

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, January 18, 2022  
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 (attended Budget Committee meeting), Dennis Golding, Matt Mannarino (6:40pm), Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral (remote), Jim Kofalt (6:48pm), and Charlie Post (6:39pm)*

*Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante (remote & attended Budget Committee meeting), Principals Sarah Edmunds and Kathleen Chenette, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, Technology Director Jonathan Bouley, and Clerk Kristina Fowler*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman LoVerme called the meeting to order at 6:39pm.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**III. 6:30PM JOINT BOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION**

**a. FY 2022-2023**

Present: *Jeff Jones, Leslie Browne, Lisa Post, Adam Lavallee, Caitlin Maki, Bill Ryan, Christine Tiedemann and Darlene Anzalone (remote)*

**i. Proposed Budget Draft 6**

**ii. Tennis Court Proposal**

**iii. Truck Proposal**

Mr. Erb informed the group Mr. Chris Carter could not be present to talk about the removal of the tennis courts due to a town sewer issue. Mr. Erb reported the quote for removing the tennis courts from his is \$16,500. He will reuse the material to fill in the outside areas of the parking lot. The price includes grinding the court. Mr. Carter will also use that material for the soccer and baseball fields. Regarding the fence, we may be able to get a vendor to drop off a dumpster for us and have it taken away. We may even get money back for it but that is not determined yet. He confirms it will be seeded. There was a brief discussion if loam would be used. Mr. Erb confirms Mr. Carter will include loam as well. A brief discussion was had regarding if it will affect the mowing budget, watering etc. A question was raised if we will be able to water it. Mr. Erb confirms the baseball field has sprinklers and the tennis court area can be watered. Chairman Jones spoke that in general the Budget Committee is supportive of the removal being in the budget but will discuss it more at their separate meeting this evening.

Ms. LaPlante thanked the group for their patience with getting the materials out. Draft 6 has been provided with a net decrease due to technology making use of the recent awarded grant. Mr. Bouley came up \$12,600 in other reductions too. The storage container has been removed from the budget. She reports the break down in the budget gives the impression that the operating budget is up but it is because of how she broke it out. Food service is included but the truck is not included pending what decision is made. A discussion regarding the truck was had. Chairman Jones spoke that the committee is supportive; if leased it should be a warrant article. Overall, they are supportive of it in some form and would like to see what that looks like. Mr. Erb responded he spoke to Milford and Amherst and they both purchase outright, no leasing. It was noted that the group was to hear more details of usage and estimates of cost. Mr. Erb reported the snow blower at LCS was not working yesterday; he had to take the one from WLC to bring up to LCS in order to get the job done. He was told to rent a truck for that but he did not due to the time it would take; it is not efficient. Ms. Post did a quick check on pricing and found a Ford truck available for \$19,995 online; details of the truck are not known. Mr. Erb passed out some information. Ms. Lavallee requested the information they are given tonight be posted on the website for public viewing. A discussion was had regarding lease vs. purchase and having it in the budget vs. warrant article. There was discussion if the van was a lease or in the budget. It was noted it was a multi-year lease. Ms. LaPlante confirms the Board cannot obligate future Boards. It was noted the last time it was moved forward, it was in a warrant article and it failed in 2016. A question was raised if there are any districts that do

not have a truck. Mr. Erb reports we are one of about 4 school districts. Milford has 7 trucks; Amherst has 4 and a van he believes. A question was raised to the Superintendent from a legal perspective, if Mr. Erb is driving his truck for school purposes, what is our liability at that point. Ms. LaPlante answered she spoke with Primex and they said the liability falls to Mr. Erb and his personal insurance, under the worst case scenario the district might pay the difference in the deductible but other than that he assumes all risk and liability. A question was raised if there is anything in Mr. Erb's contract written that says he is required to use his own truck for school purposes. Ms. LaPlante replies no. Ms. Lavallee noted we should not be having Mr. Erb use his personal truck. A question was raised to clarify if Mr. Erb gets into an accident and it is determined he was using his personal vehicle for school purposes that the school district would not be liable or would not be covered. Chairman LoVerme responded not covered but the district could still be sued, yes. A question was raised how much it would be to rent a truck for a day. Mr. Erb did not know but notes he would have to go to Lowes, get the truck, use it and then return the truck to Lowes. It is not efficient use of his time (would take at least half day) when he can just take care of the job; that is more productive. The LCS snow blower, he will likely take to his house to fix. It is necessary to have a truck. The Budget Committee was asked if they thought a warrant article would pass. Chairman Jones spoke that it has to be explained the right way; if we get this discussion to the public he believes we will ok. Mr. Lavallee noted it is a strange expectation we have, it also happened to the previous facilities manager, Mr. Ryan. It is not part of the job. A discussion was had regarding paying for mileage and people are paid for mileage all the time. It was noted the difference is transportation vs. hauling things etc. Chairman LoVerme did a quick search on the cost to rent a truck, \$19 per hour or all day \$99, at Home Depot you can rent for a week at \$903. Ms. Anzalone believes if it were on a warrant it would allow for the opportunity to explain the reasons it is needed. She also believes that as a warrant it would have more support. A discussion was had regarding warrant vs. in the budget with each Board member having the opportunity to speak to what they support. It was suggested if it is on a warrant, a backup plan is needed if it does not pass. A discussion was had regarding mileage. Mr. Erb reports he believes it was about 20,000 miles in the last year and a half he put on his truck for school business although it varies week to week. It was noted that is about 76 miles a day. A brief discussion was had regarding that number. Ms. Lavallee would like more specifics and feels she does not have enough details to vote one way or another although she supports moving forward, just wants very clear information so it can be presented appropriately, starting with exact numbers. Mr. Kofalt agrees he does not have enough information. He would like to see the numbers side by side; there are different lease options and what is the most economical. Board members were polled, 5 support it in a warrant. Mr. Vanderhoof does not support a truck. Chairman LoVerme supports it as a purchase unless there is a lease option to buy for a dollar at the end of the lease as we will have damage to it and will be liable for it. Ms. Browne spoke that previously when we spoke of mileage she believes it would be outside of a lease option. Mr. Post questions the mileage number of 20,000 that was given. Mileage was discussed. Members were polled lease vs. purchase. Ms. Post noted the daily mileage would be 26 miles not 76 using. It was noted the offset of mileage Mr. Erb is being paid should be included in the presentation. Chairman LoVerme asked for a cost analysis for leasing vs. purchase, estimate of mileage, and what gas will cost etc. Ms. Maki reminded the group there are other costs associated with a vehicle aside from gas such as registration, inspections, insurance etc. and that should all be included in the analysis. Chairman LoVerme requested to have those numbers emailed out to the group so that they can have a heads up ahead of time. Mr. Ryan noted if it is not brought forward he may bring it up from the floor. Superintendent and Ms. LaPlante will gather the information and email it out.

#### **iv. Revenue**

Ms. LaPlante had sent out the revenue sheet prior. She spoke of one thing she did differently, rather than take the appropriation the taxpayers paid taxes on, she took the appropriation what it would have been minus revenues, aide and grant etc. If we look at what fund balance was applied in the past it looks deceiving because for example FY 20 would have been about 9.4 million and 8.9 million for FY 21. To break things out to make it as fair as possible she wanted to show what the current appropriation would have been for FY 20, FY 21 and FY 22 if we didn't return any fund balance. That way we can look at FY 23 to see if we are in the ballpark of what we might be expecting from out taxpayers. The only thing to keep in mind is there is a bit of wiggle room in SPED aid and Medicaid fees for SPED. They have done a fantastic job at increasing amount of reimbursable cost for some of our students. Mr. Pratt will have more information on what the vulnerabilities are. She is confident in the numbers she is presenting exclusive of grants, we don't budget the expenditure and would not budget it on this sheet. She feels it is a good estimate of where the district could be with monies coming in. A question was raised if there is any adjustments in terms of having the revaluation this year and is it considered in the estimates here. Ms. LaPlante responds it does not factor in property values and ADM's. It only takes in cost, minus revenues, minus aid, and what we ask our taxpayers to pay. She can provide some projections but Wilton's revaluation will not hit for another year as far as how that affects the equalized assessed property value. That will also be a complete anomaly this year even for Lyndeborough as she is sure their property values are far more than market values. That won't hit for a few years as far as how we break out that apportionment. Everyone will pay based on their property value. She can put something together using the DOE and

DRA based on these current numbers to give you a better idea. A question was raised regarding Ms. LaPlante saying houses are selling for more than valued, how is that possible. Ms. LaPlante clarified its equalized assessed value. She used Lyndeborough as an example because everyone in the press and community have seen the value that Wilton received this year, how it was so much higher than before. Lyndeborough taxpayers will see a similar adjustment next year once the DRA reviews all the sales for this past year and figures out how high above market value they are selling and then equalized that correctly for taxpaying purposes.

#### **v. Warrants**

Ms. LaPlante spoke that she did not provide a new warrant article document to review because there was no new content just knowing the values going into the funds. There were no new warrant articles proposed last time. Chairman LoVerme spoke there is a possibility of a warrant for a truck. Ms. LaPlante will work with the Superintendent and Mr. Erb and will bring it forward on Feb. 1 with language for lease or purchase. Chairman LoVerme asked if the Budget Committee prefers purchase or lease. Chairman Jones responded they did not discuss this in detail but can talk about it. Ms. Lavallee expressed the need for the warrant article language in regard to flexibility around the date of the district meeting. She would like this for the next meeting as discussed previously. Chairman Jones asked if the Board is aware of any petition warrant articles that have been submitted or known of by the public. Chairman LoVerme responds no and asked if the Budget Committee knows of any. None heard.

#### **b. YTD Report**

There is no year-to-date report to review as Ms. LaPlante has been out of the office. She appreciates the Board's understanding of the unique circumstances and will have that for the Feb. 1 meeting.

Chairman Jones spoke that he believes we are getting pretty close to the end and will have to present to the public in 2.5 weeks. We need to button everything up. Ms. Browne spoke that we need to have all the information by next week so we can get ready for the following week. She questions if we are waiting on information on the truck and how that will be written. It was suggested to perhaps meet next week; warrant articles need to be voted on as well. Chairman LoVerme asked if everyone wants to meet next week. No objection heard. He asked Superintendent if he can be ready with the information. Superintendent responded we have to be. A joint meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, January 25 to finish up. Chairman Jones wants to get the materials up on the website as soon as they can. He voiced appreciation for everyone's flexibility.

### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

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

There was no public comment. Chairman LoVerme thanked the Budget Committee.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Tiedemann to exit the Budget Committee session at 7:27pm.*

*Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Vanderhoof departed to join the Budget Committee meeting.

### **V. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Superintendent reported he would like to add a nonpublic session for a student matter and a resignation.

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

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

### **VI. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **a. Reports**

##### **i. Business Administrator's Report**

Ms. LaPlante reported she does not have a report as she has been out of the office since January 6. She will submit a report for the first and second meeting in February.

##### **ii. Director of Student Support Services Report**

Mr. Pratt reported this is the mid-year January report when he provides statistics compared to last year. Like last year, we have 122 identified as needing SPED services with 10 of these students attending High Mowing. There are 112

students in our district with an IEP. This constitutes a 19.2% SPED Rate going down 3% since last year, NH SPED Rate is 16.5% and National SPED Rate is 14.9%. He spoke regarding the national rate that most states have a very small rate. Even though we are high, we are in the ballpark of where we have been in the last couple of years. We dipped a little in total students at LCS but went up with disabilities and this is not a shock given what we know about COVID, some students missing time and parents not wanting to send kids right away. There is a little bit of an increase at FRES, the MS went down a bit and HS. We are seeing ebb and flow in terms of where we are. He provided some disability type information and trends in his report. There is not a lot to talk about in terms of increases; we are pretty static in most places but a little uptick in terms of speech and language. Ultimately, no matter what the numbers are, it comes down to the service we provide and a lot is integrated. We have a 19% SPED Rate; we are providing excellent services across the board. There are 18 students with autism in RISE with 20 in total, 2 do not have services and are not identified as needing them. He added that just because you have a disability it does not impact your education, you may not need services. We have gotten away from the 1:1 program; we have 15 therapists with 18 students. A question was raised in Mr. Pratt's opinion does he think NH does a better job than the other states because our numbers are higher. Mr. Pratt responded he thinks it comes down to each school district, district by district and what you do with the students in the classroom. You can have a 25% SPED Rate and be really, great, do well on test scores etc., you can have a 5% SPED Rate and do lousy. It comes back to the services and how we provide them.

### **iii. Director of Technology's Report**

Mr. Bouley provided a recap of things that have been happening over the last couple of months. He provided statistics for last 90 days, 90 new tickets were created. It is a steady trend since July of just shy of 100 tickets monthly. The new support person will start this Friday. He has come in a couple of days to get a tour etc. He is excited to be here and currently works for a small charter school in Manchester. He has a lot of good experience and uses a lot of the same systems. Once he is onboard, Mr. Bouley can work on more director type projects such as cybersecurity, project deployment and technology plan etc. A security audit just kicked off last week. He should have a report by Valentine's Day and it will go a long way in helping us build the technology plan and what our major milestones are for cybersecurity. He spoke of the grant we received for \$61,000 for Chromebooks that allowed us to reduce next year's budget. He spoke of attending the Christa McAuliffe conference with Ms. Stefanich and the Superintendent. While there, they signed up with Discovery Ed, it is free for now; integrated into Google Classroom and allowed us to remove a current system we were paying for. He has been working with Ms. Stefanich to hold a PD technology day on February 4. It will focus on cybersecurity, and we will have the Discovery Ed vendor on site to talk about how to use it and add it to the classrooms. There will be training on how to use interactive white boards better, how it ties to the teacher and student computers to be more interactive, Hapara to help teachers manage the classroom and we use Near Pod, which allows them to build out their classrooms, has videos and tests. We will also learn about Screencastify how to edit videos etc., there is more but teachers asked for training on these. A question was raised about the large boxes in the cafeteria and what is in them. Mr. Bouley replied they are interactive white boards; 2 are going to the MS and 2 to the HS this year. A question was raised if the audio system will be ready for the town meeting. Mr. Bouley replied he does not know as 2 pieces are on backorder. He has not had any luck finding them elsewhere and the audio will not improve without that one piece. Superintendent expressed we may need to rent equipment because he believes the Board wants sound in both cafeteria and gym. Chairman LoVerme asked to test something out at the public hearing. Mr. Bouley noted it will depend if we can find something to rent and would have to rent it twice. Superintendent agreed we will have to come up with a system.

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

#### **i. Patriot's Pen**

Superintendent expressed being lucky that he can present this as normally it would be presented in the Principal's Report. He spoke that the Patriot's Pen is an essay contest sponsored by the VFW. Our teacher Ms. Laura Bujak worked with Ms. Mary Jane Ryan, the past State President of the VFW Auxiliary and Mr. Bill Ryan, past State Commander of the VFW and have brought this contest to our school for several years. This year's theme was "How Can I Be a Good American". Three of our students became finalists at the local level, Evelyn Jones, Natalie Bergstrom and Jason Caragher. Natalie placed first in the NH district level. She became one of the 5 finalist in NH for this essay and went to a banquet, stayed overnight at the Ashworth by the Sea. It is a swanky event, well done and professional; over 100 people were in attendance. He would like her to come to the meeting on February 1 and read her essay. He did not reveal how she placed. He voiced appreciation to Ms. Bujak who does this every year and gets the students involved. He hopes the program will continue. At the HS level there is the Voice of Democracy contest; winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship. Ms. Lavallee noted during the Veteran's Day celebration at WLC, some of the students got up and read their essays. They did a wonderful job and it is great to see how the children interpret the theme. She thanked Ms. Ryan, Mr. Ryan and Ms. Bujak and the VFW; she congratulated all the winners.

Superintendent added he is glad we do this; we have moved away from civics for some reason and is glad to see this continue. It is exciting to see the families and kids still excited to write about being an American. Way to go!

## **VII. POLICIES-2<sup>ND</sup> READ**

### **i. ADB-Drug-Free Workplace & Drug-Free Schools**

Ms. Lavallee reported she sent out some clarifications after the packet went out. A question was raised if there was clarification regarding the medication issue and marijuana cards. Ms. Lavallee spoke to this; taking the medication properly as described does not violate the policy and she read the clarification from the attorney. A discussion was had that it did not address the marijuana card. Ms. Lavallee spoke even in NH, having the card itself does not give you “carte blanche” to use it, you have specific instructions on how you can take medical marijuana and it is a prescription. Mr. Post questioned why it was in the policy. Ms. Lavallee spoke indicating she believes it may be included is because just as with any prescription, you should take it as prescribed. They discussed this further. Mr. Post voiced concern with it being in there and does not support it. A member pointed out that it may be a federal statute. The comments in the clarification document do not go much further than what is required by the drug free workplace law. It was noted it is not clear and if staff/teachers may be terminated for it, it needs to be clear. It is noted, it is a gray area and evolving. Ms. Lavallee spoke that one of the changes made is that the Superintendent has to develop regulations around this. The attorney recommends if we want to provide more detail or specification to include that in the Superintendent’s regulations that are develop vs. the policy. Superintendent spoke that he will take that into consideration; making it clear when the process is developed. Discussion continued regarding it being unclear. Ms. Lavallee also noted it specifically says “unlawfully”. She reviewed this sentence in the policy. It was noted, there is federal law and state law. Superintendent notes we can come back to this to clarify, as it is the second read. We can look at Massachusetts policies and share their language with the Board. A question was raised if it affects federal funding. Ms. Lavallee expressed this policy was brought to our attention when we had the grant audit; they said we were not up to date with this policy. A question was raised if they specifically said it had to include the medical marijuana card. Ms. Lavallee responded no, she will check on that specific clause, they did say we had to align our policy with federal requirements. She received verification from the attorney that the statutory requirements are in the policy. It does not look at this specifically and will clarify it. She confirms the attorney she worked with is from NHSBA and this is their model policy. Mr. Post expressed it is vague and asks Ms. Lavallee to send him the emailed information from the attorney. This policy will return for a 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

### **ii. GADA-Employment References and Verification (Prohibiting Aiding and Abetting of Sexual Abuse)**

Ms. Lavallee reviewed previously, we discussed taking out the exceptions (1, 2, and 3) and we do need to include them. She added for clarification, the criteria and the words “and”. No suggestions for edits were made.

### **iii. IGE-Parental Objections to Specific Course Material**

Ms. Lavallee reviewed she sent the clarifications previously and in this policy the statement discussed previously regarding RSA 91-A has been included. No suggestions for edits were made.

### **iv. IK-Earning of Credit**

No changes were made to this policy since last reading and none suggested.

### **v. GBCD-Background Investigation and Criminal Records History Records Check**

No changes were made to this policy since last reading and none suggested.

### **vi. JICD-Student Discipline and Due Process**

Ms. Lavallee reviewed she sent clarification regarding this policy. She reviewed changes made to this policy, page 2, changed “and” to “an”, added “credible threats of violence”; page 3 removed “continue the suspension and”, added “while on school property”.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to accept policies, GADA-Employment References and Verification (Prohibiting Aiding and Abetting of Sexual Abuse), IGE-Parental Objections to Specific Course Material, IK-Earning of Credit, GBCD-Background Investigation and Criminal Records History Records Check, and JICD-Student Discipline and Due Process as written.*

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

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

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

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Post to approve the minutes of January 4, 2022 as written.*

*Voting: via roll call vote, four ayes; three abstentions from Mr. Mannarino, Ms. Cloutier-Cabral, Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

283  
284 **IX.COMMITTEE REPORTS**

285 There were no committee reports to give.  
286

287 **X. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES**

- 288 a. **FYI-New Hire-Hayley Rascoe-FRES RBT**  
289 b. **Appointment-Kyle Gilmore-WLC HS Social Studies Teacher**  
290 • **Resignation-Katie Balcom-FRES School Nurse**

291 Superintendent reviewed the new hire, recommendation for appointment and resignation.  
292

293 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Golding and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to appoint Mr. Kyle Gilmore as the HS*  
294 *social studies teacher for the remainder of the year, .80 FTE, salary of \$14,880.*

295 *Voting: via roll call vote, six ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*  
296

297 A brief discussion was had regarding what will be done while looking to replace Ms. Balcom. Superintendent  
298 reviewed there is a high demand for nurses in general. He explained we don't have to have a nurse at LCS but need to  
299 provide care, we are required to have a RN if we have a nurse; (cannot be a LPN or LNA etc.). In the meantime, we  
300 can look to hire a temporary nurse. A question was asked if we could use ESSER funds, Superintendent believes we  
301 can. Ms. Lavallee noted the significant amount of work they are doing now is strictly related to COVID.  
302 Superintendent was asked to keep the Chairman up to date on the situation.  
303

304 **XI.BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION**

305 Mr. Golding expressed he is glad we are finally dealing with the tennis courts and get that taken care of and out of the  
306 way. Regarding the truck, he is all for a warrant article, all for getting a truck but if we lease it and there is an  
307 accident, what does that do to the lease. If we own it, we can just fix it and not worry about charges on the lease. He  
308 would like to see the side-by-side numbers and of course, a cost savings would be great. He thinks purchasing it is the  
309 better way go. Mr. Mannarino is glad we will take care of the tennis courts and far as the truck, we have  
310 acknowledged one way or another the system we have is not working. If we do it via warrant and it doesn't pass, what  
311 happens? He thinks a lease is a good option and thinks we should just do it and put it in the budget. He will support  
312 the best option, cost and liability wise. Ms. Lavallee agrees with what was said. She acknowledged Principal Chenette  
313 for the work she did that they asked for previously. Principal Chenette asked if there is time, she would like to speak  
314 to the additional position for FRES. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral spoke that she is relieved we are taking care of the tennis  
315 courts. As far as the truck, leasing or buying, she is just glad we are going to make a move one way or another. She  
316 thinks it is important the community knows what we need and we can invest in it. Mr. Post questioned if the removal  
317 of the tennis courts is in the budget. Mr. Golding confirmed it is (\$20,000) and referred to page 1. Mr. Post expressed  
318 he is sorry to see the tennis courts go. In terms of the overall budget, he is a little uncomfortable with it. In terms of  
319 the truck, if there is an accident, we have insurance with a deductible. The benefit of leasing is that it would be a  
320 smaller number for the community to take on if we did a 3-year lease. It seems to be a more affordable option in the  
321 short term and wants to have something that would be more appealing to voters. He would like to see the options side  
322 by side. Chairman LoVerme spoke if this was his type of business and it is; it needs a pick-up truck. If it goes in a  
323 warrant and fails, and we just so happen to have \$50,000 left in the budget, we can't purchase a truck. We should  
324 think about that. He is happy with the budget and notes everything is going up in cost. The cost of living went up 7%,  
325 it's the highest since 1982 but our salaries didn't go up 7%. It was decided to have Principal Chenette speak at the  
326 next meeting when Mr. Vanderhoof and both Board and Budget Committee are here. Ms. Lavallee asked that the  
327 information Principal Chenette passed out be included in the next board packet.  
328

329 **XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

330 The public comment section of the agenda was read.

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

332 There were no public comments.  
333

334 **XIII. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

335 Ms. Lavallee expressed thanks.  
336

337 Chairman LoVerme thanked everyone, Principal Edmunds and her team and all everyone has been doing. He thanked  
338 Principal Chenette and the Superintendent for calling him and having open discussions about COVID. He thanked the

public and looks forward to everyone at the public hearing to hear about the budget. He spoke of the criticism we take on from the public whether face-to-face or via social media. Elections are coming up; there is at least one at-large seat open for a Lyndeborough resident. Mr. Golding's seat is also up for election; sign up and get your names on the ballot.

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral voiced Chairman LoVerme seemed to be speaking for both of them. She congratulated the Patriot's Pen students and is grateful for teachers like Ms. Bujak and for Ms. Ryan, Mr. Ryan for investing their time. She is very proud.

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

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Golding and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to enter Non-Public Session to discuss student matters RSA 91-A: 3 II (C) at 8:22pm.*

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

#### **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board entered public session at 8:45pm.

Mr. Vanderhoof reviewed discussions that were had in the Budget Committee meeting. He notes the policy we have strives to keep class sizes under 25. The committee discussed removing the additional 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher from the proposed FY 23 budget and funding it with ESSER funds due to problems this class has had relating COVID. The committee would like the Board to vote on this next week before they vote on the budget number. If it is not funded through ESSER funds, they support keeping it in the budget. Board members discussed how to fund it. It was noted that the funds would be needed the following year. Superintendent spoke that he and Principal Chenette have spoken about this and the numbers are changing a bit. He believes we can use ESSER funds to target kids and not fill a grade level teacher but instead using an interventionist; this is a better way to tackle the learning loss. This was the conversation she wanted to have tonight. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke that his proposal was to remove the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher from the budget, as class sizes of 19 and 20 are perfectly reasonable. He notes if you take it out tonight, we can get pretty close to the 3%. There is \$130,000 in ESSER funds for learning loss. Superintendent would like to have Principal Chenette speak with the Boards next week. He adds it is really about targeting kids who are getting further behind, this was a reason we wanted to keep the class sizes down. He believes even at 3.5% that the budget is high especially including the warrant articles. Overall, it is a large number. Ms. Lavallee supports the idea and would like to hear from Ms. LaPlante. Mr. Vanderhoof confirms she had attended the Budget Committee meeting. Superintendent confirms it can be funded through ESSER funds. Mr. Vanderhoof reported the Budget Committee wants the Board to have a formal vote on this. Principal Chenette will speak first at the next meeting to open the discussion.

A discussion was had regarding the truck proposal. It was noted if it is on a warrant and fails, we are stuck. Mr. Vanderhoof would prefer that if the truck is moving forward, it be on a warrant. If the Budget Committee wants it in the budget, it is their choice. If they do not, it is up to the Board to determine if it goes on a warrant. A brief discussion was had regarding lease vs. purchase. It was noted the van was leased. It was expressed that is different, that is used for student transportation. There is \$3,500 in the budget for mileage; currently we have been paying \$3,000. A brief discussion was had regarding mileage.

#### **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Mannarino and SECONDED by Mr. Golding to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:59pm.*

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

*Respectfully submitted,  
Kristina Fowler*