

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 24, 2023
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School
6:30 p.m.**

The videoconferencing link was published several places including on the meeting agenda.

Present: *Jim Kofalt, Brianne Lavalley, Alex LoVerme (online then present 7:12pm), Dennis Golding, Matt Mannarino (6:37pm), Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral, Charlie Post, Geoffrey Allen, and Darlene Anzalone*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principal Sarah Edmunds and Associate Principal Bridgette Fuller, Assistant Principal Katie Gosselin, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, Technology Director Nicholas Buroker, Curriculum Coordinator Samantha Dignan, and Clerk Kristina Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kofalt called the meeting to order at 6:36pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. APPOINTMENT OF NEW BOARD MEMBER FOR LYNDEBOROUGH

Chairman Kofalt welcomed new board member Geoffrey Allen who was sworn in by School District Moderator Walter Holland on January 17, 2023. (Appointment took place at Lyndeborough Town Hall January 13, 2023 by Lyndeborough representatives.)

IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

A MOTION was made by Mr. Golding and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to remove policy IJL0-Library Materials from the agenda.

A question was raised if there is anything new regarding this topic; can we come to an agreement on this before we spend another meeting on it. Mr. Post spoke that there would be a proposal to remove a section and references; it will be a relatively brief discussion. Mr. Post was asked to provide more specifics that he would like to discuss. Mr. Post would like to remove the legal and professional obligations; the policy needs to be "cleaned up" a little bit. He thought there had been an agreement to add the date it was published and he questioned what the law is we want to reference regarding the legal obligation. He added it references professional obligation, what is that, it does not define this. He notes the American Library Association is an advocacy group. Mr. LoVerme spoke that this was voted on back in June. Everyone had the opportunity to bring all this up in June. We can't keep bringing up this policy it is the 6th time. Bring it up next June when we have had the opportunity to go through all the policies. It is time to put this to bed and move on. Ms. Anzalone spoke that she thinks during the meeting when a certain book came up it showed the community had concerns. People have said there are books we would all agree that would not be OK for the school library. She asked what constitutes what is not appropriate book in the school library. Ms. Lavalley spoke that if there were any changes being proposed tonight that we were supposed to include it in the packet so that the public has an idea of what the changes are. When we bring forward a policy from the Policy Committee, we make sure that any proposed changes are indicated on that policy so people can educate themselves for the meeting and can speak to it at the meeting. She noted when we discussed it in the policy committee we tried to keep the process separate from the policy. The process is being worked on; we did get a partial update via the Principal's Report. She knows there are valid concerns but to revisit the policy in her opinion is not appropriate at this time. The policy was discussed at 4 different meetings, we had ample time to make the changes and the majority of the Board voted. The items Mr. Post brought up we did discuss, the legal reference and Library Association and adding the date. We originally had the date in there and it was requested to remove the date which it was. She advises anyone who has questions to go back and read the meeting minutes from those meetings beginning in April of last year. Mr. Post questioned Ms. Lavalley that she mentioned he had to put supporting documents to add it to the agenda, he asked where it says that in policy. Ms. Lavalley reviewed the policy reading, "the final vote to adopt or not adopt should follow at least 2 weeks from the meeting which policy proposals are first placed on the agenda, #3 Policies and Amendments -adopted by the Board shall be attached to that and made part of the minutes of the meeting. Ms. Anzalone noted this time it was a member of the public who wanted it on the agenda. Chairman Kofalt noted it was on the agenda because a board member asked for it to be on the agenda at the last meeting. If the public wants to speak to it during public comment it would be appropriate to do so at that time. He asked for any further discussion, none heard.

Voting: roll call vote, five ayes, and three nays from Ms. Anzalone, Mr. Post and Mr. Allen.

Ms. Lavalley requested to add a Policy Committee update in action items as we are adding a member to the committee, replacing Mr. Vanderhoof.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to add Policy Committee membership under action items.

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

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read. Chairman Kofalt expressed since we may have more public comment than usual we will apply a time limit up front so that everyone is treated equally. The policy states it is 3 minutes per person.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Golding SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino in accordance of RSA 189:74 to adjust the public comment from 3 minutes to 5 minutes and have at least 30 minutes of public comment.

Voting: eight ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Don Rankin, Wilton, addressed the library policy. He wants to propose a policy and procedure that he believes will address the concerns of individual parents who would like to supervise the content of materials their child can read at the WLC library. He believes if implemented it will provide parents with concerns an avenue to be involved in and in charge of the selection process. At the same time, allowing parents who are comfortable with the library to give their children the freedom to access the knowledge, information and life experience contained within the books. A copy of his proposal is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Bill Ryan, Lyndeborough, thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them tonight. He spoke of concern at the last board meeting regarding board member behavior and spoke of the appointment of a new board member. A copy of his full comments are attached to these minutes.

Mr. Jonathan Vanderhoof, Lyndeborough, spoke regarding policy IJL and questioned how a parent would go about asking for it to be reformed in a way the Board would actually consider those concerns and take them seriously. How would somebody make a request like that when they have not asked for anything to be banned or more reviews simply asking for more information in accordance to the policy that says it is up to the parents to make the decision. How are parents going to make that decision if the information they need is not provided and if it is not in the policy how will that information be provided. It has been now 2 different proposals for improvement for the policy and it doesn't seem like it is going away. This is the 3rd meeting where it has been asked to be discussed and the 3rd meeting that it has been refused to be discussed and taken out, how does someone go about actually communicating that it is important to them or in a way to get it discussed and their proposals on the table for discussion. Chairman Kofalt noted this is public comment, not a back and forth debate but he does want to give him an answer. Communicating that at a board meeting or via email is entirely appropriate. He understands Mr. Vanderhoof is asking for a listing of newly acquired books to be posted on the library website and that has been implemented. He explained where to find this list, on the WLC library page there is a new books section at this time. Right now, it says new books for January. His expectation is that it is updated monthly. It doesn't show the entire year, which is what he believes Mr. Vanderhoof, was proposing. Mr. Vanderhoof questioned if that is a complete list of all books purchased for the library. Mr. Vanderhoof noted there are 8-12 books maybe on there. He looked through them and asks why can't that be implemented on a yearly basis so it is less of a struggle for a parent to keep up if you are going to rotate it every month vs. going on and seeing what was purchased so that he doesn't have to worry that anyone is being nefarious. If it is in a policy, at least I can have an assumption the policy is being followed. Chairman Kofalt noted that is a reasonable request and can be followed up on. Mr. Vanderhoof noted it is the 3rd time requested for the same proposal and 3rd time the Board ignored it.

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

Ms. Mary Golding, Wilton commented that she was extremely disgusted by the school board officials at the last meeting. She agrees those members should resign. We are not Wilton OR Lyndeborough; we are Wilton AND Lyndeborough Cooperative School District. The board members need to be working together to tackle the important issues we have as a district. She thanked who ever took off policy IJL from the agenda, it has been discussed publicly, privately and you get the same result, she feels when you keep putting it back on and it is wasting time. It is also the definition of insanity if you think you will get a different result, again and again and again. As elected board members, you are supposed to represent all of the children. If you have a personal agenda or religious agenda, you may not be fit to be on the Board in her opinion. She welcomed Geoffrey Allen although doesn't agree with how he was voted in but she is not a Lyndeborough person, she is a Wilton person, she is a community member period and you represent all the children of the district. Welcome aboard. In March, there is a vote coming up and we all have a say whether we want to keep these board members on or perhaps bring on some new members like Mr. Ryan who did not get a chance to have a seat.

There was no objection to move to the joint meeting session and returned to correspondence when that ended.

VI. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Business Administrator's Report

Ms. LaPlante spoke of it being an unbelievably full 2 months and with that, there is still a strong effort to move things forward. We have talked about the CIP at length and the maintenance document that is now pushed into the budget. The auditors were in and we have a follow up meeting this Thursday to check where things are. After the recent tragedy in the community she made outreach to administration to talk about if we had children in the buildings what are our emergency plans and what are the outliers we hope to never happen but have to plan for. The documents we have are great but let's make sure they are truly feasible. She attended ALICE "train the trainer" training and thanked the Board for that. She spoke of the departure of the Food Service Director and that we had an audit done to make sure free and reduced coming out of COVID meets the guidelines. In looking at that and vetting those, there are some inconsistencies; the goal is not to point fingers but what can we do right and making sure we are feeding children. She wants to make sure you know this is a confidential process and making sure families who need assistance get it. We are looking through every application and making sure it is done with equity. Mr. Mercier, Food Service Director resigned January 9 and we have a Food Service Director who was retiring but agreed to help us out for 10-12 hours a week. She is looking at efficiencies and reorganizing some things, the day-to-day things and making sure things will run in a cost effective and efficient manner. Our goal is our kids are eating and we meet the guidelines for the National School Lunch Program. She informed the group the kitchen floor repair was not completed due to staff illness. It will depend on if we are inundated with more snow but it will be fixed but delayed. She informed the group we lost power yesterday for an extended period of time as well as several times this year. We don't have a generator at WLC; it is not used for an emergency shelter. We do have assets should we lose them it would be costly. She reached out to the Wilton Emergency Management Director about getting some answers on putting us on the top of list to have our power restored or getting us a generator. She thanked him tonight for helping us get power back to WLC.

ii. Director of Student Support Services Report

Mr. Pratt reviewed working with behavioral supports; the Superintendent and Board had offered help with ESSER funds which has been put into place. The additional services have been welcomed for a variety of reasons. He met with the contracted service staff and school psychologist. We talked about what we are seeing, there are some concerns and challenges, and it is really becoming apparent there is a need for a more formalized approach. We have students showing long-term and short-term needs. To complicate the matter, many times these students cannot get outside help and the waiting time is 6 months in some cases. He is not saying we need to take on the world's problems but we need to address it, students are with us for 7 hours a day. We are seeing really depressed kids, withdrawing, work refusal and wanting to go home. We are seeing this across all grade levels. To complicate the matter further in the past we were able to turn to some of the other partners to get support or give us ideas for help. They have said they can't get help in their own programs. All this comes down to is we need to address these needs. In February, we will be discussing things with guidance staff regarding some things we can do. We wanted to let you know how serious we are looking at the situation. A question was raised if most of these students have behavior modifications in place or need to be sat down with the guardians and services to come up with a plan. Mr. Pratt responded yes, all of those. Ms. Lavallee noted she is happy to hear this is being addressed. In the Policy Committee meetings, we talked about the law changes in how we facilitate teaching children and how to function in society and recognizing the unique needs. She agrees with Mr. Pratt the space is getting more and more limited.

iii. Director of Technology's Report

Mr. Buroker reported that January was our slow month with 77 tickets, decreased from the previous 30 days, with 9 still open and an average close time of 3 days. He notes it is not our busy season. In terms of projects, it has been busy; he has met with Motorola and Verkada about access control for the buildings. We had a few power outages, which is terrifying if you work with electronics. We kept it all up and running. The project he planned to do over break did not happen. It would not fit in the window of time he wanted and takes full responsibility for it and plans to do it spring break. A question was raised if there is a backup battery. Mr. Buroker responded yes but it is rated for 15 minutes and for example the power outage at Christmas time lasted 4 days and yesterdays was 9am to 10pm. A generator would be the way to go. You could do it with a TESLA Powerwall but would need one for every building and the cost would be similar to a generator anyway. He confirms that typically an outage would last more than 15 minutes. He confirms it was designed to have time to take precautions although if it happens at 1am it would not give him enough time. He gave examples of what would go down during an outage, VPM controller, lose the ability to log in to windows machines, wireless authentication, a handful of file shares for student services and the backup servers for all the servers and a handful of other things.

iv. Request for Agenda Items

Chairman Kofalt reviewed we had a request that the request for agenda items be part of the board correspondence. He does not believe there is a need for discussion. Mr. Post asked for this to be explained. Chairman Kofalt reviewed he did not recall the sequence of events but there was a request for items to be added to the agenda and that a board member requested that be included in the minutes. Mr. LoVerme added it is considered a quorum of the board and becomes a meeting and should be included in the minutes. Chairman Kofalt noted what constitutes that is a deliberation although doesn't not think there is an issue including it.

v. Letters of Interest /Board Vacancy

Chairman Kofalt reviewed we had 2 letters of intent; (Mr. Bill Ryan and Mr. Geoffrey Allen) members have all seen those as part of the Board Packet. He does not believe any discussion is required if any discussion is needed, now is the time. Mr. LoVerme

expressed he think it is unfair it took place and should have waited for ample time. He does not think it should have just been posted on the town website. He feels the Lyndeborough members have a duty to give everyone time. It was confirmed it was posted on our website saying you had until the 17th to indicate interest. Mr. Post expressed we asked for this, it was turned down 4 times. The Secretary of State said it was not a school issue; it was the Town of Lyndeborough to do the appointment. As far as the applications, it was put up on the website on Wednesday and I told the Superintendent on Thursday to take it down because we were doing it ourselves. I don't know why it stayed up until Tuesday. Hopefully that is the end of this matter.

VII. 7:00PM JOINT BOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION

Present: *Jeff Jones, Leslie Browne, Bill Ryan, Lisa Post, and Caitlin Maki*

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 7:06pm. He noted the Budget Committee did not have a quorum for their 6:30pm meeting and will recess to meet after the joint session. Public can join online or in person, the link is on the website.

a. FY 2023-2024 Budget

i. Kitchen Equipment Presentation

Ms. LaPlante informed the group we are not prepared with the kitchen equipment presentation tonight. We are fortunate to get a donation of a tilt skillet and oven and only paid \$2,000 for those items. We will need to replace our 6-burner stove, as there is only one burner working. She confirms due to timing, she does not think she will have a recommendation for this budget, she thinks it will need to be a funding recommendation for FY 25. She will be reaching out to see if we can get one at a reduced price. A question was raised if there is an opportunity to fund that in the budget now as it is likely the burner could fail. Ms. LaPlante confirms we are not waiting for it to fail it is an active process. As far as CIP funds, the Facilities Committee will have to discuss that but the School Board are the agents to spend that so there are options. She is hoping to get one at cost. Superintendent confirms our goal was to have the warrants finalized tonight. A suggestion was made if we could use unexpended funds from this year for the kitchen equipment. Ms. LaPlante responded it is a great question for the School Board. She confirms she does not have a quote for one. Chairman Kofalt suggested we craft a warrant with our best guess number on cost, it is something that could be amended on the floor at district meeting or could tell the voters we don't need it after all and presumable they would vote it down. He spoke of concern that the kitchen is so antiquated and so much needs replacing, the idea of being down to a single burner at this point is not OK. He suggests that is something the Board may want to consider and once we have a number on it we could then decide if we want to use unexpended fund on it. Since we don't have that tonight, we may want to craft warrant to reserve those funds and change it later if we need to. It was noted if it they vote it down we wouldn't be able to buy a stove. It was asked when the kitchen equipment is brought forth could a YTD also be included on what we have not spent this year. Ms. LaPlante will provide this. She confirms we will explore repairing it and is outreaching to a possible donor to see if we can talk specifics on cost. Chairman Jones voiced frustration about it. Mr. LoVerme noted he has brought it up before and every time he mentioned it or talked about the kitchen, it was not explored. He believes it could be about \$7,000 and notes we have gone through so many people in the kitchen, because it has not been a priority. We need to fix it and can't wait until next year. Ms. LaPlante will work to have the cost at the next meeting to hopefully fund it out of this year's budget. A question was raised if we could have a couple of options. Ms. LaPlante replied no but for other equipment we will. She confirmed it would be replacement equipment. Her intent is to bring the kitchen to you and show you what it looks like. She needs to vet the plan that the Food Service Director did, he resigned on the 9th and she is doing her best with these added responsibilities.

ii. Prior Follow Up

iii. Final Draft Presentation

Chairman Jones expressed the Budget Committee is looking for guidance from the School Board on the nursing situation from LCS. Ms. Lavalley voiced we originally discussed this 2 meetings ago and her interpretation from the Budget Committee is the Board made a decision, she reread the minutes and we had not made a decision, and wanted to have that discussion tonight. She has shared her thoughts with the Superintendent, it is not that she doesn't support the reduction but has concerns. At LCS, we are lacking school counseling; we do not have a regular principal and notes Ms. LeBlanc is fabulous but has many duties in her role in the front office. Who is going to be give medications or first aid? She thinks it is a decision to explore but there needs to be a clear path on to reach it. She has heard from parents there are concerns and apprehension. If we had more information to provide people, they may feel better about it. Her concern is who will cover the duties if there is not a nurse onsite. She agrees the caseload is small, she has worked in other districts and all of our schools; at LCS, there are the fewest number of patients but notes as a substitute, she does not do the full range of the nursing duties. Who would be doing this and how will they be compensated. When working in the other schools she doesn't have extra time her day. Mr. Post spoke that it is another decision we are not making and kicking the can down the road. Chairman Jones voiced it is a decision to put it in the budget or not, if another decision is made down the road we don't have to spend it. The committee is looking to see how the Board feels about it. Mr. Post expressed he would take the Superintendents recommendation. Superintendent responded this is not a decision we take lightly and not something we have worked out all the details such as who will administer medications. We are trying to figure out how to get this budget passed. He thinks a district with 600 kids and 3 nurses is too many. We will have a lead nurse completing the administrative end of things, provide training, have staff trained in CPR but we can't say we would have a nurse in the building for 7 hours a day. He talked with an owner of a preschool who has more students than LCS (with no nurse). Not all districts can have one some cannot afford it. It is a difficult decision that we have to make as a district. He questioned if we have the discussion of shifting kindergarten to FRES in 2 years, we have 3 buildings we need to provide services for. He notes there are redundant services. We have a nurse we are paying for who only sees 1-3 students on average a day unless there is a cold or flu outbreak. He notes he is prepared to have the discussion of combining facilities after the budget cycle. His opinion is we can

make it work without the nurse at LCS but will implement any decision that is made. Discussion was had, including an example of a child having severe peanut/nut allergies, we want to take care of our kids that is what we are here for and want parents to feel comfortable that we will get their child home the way they came to school. Some board members expressed not being comfortable reducing the nurse position at LCS at least until they see a detailed plan when it comes to emergencies, the past history of emergencies and the response to those and what it would look like without a nurse in the building. Another member expressed they don't know the past history and it only takes one incident of not reacting in time; some emergencies are time sensitive. Another member doesn't feel without seeing a viable plan that shows we don't need a nurse that it can't be approved. Chairman Jones asked the Budget Committee if they wanted to keep the funding in the budget or not.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Ryan and SECONDED by Ms. Maki to keep the funding of \$52,000 for the LCS School Nurse in the proposed budget.

Voting: via roll call vote, three ayes; one nay from Ms. Post, one abstention from Chairman Jones, motion carried.

Chairman Jones voiced that Ms. Bernet was looking for information on the reduction of a teacher at WLC. Superintendent reported that after looking at the number they have decided a science position at the HS is the right position to remove based on students taking those electives, teaching 5 elective courses no core classes. We believe we can cover those courses with the staff we have. The Principals at WLC agree with this and we can provide the number of students in those classes if needed. A question was raised what the cost savings would be by removing that position. Superintendent responded \$85,000. It was confirmed the cost is currently in the budget, the (last page) bottom of the budget sheet shows what the reduction would be (\$85,000).

A MOTION was made by Ms. Post and SECONDED by Ms. Browne to remove the \$85,000 from the proposed budget.

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

Ms. LaPlante reported we have 2 boilers that need replacing and 2 pressure tanks. She does not have a firm number for cost. She put it through ESSER to see if it would be OK to fund it that way. The delay on the cost is they have to add the work for the pressure tanks which we didn't plan on but will have that before the public hearing. The boiler cost is on line 384, \$100,000. She confirms we have one already in ESSER, one in the budget and one that will be requested tonight for ESSER. She confirms we do not have the efficiency savings, as the vendor will not be able to provide this due to the age of the existing boilers. She confirms one boiler is behind the other and need to be done at the same time otherwise; financially it doesn't make sense to do them at the same time. She reviewed funding through the CIP had been \$85,000 for 2 boilers but that funding was never updated. Discussion was had regarding there is still a fair amount of ESSER money to use, there is money earmarked for learning loss which is valuable. Chairman Jones suggests the Board consider funding both boilers through ESSER; he is concerned about where the budget is now. Ms. LaPlante confirms the increase to the budget is at 5.84%. Chairman Jones clarifies he is asking for all 3 boilers to be covered under ESSER funding. Ms. LaPlante confirms the avenue for that does exist through ESSER and confirms it will bring our ESSER funding down to \$105,000, this her only caution. She notes we were able to fund 1 ESSER Interventionist for half the year and ideally would want to continue that if possible. Chairman Jones feels we have the funds; we need to be smart using those funds and would still have \$105,000 to spend on learning loss although this is a Board decision. Ms. LaPlante confirms we are required to spend \$138,800 on learning loss, through June of this year we will have spent \$72,377, which leaves us with \$64,423 before this evening's asks. If the ESSER requests were approved tonight, we would use another \$47,000 and leaves us with about \$17,423 to spend on learning loss. She confirms we can use the full \$105,000 on learning loss if the Board chooses. The original ask for the ESSER Interventionist was for \$85,000, which is for full time and includes health insurance. A question was raised if there were funds earmarked for the boilers. She confirms in the CIP approved by voters in March 22 for FY23 funding, there was \$35,000 set aside for one boiler, and the intent was to do that in FY 24. All along 2 boilers were discussed and in March 22 on the CIP, it went down to 1 boiler for \$35,000. In the past, it had always been 2 boilers with \$70,000 with the intent to replace them this fiscal year. It was noted theoretically we should have \$70,000. Ms. LaPlante is hesitant regarding that because she does not know why it was reduced from 2 to 1 and with only \$35,000 as being the basis of funding that the voters approved in March. She confirms she does not know the cost of the extra tank; we will have to do some additional piping as well. Discussion was had including there is a shortage of material which could delay it anyway, and ways to fund the 2 boilers including funding 1 through ESSER, using the \$35,000 from the CIP and \$65,000 from the budget (instead of the \$100,000). Ms. LaPlante does not if they will allow for split funding. It was noted one of those is not funded through ESSER; it is CIP funds and operating budget. Discussion also included some liking the idea of paying for all through ESSER and some wanting to be cognizant of funding for learning loss to bridge the gap until things are more normalized and it can always be spent later. Ms. LaPlante confirms the funds have to be spent by September 2024. Ms. Post suggested regarding funding for the ESSER Interventionist that the DOE has a program to help with this. Ms. LaPlante notes she did not get the impression that there was funding for a full time teacher which is what we wanted however we did not get the candidates and could only provide it for the remainder of the year. Ms. LaPlante would like to explore that if the state has funding for a full time position outside of ESSER. Ms. Post will check on this. Discussion continued on ways to fund the boilers. Chairman Kofalt expressed we have been very judicious on how we spend ESSER funding. There was discussion (previously) on should we spend all of it now or spread that out and be very careful. We were pretty unanimous on being very judicious on how to use it. His concern is September 2024 comes around, we still have a lot to spend, and we have things that we absolutely need to spend funds on now. He is in favor of funding it all from ESSER. A question was raised if we can use the funds for the kitchen equipment. Ms. LaPlante felt it would be a hard sell. Mr. Ryan reminded the group that we had to give free meals and thinks it should be considered. Discussion was had that the

logic behind the boiler reaching its end of life is the same for the kitchen equipment there was more need put on the equipment, which shortened the life. Ms. LaPlante will look into this and will have answer next meeting.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Browne and SECONDED by Mr. Ryan to reduce \$100,000 from the proposed budget and fund the 2 boilers through ESSER.

Ms. LaPlante confirms that would bring the budget percent increase to 5.08%, which includes removing the funding for the science position, and assuming we are reducing \$37,000 for IXL and Instructional Pathways. She confirms IXL and Instructional Pathways are things that would be approved through ESSER. Chairman Kofalt called point of order to get a sense from the Board if there is support to fund the boilers from ESSER or not in order to provide direction to the Budget Committee. This can be done by consensus. In support is, Ms. Lavallee, Mr. Mannarino, Ms. Anzalone, Ms. Cloutier-Cabral, Mr. Post and Chairman Kofalt and Mr. Allen, not in support is Mr. LoVerme and Mr. Golding

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

Ms. LaPlante reviews, we will reduce the proposed budget by \$85,000 (science position) and \$100,000 (boiler), the percent increase to the proposed budget is 5.08. She reminds the group of the track, the estimate is \$26,000 and it is not in the proposed budget. Discussion was had regarding the track. Ms. Browne spoke that going into this she felt it should be funded. The school built it and it was not taken care of, the current state is unusable for gym class or track meets and seemed like a decent investment but we have slowly worked our budget up and are asking a lot from the taxpayers to get through the basic things we need. She brought up the tennis courts and wanted to know thoughts on this. Again, equipment we didn't take care and is need of repair, we need to stop kicking this stuff down the road. Discussion was had including it had been decided to put the tennis courts back to the voters on a warrant, concern is if it doesn't pass it is another spring sport we don't have, and if the track and tennis courts were brought up to par would these programs grow. Ms. Lavallee expressed not being comfortable not maintaining them. Principal Edmunds spoke we have a decent size track team and believes doing the work would allow us to host meets and would increase the interest. Most of our spring sports are baseball and softball but those who do not do that gravitate toward those do track. Ms. Post reminded the group the situation with the bathrooms/locker rooms is something we need to look at first when other teams come here to play. She questioned if we have those funds. Ms. LaPlante believes it is in the CIP maintenance plan. Principal Edmunds confirms we have only 1 bathroom closed which the "tech ed class" is working on repainting it and becoming part of the improvement process. The locker rooms are old and in disrepair, when it is like this more kids are disrespectful but for the most part, they do respect them, fixing them would be helpful for athletics. Ms. Post questioned, do we repair the fields first, track first or is the bathrooms the first step to making people feel more comfortable and we could use a maintenance plan like we started this year for the track to keep in good condition. Superintendent spoke about the locker rooms noting it is a comprehensive task and will take some time to understand what we need and what the cost is. He also brought up that we have not spoken about the repairs needed at LCS, which is an immediate need. We have so many things we need all at one time. He supports the track. It was confirmed if adding in the track (\$26,000) the proposed percent increase on the budget would be 5.28. He also noted we need to do work on the cross-country track too. He would support the track if we can afford it and it will include some irrigation. He suggested a having small group to examine things like the locker rooms and then report to the Board with details. He adds our goal for the budget was 5% and with the track, we are a little over but feels it is still a workable number. Discussion was had how confident we are with the estimate of \$26,000 for the track. Ms. Browne reviewed we got 2 different quotes with similar numbers and work to be done, she is confident in that. Ms. LaPlante spoke of concern that the estimate of \$26,400 includes additional parking and roadway improvements; she wants a firm plan and in the absence of a defined plan is this the best way to spend the money noting no disrespect to Ms. Browne. Discussion was had including would it be better to hold off on the parking. Ms. LaPlante noted if we did, that would change the numbers in front of us and since there is no consistency for what we are asking, the numbers are not solid. It was not a formal process to explain what we are looking for. Ms. Browne responded Chris Carter priced it with more road repairs, parking at the top of the hill and clearing some brush. Mr. Post noted we lumped it in with the tennis courts, which is at the end of its useful life as opposed to deferred maintenance with the track, which would be used more.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Ryan and SECONDED by Ms. Browne to add \$26,400 to the proposed budget.

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

Ms. LaPlante confirms the proposed budget increase is 5.28% with the track back in the operating budget. A question was raised if the maker space materials are currently in the budget. Ms. LaPlante confirms they are. Chairman Jones voiced personally he feels the things like the raspberry pie kits and Lego wall are things we should invest in right now, he has heard there are things we have now that are not being used however he supports the concept. There was discussion of how much that actually is. Discussion including agreeing with Chairman Jones, there is not a good comprehensive plan, there is a fair amount of equipment not being used. Principal Edmunds believes they split the cost between years half this year and half next because we didn't think we would have grant money. She confirms we do have a curriculum plan, which can be shared. Ms. LaPlante believes it was \$9,848.17 the first year and \$7,000 but is not sure. Principal Edmunds explained what the items do; the raspberry pie kits help kids build computers. Since the 8th graders are doing portfolios in 9th grade, they won't have to take computer science they could test out of that credit and take whatever they want, such as computer hardware to build computers. She understands the discussion but is in support of the items. Chairman Kofalt voiced he sees it as a way to engage kids; we need to work on math and science competencies which is shown through test results. He spoke of the interest in the FRES robotics club and feels if there is an

opportunity to get kids excited about learning we should jump on it. Superintendent confirms if the Budget Committee removes it from the proposed budget, we will work with the teachers to see what grant money is available but cautions there is an unlimited demand on those grants with limited funding and we need to balance our priorities. He confirms we did receive 2 grants for about \$10,000, which is not earmarked for these items. Mr. Allen would like to see a plan; he doesn't want to put funding into things that may not be used. Ms. Post agreed noting last time it was discussed that we have equipment that is not being used. Superintendent voiced we have equipment that we need to write curriculum for such as the CNC machine and 3-D printers and have to train teachers, not just the technology teachers but those who could incorporate it into project learning. He notes it is exciting stuff and we worked hard to create that momentum. He agrees there is a group of families excited about computer science and robotics He suggest taking a step back, maybe writing the curriculum this summer and maybe next budget cycle we have this. He agrees it is important but if it is removed from the budget, we will work with it. Discussion was had if it was in the budget and how much it is. Ms. LaPlante noted the dollar difference between the 2 line items is \$6,981 and she thinks this may be the increased cost for the makerspace but Principal Edmunds will get back to her to confirm it. Ms. LaPlante confirms the cost is included we just need to be sure what that is. She will report back with the amount.

iv. Finalize Warrants

Ms. LaPlante reviewed each draft warrant. Article 4 is the operating budget, 5 is the support staff CBA and they are meeting to ratify it tomorrow, 6 is a boiler plate language if they defeat Article 5 it allows us to meet again and renegotiation, 7 is the amount requested by the Facilities Committee, \$190,000 for the Building & Roadways Capital Reserve. That \$190,000 is the figure she used but requires School Board feedback. She asked if the School Board would address this now or later. Response was later. Article 8 is SPED capital reserve and it has been discussed that the goal was \$300,000 and we have \$298,000. She believes the Board discussed removing this, 9 the tennis courts, which we are finalizing quotes for. We have had a hard time getting confirmation on the crack repairs, we have made outreach 4 different times. We can put in the last information we had knowing they are outdated quotes. These draft warrants are what she is asking the Board to take action on knowing the petition warrant articles can come through with 25 signed registered voters and the deadline is February 9. A question was raised the Public Hearing is February 9th when do they need to have their final numbers in by. Ms. LaPlante responded we have to post the warrant no later than February 24 that is our deadline set in stone and cannot change anything after that. We have to have all costs known and discussed by February 9th, there can be variations to cost but cannot add any new purposes after February 9. Chairman Jones questioned if there was any further discussion. None heard.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Mr. Jonathan Vanderhoof, Lyndeborough, spoke wanting to address the CIP. He commented looking at the draft CIP you have out there, I don't know if that is what you are voting on later but suggests you put it off until the next Facilities Committee meeting. He feels it is extraordinarily off. You have the gym windows this year that should be in the budget, you are voting to put money in and take money out the same year. The CIP is not a pass-through thing; you are hiding budget expenses in the CIP. In last year's CIP, if you ran with that you would have \$40,000 for art cabinets, \$40,000 for a boiler, and \$90,000 for the lockers and \$30,000 for heating exchange elements. The only thing you have now is \$61,000 for gym windows. He thinks it all needs to be addressed and all can be addressed quickly; start where you were last year instead of ripping it up and starting over. He recommends you really look at that.

The Superintendent called out the names and numbers online asking if anyone wanted to comment.

Ms. Browne questioned if we will meet jointly on the 7th to discuss the final number. Ms. LaPlante questioned the most critical piece she needs to do is find out about the makerspace funding and the kitchen equipment costs and determine if it would fall under ESSER. Ms. Browne confirms.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Browne and SECONDED by Ms. Maki to recess the Budget Committee meeting at 8:44pm.
Voting: all aye; motion carried.*

IX. POLICY IJL – LIBRARY MATERIALS

This item was removed from the agenda.

X. BATHROOM ISSUES AT WLC

Ms. Anzalone noted she missed a portion of the last meeting and saw from the minutes there was some discussion around the locker rooms. Comments from her children are that they don't use the bathrooms at all while they are here, there is vandalism, incidents of feces on the counter or rubbed on the walls, it is a concern that my kids don't want to use the bathroom because they are gross. She is curious about the vandalism going on and what it is costing us. If kids are destroying property, we need to do something about it. She is not blaming the custodial staff; they are doing what they are supposed to. Mr. LoVerme spoke noting it is a big issue, the doors have been taken off for vandalism, smoking, smoking pot; it is a privacy issue and notes his boys don't use the bathrooms either. The bathroom by the shop class has been closed a while ago and never opened. He believes you need someone working the bathrooms, we need to put the doors back up, and the Facilities Director should walk around daily taking notes. It is the locker rooms and everywhere else in the building. It has been an issue for him for a long time, since the past 4

Superintendents. Ms. Lavallee suggested forming a working group of administration, students, facilities and Facilities Committee member to collect information on what is the biggest problem we are facing and have potential recommendations. She also notes there may be some information that Principal Bagley had left regarding vaping and the issues were having back when he was Principal. Chairman Kofalt noted this is a multi-faceted issue, a discipline issue, a facilities issue, an issue of how students behave and in terms of vandalism and privacy. It is one of those things we said over and over again that something needs to change. It is one of those things that gets pushed aside to do things that are more urgent. He proposed the working group with a 1-2 board members who are interested in that and suggests Ms. Anzalone and Ms. Cloutier-Cabral. They both accepted. He asks the group if this is a reasonable path forward for everyone, no objection heard. He asks Ms. Anzalone and Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to get together with the Superintendent and come back to the Board with how to remedy it.

XI. SET EXPECTATIONS FOR TURN AROUND TIME ON INFORMATION REQUESTS

Ms. Anzalone spoke that she is happy to work with Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and the Superintendent on the bathroom issues but we need a timeline. There is a lot of stuff going on and a lot of stuff that has been requested for information and we need to set expectations as a Board and school itself. We should have a turnaround time depending on the information being asked. There needs to be expectations set. She has had a lot of questions and it has been brought up that parents say they cannot get the information and when you ask for it you be given a timeline to get it by. Mr. LoVerme commented it is 3 days not included weekends. A question was raised what is a reasonable time. Ms. Anzalone noted we need to make a point to take action and not just talk about stuff. Ms. Lavallee spoke in regard to the bathrooms is it reasonable to include that in the request to administration. When it comes to us as a Board and requesting information from administration there are rules around that and a lot can depend on the relationship with administration. Sometimes it may give us a little more leeway. We can request information and expect information prior to the meeting. We can make request of them to have the information prior to coming to the meeting so they are prepared. It gets more difficult when we are randomly asking for information. If the Superintendent has 9 requests for information during the day is that reasonable. That is why we should keep it to items on the agenda. Ms. Anzalone spoke that there have been times she has asked for things that should just exist and it takes longer than it should. Telling them the turnaround time is helpful and whatever you feel is an appropriate guideline is fine but we should set those guidelines. Chairman Kofalt proposed, generally speaking, it should be within 3 days, there are times when he has been guilty of not getting back to people because they send me to another person and by the time I have the answer I owed it to that person to say I don't have it now but am working on it. It is probably good practice even if you don't have the answer but just to let them know you are working on it. Ms. Anzalone agrees. Ms. Lavallee spoke in regard to the bathroom issue, what is a reasonable time. Superintendent responded we could meet the first meeting after district meeting. It was noted this is years in the making and cannot be fixed overnight. Superintendent noted it is a good step forward and he will come back with an action plan although there is a cost to it. He believes the first meeting after district meeting is reasonable and will give us a couple of meetings before that and time for a tour. That will be the March 21 board meeting.

XII. SYLLAUS STANDARDS

Ms. Anzalone spoke of wanting to come up with standards. Even if it is just the names of the books or movies and the authors with bullets of what is covered so parents have a good idea. It is also helpful to have what it consists of such as 2 exams etc. It is helpful for the students too for time management and parents can stay on top of kids when they have things like a big book report that is coming due. If we can adopt that for every subject and send it home with the students. A question was raised if she is asking for a format to be created. Ms. Anzalone is and for it to be sent home, it should include books, bullets and highlights of the grades. Superintendent voiced in the next round of Principal Reports we can report on which have a syllabus and what the format is and can come to a general agreement on what a template looks like and make sure we can follow through with it in September. Ms. Anzalone noted she did not get many for her kids and mainly they talked about the classroom rules etc. Mr. Post noted it seems that this should be part of the process. You establish the curriculum, publish the syllabus etc. If you want parents to get engaged send a syllabus home. It was suggested the syllabus should be on online so parents already have it and it doesn't have to be sent home. Principal Edmunds voiced that most of our teachers do have this; we have been going through those and send them out for ways to engage families. She brought one from Ms. Erickson, she uses the remind app 101, sends reminders home, has her grading policy, unit 0-introduction of what happens during that and she is very in-depth it is already happening. She confirms this would be an example of best practice and there are more than this one. She notes resources can change during the course of the year and semester and we can add that as we go along to make people aware. It was suggested to have it online. Principal Edmunds suggested it could be done with Google Classroom. A question was raised why not do it through PowerSchool. Principal Edmunds noted it is difficult but as far as building those add-ons, we can work with Mr. Buroker to see what we can do. A suggestion was made to add it to the school website although that would not address the concern of getting an email. It was suggested if you have good examples of syllabi to make sure they all are up to that standard so there is consistency. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral spoke of her experience and notes she knows she can always ask a teacher for help and even a team meeting. She thinks they do a really good job here but we can always work on something. Ms. Anzalone wanted it known she is not taking a dig at teachers, they have been very responsive. She likes Mr. LoVerme's idea that they are online. Ms. Erickson's is probably is more than I would ask for, just something simple so parents can refer back to. Superintendent confirms it will be in the Principal

Reports and what we plan to do going forward. We can do training on Google Classroom too. He is not sure if PowerSchool is an option.

XIII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

Amendments were reviewed. Mr. Allen commented regarding the curriculum coordinators iReady data that he wanted to congratulate the teachers regarding the tremendous strides students have made in a short time.

A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone to approve the minutes of January 10, 2023 as amended.

Voting: six ayes; two abstentions from Ms. Anzalone and Mr. Allen, motion carried.

b. ESSER Funding Requests

Ms. LaPlante reviewed what was approved to be spent \$468,840 and what the cost of those projects are now estimated at \$331,765 representing a \$137,075 net savings from what was originally budgeted. She reviewed the requests for ESSER funding, 1) is replacing a boiler, and the Budget Committee has revised that to 2 boilers. She is using an estimate of \$100,000 for each, 2) Instructional Pathways and IXL, moving that out of the budget for \$37,000 for both and 3) gifted and talented program for \$10,000. Ms. LaPlante confirms the gifted and talented program would be for the next school year 23-24. Discussion was had regarding using funds for boilers vs using the funds to address learning loss and plus there has been discussion about using ESSER funds for kitchen equipment. Ms. LaPlante reviewed the figures the revised balance available in ESSER III as of January 1, 2023 is \$352,245, we have the requests for funds tonight now totaling \$247,000. If these projects are approved it would leave a balance approximately of \$105,000 of that we would have (rounded numbers) \$17,500 to address learning loss. Mr. Golding spoke that at least one should be in the budget although he would like both in the budget. He notes he is sure Ms. Dignan is doing a good job and the kids are making some gains but we should use every dollar on learning loss. The other stuff should have been paid for over the years and like everything else was pushed off. He supports the \$47,000 for gifted and talented program, IXL and Instructional Pathways. It was suggested to address the requests separately.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Golding and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to allocate/authorize funds from ESSER for \$37,000 for Instructional Pathways and IXL to address learning loss.

Voting: all aye; motion carried.

A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Mr. Golding to allocate/authorize funds from ESSER for \$10,000 for the gifted and talented program.

Voting: all aye; motion carried.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Anzalone and SECONDED by Mr. Post to allocate/authorize funds from ESSER for \$200,000 for 2 (additional) boilers.

Discussion was had regarding this. Ms. LaPlante confirms we have to spend the ESSER III funds by September 2024; we will not be getting more. Mr. Allen notes not being opposed to this but questions if there are proposals you pushed up that we can better allocate the money for to address learning loss. He echoes Mr. Golding's concern of not addressing the needs of the students. Principal Fuller responded outside of the gifted and talented program we have afterschool tutoring starting January 30 and that is part of ESSER funding. Ms. LaPlante had talked about duplicating that next year but we do not have formalized plans for it, the cost was \$19,325. A question was raised if there is any data on if it is successful or a similar program. Principal Fuller will see if Principal Chenette had put anything together. Principal Gosselin spoke that at WLC they have been discussing competency recovery. Last year the cost of \$7,250 and in addition Mr. Pratt had brought up the need for mental health support. She does not know if he will ask for that but wanted to mention it. Chairman Kofalt noted the boiler is not something we have the option to not spend money on. We are fully complying with the guidelines around ESSER in terms of the amounts allocated to learning loss, fungibility is the main point he wanted to make. Ms. LaPlante informed the group that the district received our water testing results, which indicated there is the presence of lead in some of the water bubblers, which have been turned off for a long time. There is no water running to them. It is not a plumbing issue and can be rectified by replacing them with bottle fillers; she doesn't know the cost as it just came up today. She wanted to clear that no students have been accessing them or ingesting the water, it is just a sampling source we had to do. She notes this just came up today. Ms. Lavallee is in support because the percentage amount is edging up and up. She has been trying to be cautious of the taxpayers and does agree the remaining funds should be used toward students to address learning loss. We should be aware of the last \$105,000 although it would be great to use it for stove or water fountain, she would rather see it go toward education. Mr. Post spoke thinking about how they approve ESSER, if it is in the budget you can't use it for ESSER. Ms. LaPlante confirms the way ESSER exclusions are written, it talks about things regularly funded through the budget this is why we have that caveat it is not funded through the operating budget.

Voting: seven ayes; one nay from Mr. Golding, motion carried.

• POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. Lavallee reported since Mr. Vanderhoof resigned, and since Ms. Anzalone was on the committee and took a brief break from it, she would like to nominate her to the Policy Committee.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Anzalone and SECONDED by Mr. Post to nominate Ms. Anzalone to the Policy Committee. Voting: all aye; motion carried.

Ms. Lavallee noted Ms. Anzalone asked to look at policy IMC that was last updated in 2010, we will meet next week and will have a full report at the next meeting.

XIV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Budget Liaison

Mr. Post reported there was not a quorum of the committee. He will attend next week's meeting. He believes we are finally making progress to get to a number to add to the warrant.

ii. Negotiations

Mr. Mannarino informed the group the Union is supposed to meet tomorrow to ratify the temporary agreements and should have an answer from them tomorrow.

XV. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES

a. Resignation-Eric Mercier-Food Service Director

Superintendent reviewed the resignation. A question was raised if the position was posted. Superintendent responded we have not right now, we are working with another Food Service Director who is getting us caught up on the administration end and looking at efficiencies in the kitchen and working closely with the 5 food service workers. The workers have taken on added responsibilities and we are looking at taking the salary from the Food Service Director to provide a stipend. He feels comfortable in terms of the level of competency managing the food service lunch program with Mary Anne from Milford (Food Service Director from Milford) combined with the active involvement of the DOE School Nutrition Department. He is hesitant to post it right now he feels good about where we are. It was a challenge to find a qualified candidate the last 2 years. We will revisit it in the spring and talk to the Board. We should have good data in 4-6 weeks about how we created some errors we made and maybe a decision on posting. Ms. LaPlante noted Mr. LoVerme commented on the turnover with staff especially with Food Service Directors. We are fortunate to have the 5 staff we have and if we can freshen it up it will go a long way to help retain staff, it is not a cost savings approach for us. A question was raised if we are training someone in food services. Ms. LaPlante responded it is an end goal for us but is not happening at the moment. Superintendent added there are aspects in administration where we have trained some staff. The rules and requirements are always changing.

The Superintendent was asked to give an update on the principal candidates. Superintendent reviewed this Thursday the leadership team will interview 5 candidates out of 12. We will move 3 forward. We want an open forum for meet and greets. The candidates will meet with students and community. He wants everyone to be able to listen to dialog and everyone who attends can fill out a tally sheet to rate the candidates. The goal was to make it inclusive but manageable. We have a range of candidates from different levels and experience. He wants to be sure that it is a place the candidate want to come, plant some roots and make a positive difference. It is a competitive market for administrators in the state and region.

A question was raised if an AD is in the budget. Superintendent confirms it is and the goal is to post it in between snow days. We will post a .80 position along with the AD position; we want someone to do the whole package. He spoke of it being integral for the person to be in our school community otherwise they tend to view the stipend as insufficient. It also limits the time people have access to them. He believes we will get a candidate who wants to do the whole package together.

XVI. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION

Discussion was had including the budget is at 5.28% increase, last year's warrant included Building & Roadways Capital Reserve for \$130,000 and SPED for \$100,000. Ms. LaPlante noted we have tennis courts for \$70,000 however; it will be more than that. The Boards consensus was to leave the \$20,000 in this year and not commit it toward this. There was a brief discussion about the containers and where they will be placed. It was briefly discussed the overall cost to the taxpayer with the budget and the warrants combined. Ms. LaPlante reviewed the timeline for finalizing warrants, the public hearing is February 9 and there is a board meeting February 7. There was discussion about a comment made during public comment regarding the gym windows and essentially using the CIP as a pass-through. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral spoke that the Facilities Committee will look at that, we are trying to rebuild the CIP. Ms. LaPlante confirms the gym windows are \$61,000 based on her internal discussions with the Superintendent, Facilities Director and Facilities Committee. When it rains, we have water between the gym and hallway. We discussed it needs to be done now, we can no longer continue to silicone the windows. The capital reserve can be used as a funding source even if it is not in the CIP. There was discussion that a lot of people talked about the need to have a more thorough ongoing CIP than what had traditionally been the case. Ms. LaPlante reminded the group we need to figure out LCS as well, there is no consensus on funding, the roof is shot and still do not know how to replace it. She estimates the cost for the roof and siding to be \$137,000. Mr. Golding commented he would argue half of that was in the CIP for 2 boilers. Discussion was had including buying materials and paying for the labor next year, doing some creative paths to fund it, the roof was done in 1988, support for

looking at this years unencumbered funds and funding it from this year's budget, and wanting to see the YTD reports to see what is unencumbered. Ms. LaPlante noted we have the quotes for the work and she feels it is extremely doable to fund it out of this year's budget; we do not need a special meeting for it. She noted concern that over several meetings she has heard people say we allocated money lets spend it. A question was raised if there is a list of everything that is needed that we need to address as a district and what it costs. It was suggested to include the latest version of the CIP in the next board packet. Ms. LaPlante noted it did go out in December's board packet. It was noted the CIP on the website looks to be the most recent but the LCS roof has a budget but it is not planned out over the years. Ms. LaPlante noted it was a topic of discussion at the Facilities Committee meeting. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral asked Ms. LaPlante to send her the current and previous CIP. Ms. Lavallee exited the meeting at 10:23pm.

XVII. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Golding commented this was a much better meeting than the last one. He took Mr. Ryan's advice and apologized to Grayson and Hannah (our 2 student school board reps.) for some of the actions he may have been involved in and he hopes we can continue coming together as this was enjoyable.

Mr. Mannarino welcomed Mr. Allen to the Board.

Ms. Anzalone welcomed Mr. Allen to the Board. She wanted to make a personal comment on policy IJL because it was taken off the agenda. She is interested in looking at Mr. Rankin's plan he spoke of tonight. She would like the new books list, as Mr. Vanderhoof suggested. She knows there are changes to the library set up which is good. To her, this is an ongoing discussion we need to continue to look at. She spoke of getting different emails from different schools in the area and one was about a particular book and she found this book was in our nonfiction section without any restrictions on it. She spoke to the librarian and told her she doesn't want her kids to have access to the book. Ms. Anzalone has the book tonight. She thinks there is a happy medium we can come to where we are trying to respect everyone. There are some people who want their kids to see everything, there are some people that would have concerns and don't want their kids having access to everything. I think we owe it to everyone to take a closer look at this. In a previous discussion, it was said there are certain books that we don't want in a school library let's define what that is. She notes this is not an attack on the librarian; she talked to her about it. She thinks it is worth us working together and maybe putting a definition on what everyone feels what is age appropriate is because everyone has their own opinion about it.

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral welcomed Mr. Allen to the Board, he was a great addition today and she looks forward to working with him. She voiced food services deserve an applause. We see some of our food service workers getting ready for the next day and she admires their spirit. It was a nice meeting and nice to be back in the library.

Mr. Allen thanked everyone for welcoming him. He came here tonight not knowing what to expect after the last meetings and fully expected to be tarred and feathered for something he had nothing to do with. He wanted to assure everyone he is here because he wants to be here. He is here because he has children in the district. He cares and brings a breadth of knowledge and experience with him. He appreciates the tone of this meeting. He spoke of a class he took years ago on "Arguing to Understand", the premise was if you could understand the position, instead of arguing the end goal, if you could understand the position that a person had and why they held that position it became more amenable to making concessions and reaching a consensus. Coming together with our varied experiences and varied opinions and making those concessions and reaching a consensus best serves the community, best serves the tone of the Board and keeps us from being tribal picking sides and lines that don't have to be hard drawn in the sand. He encouraged other members to call him out when he is not taking his own advice. He promises to take that seriously. He looks forward to the 6 weeks he will get to spend here and hopes continue this positive movement forward.

Chairman Kofalt congratulated and welcomed Mr. Allen and noted we all know you are someone who has contributed to this district in various ways including the President of FRES PTO. He appreciates his contributions to the community.

Chairman Kofalt noted he believes we no longer need a non-public session. That was confirmed we do not.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to adjourn the Board meeting at 10:31pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*

Thanks for the opportunity to address the board tonight.

Having worked for this SAU in one capacity or another for over 28 years I have seen some great things and some that needed working on. But the total board worked together to try getting through the rough spots. Most times they succeeded!

Sadly, the past couple of years the board has become divided trying to pit Lyndeborough against Wilton. Again, in my years here I have attended hundreds of board meetings never once seeing discord between the board as it is now. You were each elected into position by voters of our communities to act as a board to oversee the operations and to set policy. (Not to micromanage).

It is of great concern when we see board members being bullied into submission only to resign from the board or to be demoralized into tears. This past board meeting we had two new first-time students representing their peers. What they witnessed was totally unacceptable and you each have a responsibility to apologize to these students for your actions. We constantly ask why staff won't stay in this District. Last week you answered your own question! It starts from the top and don't think for one minute the board actions go unnoticed,

We had a Board opening from Lyndeborough and after a long discussion the Chairman said it would be posted on the SAU website and it would be voted and given the oath at the board meeting on the 24th. It was stated very clearly that it would be ONLY Lyndeborough members voting. That did not stop the tantrums of a few. The SAU did post the opening on the school website stating names of intent would be accepted until Jan. 17th. I did give notice to the Superintendent that I would like to put my name in for the opening. Shortly after that I was informed the Lyndeborough Board members had held a meeting at the Lyndeborough Town Office and they had Posted the meeting on the TOWN website. I believe the voters of Lyndeborough have a legal right to challenge this unilateral action by a few. Actions such as this only reek of political gain and divisiveness. I have no reason to believe the person appointed will not perform well, as I don't really know him that well. My question is why the hurry? There are only three board meetings prior to the district meeting. What was the purpose of this special meeting other than snubbing the other members of the School Board.

Because of the backstage antics and the apparent disrespect shown to the entire School Board I feel in my heart that the individuals that orchestrated this back door politics resign from the School Board immediately.

Thank you for your time.

Bill Ryan

I would like to propose a policy and procedure that I believe will address the concerns of individual Parents who would like to supervise the content of material their child can read at the WLC Library. I believe that, if implemented, It will provide parents with concerns an avenue to easily be involved in and in charge of the selection process. At the same time it will allow parents who are comfortable with the Library to give their children the freedom to access the knowledge, information, and life experience contained within the books.

1. Any parent or legal guardian who has concerns that their child will obtain a book through the WLC Library that contains material contrary to their beliefs or values can contact the school librarian to register that student's name on a "parental permission required" list. That list is to be integrated into the overall check out policy so that any time a book is checked out the process automatically checks the list to see if the student is registered. **This program will require "opt in".**
2. If the student is registered on the list, any book the student wishes to check out will be moved to a "hold" position. The title and author's name will then be provided to the registered parent so that they can review the material. The parent will then have a specified period of time to either grant or deny permission to borrow the book (one week recommended). This will give the parent time to review the material and also to discuss with their child why they would like to read this material and why the parent finds it objectionable. This policy encourages open communication between the Parent and the Student.
3. If permission is given, the student can then check out said material for the normal period of time without penalty for the "hold" time. Confirmation of check out will be sent to the parent.
4. If permission is denied the book will be removed from "hold" and returned to the shelves so it is available to others. That title will be permanently unavailable to that student until they leave WLC or the parent contacts the library to grant permission for the student to check the book out.
5. If there is no action taken by the parent within the specified hold time, permission will be construed as denied. **The default position is "denied".**
6. Provisions can be made for prior approval of a title to facilitate one step check out.

This procedure gives a parent or guardian the ability to monitor and control which books their child can read while not restricting the access of other students to any material. It also eliminates the necessity of parents having to go through the process of eliminating a single book from the library to prevent their child from having access. It preserves the ability of other students to read the book if they choose.

It is also noted that the WLC librarian has taken several steps to segregate sections of the library for Junior High and High School. Ms. Wiley is also very knowledgeable about the concerns of individual Parents and has already implemented email or calls to them if she feels that the book may be inappropriate. This policy, if implemented, only enhances the flow of information between concerned parties.

I have met with Principle Edmunds, Librarian Wiley and IT Tech Mr. Buroker to explore and address the following items.

Action Items:

- A; Does the existing software have the ability to check a student against a database? (No)
- B; If not, is the existing software proprietary or open source? (Proprietary)
- C; if proprietary, would it be possible to run an addendum program to check? (Probably)
- D; if open source or an addendum is needed, do we have the ability or can we find a volunteer programmer within our community to write the needed software?
(Mr. Buroker has indicated that he has done most of the procedures required as separate items and is looking into consolidating them into a single program.)

This process will run into other concerns and may or may not be possible within the existing system at the library. The time spent and the efficacy in addressing a parent's concern directly and on an individual basis, outweigh the time spent trying to control content book by book. For these reasons I am asking the school board to support development of this procedure.

This statement is at the bottom of every page on the WLC website.

"The Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, handicap, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status in its administration of education programs activities or employment practice."

It specifically states WLC will not discriminate based upon these criteria. By removing books that present a different viewpoint representing one or more of these criteria we are actively discriminating against any person or persons who are part of or seek understanding of these criteria.

Sincerely,
Don Rankin
Wilton, NH