asked the Board to look at what is occurring right now; Wilton is up to 8. He voiced we need to think long and hard about the guidance the CDC has given us and wearing masks and think about N95 masks and trying to set a good example around that and not just cloth masks. He is also asking the Board to consider a remote option. His children were all homeschooled last year and they are considering sending their children back to school with one vaccinated but his younger children do not have the opportunity to be vaccinated; he has concern. He wants to give them a bridge to reenter school.

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

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent gave an overview of his report that included it has been a challenge in the last few weeks to close out last year and open this year. The new administration team is strong but there is a lot of work to do before the teachers come back and a lot to do before we open. He notes feeling good about where we are. Regarding a question he received, he spoke of Critical Race Theory (CRT). He focused on how curriculum is added, reviewed, adopted and developed, how books are changed and adopted and how materials are introduced. Ultimately, the Board has the authority to approved additions and deletions. When we talk about curriculum, it is more about the process and to hold those accountable for the curriculum. He spoke of wanting the curriculum published so that parents know what their kids are learning and how it is connected across grades. He spoke of reassuring parents that there is a process in place and we stick by it. He reported we are looking at an additional \$400,000 in ESSER funds; a plan needs to be developed and submitted by Aug. 23. We need to solicit input from stakeholders, parents, kids, teachers, and administration. We need to know from the Board the best way to get input from the community in terms of how to spend that money; where do people see the need. How do we get that feedback to the Board before it is due? He notes we only just received the guidance last Friday from the DOE and are now trying to take action on it. He recommends doing a survey but

asks the Board how to proceed. It was noted that the person asking about CRT, might have been more interested in content rather than the process of how we get there. It was asked if there is a process to let the Board know what is taught. Superintendent reports he had never heard of CRT until the spring and has been in education for the last 25 years. It wasn't intended for us to have a conversation about it at the HS level; it was designed for the graduate level law program. It is confusing; the conversation and dialogue has gotten convoluted. His experience in the last year is that we do teach about racism, discrimination and sexism. We also talk about how we overcome those shortcomings and how we come together and don't shy away from either one. CRT is not in our curriculum nor has he experienced it in any of our teachers. He hopes that reassures the community. The Superintendent notes moving forward we focus on curriculum changes within the agreed procedures. Mr. Vanderhoof notes if we do not know what is being asked we need to drill down to what the question is, find out, and get back to them with those answers. Superintendent spoke the Government in combination with the Legislature passed HB 2; it is now law and has some guidance on what can be taught and what is prohibited. He provided a link in his report for the community to look at. If parents are concerned about what is being taught, there is a process they can follow to get support. It outlines an approach for parents to follow but certainly, he would recommend they speak to the Principal first. A question was asked if the ESSER money (\$400,000) is additional on top of everything else, we have been allocated. Ms. LaPlante spoke the district has been allocated \$917,420 although it could encompass more because of remote learning; she does not have that figure with her. We have supplemental SPSRF 1 and 2 and ESSER funds 1, 2 and this is 3 (\$450,000), it has to be spent over 3 years. We have time to spend it but need to develop the framework of what our goals and cost are. A question was raised if we can change the plan after submission. Ms. LaPlante will know more tomorrow after a DOE training but she anticipates it will be a working document as long as we stick with the same concepts. Chairman LoVerme notes if you want public input you will have to get the word out to them one way or another. Ms. LaPlante notes 20% (approximately \$90,000) goes toward learning loss; we will have an admin meeting to discuss and that is in addition to all the Title 1 funds. We will come up with an internal draft. A question was raised if any of these funds go to High Mowing. Ms. LaPlante confirms no, that was only required for ESSER 1. A question was raised if we could afford to keep the after school tutoring going. Ms. LaPlante responds likely we can, we still have funds from ESSER 2. A question was raised how much money is left from all the ESSER funds. Ms. LaPlante does not have an answer as she is still trying to reconcile all the grant fund discrepancies but will have a concrete number shortly. Ms. Lavallee noted regarding the ESSER funds, tonight we heard from a parent regarding a virtual option for students and she would like to see us look at staffing and see how we can assist parents for virtual learning. She does not want teachers doing any dual platform this year and this is an opportunity for us to do that.

ii. Principals' Reports

Ms. Edmunds reported this is her first Principal's Report. She spoke of the summer programs, competency recovery, summer school, ESY and RISE that have been going fabulous. In the beginning, students took advantage of competency recovery and were able to grab those they missed and get back on track for a new start to 21-22. Summer school was added with ESSER funds and it was helpful for many students; at least 6 are in a very different place than when they started. They had a great time celebrating the students, provided social emotional learning with school counselors and had raffles and snacks. ESY was successful and has just ended. She thanked all those who were involved in the summer programs; they made it successful and fun. Professional Development (PD) was happening with teachers writing curriculum, collaborating, working with veteran teachers. She is going to a workshop on student discipline laws; handbooks will be updated. New teacher orientation is Aug. 18 and 19; PD is being planned. School is starting to look like how she loves it, that new school smell; she thanked the custodial staff individually. They have done tireless work this summer to get us up and running with all the changes. She honored Shawn Bishop who was present, a senior this year who has made us all proud by being awarded the Youth and Care Leader for NH. This award is given to those who are an advocate for themselves and others in the community. He is a student athlete, works for the district in the IT department and will continue to do that during the school year. We are proud of you and how much you inspire us! He received a standing ovation and a round of applause. An update was asked for regarding the lighting project. Ms. Edmunds spoke noting they came today; it will continue into the school year. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral notes she is so proud to hear about Shawn Bishop and all the teachers who came out to help. It was expressed part of the attraction for the lighting project was that it would be completed over the summer when it was less disruptive. She was asked what the cause of it being extended was. Ms. Edmunds will check with Mr. Erb and get back to the Board. A question was raised what is the expected level of disruption for students, are they planning to work at night and weekends. Her understanding is that it is not during the school day and she would know ahead of time when it was happening. Chairman LoVerme congratulated Shawn Bishop.

Ms. Chenette reported this is also her first report. She feels as though she has landed in an amazing place in her career although at times feels she is drinking from a fire hose but that will end soon. She has been holding "listening sessions" with community but mostly have been with staff; they all care about your kids and are eager to start a fresh new year. There is a PTO meeting tomorrow at 6:30pm. She notes the staff is amazing! The summer RISE program had its last week. She shared the staff has made a commitment to renewing the use of Responsive Classroom. LCS staff is invited to participate in all the PD we do and all staff meetings. She met with the Chief of Police today to introduce herself and heard at some of the listening sessions that dismissal can be chaotic; we spoke of tightening that up and believes it was successful. They are working on their pivoting plans and have been analyzing some of the things they did last year, working with Mr. Erb and the custodians to see what lunch can look like and working through that still. It is still quite a learning curve right now. They have had 5 new students register in the last 2 weeks. She reviewed the class sizes which some are inching up the maximum class size, grade 1-57, (19 in each class), grade 2-43, grade 3-43, grade 4-37 and grade 5-39. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral notes it was a great report and glad she is doing the listening sessions and obtaining input. Ms. Chenette notes if anyone is interested in the listening sessions contact the school.

123 **iii. Curriculum Coordinator's Report**

124 Ms. Stefanich reports this is also her first report. She feels less like she is drinking from a fire hose now; breaking it into bite-
125 sized pieces has been helpful for her. They had an instructional leadership retreat and talked about goals and vision. They are
126 planning new teacher orientation and PD days that align with all the instructional goals that were set at the instructional
127 leadership retreat. Curriculum is the big piece and she understands parents wanting to know what their children are learning. The
128 first step is figuring those out and completing an inventory of what we have. They are going to try to pare down the curriculum
129 template a little bit. Some of the templates are not completed yet. We are using template version 1.0 and there is now version
130 2.0, the language is more targeted and efficient. The goal is to update those for teachers and parents and the community so they
131 can look at it so they will understand what their kids are learning. At the leadership retreat, they hit on an idea of a data
132 dashboard, a place to have key metrics for the district available to see where we are and where we are going as well as for the
133 community. We are in the process of paring down those numbers and making sure, they know what the key metrics are for
134 success and measuring those goals. They are also working on grants and working with Dr. Heon and Ms. LaPlante and are in the
135 process of creating a timeline for that. A question was raised when she thinks the curriculum will be published. She responds it is
136 too early to tell. We have internally inventoried what we have, there are gaps, and areas we need to focus on. As a leadership
137 team, we talked about WLC and having those written (scope, sequence, and competencies) and documented so we have them in
138 place. FRES uses a different curriculum and it may be that we are getting the scope and sequence done and some units but not
139 all. We want to make sure we have a process for curriculum review so that it is accurate and high quality and polished to the
140 standards we set as a school district and Board. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral likes the idea of the data dashboard and questions if it is
141 something the community will be able to access at will. Ms. Stefanich's goal is to put it on the website where it is easily
142 accessible and be able to see, as an example 80% of the students are efficient in math at this school.

143 **b. Letters/Information**

144 **i. General Assurances**

145 Superintendent spoke of the General Assurances. There are 17 pages; the Board Chair and Superintendent sign these before
146 submission. It is quite detailed and are included for viewing. He notes he is not an expert on this topic.

147 **VI. ACCOUNTING FIRM/CPA REPORT**

148 Superintendent reviewed on July 23, he and Ms. LaPlante met with Scott Eagen regarding the audit (analysis) they did and gave
149 us a pathway to move forward and tie up all the loose ends from last year and establish good accounting practices to move
150 forward with a clean slate. Ms. LaPlante worked hard to go through the list we received from him. Ms. LaPlante spoke that she
151 was pleased with the meeting and Mr. Eagen brought it down to layman's terms that she could understand. The report was eye
152 opening and she had started to see some of this before the report came out. The fund balance was not a software issue it was a
153 bookkeeping issue, essentially some of the liability accounts payable obligations were double booked. She was able to reverse
154 those and get the general fund and grants back to where it should have been in July 2020. The bank reconciliations proved easy
155 to correct. There were many entries she reversed, fixed, balanced and tied out to the general ledger so that we can see what
156 matches the bank and accurately report what we have for outstanding obligations. There were no findings of the school lunch
157 program. Reconciliations are caught up. She continued to go through the report detailing what the issue was and how it was
158 resolved or being resolved. Regarding revenue, it was a little misleading, as it was not being put in and analyzed in the financial
159 software, which was noted in prior audit reports. The grants are difficult; we are looking at \$170,000 in unrequested
160 reimbursements and probably more than that. She cannot sort ESSER clearly but has communications that things were allocated
161 to departments. She will complete this by the Sept. 30 deadline. The \$5,000 that was unspent was not reallocated to be re-spent,
162 it "kind of went away", and Mr. Eagen said if we had better internal policies we would have had a better way to identify when
163 projects were completed. Mr. Eagen also highly recommended a grants coordinator but that may not be doable in a district of our
164 size; we have an untapped resource in the office, Karen Blood (A/P), based on Mr. Eagen's recommendation we will push to do
165 it this year and Ms. Blood will work extra hours. We have money in the budget for another half time person that will get us to
166 Sept 30 so this will not occur again. Mr. Kofalt notes what Ms. LaPlante has accomplished in a short period is impressive, the
167 fact she is down to settling the grants, which is the biggest task is phenomenal and great news. He asks her to let the Board know
168 if she needs anything. Regarding grant reconciliation, he questioned because we act as a conduit for the grants for High Mowing
169 will this continue and are we recouping any cost. She believes it will as High Mowing is included in our Title program and we
170 allocate some money to them. She believes any administration cost we have is eligible for reimbursement and Dr. Heon is
171 working on that. It will have no impact on the budget. Mr. Kofalt wanted to make one correction that this was not an audit. Audit
172 has a particular meaning and this engagement was an analysis around bank reconciliation and grant reconciliation. Ms. Cloutier-
173 Cabral notes it sounds like Ms. LaPlante has been working hard and thanks her for her efforts.

174 **VII. NHSBA MEMBERSHIP**

175 Superintendent Weaver reports we have the bill for NHSBA and questions the Board if they want to continue to be members.
176 The last meeting we spoke of the benefits of being members. He notes some members raised concern regarding their lobbying
177 efforts and asked if there is a path to not pay for lobbying but pay for membership. Ms. LaPlante spoke of the options, open a
178 bank account and write a check but this is not her favorite method, as you have to pay auditors to do a review and adjust each
179 year. There is a public deposit investment pool (PDIP) which we can deposit \$50,000 and transfer that money if bills are due and
180 interest is earned on the money and costs the district nothing. That is her preferred option however it is not an option today. The

3rd is to do a resolution and write into the minutes to say we recognize this exists, are trying to remedy to prove the funds are not from state or federal, and attach it. This is truly our intent and are hopefully next year that the electronic fund option will be available. Mr. Vanderhoof pointed out that it states in the general assurances on page 11 we are not using state funds for lobbying so we should make sure we are doing it properly. He suggests talking to the lawyer from the Merrimack situation who may have a quick resolution. Option 3 sounds like we are just recognizing we are not doing it right. Ms. LaPlante agrees; it is a newly identified issue, which is being addressed at the state level and thinks it aligns with what the DOE is trying to do regarding how funds are used. Mr. Vanderhoof questions if anyone has reached out to NHSBA to say we would like to pay but how can we do this legally. Superintendent notes, they attended a Board meeting and he is asking to move forward. This was a lengthy discussion which included, when they were here they were did not seem to recognize the issue, they ignored the RSA which is law, they were not heavy lobbyists previously but were this year, they don't seem to recognize this as a problem, they have some good deliberatives, it should be a separate account or find out what the lobbying costs are and short them. It was pointed out either way if we continue our membership we are still taking taxpayer money and paying for lobbyists. It was suggested to go back to NHSBA and tell them to resolve the issue and we will pay them but until then our membership is ended. They will need to do this regardless and it may speed it up. Support was spoken for and against renewing the membership. Ms. Lavallee spoke as Policy Committee Chair and now sees this as essential in regard to policy work. She notes none of the board members are in education and without this; she does not see how we can do our duties as board members. Disagreement was noted. Discussion continued which included they do give support but some of the policies they have had are not legal, they provide access to attorneys, they are a significant resource, if it is not them then who then. Superintendent was asked to reach out to them and share with them the comments and let them know they need to help us find a resolution and if not we may withhold payment. Mr. Vanderhoof notes he doesn't believe what we went through last year with the emergency meetings that there was anything they provided that we could not have found out. He does not believe we are completely out of options. Superintendent will call them and ask if we can break out the funds. Mr. Kofalt noted we did ask them this and they said no. Superintendent will call them tomorrow to get some clarity and report back and ask for an extension on the membership.

VIII. DRAFT BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN

Superintendent thanked families for coming out tonight; it is a big deal and a big issue. He notes he wants to make a recommendation on how to move forward. The draft plan is an extension of Mr. Lane's, he had outlined all of these mitigating factors, social distancing, wearing masks and cleaning. He took his plan and elaborated on it further. In talking with other Superintendent's they came up with a decision matrix looking at data and what is going on in the schools, are there any positive cases, clusters and identify the data points. He framed it in 3 levels, 1st level is where we are this summer, cleaning daily but no masks etc. We have had pretty good success this summer but have limited staff and students, level 2 has a remote option, mandatory masks, temperature checks, quarantining and all those things we had last year. Level 3 is looking at full remote, as there is a substantial issue. The question is how do we support teachers and maintain the momentum we had, how do we make the decision; it's not about making a recommendation on masks or not as the data is changing every day. He thinks at the Aug. 24 meeting he can present the data and if agree to use a decision matrix look at what level we are at. It will be only 6 days before school starts. He recommends using the data and identify what data point we want and use them when making those decisions. This was a lengthy discussion including, level 1 conflicts with the current policy it says masks are mandatory on school buses and strongly recommended for staff and students. It still means optional but implies if you are being a good citizen you will do this, Optional means I respect your choice. Concern was raised using automatic triggers, if we hit a certain threshold we go to a certain level. Appropriate responses change and the CDC has gone from stop buying masks, to masks are necessary, to now you need 2-3 masks to no mask if you are vaccinated to now you do need a mask. Superintendent notes the purpose is to keep all safe and in school, it is the best way to learn and matches our community culture. If we can take steps to ensure we will be in school as much as possible and the other issue is health and safety. He notes being just as confused as all of you. He believes the CDC has said masks are mandatory on buses. Discussion continued including the thresholds are arbitrary, we have to start somewhere, sounds like we agree on mitigating procedures, social distancing, sanitizer and cleaning the issue seems to be masks and remote vs. in person. Superintendent notes the data is not in our favor, less than a week ago, there were 1-4 cases in Wilton and now there are 8. Discussion was had with opinions shared. It was expressed we need to know where they 8 cases come from, nursing home etc.? It was noted putting this off until the next meeting is short notice for parents. If this model is to be used it needs work and to be updated all the time. Suggestion to have level 1 face coverings say optional, physical distancing should be left as N/A for level 1. Discussed the levels in detail. Concern is level 2 going from in person to remote optional and having numbers triggering it is hard, as you don't know which classes the remote kids are coming from. Suggestion to reword the second bullet point says, "Progressively restrictive learning environment", it sounds bad. It was noted, we should have hard numbers to trigger levels. An emergency meeting could be called if we got to the point of needing to increase the level; if we commit to a period of time having kids back in school as many as possible and as long as possible that should be the goal. The time period shows 9 weeks. It was noted when things got bad last year we sat here until 2am and if we have the numbers we don't have to debate it; it is letting the cases decided where we go rather than having these round and round discussions. It was noted it is the Board's responsibility to make that decision. A question was raised if we could accommodate parents who ask for remote and can we poll parents to ask how many prefer the option. It was also noted where do we get the money to pay for the remote option. Superintendent notes it is a goal to look to see if we can use ESSER funds, we need to support our teachers; it was tough on kids

but the teachers too and we would need to fix the dual platform issue and make sure the quality of teaching and learning is not compromised. It was suggested families would need to reach out regarding their need for remote as opposed to remote just being easier. Level 1 should have as many students in person, as we saw last year we had to have summer school because remote was not a wonderful success. Superintendent provided an overview of the plan noting we would start in level 1 if we opened today without masks. He notes we don't have to use this but should agree on some matrix or data points on how we want to open the buildings. He has not had a chance to talk to staff, do a survey with parents or talk about remote option for those with medical reasons. The data is also changing and will need current information and feedback on how people feel and work as an administrative team when things become restrictive. Ms. Lavallee noted that she has heard the term "choice" and reminds folks that today children under 12 cannot get the vaccine so those kids/parents don't have the same choice as the older kids. If we give everyone the ability to make a choice, we need to understand it is different at different ages. She agrees that if parents do not feel comfortable and do not feel safe, we need to provide a choice where they can. She strongly believes kids need to be back in school but we need to be aware of their needs. She also does not want to see the teachers in the same position as last year and wants to see administration come up with a plan to accommodate those students. Mr. Post voiced let the parents make the decision, they are in the best place to make that decision, their children, and their choice. Chairman LoVerme expressed we also heard from people masks don't work and also hears from people who are vaccinated and still got COVID. He suggests focusing on what is happening in our area. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral likes the idea of surveying the community; we used it last year and it helped with decision-making. Mr. Vanderhoof suggests we make changes to this plan and it needs to be understood that it is what is coming down the road there is only one more meeting and it is crunch time for parents to do what they need to. We need to work on this now and make decisions on what it will say so that we can use it as protocol now subject to change. Chairman LoVerme noted a prior recommended change is to change wording of "strongly recommend" to optional in level 1. Disagreement was noted of this as strongly recommended still means it is optional.

A member of the public questioned if there is a timeline for public comment. Chairman LoVerme expressed another public comment will be added now.

- **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Darlene Anzalone, Lyndeborough questioned the wording. When you talk about cases where are the cases taking place and is it someone who just got a test or is it hospitalizations; she thinks you need to look at this. She expressed she does not want kids going back to school with a mask; she doesn't think it is healthy and doesn't think it should say strongly recommended. It is optional. It is her option as a parent, anyone who wants to wear one can, and if they want to keep their child home, they can and go remote that should be their right and option. There should be options to make everyone comfortable. She is not going make her children go through what they did last year. It is too political. You should look at the severity and hospitalizations, keep it local and look at our town; are the kids the ones who are spreading it because that is the population we are talking about.

Jennifer Gagnon, Wilton voiced less than 50% of the people, last she looked, in Lyndeborough and Wilton had the flu vaccine so kids are going home to people who don't have vaccines. When you say you don't like someone telling you to not care about your child well I would like you to care about my child too. Having masks optional puts everyone at risk; you will go home with everyone's breath on you and we know COVID lasts on your clothes for a certain amount of time.

Shawn McFazden, Lyndeborough questions if we go remote are the teachers already identified who will do it and if we do, will we be even be able to meet the criteria of your 3-foot rule in the classroom. Chairman LoVerme responded that last year we were able to meet it. With the increase of students are the teachers already identified, will I learn my kids will have a new teacher once we decide we will have remote? Chairman LoVerme responded we have not even discussed that yet. Mr. McFazden would like that concern addressed, as he doesn't want his kid to switch teachers because we now have a remote option.

Jeff Stratton, Wilton, he expressed he is actually one of those who doesn't think masks work. He points out a mask saying like this one the gentleman is wearing, it says on the box it can't protect against COVID or any other virus and the pores of the mask are about 200-1000 times the size of a micron of COVID, which is .1. You can look it up on the CDC website it says these masks cannot protect from the smoke in California and the wildfires are about 5 times the size of a micron. From that perspective if we are looking at the data and the data says this, they can't even decide internally what the data states. He gave an example of the CDC vs. Johns Hopkins College. He also referenced the manufacturing data analysis Six Sigma. If you look at some of the numbers they want us to meet, you are talking 4-5 Sigma that is outrageous. What I am seeing with that data is 55 cases per 100,000 that is .05% cases. Those 8 people could be in a nursing home or don't leave the house, we need to be really careful when we look at data. Let's not forget CDC guidelines, it is not a law you can use the guidelines as data and say we can go this way but you are not bound by law and there is no mask mandate. You "guys" have more leverage but between you and us we own the community and to have some "pin-head" on CNN tell us what we should and shouldn't do or from the CDC; take it with a grain of salt. He believes it is outrageous to send kids to school with masks at this juncture.

Amy Adair, Wilton spoke of having 6 kids in the school system some with disabilities and when you go to level 3 and school shuts down they are affected greatly. She asks if this is being discussed. She spoke of concerns getting the services they need. They tried the remote option, which did not work well. She spoke of concerns losing all of the needed services. She again questions if it is being discussed. Superintendent is took note of this.

Geoff Allen, Lyndeborough spoke he doesn't envy any of you, he is thankful for the administrators and the school, teachers and what they did for us last year. We all have our opinions, we will come here and dump them on you every month, and you try to do the best you can with it. He understands this. He spoke of feeling for the parents who are nervous of sending their kids back to school and the thought of them coming back to school without masks is horrible. He equally feels for the parents who just want their kids to be kids and the two things that concern him is one, there is no level zero, we start right out wearing masks on the bus, he agrees we need to see the data and identify what it is but we also need to analyze that data. We should come here and hash it out as a community; he doesn't think we should pass the buck by using numbers if it hits this, we do this. When the Superintendent said we need to identify the data to use that is spot on but then let us come here as a community and solve it as a community because that is what we do. At the end of the end of the day, we pat each other on the back, shake hands and some of will go away mad and some of us will keep our kids at home some and will send their kids to school. At the end of the day, we are community and we need to work this out together. It bothers me when we try to pass that buck. He would like us to look at having and level 0 and solving it as we get to it.

Peter Chadzynski, Lyndeborough spoke that the most important thing for him is the school is a place where students should feel safe. That level of safety or feeling differs from family to family, what is considered normal, how it was presented, what is considered a reasonable action to take and he thinks in order to create a space that is welcoming to every member of the community... The school is supposed to be a place kids feel safe and if kids are told that kids who don't wear masks are not safe you are not creating an opportunity for children to come together and that is the bottom line. People want their kids to have a normal experience and that is socialization, solving problems together, playing in hallways etc. When we are already creating a separation of mask wearers and non-mask wearers and the people who believe in COVID and the people who don't believe in COVID, school is not a place where that should exist. It should be a blanket safe space and he feels we should err on the side of more inclusion if that means doing things that help someone else get to that level of safety he supports it and supports the idea that it is easier to take restrictions away than put them on. He feels not considering the possibility of not wearing masks will keep more away from school. Where is the socialization; the more the merrier.

Laura Manning, Wilton at the end of year last year we discussed having masks optional. It was brought up they may be ridiculed. My child said the percentage of those wearing a mask was very small. It should be up to the parent and we should not step in and say you should do this when it is not something you believe in. My body, my choice is out the window with wearing masks all of a sudden. As far as flu season, will we treat it any differently than we do now because more children die of the flu than COVID. Will we have masks all winter long through flu season? Most adults had the opportunity to be vaccinated, it is their choice, if they didn't get it they apparently don't want it; it's up to them. She knows people who got COVID but it has been a much milder case just like the flu shot. She believes it is unconstitutional to make kids wear a mask according to Article 10 in the Constitution. She has looked into legal counsel on this and if this is something we will pursue and make them wear a mask, you will be hearing from me. She doesn't think we should make them wear a mask. It should be a family option.

Jon Lavoie, Lyndeborough he has heard a lot of people talk about opinions and how they feel and that is all fine, everyone has a valuable opinion but lets look at the facts, shall we. Every teacher in this district has gotten a chance to get the vaccine, have they not? Do we all agree the vaccines work? Another fact is not one child in NH has died, not one, zero, that's the number on the state website. Kids are not in danger of this virus like say 80 plus year olds, which is what the majority of this state has had. These are facts it's not my opinion. The only numbers we should be talking about is if we are going to go remote, do have enough teachers to show up to teach class that day. These are the only facts I can think of it is not really my opinion it's just how it goes. The role of the School Board to the best of my knowledge is to gather the consensus of the community and try to act on their behalf; what better way than by giving every parent the option to send their child to school with a mask or not. You don't need to take a poll; they just show up to school with the answer they would have checked in the box. It is that simple. Keep it optional, keep school open; if there is not enough teachers to teach that day that is when we have to start talking about a remote option and things of that nature. Otherwise, let's get back to normal.

Chairman LoVerme went through the list of those online asking if they wanted to comment.

A question from the public Shawn McFazden asked how did we come up with the 9 week timeframe. Chairman LoVerme responded it is a marking period. Why is it 9 weeks and not 2 weeks? Chairman LoVerme responded it is easier to keep the students within one marking period instead of being remote, then in person, remote etc. Mr. McFazden asked will we take a break on vacation like we did last year. Chairman LoVerme responded we did not take a break. We used long-term subs to cover classes. Mr. McFazden questioned why we won't take that into consideration, will we shut down for an extended week for travel reasons. Chairman LoVerme responded to him, last year there were travel guidelines; there are no travel guidelines now. Mr. McFazden voiced he doesn't want to see us for example go to level 2 because there are travel guidelines and the risk of transmission from someone is going to Florida and that is his question, are we taking that into consideration; what is your plan

for that. When you look at the guidelines they are just that guidelines, is this going to be a decision factor, will you have it laid out so everyone knows what you will be looking at. It was reiterated there are not travel guidelines at this time.

Amy Adair asked if masks are mandated what about the children who have disabilities and trouble wearing the masks, is there something in place for those kids. Last year it was a struggle as her child who just continued to take it off and they put it back on and wasn't learning. Some kids don't want to wear it. She notes some of the kids with disabilities don't understand the masks and these situations need to be considered.

The Board returned to their discussion. A question was raised if any votes will be taken on this document to solidify where we are. Superintendent Weaver will research if there is a Federal mandate on wearing masks on buses. Ms. Lavalley voiced it is considered public transportation and it is a federal mandate. Discussion continued regarding the document and wording. A poll was taken of who on the board prefers wording to be strongly recommend or optional and optional was the majority. It was pointed out there is no level zero which is back to normal. Superintendent Weaver was asked what is in the level one column, is that what we expect for the year? He responded it is status quo. A question was raised if there is a Federal mandate what is the consequence. Are local school districts expected to enforce that and if not what is the consequence. Mr. Kofalt suggests we try not to vote to specific policies tonight as there is feedback he would like to give but has not because it has not risen to the level of the current discussion. Discussion continued regarding the cycle thresholds being up and down depending on the lab, some say it is not accurate; safety is important and a feeling of being safe is important but we don't make decisions on single variables. We have to consider the kids with special needs and concerns of breathing with masks. Ms. Lavalley would like to have a feeling especially at the elementary level who will send their kids back to school without masks. If we need to look at a remote option, we need to know what we are looking at if we have to make decisions regarding staff like adding a teacher. It was noted the Board didn't hear from anyone wanting masks 100%. A member of the public voiced we want masks 100%. It was noted there were also emails from parents asking for masks. Superintendent will put together a survey for parents and send it to the Board for review. Discussion was had about remote and reasons some families would choose remote, we found out last year it was not all due to medical reasons. Superintendent noted it only takes 6-7 kids to fail class and it effects climate and culture, community and improving our school. He will send a draft survey to the Board, set a deadline and organize the feedback in a way it is understandable. Discussion continued noting a concern in the lack of effectiveness with remote learning; it is late to talk about remote and should have been discussed back in May. The Superintendent noted we are working hard to figure out how to support teachers regarding the dual platform it is brutal for learning for kids and teachers. Whether it is ESSER funds and what it would look like so that we are ready to pivot if needed. The only other option would be take 5 days off to figure it out like other districts did. A member of the public questioned why we are so worried about going remote, who are we trying to protect by getting everyone out of the schools. Chairman LoVerme reminded the public that the time for public comment is over. Superintendent will update the draft, keep the levels in place, send the Board a draft survey and organize feedback for the 24th meeting. We can make an official decision then on what opening will look like. He will research the mandate on school bus masking. He confirmed that currently masks are optional; we are working off the plan done in June.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER VACANCY

Mr. LoVerme spoke that the vacant seat is a Wilton resident seat and 4 people have responded. Everyone has a copy. Mr. Vanderhoof expressed he has not looked at this yet as he just received it and has not had a chance to look at the protocol. It was noted since it is a Wilton seat only the Board members from Wilton can vote on it. Mr. Post disagreed. It was expressed the appointment is done by the whole board. Mr. Post notes he has had a chance to look over the letters of interest. Chairman LoVerme reviewed that it was past practice to do it that way. Ms. LaPlante spoke that there is a policy on the website that say it would be voted on by the full Board. Chairman LoVerme reviewed the names of those who submitted interest, Stephanie Kirsch, Dennis Golding, Lakisha Davison, and Dave Comley. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral asked if the candidates could be invited to speak to the Board. Chairman LoVerme asked Ms. Fowler to reach out to them to arrange this.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Mr. Kofalt to table the discussion on school board member vacancy.

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

X. SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP UPDATE

Superintendent reviewed at the last meeting it was discussed to tentatively set a date of Aug. 17 for the workshop. The Budget Committee is scheduled to meet the same date and he and Ms. LaPlante are invited to their meeting. He suggests if the Board continues with this date then he will attend for a short time and Ms. LaPlante will attend the full meeting. He has arranged for a facilitator for the workshop and goals will need to be set for the workshop. The 17th was briefly discussed and will not work for most members. It was suggested to put it on the agenda to prepare an outline. It was noted there are things that came up during the Policy Committee meeting that would be good to talk about during the workshop. Discussion was had regarding when to schedule this, possibly September. Superintendent suggested scheduling a 2-hour workshop and focusing on this year's goals, Board and District, how do we know if we are being successful, what measures will be used; he hopes the leadership team can attend and all can discuss. We need to have a technology plan and strategic plan; administration can share their building goals and that can be used as a starting point to help with the district goals. Superintendent to check with the facilitator to see what dates she has available.

XI. POLICIES-2ND READ

Superintendent reviewed these are the policies that were reviewed at the last meeting. The policies will be updated with any changes.

- i. **ACAA-Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students**
- ii. **ACAA-R-Student Discrimination-Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures**
- iii. **ACAB-Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees**
- iv. **ACAB-R-Employee Discrimination-Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures**
- v. **AC-Nondiscrimination-Equal Opportunity**

Superintendent spoke (regarding ACAA-R and ACAB-R) that throughout the policy there is a timeline of certain activities and he questions if the Board would like to use calendar days or business days. He recommends business days, there is no objection heard to use business days. He confirms he needs to identify a Human Rights Office (HRO)/Title IX Coordinator (this is added to the policy), we need to identify investigator and decision maker. Mr. Vanderhoof noted it was brought up at the last meeting the HRO/Title IX if combined then section 2 could be eliminated on both "R" policies and the process followed for all investigations would be the Title IX sexual harassment process. Superintendent noted the Title IX sexual harassment process is more in depth and time consuming. It was noted some forms of harassment do not meet the criteria of Title IX sexual harassment and if we do not keep section 2, we cannot investigate it. Disagreement was noted that you would still investigate following the Title IX sexual harassment procedures. Ms. Edmunds spoke (current Title IX Coordinator) and prefers to keep in section 2, as not all need the full formal process. Mr. Vanderhoof suggests simplifying the policy and removing section 2, as we should investigate all claims thoroughly. Ms. Edmunds was asked how much time it takes to investigate a standard Title IX claim vs. another complaint. She spoke that for a Title IX can be weeks, she may be out of the building writing reports and the other takes less time, calling parents quickly etc. but it is a week for each for each one. She does not believe there is a lot of difference between the two processes but it give her some leeway to not jump to the formal process. It was noted from the perspective of using the administration team effectively it will take more hours to do the full formal process each time. Ms. Edmunds also noted the Title IX coordinator cannot be the investigator. She confirms we follow the code of conduct, which follows the rules but maybe not to a formally documented process although it is documented regardless. Superintendent will write up both procedures side by side to see the differences clearly. He questions if the Board wants to have the Superintendent be the final appeal or do you want another level where the Board can appeal that. Chairman LoVerme responded the Superintendent (for final appeal). Superintendent suggested the Board consider adopting ACAA, ACAB and AC this evening and return with ACAA-R and ACAB-R at the next meeting. This is considered 2nd read and all policies will be brought back for a 3rd read on Aug. 24.

- **DAF-1-ALLOWABILITY**
- **DAF-2-CASH MANAGEMENT AND FUND CONTROL**
- **DAF-3-PROCUREMENT**
- **DAF-10-GRANT BUDGET RECONCILIATION**

This was the official 1st reading on these policies and all will return for a 2nd read on Aug. 24. It was noted to correct the spelling of "reconciliation" in DAF-10.

XII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Mr. Kofalt to approve the minutes of July 13, 2021 as written. Voting: seven ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Post and SECONDED by Mr. Kofalt to approve the nonpublic minutes of July 13, 2021 as written. Voting: seven ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.

XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Policy Committee

Ms. Lavalley reported the committee met, she was elected Chair. She had started looking at policies in preparation for August 4 meeting. She has in the process of reviewing all the policies and completed sections A and B. It appears (obtaining some history) that many policies were adopted in "chunks" and this is why many have the same adopted date in October 2010 and 2011. She looked through policies and realized some things we need to take a look at and some she needs administration to look at. We have policies in place such as one that refers to the Board reviewing the mission statement yearly and we are not doing that and do we still want that policy. There are many things to discuss in regard to the mission statement and she wonders if it should be discussed at the retreat. There is a policy referring to the philosophy of the district and it only mentions curriculum for kindergarten. She would like the Board to look at that and share thoughts next time we meet. The "B" section regarding Board Governance took a lot of time. There are policies regarding evaluating the Board and Superintendent on a yearly basis, we should do that, and if we start to do summer retreats those are some of things we could do there. There are also forms to fill out regarding board member ethics. She questions if the Board wants to continue these and if so we should practice them. There is an appendix mentioned in a policy, which is not an active, these are things to look at. She spoke of policy BDE which was

discussed at the committee and refers to community members on Board committees and how it should be determined. It says we should post it for everyone in the community to have a chance and put their name forward. That is not what took place recently regarding the facility committee. It also states we have to do this in March, which can be an issue. A lot of policies were adopted in 2010 and speak of posting; things have changed and postings can be done electronically. Ms. Edmunds will attend a workshop on student discipline and that may impact some policies. We also discussed curriculum policies IGA, IGD and reviewed HB 2 sections 297-298; it does not seem to be out of compliance with recent legislation. We spoke of the process to review curriculum, the Board is supposed to review curriculum and we need a timeline and that administration is holding staff accountable. The next meeting we will review policies related to parent refusal of content, policy BDE also needs to be looked at. She questioned if the Board had any objection to adding to the workshop agenda policies regarding self-evaluation and reviewing the mission statement. No objection heard.

XIV. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES

- a. Appointment-Kira Brewster-SPED Teacher/Case Manager**
- b. Appointment-Pending-Danyeale Manning-WLC Industrial Arts Teacher**
- c. Resignation-Megan Sass-School Psychologist**

Superintendent reviewed the appointments and resignation.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral, SECONDED by Mr. Kofalt to appoint Kira Brewster as SPED Teacher/Case Manager at WLC, masters, step 13, salary \$58,700.

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

A MOTION was made by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral, SECONDED by Mr. Kofalt to appoint Danyeale Manning as Industrial Arts Teacher at WLC, bachelors, step 4, salary \$40,000.

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

XV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Shawn McFazden questioned why we are having the Superintendent be the appeal person if someone is being sexually harassed; it goes through the Principal then appeals to the Superintendent, it is a conflict of interest. He wouldn't feel he was getting a "fair shake" because the Principal reports to the Superintendent. You should get away from the supervisory chain and it should go to an impartial higher level. It was noted that is difficult in a district our size. Superintendent responded we will be replacing Ms. Edmunds with someone else as she has too many responsibilities. Mr. McFazden sees an issue with 2 people who work so closely together and questioned if the Superintendent if he sets policies and tells her what to do and gave examples of this. Chairman LoVerme responded the Title IX coordinator will not be the Principal. Currently it is Ms. Edmunds however we are changing that. Ms. Lavallee pointed out that within the policy it addresses the issue of an identified conflict of interest.

Jon Lavoie, Lyndeborough spoke regarding classes such as automotive which we send students to ConVal. He believes it is a good program; when you have larger interest, the community will look to try to bring it in town but it is good to utilize other towns. He questions again, who are we trying to protect by having a remote option on the table; he asks for an answer. Mr. Mannarino spoke about a study this year that suggests almost half of kids that contracted COVID have long-term effects. The study indicates long-term effects such as chronic headaches, fatigue, respiratory conditions etc. Ms. Lavallee spoke that the data represented there is specifically relating to death and the data Mr. Mannarino is referring to is not included in the dashboard. As discussed tonight, there are other factors that are not always represented in the dashboard. Mr. McFazden asks who are we trying to protect. It was noted we are trying to be proactive if school is shut down for any reason we need to have a plan. Mr. McFazden does not agree. It was noted if we need to go remote, we need to be prepared and have a plan.

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

Mr. Dennis Golding spoke that he is a little disappointed that the Board decided to table the discussion of the school board member vacancy. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke that he just got the emails from the candidates when he walked in this morning and that is why it was tabled. Mr. Kofalt agreed. Mr. Golding responded the Board does not have to read that, only the Wilton board member residents have to read that. Mr. Vanderhoof disagreed, noting policy says otherwise. Mr. Golding disagreed, and cited RSA 671:33 subsection 2 (B). He is disappointed that he was not given a chance to speak on why he thought he would be a good fit. He is not here to argue about it, he just wanted to talk about it.

XVI. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Mannarino voiced that it was great to hear reports from Principals and he is looking forward to the coming school year.

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral thanked all for coming out and providing feedback, she hopes that will continue and asked they encouraged their friends.

Ms. Lavallee congratulated Shawn Bishop; she is very excited for him. She is hoping administration will bring more of that (recognizing students) in the coming year and that we get back to student of the month, recognize student athletes and staff as well. The community needs to see the positive things staff and students are doing, it is important.

Mr. Post thanked the community for coming out and for the 3 gentleman who stayed for the full meeting. He thanked the public for expressing their opinion. It is important to hear what others have to say.

Chairman LoVerme thanked everyone for coming out, 29 people online tonight. Thanked Ms. Edmunds for brining Shawn in and hopes to see more of that. He wishes everyone good luck on the first day of school. He thanked Superintendent Weaver.

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

i. Personnel and Student Matters

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to enter Non-Public Session to discuss personnel and student matters RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (B) (C) at 10:07pm.

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

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 10:47pm.

A MOTION was made to release Megan Sass, School Psychologist from her contract by Ms. Lavallee SECONDED by Mr. White.

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

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Post and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to adjourn the Board meeting at 10:48pm.

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*