

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, February 1, 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, Dennis Golding, Matt Mannarino (6:39pm), Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral (6:51pm), Jim Kofalt, and Charlie Post*

*Superintendent Peter Weaver, Principals Sarah Edmunds and Kathleen Chenette, Assistant Principal Katie Gosselin, 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.

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

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

**a. Warrants**

Superintendent reported that Ms. LaPlante has had an emergency; she would try to attend online. He reviews we need a number for warrant article 4, operating budget. He provides the number as \$13,152,064. Ms. Tiedemann questions if that is the correct number, as she believes it is \$13,382,064. He notes he is using draft 7. Ms. Tiedemann notes the number she referred to included the warrants. Superintendent apologizes that he does not have the estimated tax impact for the warrants and questions if the Boards are prepared to make recommendations tonight without the tax impact.

Ms. Lavallee reviewed warrant article 5, capital reserve for facilities that has the dollar value of \$130,000 but does not have the tax impact indicated on it.

Ms. Lavallee reviewed warrant article 6, is the capital reserve for special education; we are recommending a dollar value of \$100,000 and no tax impact is indicated yet.

Ms. Lavallee reviewed warrant article 7 is to transact any other business; nothing is listed as of right now.

Ms. Lavallee reviewed the budget hearing is this Thursday, that means we need to finish this tonight.

Chairman LoVerme asked if Ms. LaPlante would have the tax impact numbers with her. Superintendent is trying to reach her.

Mr. Vanderhoof reviews the tax impact is an estimated number and even if we put that number down it is not going to be an exact number. Mr. Kofalt noted it is also a pretty easy number to calculate. Mr. Vanderhoof expressed the Budget Committee should vote on the operating budget number before the Board.

**Warrant Article 4-Operating Budget**

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Browne and SECONDED by Ms. Tiedemann for the Budget Committee to accept the operating budget number of \$13,152,064.*

*Voting: via roll call vote, eight ayes; motion carried unanimously.*

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Kofalt and SECONDED by Mr. Golding to support/recommend the Budget Committee's operating budget number of \$13,152,064.*

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

**Warrant Article 5-Building Equipment & Roadway Capital Reserve Fund**

Chairman LoVerme read warrant article 5.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Golding and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to accept/recommend warrant article 5, Building Equipment & Roadway Capital Reserve fund for \$130,000.

Voting: Via roll call vote, seven ayes, motion carried unanimously.

A question was raised if there will be a presentation on that. Chairman LoVerme responds yes.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Browne and SECONDED by Mr. Ryan to support warrant article 5, Building Equipment & Roadway Capital Reserve fund for \$130,000.

Voting: Via roll call vote, eight ayes, motion carried unanimously.

#### **Warrant Article 6-Educating Educationally Disabled Children Capital Reserve Fund**

Chairman LoVerme read warrant article 6.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Golding and SECONDED by Mr. Post to accept/recommend warrant article 6, Educating Educationally Disabled Children Capital Reserve fund for \$100,000.

Voting: Via roll call vote, seven ayes, motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Tiedemann and SECONDED by Ms. Browne to support warrant article 6, Educating Educationally Disabled Children Capital Reserve fund for \$100,000.

Voting: Via roll call vote, eight ayes, motion carried unanimously.

#### **Warrant Article 7-To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.**

Chairman LoVerme reviewed warrant article 7. He responds that anyone can bring anything up.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Golding and SECONDED by Mr. Kofalt to accept warrant article 7, To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Voting: Via roll call vote, seven ayes, motion carried unanimously.

It was noted, the Budget Committee does not need to vote on this article.

A question was raised what that article means. Chairman LoVerme responded that it is for anyone to talk about any other business. Mr. Kofalt clarified he has seen it used to recognized members of the community for their outstanding contribution. If there is any other additional warrant, it would be done in the form of a petition warrant, which we do not have, that deadline has past. Chairman LoVerme added, typically it is for a Budget Committee member or Board member who served more than 10 years.

#### **b. YTD Reports-December**

Superintendent asked if there are any specific questions that he can try to answer. Mr. Kofalt reported he has looked through the numbers where we exceeded the budget and it seems like an unusual number of those line items are in software. It is hard to tell without doing a more thorough analysis if those will be offset by lower numbers in some of the lines. He asked if Mr. Bouley could speak to this. Mr. Bouley explained that this is due to merging lines into the technology lines. In the new budget that has been accounted for with those lines being zeroed out. He notes moving forward, you will not see this discrepancy. He confirms an example would be moving curriculum subscriptions to technology. Chairman LoVerme asked if there are additional questions to email Ms. LaPlante.

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public comment section of the agenda was read. Ms. Lavallee called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

There was no public comment heard.

Chairman LoVerme asked if there was anything else from the Budget Committee. Chairman Jones reminds everyone that Thursday night is the Public Hearing and invites the public to come out and learn more about the budget. We are working to get everything up on the website. The most recent version is up. He encourages the public to dial in and ask questions or just listen. We value your feedback. Public Hearing is this Thursday, February 3 at 7pm, at WLC.

Chairman LoVerme asked how this budget season went. No objections heard. He thanked the Budget Committee for working very hard on this budget. We will see you all Thursday night at 7pm.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Tiedemann and SECONDED by Mr. Ryan to recess the Budget Committee session at 6:51pm.

Voting: Via roll call vote; eight ayes, motion carried unanimously.

Chairman LoVerme noted we still have some available Budget Committee seats if you want to run; have your name written in.

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

Superintendent reported the following adjustments, an additional nomination, a new FYI hire and to remove the treasurer's report from the agenda.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Golding 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. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent reviewed that January has been a challenging month, in particular with staffing. Food services have been down 50%; Mr. Erb has had 3 staff out. He is grateful and appreciates how the team was able to support each other and keep schools open and move forward. He is happy to nominate a school nurse and Spanish teacher this evening; these are difficult positions to fill this time of year. He thanked Karen Blood in accounts payable for picking up microscopes that School Specialty donated along with a few triple beam scales. They are brand new, still in the packages. She picked them up and brought them to WLC. He believes the value is about \$4,000. He reported in the Technology Committee meeting they spoke of putting together a list of donations throughout the year and be able to highlight how supportive the community has been. He invited Principal Edmunds to come up and introduce a student who represented us in a competition. Principal Edmunds spoke that our middle school participates every year in VFW's Patriots Penn scholarship essay. English teachers, Ms. Traffie and Ms. Bujak, in conjunction with Ms. Mary Jane Ryan, (past state axillary president) and Mr. Bill Ryan (past state commander) help support it. Principal Edmunds thanked them for bringing the contest to WLC for many years; we have had some success. This year's theme was "How Can I Be A Good American". Student, Natalie Bergstrom was present and read her essay. She was given a round of applause and a standing ovation! Principal Edmunds informed the group that Natalie placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the state; we are very proud of her.

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

Ms. LaPlante was not present. The Superintendent is not prepared to speak for her and questions can be emailed.

#### **iii. Principals' Reports**

Principal Edmunds reported regarding tutoring, we have had some success. The tutors reaching out to parents has proven fruitful. We have approximately 6 regular students, which is good for MS/HS, plus some drop-ins attending. We have MS teachers trying to make up for learning loss by sending surveys to all MS students asking if they would like to be tutored and if so in what subject. Sixteen responded with interest. The National Honor Society students tutor them; teachers set it all up, spearheaded by teacher Allison Blondin. It happens during the school day and sometimes after school. Teachers gently push students toward tutoring if they feel it is needed. The last early release day we had Cheryl Rosenthal (long-term substitute) who also tutors for SAT's give teachers a run-down of SAT preparation on how to best help students. She gave quick tips and it was a helpful and effective half day of professional development. The student leadership team is working on 3 goals with Bill Preble. They came up with this statement (they call themselves Warrior Vision) "Warrior Vision will strive to make WLC a positive, safe and friendly learning environment. We are working to increase student morale by beautification projects. Improving the learning experience and promoting respect for all students". Principal Edmunds added they really want to design some murals and things like that for the school. The first project is the beautification piece. Students will work with some graduate NEC art students to come in, help design, and create. WLC art teacher, Ms. Emily Hall is also working with them. Ms. Hall was invited up as she is being given a Certificate of Appreciation for her work with the storm water mural project. She has been working with students and the community to design murals. She was thanked for her work within the community. She was given a round of applause. Ms. Hall spoke of what she and the students have been doing while working with Ms. Michele Decoteau, Storm Drain Manager and Donna Crane, Wilton Community Center. She would like to continue to do these types of projects and keep the community and schools connected. They are hoping to do some 3-D sculptors for downtown Wilton. There is a vision happening and we are open to suggestions. She notes the art students are excited about this and you can see some of the proposals for the 3-D designs in the hall at WLC.

Assistant Principal Katie Gosselin spoke regarding the RISE program working to be able to sell dog biscuits. Students learn the process of making them, packaging and selling. They are available now for sale, \$10 per bag and are available at all 3 schools. Principal Edmunds added the WLC Reporter is available online. Ms. Lavallee is glad to hear we have students coming in for tutoring. She thanked the teachers for reaching out to parents. It is a great idea Ms. Blondin had to have students mentor/tutor students; it is helpful for the students being tutored as well as the students doing the tutoring. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke that he has heard of Bill Preble frequently, he is here almost every start of the school year. He asks if it is possible for him to come and present to the Board about what discussions and presentations he is bringing to the school. Principal Edmunds responds yes.

Principal Chenette invited art teacher, Greg Lamers who holds “rock star status” at FRES. Principal Chenette describes him as one of the most kid centered teaches she has worked with. He is eager to volunteer and is committed to bring community together with art. He participates in the luminaria event downtown. Students work on those each year and some from years ago are still used. He was thanked for all he does and received a Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Lamers spoke that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> year; connecting with the community makes the community stronger through those connections with the school. Any opportunity to do this, he is up for it. He was given a round of applause. Principal Chenette passed out some documents; one was regarding absences. She notes they are looking better, some days are an upwards of 50 students out. The other contained data regarding tutoring. She reviewed the data. It was requested to send this out electronically and include it in the board packet. A question was raised if there is an idea of how many absences are COVID related vs. missing a day each week for chronic absences. Principal Chenette notes it is tricky, we can only code what is reported and some kids have had significant quarantining. We are coding it into PowerSchool with a “q” for quarantine but she will see if she can do this. She agrees it is good data. She spoke about the generosity of the Wilton and Lyndeborough communities. She gave an example of a person bringing in 15, \$250 each gift cards to be given the most who need it. It was given anonymously. This is just another example of the goodness we find in this community. Ms. Lavallee spoke of being excited about robotics. Principal Chenette is hoping to get kids started this year but they won’t be competing. Things have been ordered and there is a parent and a community member volunteer. Principal Edmunds added HS robotics team is going to state! Ms. Lavallee likes the report Principal Chenette provide with how the data is broken down and that each grade came up with a plan on what to do with the data. Principal Chenette confirms that each grade had a day where they took part in the data and did planning with special education and intervention team; she facilitated the meetings. Regarding the data provided, it was asked what percentage of the ones in yellow were going into tutoring. Principal Chenette will find out, she just started working on the data today. She confirms all were invited; they started with the bottom 30%. A question was raised what is the chance of some of those repeating a grade. Principal Chenette agrees that is a good question and would like to have that conversation.

#### **iv. Curriculum Coordinator’s Report**

Ms. Stefanich spoke that a lot was covered by the Principals. We are working on pulling the STAR data; absences have hit us hard. The hope is to have it in March. The rest of her report is about the draft data dashboard. She wants your thoughts and feedback, as we are early in the process. Ms. Lavallee really likes the dashboard so far, it is very helpful for parents and community members. She commented on the literacy piece because she thinks that will be helpful at MS/HS level where students do not have access to RTI/W.I.N. Ms. Stefanich agrees; we are really excited about it, it doesn’t have to fit into anyone’s schedule or tied to a time period and are hoping to find more opportunities like that which do not require substitute coverage and allow us to build our capacity.

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

##### **i. Recognition Letter-Manchester VA Medical Center**

##### **ii. Recognition Letter-Wilton Community Center**

Superintendent reviewed we spoke of the recognition from Donna Crane who highlighted Ms. Hall and Mr. Lamers for the work they did. The other letter is from the Manchester VA Medical Center. He believes it was over \$1,000 in hygiene products that were donated and delivered to the VA. Like Mr. Lamers said, when we have the connection with the community, it makes us stronger. He appreciates the work we are doing. He is hoping we can get more and more people in here and talk about the work our kids and teachers are doing. It is important work. It is important the Board support that as we move forward. Chairman LoVerme thanked Principal Chenette and her team for doing this. He spoke that some of the veterans need a lot more than what the medical center can do. He appreciates it on their behalf. Superintendent spoke of a letter campaign that is happening in all of our schools for sailors getting ready to deploy. Ms. Blood introduced this opportunity to us and is something to cheer them up. Chairman LoVerme spoke of a woman from Massachusetts who started a letter campaign during the Vietnam War for soldiers who didn’t get mail. When her daughter was cleaning out the cellar, she found the letters; a book was written called 77 Letters. It is nice for the sailors to have support and open some mail when you are away from home.

#### **VII. WLCTA**

Ms. Andrea Petrone and Ms. Becky Hawkes were present. Ms. Hawkes spoke of January being a month made up of many things; trying to get back from expectations after being off for holiday break. The cold temperatures are not ideal for students or teachers to go outside. COVID has done a number on our schools with absences and everything else. We have been collecting data for learning profiles; it is excellent to have key players in one room talking about data and making plans of what to do. At the MS, they did an interdisciplinary research mini project for black history month and an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Constitution Convention debate. Ms. Petrone spoke of Friday being a PD day and all are looking forward to it. It is centered around technology. We as teachers try to have a good balance of using technology with paper and books. She spoke of community outreach and the WLCTA was talking about wanting to do more community outreach. They did have a table at the Wilton community yard sale and they made money to go toward a scholarship they have. They want to continue to do more of that. If you have any ideas, please let them know; they want to give back to the communities that give them so much. She spoke of the scholarship being for a graduating WLC student who wants to major in education. She thanked the Board, Budget Committee and administration for

all they did and put into the budget. This is her first year as co-president of WLCTA, coming to the meetings and seeing it from beginning to end. It is quite the process and listening to how well you collaborated and the questions asked. She knows it is tough and you walk a fine line between wanting to do what is right for the school and community. She spoke of the thoughtful conversations between the groups, which was amazing; we know it is not easy. It was asked what the 8<sup>th</sup> grade constitutional convention is. Principal Edmunds responded the social studies classes did a constitution simulation. They each took on parts; they had a debate on what the founding fathers may have debated on and what they may not have debated.

## **VIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **i. Treasurer's Report-**

There was no Treasurer's Report.

## **IX. POLICIES-3<sup>RD</sup> READ**

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

Ms. Lavallee reported the Policy Committee met last week. She did follow up on the questions and did some research on her own and with California and how lawyers interpret it there. The proposed policy did not change (from the last board meeting), we do not have to have that specific sentence in our policy but it is a stipulation and because we are grant funded by the federal government it cannot be allowed even if there is a prescription for it. The committee felt the Board should discuss it and determine if it should be written in the policy or part of the training. Since it is a drug-free workplace, it pertains to staff, also to community members or students. She spoke that we discussed this and saw some merits of taking it out and some for keeping it in. A question was raised if she could share what the merits would be for taking it out. Ms. Lavallee spoke per Mr. Post's argument, we don't know what is happening with the law and if it changes, we would have to amend the policy. She notes it shouldn't be too tedious to do but should the federal law change in the next 3-5 years and allow it, we would have to amend the policy. Mr. Kofalt spoke that the way he interprets it, part of him is saying it is not necessary because it says "unlawfully". Unlawfully may not apply at the state level but would at the federal level. There is an argument to be made that taking it out; even if we take it out it remains in effect but may require some clarification. He assumes that is what she means by training. Ms. Lavallee agrees and notes that this was her concern by taking it out. Her personal opinion is that by leaving it in, it is 100% obvious to anyone interpreting it and you understand you cannot do it. We are not allowing it even though it is legal in the state to have the card, it is not allowed federally and we do not recognize the card. The reason she thought it would be helpful to have it in, is in case the employee was caught with it, they can say it is not in the written policy. Concern was noted. Mr. Kofalt notes the ambiguity opens the door for someone to make the argument that unlawful doesn't specify whether it was state or federal. Mr. Kofalt expresses he is leaning in the direction of leaving it in and the policy can be changed later. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral spoke that they went back and forth substances may come and go and that is where it ultimately ended up. We should be reviewing these policies on a regular basis and if we are doing that we will adjust them as needed. It is helpful to have that written in there especially where it is such a gray area. Ms. Lavallee added our reason was to prevent us from having to litigate it because it is already clarified in the policy. Mr. Golding notes it seems it is there for clarification. Ms. Lavallee added it is there so we don't have to debate it. Mr. Post voiced that you don't need the sentence to achieve it, he believes it is excessive and a throwaway line.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to approve policy ADB-Drug-Free Workplace and Drug-free Schools as written.*

*Voting: six ayes; one nay from Mr. Post, one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

A question was raised if that needs a unanimous vote. Mr. Kofalt responded he believes a policy change requires a certain delay; you can't change a policy quickly unless you have a unanimous vote.

## **X. ACTION ITEMS**

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

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Golding and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to approve the minutes of January 18, 2022 as written.*

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

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Golding to approve the non-public minutes of January 18, 2022 as written.*

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

### **b. ESSER III Update**

Superintendent reviewed the request to extend 3 of the uses approved for ESSER funds. He requests to extend the use of long-term substitutes. We have had a hard time filling them and were only able to fill 2 out of the 3. We do have a requirement that they are certified. We are hoping if we extend this until the end of the year it may be more enticing. He notes we used the 2 every day. Cost for the extension is \$56,000. The second is to continue after school stipend for the nurse. The cost is \$2,000. Ms. Bertoncini has logged 50 different times she had to work extra either after school or on weekends. It is not as much as the hours

but the days. It is for \$100 per week for WLC and \$100 for FRES. She is the only one helping us right now. She has also helped cover at LCS although that is not part of the stipend. The last request is to continue our extended school day academy through April 22. The cost is the same rate we have always used. It comes to \$10,000 to April 22 (April break). We still have quite a bit of money and he is not concerned about spending it he just wants to spend it wisely. This is more about addressing learning loss than the nurse stipend. A question was raised when a long-term substitutes starts to get benefits. Superintendent responded we have them as a contracted service so they don't get benefits. Chairman LoVerme spoke that they have looked at some of the numbers today and wonders why he is not requesting to extend the "extended day" until the end of the year. Superintendent spoke that he likes having a point in time when we have to gather data and report back. He knows the money is there but wants to be careful about how much we ask for. He doesn't mind if it adds up to the end of the school year but it is good to have a deadline and report the results. The only reason he asked for the end of the year with substitutes is that we know we don't have enough and if you approve it we may get more applicants. He is hoping some kids who have finished their certification are looking for a job and will apply. Chairman LoVerme asked for a progress report regarding students in the "Academy", where they started, where they are now and where they are expected to be next month. Mr. Post commented this is a great report, very thorough and a great proposal. Superintendent notes he knows the importance of getting things out on time and apologized for the delay. Mr. Post thanked the school nurse. He notes when we started this, we didn't know how bad it would be. Superintendent voiced nurses are on a teacher's contract, it is like being on call. There is a little window to work out these problems and we have to look at it a little differently and respect their time.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Kofalt to approve the request for the proposal of continuing long-term substitutes for the remainder of the year.*

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

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Mannarino and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to approve the request for the proposal to continue the stipend for the school nurses not to exceed \$2,000.*

*Voting: six ayes; one nay from Mr. Vanderhoof, one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Kofalt and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to approve the request for the proposal to continue the after school academy until April 22, not to exceed \$10,000.*

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

Superintendent thanked them and notes the support is appreciated.

## **XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **i. Technology Committee**

Mr. Kofalt reported the committee just met. Fundamentally, they are moving in the same direction as before. There were detailed discussions on the draft vision document. It covers three categories, technology infrastructure, enabling education academic excellence, and the third is academics that are specifically related to technology competencies. He reported they have started the process. They will meet again in the middle of the month. The goal is to have the survey ready to roll out to the public before the district meeting. It will collect information on how people perceive how we use technology in the district, what they like, what they don't, etc. They have looked through examples of technology plans from other districts. He will have more to report in 2 weeks when it is on the agenda again. He requests an agenda item to review the proposed survey for the next meeting. No objection heard.

### **ii. Budget Liaison**

Mr. Vanderhoof believes he reported it all out last week. All the changes fell into place without having much discussion on it. The budget is done; they are working on the presentation since two meetings ago. They should be ready for Thursday. He thinks it is a good end product. This is his 4<sup>th</sup> year, it is a solid budget, and maybe one of the best he has worked on. Chairman LoVerme thanked Mr. Vanderhoof for the work he has done with the Budget Committee. He agrees with him regarding this maybe being one of the best budget processes in a long time.

## **XII. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES**

- a. FYI-New Hire-Lori Pitsas-Title I Tutor-LCS**
- b. Appointment-Debbie Bass-Spanish Teacher-WLC**
- c. Resignation-Melanie Abbe-Kindergarten Teacher-LCS (end of yr.)**
  - **Appointment-Aimee Downen-School Nurse**
  - **FYI-New Hire-Joshua Bartsch-Paraeducator**

Superintendent reviewed the new hire, nominations for appointment and the resignation.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Golding and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to accept the nomination and appoint Ms. Debbie Bass as WLC Spanish teacher at Bachelor's+30, Step 8 at \$47,500 prorated for the remainder of the year.*

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

Superintendent confirms that \$47,500 will be prorated for the number of days remaining in the school year.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to accept the nomination and appoint Ms. Aimee Downen as school nurse at Bachelors, Step 7 at \$45,000 prorated for the remainder of the year.*  
*Voting: seven ayes; one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried unanimously.*

### **XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public comment section of the agenda was read. Chairman called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

There were no public comments heard.

### **XIV. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Golding expressed in his short 4 years between the Budget Committee and School Board, this has been the greatest experience with the budget. Everyone was cordial; the process was fantastic. He hopes it stays that way and voiced appreciation for everyone.

Mr. Kofalt voiced he is grateful to see the community outreach. The VFW essay was great and to hear people reaching out for donations of microscopes and hear of the scholarship fund; he feels there is a lot of positive energy there. He thanked everyone for working on those things.

Mr. Post voiced that 3 years ago, when we were looking at this, there was a separation between the 2 communities and the school; they were completely disconnected. The work that the staff and Superintendent Weaver, have done, the teachers and everyone even with something as simple as having people come in and vote in the gymnasium; it connects the members of the public to what happens here and the education process. These are their schools and not everyone has kids here but they all have a stake in the outcome. We all have a responsibility to make it effective and a great place for learning. It has really happened and it is so nice and reassuring to see that. Thank you.

Ms. Lavallee echoed what was said before she spoke, she loves the community outreach that is happening. She commented on the students, she had the opportunity to substitute a couple of weeks ago and she saw first-hand why we are seeing some of the numbers we are seeing. She doesn't have an answer and doesn't think anyone in education does right now. She thinks this is different from things we have seen in the past. She looks forward to working with administration and teachers to try to get students back to the best they can be in regard to focus and attendance. She looks forward to working collaboratively with parents as much as possible. She appreciates we didn't have delayed openings due to the cold weather; she thinks those little things help to get students back on a regular schedule. She expressed thanks and voiced that everyone is doing an amazing job. Thank you very much for all you do every day for our students.

Mr. Vanderhoof thanked Natalie for coming in and sharing her essay. He thanked Ms. Blood for the microscopes; hopefully we can put those to good use.

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral expressed it was great to see Natalie. She likes to see students and have them share what they are doing. Her essay was terrific and part of being a good American is participating in learning about what it takes to be a good American. So much of this meeting was positive. She loves seeing all of you come with your reports and showing us such detail and how much you love to do what you do. That shows and she appreciates that. She agrees this was a great season working on the budget this year. It was very collaborative, easy to understand and to follow and think through. She thanked everyone.

Mr. Mannarino recognized Mr. Lamers and Ms. Hall and the work they have done. He heard Principal Chenette mention Mr. Lamers has "rock star status" amongst the students and he has 3 at home who can attest to that. He is looking forward to seeing their projects and excited to see what the future holds for robotics.

Chairman LoVerme agrees this was an amazing budget process. He thanked everyone for what they are doing. The Budget Committee and administration were great to work with. He thanked those who signed up for seats on the Board and Budget Committee. He would like to see Mr. Dowling put his name on this ballot.

### **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Post and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to adjourn the Board meeting and go into non-meeting for negotiations at 8:06pm.*

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

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Kristina Fowler*