

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, August 24, 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, Jim Kofalt (6:32pm), Charlie Post and Paul White*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante (7:12pm), 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 6:30pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent Weaver reported the following adjustments, addition of new hires, nominations, a resignation, a nonpublic student matter and requested to move the Business Administrator's Report later in the evening as Ms. LaPlante will be late. Mr. Post added a discussion regarding new special education legislation.

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

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

A parent spoke regarding the back to school plan and masks. She has concern about masks being optional especially for the elementary students and the updated CDC guidelines.

Ms. Andrea Petrone, teacher, spoke of the school looking amazing. She introduced a couple of members in from the WLCTA who were attending. She spoke of wanting to form a good relationship with collaboration. She thanked Superintendent Weaver for planning a fabulous day; it was motivating, and just what you want a first day back to be. She spoke of having school open all year last year and that the teachers did an amazing job. She hopes for continued collaboration this year. She thanked the Board for their time and everything they do.

Mr. Eddie Anzalone, Lyndeborough resident, spoke regarding masks wanting to keep them optional. We talk about a safe environment but it only constitutes one side of the argument. He voiced concern for kids who have anxiety, are claustrophobic, self-esteem problems and wearing a mask can cause issues for them. At this point, we are at the understanding that parents can make the best decision, he does not think there was any parent who would not mask their child if needed but we are not at that point now. Leaving it up to parents to make the best decision for their child. The inclusion argument does not work unless you will include everyone.

Ms. Alyssa Lavoie spoke regarding the CDC guidelines recently issued. She expressed they will help you. She spoke of the district's draft plan and notes regarding face masks, level 2 is the same as level 3 with masks being worn outside; she questions why that would change from the first draft; it is not in line with the DHHS (Dept. Health and Human Services) guidelines.

Mr. Shawn MacFadzen, Lyndeborough, expressed that there are children in our school system that the only place they are getting a meal is in school. He spoke that he works for NH Fish and Game and is in the community and knows what is going on. Our school food program is important and if students are remote, they are not getting that meal. He spoke of a drugs being a problem in this county and state; people make sacrifices for the drugs rather than the food for their children. For some students the only place they feel loved and welcomed is in school and they need to be in the classroom with teachers. Some only escape from physical abuse and/or mental abuse when in school. He expressed that we are worried about COVID and death and you have 1 in a million chance from dying from COVID but 6.6 million children are referred to child protective services each year and that is

the conversation we really need to talk about. According to protective services, there is a report every 10 seconds of abuse. We need to talk about having kids back in school. Masks need to be the parent's option and we need to protect kids. Keep them in school and with teachers.

Ms. Melissa Knight questioned as far as contact tracing, will families be notified of who is a close contact. Mr. White responded it depends on if we have masks or not. Ms. Lavallee added it will be determined by DHHS; a school nurse and teacher will determine who was close to a student and for how long, were they masked or not. There are a number of factors that go into making that determination. Ms. Knight asked if students are isolating what are they doing as far as school goes. Chairman LoVerme answered there is not a plan for that yet.

Ms. Laura Manning, Wilton questioned if we have the results of the survey before we start arguing about masks. Chairman LoVerme voiced it will be gone over later in the meeting. Ms. Manning spoke that students need to be in school, they need normalcy and not to wear a mask. She spoke that the suicide rate is higher and during flu season, we do not have them wear masks and that affects more kids than COVID so why are we now.

Mr. Geoffrey Allen, Lyndeborough spoke regarding the DHHS report for back to school and notes there is no remote learning option. They talked about identifying clusters, evaluating classrooms, isolating and bringing kids back in. He added we also talked about tying it into demographics. He notes I have heard talk about Hillsborough County, and this does not represent Wilton and Lyndeborough; we want to look at it locally. Back to school, no remote, and no masks.

Ms. Alyssa Lavoie questioned if anyone participated in the Dr. Chan live call. Response was school nurse Cathleen Bertoncini did and she was part of putting the district plan together.

Mr. Adam Lavallee, Lyndeborough expressed if you can't force a kid to wear a mask you can't force them to wear anything. He is stunned that the NHSBA is on the agenda again. He reviewed we created a line-by-line budget, the public was free to remove items from it and the fees for this were included; why are we wasting time talking about it. Canceling of the NHSBA is ridiculous when you look at why these school board members want to cancel it, because NHSBA lobbied against bills that defund public education, which is stunning in a district where everyone is sick of their taxes going up. To cancel membership because of that is a very bad reason and a bad move for the district.

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

Mr. Dennis Golding apologized to the Board for not being able to attend tonight. He expressed he had every intention to be present this evening but family obligations prevented him from doing so. He hopes we can continue with whatever they are going to do later on tonight.

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Business Administrator's Report

Ms. LaPlante gave an overview of her report, which included there is a lot going on. She highlighted the facilities team who is doing a fantastic job. Ms. Erin Smith is the new Food Service Director and has been working on getting up to speed with training and hiring staff; she is currently fully staffed. The bulk of last week Ms. LaPlante been working on grants specifically she discussed the grant efficiencies. The district received a lot of COVID money. She reviewed the allotments. Last week it was confirmed that well over \$200,000 is still sitting in the general fund and as she indicated in her report, it will create a delay in getting the DOE 25 completed. She knows what needs to be done and it is just going through the process now. The DOE 25 goes to the DRA to file taxes; she has asked for an extension through Sept. 30 but intends to have it much sooner as to not delay the towns in setting the tax rate. There was a grant audit completed by the NH DOE Bureau of Federal Compliance which did not return any significant findings but there was no follow up on their supplemental requests for information and has put the district in jeopardy of having to pay back the funds. She has been working on getting us back in compliance to make sure we don't have to give back COVID money. She spoke of attending the Budget Committee meeting and they are moving forward with a needs based budget, which is different from in the past. She and the Superintendent will meet with Principals, Dept. heads etc. regarding this. She confirmed there is no fine for filing for the extension. At the last meeting, she spoke of the use for ESSER 3 money and doing a survey. The survey was completed with responses. The funds will be used in line with special education and building administration for loss of instructional time. It was filed on Monday and complies with the grant as well.

ii. Director of Student Support Services Report

Mr. Pratt reports today was a great opening day with teachers and staff. As you can imagine we are busy the rest of the week. As of this morning, he is still looking to replace a school psychologist and a paraprofessional. He is trying to come up with a solution and will keep the Board informed. It was a great summer with ESY; there were about 53 students and there were a variety of

activities. It was a huge success. Preschool and Pre-k are filling up with more students coming in and being identified. There were a couple of “move-ins” and evaluations; we need to make determinations. We will be pretty full by early fall. The SPED department was busy all summer long, budget preparations, finalizing grants and getting contracts done. He notes it has been a joy working with Ms. LaPlante; she is helpful and moves the process along. He reports we are working to get the data the Board requested on “move-ins” and once it is all complete he will report on this. A question was raised if we have a MS counselor in the building currently (as the psychologist position is vacant). Mr. Pratt confirmed we do but are checking to see if that covers the state requirement for the building and are we looking other places too.

iii. Director of Technology’s Report

Mr. Bouley reported that since we started the beginning of the year, 130 new Chromebooks have come in; he is working with staff to get their laptops and deploy it all. He notes they focus on the help desk tickets, there are 55 open and 35 of those are still part of the original 72. Some of these were over a year old and is trying to get that down to a smaller window so response will be faster. They have been doing site surveys, infrastructures and find out where the improvements are needed, what is working and clean it up and replace things that are not working. There is a lot of missing standard operating procedures, which causes issues for the staff. He has a few projects started and finishing the offsite back up, emergency system and cybersecurity needs. He confirmed the new equipment is new and not refurbished and had been ordered before he started. They were to replace end of life or broken beyond repair computers. The replaced equipment was taken out and recycled. Mr. Bouley voiced that he and Superintendent Weaver spoke about the Technology Plan being expired in 2017 and had not been updated; this is not a good way to go about it. He spoke of having multiple pieces of equipment that do the same thing. They have a student intern for the summer and he is working on keeping him for the year in an internship program. He notes the department consists of 2 people, Mr. Bouley and Dan LaSala and now intern Shawn Bishop. Mr. Bishop has been helping them prepare all the laptops and is hoping to keep this going after Mr. Bishop graduates. Mr. Bouley noted he started out in an internship program and it is a powerful program. A question was raised regarding what an average help desk ticket looks like. Mr. Bouley responded, it can be a broken projector, someone doesn’t know their password or how to do something, it can be defective equipment in their room these are common and comes back to the smart boards and projectors; each one is a little different and it is hard to stabilize. Superintendent Weaver spoke in favor of the internship even if it is an hour after school or during study hall; the student gets experience and helps the district at minimal cost. Our IT Director gets bogged down dealing with things like passwords and that is where a student comes in. They are really good at it. We have to promote it; figure out what kids into and find a way to make it work. Chairman LoVerme noted the paper world is getting more obsolete and he hopes we are not falling behind the computer age for these kids.

VI. NHSBA MEMBERSHIP

Superintendent Weaver expressed we just need to decide. He recommends continuing membership. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke that he has said before and is saying again to contact the attorney, as she was the one who advised them on how to do it properly; it may cost an hour of her time. He suggests doing this. He also notes it is stated in the General Assurances we will do it properly and this is a simple solution. It was noted Ms. LaPlante had provided some recommendations at the last meeting. Ms. LaPlante spoke that Merrimack uses PDIP; the funds are segregated and you can control which funds get into that account. Currently, NHSBA does not take electronic payments. She confirms she did reach out to Merrimack but the Business Administrator did not call her back. She spoke a colleague at the Pubic Investment Pool. Mr. Vanderhoof expressed we need to call the attorney who advised Merrimack and settle it. Mr. Post spoke about the Board receiving correspondence back from NHSBA regarding the resolution they submitted. He read the correspondence which indicated to NHSBA’s knowledge there is only one school board that segregates funds for NHSBA dues; he adds they said it themselves and how do we know what portion is for lobbying. If we have a \$10,000 bill (for example), how much of that is for lobbying. Superintendent added he spoke to them and there is no ala cart, there is one membership and monies goes into one “pool”. He notes we can follow up with the lawyer and get a determination and see if lines up with Merrimack. Chairman LoVerme expressed we need to know tomorrow. Ms. Lavallee urged that we take action on it tonight and does not want to let any more time lapse. It was noted they work for us and why are they not responding. Discussion continued. Chairman LoVerme expressed we have determined we will just pay it.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Mannarino and SECONDED by Mr. White to pay the NHSBA membership.

Discussion continued, it was asked if we want it paid as we normally do and response was yes. Mr. Vanderhoof reiterated it is a simple answer; it is call the lawyer. He adds we don’t need to make a motion; we approved the payment and need to call the lawyer. Superintendent will call the attorney tomorrow and put it to rest. He will let the Board know and we will pay it; we will be the second district to get it right.

Mr. Mannarino WITHDREW his MOTION and Mr. White withdrew the second.

VII. DRAFT BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN

i. Use of Lockers

Superintendent reported the survey had 270 respondents; it was based on the honor system. In order to make it anonymous which he felt was important it allowed people who know technology respond more than once. He trusts that everyone responded just once. This was in impressive high number of responses; which resulted in an overwhelming 90% believe if masks are optional, their kids will come to school. A member in the audience indicated they never got it. Superintendent left the survey active until Sunday, which was beyond the deadline. The email addresses were pulled from PowerSchool, he spoke of the importance of

keeping the student information system up to date (emails addresses, phone numbers etc.), and if it was not correct the survey may not have reached you. The other question on the survey was if masks were mandatory for students, would your student come to school. About 20% indicated they wouldn't send their student to school. He notes parents have a serious concern; the majority are open to having masks optional and let the parents make the decision. We will continue to teach social distancing etc., all the mitigating factors we did last year. The survey did not ask about remote. Some parents have spoken about remote learning; the DHHS has been clear about having in person learning, kids need to be with other kids and with teachers, it is a fact. He spoke of some students thriving in an independent learning environment but most of our kids do not. It is a struggle for teachers too and it takes away from the kids who are learning in person. He reports, it looks like masks should be optional and no one disputed the data. We had a conversation regarding the thresholds; that is the question he has, if we use the data how do we use it, do we set a number and does it trigger a set of things or do we let some arbitrary number do that. He adds the teacher's union did a survey of staff and they are concerned for health and safety but given the data they are open to masks optional with where we are with the levels but we need to pay close attention to that and act quickly. If we have to go full masks at some point, we will make that decision but it doesn't mean it is forever given the data we have. We may have to make that difficult decision and he thinks we are all OK with that. Ms. Lavallee suggested under isolate, quarantine section, suggests it be changed to follow recommendation of Dept. Health, as that is what guides us anyway. A question was raised if 10% of parents decide not to send their kids to school what are their options for education. Superintendent recommends VLACS; it is a statewide K-12 program at no cost to us. We had VLACS facilitators at WLC and have teachers that could help. He believes in VLACS, it is a virtual learning scenario, it is all remote and they have certified teachers teaching it. There will be groups of students who need to access the building with critical needs and without it will not be successful. He recommends finding resources in our building to help those kids like special education students who need direct support. He is not recommending a remote option. It was suggested to see a more flushed out plan with VLACS as it was not an option last year for some, as they had no resources available. Chairman LoVerme expressed to be clear- it is in school learning or out of school, no remote option. Superintendent to call VLACS and ask what their capacity and access is. Discussion was had regarding the 9-week period. Superintendent spoke of that being the best time for transition as it lines up with the marking period and is a natural break for students and teachers. We can cycle these transitions with 9 weeks or semester breaks; the 9 weeks is an arbitrary number and the goal is to reduce disruption. Discussion was had regarding there being a lot of children in the district who do not attend our school for whatever reason they choose to not enroll and it is not incumbent upon us to make arrangements for their children; it is not in the back to school plan but was in the welcome back letter. Discussion was had regarding lockers and wanting them available for kids. The discussion included the need to have mitigating measures in place; there are still students in the 6th grade who cannot be vaccinated. Ms. Lavallee spoke of concern as a nurse for 20 years that it is not an appropriate thing to do from an infection control standpoint. She questions what is the medical data that justifies making the change. It is a public health issue and we want as many students back as can. The more we take away (mitigating factors) the higher the risk is regarding transmission that is how infection control works. Discussion continued. A question was raised if a parent can request a locker. Superintendent agreed but wants to keep this to 6th grade only and spaced out. Discussion was had regarding the intention behind the plans different levels and whom makes the decision, does passage of this plan authorize someone other than the Board to move us from level to level. Superintendent spoke that we have to come to a decision collectively otherwise he is looking at the data himself and deciding and he is more comfortable with that being done collectively. He would need to update the data every 3 days, we could make it available on our website and not have to dig around for it, track it locally, and nationally. At some point, we have to make a decision if we choose to move a level. Superintendent confirmed he is pulling data from DHHS. Discussion continued with concern regarding any policy or plan that does not have the Board take a vote. Ultimately as a Board, we own the decision and it is not clear if this is delegating decision making to the Superintendent and as a Board, we ought to not do that. It was confirmed that regarding level of transmission, it says Hillsborough County, but that does not include Manchester or Nashua. It was noted it is hard to get a pulse on what is happening in the community; we don't have students in school right now and these data points are tricky. A question was raised how many days it would take to hold an emergency meeting if things change quickly as students would still be in school until the Board meeting was held. It was confirmed 24-hour notice is required and parents are in charge; they have the choice to keep their children home. Discussion was had including it is unlikely to see a spike like this overnight, we are able to close school down for snow days for a day or two, this is not a situation where we have to hand over the decision to someone else, it is handing over the decision to the data not someone else and there are a lot of disagreements regarding the data. Discussion continued regarding making a decision based on the levels or the Board coming together to make a decision. Ms. Lavallee spoke regarding masks being used as standard infection control practice. It does not significantly increase your CO2 using it. We can make all sort of assumptions, we don't know yet because the data has not been collected. Her opinion is masks help reduce spread of infection. The Corona Virus does not travel on its own; it attaches itself to droplets and is considered to be a droplet spread virus. Her opinion is that masks help reduce the instance of infection. She is confident as the data changes we may need to move back to masks and to say we have to revisit it every time is concerning and upsetting because the data about masks is, it does stop the

spread of infection; not 100% but it is a mitigating standard. Discussion continued including an earlier point had less to do with arguing the efficacy of masks and more to do with many facts out there and based on what you believe you will come up with conclusions. Superintendent confirms the plan was for the Board to give guidance and revisit it along the way at the same dates agreed upon in the plan from June. Superintendent reviewed what he has heard from the discussion to be, they don't want thresholds, (he agrees they are arbitrary), they don't want levels and remove remote language from across all levels unless the Governor says we are in a State of Emergency which is a different conversation. It was noted there was not discussion about elementary students. It was noted this is a district plan. Discussion was had regarding food services and it was questioned what are we doing. Principal Chenette spoke that she needs to have the direction relative to spacing. She doesn't want students eating at 10:30 in the morning. Superintendent questioned so far we have masks optional to start across all schools, is that right; no objection heard. No remote unless we have to go full remote. It was noted, so we want to have a choice about masks but no choice to keep them home with remote. It will be VLACS K-12. It was noted there has been discussion about thresholds and whether it is trigger a meeting or a response; we need to establish some criteria. At what number do we say we have to have a meeting to discuss moving to another phase? Superintendent spoke that it is difficult to tell the hospital rates as it includes places like Concord. It was noted to that point; it is difficult to get a handle on that because we interact with people in Manchester, Nashua, Concord, Keene and people travel to other states for various reasons. To be hyper-focused on local data is shortsighted. Superintendent reviews he welcomes not making the decision on his own. It is difficult to take a threshold and make a decision and not have a discussion with the community. Once you go down that road, it is hard to come back from that. We want to be sure we make it right. He reviews what he hears the Board wanting, no remote, masks optional, support families who want masks, lockers for grade 6, no levels but come together on a regular basis or emergency basis and make a decision. Ms. Lavallee expressed, we are not providing enough direction to the Superintendent. We need to look at the plan and decide what to change take out remote and offer VLACS. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke that this is something the families will do on their own or is the district obligated to help. They can call the state; we are not specifically involved in making the decision for families. Superintendent confirms VLACS has rolling admissions, some sign up in the middle of a quarter and they need to be engaged at some level. If they use VLACS, they are not considered our students. It was noted we don't want to lose our students. There was a brief discussion regarding VLACS and supporting students and not having teachers do dual platforms. It was suggested to see if there are ways to access ESSER funds to have additional resources. Superintendent will find out from the DOE if we get any "credit" for students taking VLACS but are still involved in school somehow. A brief discussion was had regarding changes to the plan.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. White to accept this draft with changes to take out remote, taking out the isolated quarantine section and adding Dept. of Public Health and revisit it on Sept. 28, 2021 for further discussion.**

Mr. Vanderhoof noted if you want to keep in the levels, it brings us right back to who makes the decision.

*Ms. Lavallee AMENDS her MOTION adding to make this the plan as deemed by the School Board to carry out and the School Board will revisit on Sept. 28, 2021, Mr. White SECONDED.**

Discussion continued. Ms. Lavallee confirmed take out remote and leaving in facemasks at level 2. Discussion was had there is concern and a need to wait until they have a document that is crystal clear and we can all read it, even if they don't have it before school starts. Discussion was had of what trips us to move to level 2. Superintendent noted it would be hard pressed to go to level 2 if the kids are in quarantine and we are monitoring for symptoms. Discussion was had that it is not clear how the matrix is working and if we have masks. Superintendent expressed he is hearing a motion when we get to level 2 we have mandatory masks but he is also hearing no masks unless the Governor says mandatory masks. He asks for some clarity on how to update the plan. He does not expect us to jump to level 2 in the next few days. Ms. Lavallee noted she is keeping her motion on the table. There needs to be a clear plan for parents. Mr. Vanderhoof is looking for clarity on the matrix and if the motion passes what that means for us. She went through the matrix by example. It was noted the examples are confusing. It was suggested to have a clear plan, as this is not. It was suggested to have a plan that was relevant. Ms. Lavallee went through the changes to the plan; under instructional model-Level 2-remove "remote option", we will not be providing that, under face coverings, cross out outdoor at all schools and add "outdoor optional", under isolate and quarantine take out that section and put in add "follow the recommendations of NH Dept. of Public Health". Mr. Post voiced concern with the plan. Discussion was had regarding the threshold for absenteeism; this is not clear. It was noted thresholds will be kept in until we meet again. Chairman checked for members online, none heard.

**Voting: four ayes; three nays from Mr. Post, Mr. Vanderhoof and Mr. Kofalt, (Chairman LoVerme voted to break the tie of 3-3) motion carried.*

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Darlene Anzalone spoke requesting lockers for students who play sports. Superintendent agrees we can find a place for their bags.

Ms. Lavoie comment that she appreciates what Ms. Lavallee was trying to do with having a plan in place but we are shooting ourselves in the foot. Not one person on the school board has referred to the new guidelines and not one administrator was on the call on the 11th that released the guidelines. She raised concern that it is not sufficient going into our 2nd year of COVID. She questioned how many actually reviewed it and why we are building a matrix based off of last year's DHHS guidance. She notes that includes counties, it also includes Hudson, Milford, Pelham and we are nothing like those communities; it makes no sense. She thanked them for eliminating the remote option. She suggests no less than 2 board members be on the call with DHHS. She adds it is disheartening that there was no reference to the new guidance. She understands we have to have mitigation, viruses are not new, we had flu and this is not any different. Kids are not at high risk, whom are we trying to protect. She spoke of her daycare facility and she does not mandate masks, no social distancing for 0-5 year olds; she works with DHHS. That is the guidelines they say to have; have someone work with them based on clusters, how many cases, and to look at your local community. There is a ton of information and none has been talked about. She is frustrated something has been voted on with old guidelines when new ones were put out and you voted to put it in place. She appreciates the intent but doesn't think it will get us to where we are trying to go.

Mr. MacFadzen expressed this meeting was chaotic. He questioned how much the NHSBA membership is and whom does it really benefit; why do we keep arguing about it. He raised concern of not understanding the whole "9-week" thing. He voiced his kids ate way to early last year, at 10:30am. He expressed being confused on what was just voted on. Is there a trigger that puts us at mandatory mask? Chairman LoVerme responded we won't know anything until school opens. Superintendent spoke according to the matrix we are using these data points. We are mask optional with low incident in school and substantial in community. Mr. MacFadzen responded I think we need to focus on data points of what is in school and wait for the State to determine mandatory masks. It doesn't make sense to make kids wear masks but when on the field they are not wearing them or at Market Basket. He asks why are we not waiting for the Governor to make that call for us. He also notes can we do something about the audio; we can't hear back here.

People online noted in the chat the audio was not good throughout the meeting. Attempts were made to reconcile this.

Ms. Petrone, WLCTA co-president thanked the Board for going back and forth and taking the time. She understands it is not easy. Teachers are legitimately making it happen and doing it day after day and seeing it, feeling it and watching the kids. She appreciates the plan whether in draft form or not. The back to school plan has other things that we as teachers need to know we are doing; air quality, hand washing and cleaning. The reason we stayed open last year was because we had a plan. Teachers like predictability and to know what is expected of us. She notes we appreciate we have guidance; there are other issues we have to pay attention to as well.

Mr. Allen thanked the Board for some good questions tonight; it is obvious you all care. Last year he personally felt they handed the administration and teachers a crap situation and they dealt with it the best way they could but it wasn't fair and they knocked it out of the park. He is disappointed that you as a school board couldn't hand the teachers and administrators a plan. You handed it off to Mr. Weaver and you owe it to the school, the teachers and to us as parents who elected you to make decisions to put together a plan. You have DHHS plan, they laid it out and you put together a plan based on arbitrary numbers and based on a 9-week plan. You don't even know what you voted on tonight. He appreciates and recognizes you have a hard job but please let's just settle this so we can start school in less than a week.

Ms. Manning commented this is like watching a tennis match. People are trying to follow what was taken out, and scratched out; can we read it so we know what was voted on.

Ms. Knight asked if a child tests positive and they were wearing a mask does it change anything regarding the contact tracing. Response, it will go to DHHS. She questioned why masks are mandatory on the bus and not in school. Response, it is a transportation mandate. She questioned if classrooms are able to provide the 3-foot minimum space in the classroom and should it be part of the guidelines. Response was that is when we would have to move furniture etc. around if we couldn't meet that.

Ms. Karen Nixon, Lyndeborough questioned if we do not have the 3-foot minimum, do we have any mitigation in place; we took masks off, no clear plan on sanitation etc. Response was this does have a long list of mitigations. The Board previously voted in June masks are optional but a number of other protocol items remained in place. It was noted the teachers didn't sound like there were. Response, we have air filters all around the schools, sanitation is in place, there are a lot of things that most of us would not object to. It was added the handwashing, cleaning protocols are in place, we try to do the 3-foot spacing in all instances and if not, due to class size, we may have to move them to another room. Ms. Nixon noted she read that Manchester has mandated masks with a parent opt out option. This gives another potential concept. She spoke of peer pressure with girls and boys and it is something to consider along with the having a mandate with an opt out option.

Ms. Sarah Chadzinski, Lyndeborough spoke that she appreciates the energy and work you put into all of this. One thing it is important to consider is community transmission. Our County is in substantial now, something to be aware of going into this week. The DHHS talks about how important masks are and for prevention. Science is changing and right now this is what we

have and we make decisions on what we have now what is the best we can do to protect our community and our children. Important preventable measures so we don't have to shut down; she is concerned about this. We are talking numbers in school and in the community. She taught school outside 5 days a week last year because she knows how important in person learning is. We are not in an isolated community; not everyone works or lives in this community. Mr. Weaver lives in Concord. These are things we need to keep in mind. Not everyone got the survey and she is concerned not everyone is represented. She knows a number of people who have watched this mask debate and watched the disrespect that has gone around about this. It is incredibly painful to watch this happening in our community and painful to see that we are not thinking of our children and the students who needs to be in school for food service, or special services. They need us to provide it for them. She hopes we consider this moving forward. She spoke of VLACS and keeping kids connected. VLACS requires the student has a device and an internet connection. She did a lot of tutoring with kids last year because they had a hard time with VLACS; what are we doing to support those kids. She is not here to represent just the 10%; we need to consider all our student body and what are we doing for that 10-20% because she didn't hear an answer to that.

Chairman called out to those online to ask if they wanted to comment.

Mr. Lavallee commented he believes an earlier comment was a violation of the first amendment.

Mr. Jeff Jones had spoken at the last meeting. He is concerned and does not feel safe sending his children to school that are unvaccinated at this time and will homeschool. He spoke of his neighbor who passed away from COVID, it went through that family, the wife, the younger daughter and people ask who are we trying to protect. We are trying to protect our community. We need to think about that. At the last meeting, there was a comment made by a school board member about somehow circumventing the mask rules on the bus and he wants the Board to know whether that was a joke or not he finds it disturbing that we will think about circumventing the rules that ask us to wear masks.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY

Superintendent reported this was discussed at the last meeting and according to the RSA, it the remaining school board members representing the same town or towns as the prior member are who vote to appoint. There are 4 candidates and 3 indicated they would attend and one is online. It was noted the "at large" members can vote to appoint. It was noted the district policy should be updated to reflect the RSA. The Chair thanked the candidates for stepping up and called upon Ms. Stephanie Kirsch who was present and introduced herself and answered questions. The Chair spoke about wanting to have the candidates coming in and speak and spoke about the time commitment as a board member. Ms. Lakisha Davidson was called upon with no reply. Mr. Dave Comley was called upon and was present, introduced himself and answered questions. Mr. Dennis Golding was called upon, was online, introduced himself (current budget committee member) and answered questions. Each candidate also spoke of what they felt they would bring to the Board as a member and why they want to serve.

Chair reported there are 3 nominees, members to nominate candidates. He asked for how many in favor of Stephanie Kirsch, no nomination was heard.

*Mr. Kofalt nominated Dave Comley to be appointed to the School Board; Mr. Mannarino seconded the nomination.**

*Mr. White nominated Dennis Golding to be appointed to the School Board; Ms. Lavallee seconded the nomination.***

**Voting; appointment of Dave Comley: one aye from Mr. Kofalt, nomination fails*

***Voting; appointment of Dennis Golding: three ayes from Mr. Mannarino, Ms. Lavallee, Mr. White, nomination passes.*

Chair thanked all the candidates and encouraged them to sign up for elections in March. He congratulated Mr. Golding on being appointed to the Board. Mr. Golding will need to be sworn in and notify the Budget Committee.

X. SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

The Board discussed the purpose of the workshop and possible dates. Concern was raised regarding the productivity of the workshop during this time and perhaps it should be done later. Superintendent noted his experience is these are done in the summer for a half or full day. It was decided September 7 will be a workshop for the group to meet and set an agenda and Mr. Post will put together possible topics. This meeting will be 2 hours without a facilitator. A brief discussion was had regarding the Board self-evaluation and if it should be incorporated or not. A workshop will be set up for October 5 with a set agenda, a facilitator and will be no more than 3 hours.

XI. POLICIES

Discussion was had regarding the "R" harassment policies (ACAA-R, ACAB-R). It was noted if section 2 is removed (unlawful discrimination/harassment complaint procedure), all complaints would then be required to go through the Title IX sexual

harassment complaint procedure; it will make it difficult at the building level because the process is so involved with many more steps than a standard complaint.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. White to accept policy ACAA Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students as written.**

A discussion was had regarding the word “equitable” in the first sentence of the “R” policies and what it means and if it should be changed to equal.

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

The discussion continued regarding the word “equitable” in the first sentence of the “R” policies. Chair asked the Board how many were in favor of keeping the word equitable. Votes tallied as 3 ayes, 3 nays (Mr. Kofalt, Mr. Post, Mr. Kofalt), Chairman LoVerme breaks the tie with an aye vote in favor. The word equitable will remain.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. White to accept policy ACAA-R Student Discrimination/Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complain Procedures as written.***

A discussion continued regarding the word “equitable” in the first sentence of the “R” policies. Ms. LaPlante as the HR/Title IX Coordinator provided her interpretation of it. Discussion continued. Suggested to use “fair and impartial”. It was noted the policy was written by Drummond and Woodsum Law Firm and recently updated. Superintendent expressed as an administrator, he would be OK with changing it to “fair and impartial”. He spoke that equal is very different than equitable and gave an example of two kids with one not understanding the act of discrimination, there is not an equal consequence in some circumstances. He does not recommend using equal. Chairman confirms keeping it as equitable.

***Voting: four ayes; three nays from Mr. Kofalt, Mr. Post, Mr. Vanderhoof, (Chairman LoVerme voted to break the tie at 3-3), motion carried.*

Confirmed, equitable stands. It was expressed if any members wanted to pull out one of the remaining policies to discuss or could they be voted on together. No objection heard.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. White to accept policies ACAB Harassment and Sexual Harassment of School Employees, ACAB-R Employee Discrimination/Harassment and Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures, AC Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity, as written.****

Mr. Vanderhoof requested to pull out policy ACAB-R as he will vote no to this policy and with it included in the motion, he would vote no on all of them. Ms. Lavallee confirms her motion stands.

****Voting: four ayes, two nays, one abstention from Chairman LoVerme, motion carried.*

Chairman asks if there is discussion on the DAF policies. None heard.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to accept policies DAF-1 Allowability, DAF-2 Cash Management and Fund Control, DAF-3 Procurement, DAF-10 Grant Budget Reconciliation, as written.

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

XII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Mr. White to approve the minutes of August 10, 2021 as written.

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

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to approve the nonpublic minutes of August 10, 2021 as written.

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

XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Policy Committee

Ms. Lavallee gave an update on the committee’s work. There are a number of policies that will be submitted at the next meeting. It was noted the policy for appointing someone to a vacant board member seat needs to be updated to follow the RSA. She reported Ms. Fowler provided her with a master list of policies. Each committee member will go through this taking about 5 policies at a time and reviewing each and reporting back to the committee. Any suggested changes will be reviewed, revise, debated and be sent to the Board, if no changes we will add the revision date to the policy. Some of the policies that are indicated

with an “R” (not all) are procedural, or forms and do not require a Board vote; she will let the Board know if they will be discussing those. She will have policies for the board packet at the Sept. 14 meeting.

ii. Budget Liaison

Mr. Vanderhoof reported the budget committee met on Aug. 17 and had a meet and greet with the Superintendent and Business Administrator. Discussion was had regarding how the last couple of years went, format, and how they want it and what they want to see so that they can create Pivot Tables. They discussed whether they want percentages to be set. There was a lot of review and discussion. Everyone seemed happy to have Ms. LaPlante onboard. There was not a lot of discussion on setting any goals for the upcoming budget season other than the reporting piece. Chairman LoVerme brought up the idea of having just one joint budget meeting a month, nothing else on the agenda and have everyone prepared with all the information that may be needed to help facilitate the process. It was noted with the subcommittee meetings monthly it is a lot. Discussion was had regarding the concept including concern of regular business only happening once a month for the Board. Ms. LaPlante voiced she has it all laid out. She has concern especially with the number of new staff and administration; this is new to everyone. She values the concept although is also concerned with providing timely information but will support whatever is decided. It was suggested to keep the agenda shorter on days of the joint meetings. It was noted that it would be prudent when the packets are sent out, to send any questions to the Superintendent so there is time to get the answers out and time for that to be digested before the meeting. There was no action taken to change the meetings.

XIV. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES

- a. FYI New hire Jacklyn Bird-LCS Custodian**
- b. FYI New Hire-Patricia Avron-LCS Paraprofessional**
- c. Resignation-Anne Setaro-WLC Paraprofessional**
 - Resignation-Kassie Deschenes-Paraprofessional
 - FYI New Hire-Stephanie Barber-Food Service
 - FYI New Hire-Tammy Smith-Food Service
 - FYI New Hire-Donna Garnham-Food Service
 - FYI New Hire-Tanya Dean-WLC SPED Paraprofessional
 - FYI New Hire-Shawn Boyce-WLC SPED Paraprofessional

Superintendent reviewed the new hires and resignations. He reviewed nominations for Judi Wing, FRES Title 1 Tutor and Gisele Dailey FRES, SPED Case Manager.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Post and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to accept the nomination of Judi Wing and Gisele Dailey.

Discussion moved to nonpublic.

Mr. Post WITHDREW his MOTION.

• NEW SPED LEGISLATION

Mr. Post spoke of challenges with students coming in with special needs and budget crunches. The Governor signed a bill, SB 147 allowing school districts to join with other districts and create risk pools. He reviewed the bill and just wants everyone to be aware of it. Mr. Kofalt spoke regarding a similar bill, which has been a hot issue because the state was not putting up its share. He reviewed issue he sees with it. He believes the risk pool would emerge from something similar to the local government center, instead of putting money in a rainy day fund you are providing insurance and like all insurances it could protect you from catastrophe or it could raise everyone’s cost. He voted for it but he tends to lean against doing it. Risk pooling causes expenditures to go up. Mr. Post will share the information with the Board. Mr. Pratt reported we did not have a lot of SPED aid from last year. He and Ms. Post spoke about another type of program; when a district budgets for SPED out of district, that year the money falls to the district they are in. We spoke of having a conversation at the state level. He sees this provision being great for situations (for example) if a student moves from Michigan to us and the IEP has a component in it we would have to pay that and he sees it having the most value there. Mr. Post added if someone started in Milford (for example) they would budget that cost and that would follow them for the first year if they moved here. At least you would have some stability in the budget. Mr. Pratt added with the budget being so early here it may benefit us.

XV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Lavoie spoke regarding her last comments. She knows the Board is not required to answer it but she is curious if anyone did read through this plan (Ms. Lavallee and Mr. Kofalt raised their hands) regarding reviewing the guidance documents. If anyone read through and familiarized themselves with it. She expressed her comment is the Board needs to do better. The primary part of this meeting was COVID, the state put out guidelines. She sent the link to the whole board and the Superintendent 2 hours after the meeting so you had time. You owe the community and the students to do better. She recommends to the Board having 2 members on the call, it is live with Dr. Chan and they will give you clarification on the call.

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

Mr. Brian Krot spoke that he is not a resident from Lyndeborough or Wilton but asked if the Board would let him speak as a former employee of WLC. No objection heard. He thanked the towns of WLC; he served as a social studies teacher. He submitted his resignation yesterday to the Superintendent as he has an opportunity to teach in CT, which allow him to cut down his travel time. He thanked the Board for his employment and hopes he is leaving WLC in a better spot.

Mr. Lavallee asked if the Board would talk to Ms. Leslie Browne or Mr. Jeff Jones about the budget committee opening. Chairman LoVerme responded he will get their input.

XVI. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Mannarino suggested on Sept. 28 meeting to invite teachers from each school to give their input on how things are going so far.

Mr. Vanderhoof expressed that he agrees we need to do better. He didn't read through it but lives with someone who is intimately familiar with it, is on those calls and he has heard/discussed a lot about it. He thanked everyone for coming out. He notes as you hear there was a lot of, "if you reach out to us, we will make it work". It seems for some of this to come to a head, parents have to reach out. You have to call and say I want my kid to have a locker. That will put the issue to the forefront. He wishes he had time to read everything but there are other committees and there is a lot of material. He does think we can do better but there is a lot of work put into it. He adds advocate for your kids and your opinion and keep coming.

A member of the public expressed we elected you, if you can't handle the commitment step down. It is unacceptable. Mr. Vanderhoof wanted to address the comments. Chairman LoVerme stopped the exchange, as this is not public comment.

Ms. Lavallee thanked the WLCTA for coming out and making the comments in the beginning; she loves to see the teachers here and the public show up. We have many other important issues throughout the year and wants to see more parents and community showing up to give their opinion. In regard to the plan, she felt we needed to take action but wanted to be clear that her opinion will change and what she is recommending tonight does not necessarily mean she will feel the same way later. She feels strongly especially as a healthcare worker, and uses that knowledge to guide her and at the end of the day, she needs to know she made the best conscientious choice she can make. She knows not all are happy with it but it is not written in stone; and we will be reviewing it per our schedule and the next one is Sept. 28.

Mr. Post spoke that he takes Alyssa feedback to heart. He did look at it and didn't think it would pass tonight, doesn't think it should; it was a narrow win. The Chair had to break the tie. He thinks it is a bad plan; it's not a good action. He will probably make a motion at the next meeting to rescind it. He adds during the week, Dr. Chan's meetings are in the afternoon, it is difficult as he has a job. He thanked all for coming in and speaking. This is a tough issue and without you here, we would have made it in an echo chamber. The survey was also very helpful. Despite what we heard tonight, there are a lot of stakeholders we are responsible for, students, community leaders, staff, teachers, executive team and it is a balance keeping it all in place. This isn't easy and thinks we are doing the best we can.

Chairman LoVerme thanked all for coming out and being online. Whether you believe, what they have to say or not, he listens to everyone and takes notes. He put in a lot of hours on this. He doesn't use his own job as an excuse because he sits up at night and looks at this. He notes he did have to stop an outburst and he is sorry for that. He wishes your children the best next week on the 30th. For some of the kids it has been 17 months since they stepped in school. Some didn't see their friends, didn't sit down at a lunch table and have that hot meal. This is one place some kids get a hot meal and one place they don't get yelled at. We are not all going to agree on things, everything is a work in progress.

Ms. Lavallee welcomed Mr. Golding to the School Board and thanked Ms. Kirsch and Mr. Comley for coming out tonight, it is temporary and throw your hat in the election.

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

A MOTION was made by Mr. White 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 10:35pm.

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

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 11:27pm.

A MOTION was made to accept the resignation of Jane Lehto, with 30 days' notice, by Mr. Post and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee.

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

597
598 *A MOTION was made to appoint Gisele Dailey as SPED Case Manager/Teacher at FRES, by Mr. Post and SECONDED by Mr.*
599 *White.*

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

601
602 **XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

603 *A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to adjourn the Board meeting at 11:32pm.*

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

605
606 *Respectfully submitted,*

607 *Kristina Fowler*

608