

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, August 9, 2022  
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School  
6:30 p.m.**

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

Present: *Brianne Lavallee, Alex LoVerme, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Dennis Golding (attended Budget Committee meeting, joined the board at 7:23pm online), Matt Mannarino, Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral, Charlie Post (6:39pm) and Darlene Anzalone (online)*

*Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principal Sarah Edmunds Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, Technology Director Nicholas Buroker, and Clerk Kristina Fowler*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Lavallee called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Mr. LoVerme requested to add under committee reports WLCSSA negotiations.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Ms. Lemire to accept the adjustment to the agenda.*

*Voting: via roll call vote, all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public comment section of the agenda was read. Ms. Lavallee called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment. There was no public comment.

**V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

**a. Reports**

**i. Superintendent's Report**

Ms. LaPlante reviewed the Superintendent is out of state and will return tomorrow. He asked that she and Mr. Pratt prepare his report. She reviewed that the extended leadership meeting was great which included miniature golf. Administration continues to fill vacancies but it is a fluid number. She met with Primex and did a walkthrough of the tennis courts. Primex has recommended that use of the courts be discontinued for the schools and community until repairs are completed. To date, only one call back has been received for repairs. They are also looking for some site work to be done which includes cutting back the trees and allowing for better drainage. She is asking for Board feedback regarding closing the tennis courts. Mr. Vanderhoof questioned if we still have 8 vacancies to fill. Ms. LaPlante confirms that is correct and it includes tutors, substitutes and teaching positions across the district. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral notes she agrees with closing the courts. Ms. Lavallee agrees we should post notice and close the courts as recommended by Primex while we do fact finding on the next steps; discussions on what we will do with them, is future board discussion. It was suggested if there is additional information on the tennis courts that will come under committee reports if so, the discussion should be had then. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral reported there is not really more than what was already said, Primex recommended posting and closing the courts after their walkthrough. She reviewed the areas of concern and we are to follow up with a timeline. Mr. Post had a copy of the letter from Primex; he suggested we should close them tonight as the letter from Primex recommends closing them. The letter lists in detail what needs to happen and it is important we follow it. We need to close them; if someone got hurt, it would be on us. Mr. LoVerme noted we have doors that need to be put up it is wide open. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral expressed at least we have to post signs not to use them. The letter from Primex was shared with Mr. Vanderhoof. The letter was issued last week. Mr. Post voiced he doesn't think it is enough to just put up a sign, he agrees at the very least that needs to be done. Mr. LoVerme noted the doors are not hanging. Ms. LaPlante responded that Mr. Erb is prepared to close the entrance and put

up plywood. Ms. Lavallee asked members to voice where they stand on this issue. All agreed with no objection that the tennis courts should be closed. Ms. Lavallee confirms the Board directs administration to close the tennis courts immediately pending further investigation.

## **ii. Principals' Reports**

Principal Edmunds reviewed her report which included professional development has been happening and teachers are working on curriculum and other training has occurred. She thanked the custodial team who have been doing a great job; they have been working very hard in this heat; the floors shine which adds to the excitement of starting the school year. She spoke of student Evan Crotty who has been picking up trash to raise money for his future in school. Good job, even when he is not in school he is thinking about school.

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral thanked Principal Edmunds for attending.

## **VI. ACTION ITEMS**

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

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Mannarino and SECONDED by Mr. Post to approve the minutes of July 19, 2022 as written.*

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

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **i. Facilities Committee**

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral thanked Mr. Vanderhoof for his contributions to the committee, he has since left the committee and Mr. Post has joined. Mr. Fran Bujak has joined the committee. At the last meeting, they looked at adjusting the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan). They want the document to be a "living" document with adjustments being made as they happen and retaining the history of the projects to ensure we can look back to see what happened, what decisions were made, what came off, what the cost was and any comments. Mr. Bujak provided a template they reviewed. Ms. LaPlante will look at what other districts are using. They discussed adding an emergency line on the CIP or having a capital reserve; there would be parameters around its use and possibly a policy. They discussed some trees having to come down around all the schools and at FRES; some that are problematic are not on school property. Primex provided information and recommendations to post notice and close the tennis courts. There are several areas that need to be addressed and a timeline of when that should be done. We will not be able to use them in the fall and want to see what can be done for alternatives. Mr. Vanderhoof brought up windows in the gym and replacing them. He suggests the emergency fund should be separate from the CIP. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral spoke of the safety grant that we applied for which is for telecommunications systems for all schools, new locks, and portable radios etc. Ms. LaPlante confirms we have not heard back yet but should soon. The next grant deadline is August 29 and will include cameras. Ms. LaPlante informed the group that Mr. Bujak has offered to fill in the cracks on the tennis courts to prevent further damage. Discussion was had that there should be a vote on the direction of where this is going and we don't have the information to take that vote. The Board had voted to remove them; there has not been any motion to change that. At the most, we could vote to not demolish the courts and look at putting money into the next budget to repair them. Ms. Lavallee suggested because we need more information, the decision should be put off. There was discussion on accepting Mr. Bujak's offer or not. This discussion included not wanting anyone to put the effort and time into something if it is not viable, it could be a liability, we do not have any quotes in writing, and it may not be advisable unless there was some kind of contract. It was suggested it would be prudent to put off any decision-making, the tennis courts would be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Post agreed he does not think anyone should do any work, although it is a generous offer. He acknowledged it is an eyesore and it has been a challenge to get quotes; we only have a partial quote. It is a big project to repair it; there is standing water from the last 2 weeks. It has a series of problems; even closing them for now is an eyesore. A question was raised regarding the road to the school appears marked for paving. Ms. LaPlante confirms it is just the manhole covers and fixing the erosion. The estimate is \$2,600 includes repairing the holes in the parking lot.

### **ii. Budget Liaison**

Mr. Golding is attending the Budget Committee meeting; he will provide an update later in the evening.

### **• WLCSSA Negotiations**

Mr. LoVerme informed the group that the WLCSSA would like to start meeting right away; they never responded to an email he sent in June. We need to come up with a calendar of when we want to meet with them. They have requested every other meeting to be virtual. He does not think that is a good idea. They have also

appointed their attorney to be their spokesperson. Members of the Board's negotiation committee are Mr. LoVerme, Mr. Post and Mr. Mannarino. Discussion was had when they would be available. They would like to continue the discussion in non-public this evening. The date decided on is Monday, August 22 at 7pm. Mr. LoVerme will email them to let them know. A set schedule for future meetings was not determined.

## **VIII. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES**

### **a. Resignation-Andrea Petrone-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher-FRES**

A question was raised if there was any way Ms. Petrone would reconsider. Ms. LaPlante responded that she does not believe so; she thinks she has formalized everything with her new employer. It was noted, if the Board does not release her, she is supposed to provide 30 days' notice. Ms. Lavallee responds she believes she has given the 30 day notice. It was confirmed she did sign a contract with our district for 22-23. Discussion was had regarding it is not the right to release people from their contract in July, they should provide notice before July, it gives only a month to find a replacement. Mr. Pratt informed the Board that the current teacher contract (CBA) states 30 days' notice in terms of releasing someone. He understands what the Board is saying, it has been a brutal summer and we have lost people who had committed to us. The ethical piece of the Superintendent's talking to each other when staff is changing districts this late seems to be out the window. Discussion continued including Ms. Petrone is a good teacher, she provided notice on July 25, we have run into this before, last year it was 2 days before school and they left the end of September anyway, we don't have to accept it, if we don't accept it what happens if she changes her mind, we may be paying 2 teachers, it will take time to find a replacement and interview, there is curriculum to write, it is about the positions and what is being asked and what we are answering to, it is the precedent we are setting and want to discourage resignations after July. It was noted Ms. Petrone met the requirement. Ms. LaPlante confirmed the 30 day requirement is listed in the CBA and she read that piece and confirmed there is no date it needs to be done by. Discussions continued, Mr. Mannarino voiced, as he understands it, she has met the obligation for the 30 days' notice. He does not see how we could hold her. Ms. LaPlante reviewed the only date in the CBA is November 1<sup>st</sup> and that is for retirements. Ms. Petrone listed her last day as August 23. Ms. LaPlante's concern is that if she works one day, we could be obligated to pay the 2 weeks. She asks if there is a value to her coming in on the 23<sup>rd</sup> knowing there is no more output. Mr. Mannarino added his concern is not accepting it based on having her to report for one day, it may have a negative impact. Mr. Vanderhoof requests time to review the CBA. He noted that it doesn't make sense, in the past teachers have asked us to do it and we have told them no and they stayed for the year.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Golding to recess for 5 minutes to review the WLCTA CBA.*

*Voting: via roll call vote, six ayes; one nay from Mr. LoVerme and one abstention from Ms. Lavallee, motion carried.*

The meeting was called back to order at 7:29pm.

Mr. Vanderhoof asked to see a copy of the teacher contract she signed. Ms. LaPlante does not have it here. Discussions continued, Mr. Vanderhoof agrees according to the CBA, she only has to provide us 30 days' notice; he is wondering if there is something in the teacher contract. Ms. Lavallee voiced she remembers in the fall a teacher asked to leave earlier than the 30 days and we did not approve releasing the teacher and they had to stay on and give the 30 day notice. Mr. LoVerme believes we did approve one person to leave. Discussion was had including we could release them and set a date, we did discuss previously having the 30 days but releasing earlier if the position was filled, there is no point taking a vote, she is meeting the requirement therefore there is no reason to take a vote, she was applying while she had a contract and in the past we didn't have to vote. It was expressed if this is the case we have to do better as far as the CBA, the public passed it the Board didn't recommend it, these are the things we should try to work out for the benefit of the students. It was expressed we wouldn't take any action; we are not releasing her from her contract. It was noted nothing says she is doing anything wrong, she gives the 30 days' notice, but if we don't tell her she broke her contract then what are we telling other teachers. She has reasons for leaving, and she is following the contract. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral noted she believes it is miscommunication that we have to take action. Mr. Vanderhoof added no action is needed. It was noted we need to look at the policy and make some changes. Mr. Post agrees with no action.

The Board took no action.

Mr. Golding reported Ms. LaPlante provided an updated report, the committee will set goals for the upcoming budget season on September 20 and they are looking forward to the August 16 meeting with the DOE.

#### **IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public comment section of the agenda was read. Ms. Lavallee called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment. There was no public comment.

#### **X. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Post expressed as we approach the school year, he would like to see goals set for student scores, if we don't have a goal we don't know if we are successful. We had spoken of this at the last meeting. It is important, we never had one before and we don't know what success looks like.

Mr. Vanderhoof agrees with Mr. Post and wants this on the agenda for the next meeting. He spoke of the legislative update from NHSBA. He strongly recommends everyone read it, not just school board members but the Superintendent, support staff, food service staff, everyone should read it as there is a lot in there about little things that happened or didn't and could be large things.

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral congratulated the student for raising money during his summer break, great job!

Mr. Mannarino thanked Ms. Petrone for what she has done for the school. She will be missed. We wish her well and success in what she is undertaking.

Ms. Lavallee thanked everyone for a good meeting; she thanked the staff and looks forward to the start of the new school year. She agrees we need to set goals and it would be good to have this completed before school starts.

Ms. Anzalone is looking forward to her first full year of being on the school board.

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

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Mannarino and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to enter Non-Public Session to discuss negotiations and review non-public minutes RSA 91-A: 3 II (C) at 7:44 pm.*

*Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried unanimously.*

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

The Board entered public session at 8:10pm.

*A MOTION was made to seal the non-public session minutes by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral.*

*Voting: via roll call vote, all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

#### **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

*A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:10pm.*

*Voting: via roll call vote, all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Kristina Fowler*