

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, June 14, 2022  
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, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Dennis Golding, Matt Mannarino, Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral (6:39pm), Alex LoVerme (6:57pm), Charlie Post (6:32pm) and Darlene Anzalone*

*Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principals Sarah Edmunds and Kathleen Chenette, Assistant Principal Katie Gosselin, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt (remote), Curriculum Coordinator Emily Stefanich, and Clerk Kristina Fowler*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Kofalt called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Superintendent reported one resignation to be added.

*Voting: All in favor to add the adjustment to the agenda.*

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Student, Ava Unsworth was present and spoke of the recent Texas school shooting. She spoke about Wilton and Lyndeborough being small communities but suggests we look at the worst-case scenario if there was an active shooter. What resources are available other than police, ambulance etc. Things you have in school for usage, is it up to date, is it safe, does it still work. She provided a few suggestions, she read about what another district is doing in Maryland, the 3-step rule, run, hide if escape is not possible, block all exits and use cell phones and the last is fight if there is no other resort. She adds people have to be prepared for anything. She asks if we could incorporate these things into spirit week, announcements and advisories. Chair Kofalt thanked her for bringing her comments to the Board. He had spoken to her previously and encouraged her and others to come and speak. He notes there has been a lot of discussion amongst board members, the Superintendent and community to say let's make sure we are on the ball with our security plans. You spoke about the protocol, run, hide, and fight; there is a different protocol in place in many other districts in the country, which is a lockdown protocol. There will be a presentation at the July 19 meeting. He encourages her to come to that. Mr. Mannarino thanked her for coming and speaking to the Board. Going forward whatever that looks like he hopes students will be a part of that solution. Ms. Anzalone thanked her for coming and likes that she spoke of student involvement, if you hear something say something and bring it to people's attention.

No members of the public were online.

**V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

**a. Reports**

**i. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent gave an overview of his report which included trying to finalize a day to meet with Principals, Police Chiefs, Fire Chief to plan a brief presentation on July 19 and zero in on the idea of a lockdown and on procedures and determine it needs to be modified. He spoke of Alice Training which he has had, it is in line with what Ms. Unsworth spoke of, increase communication in the building instead of locking down and being quiet. It is important we have a broad conversation about it. It takes time to get it up and going, time to run scenarios and if we want to go in that direction we would start in the spring with training and late spring involve fire/rescue and perhaps evacuate to another school potentially. It is something we spoke of for 2 years. He thinks it is important to have the conversation over the summer. He reported there are 2 dead trees in front of LCS. He has heard from the road crew that one is 75% dead and the other 50%. He spoke to the town administrator to be sure there are no issues other than to make it safe for motorists going through. He spoke to a representative of the Historical Society to be sure there were no issues from their perspective and there was not. A quote was obtained for \$1,800 to take them down including removal of the debris. He is working with the town administrator to see if we can save the wood for those in need to burn in the winter. The trees are a safety issue and we would like the Board's support to remove them. Mr. Post expressed support and suggests consider replacing them. There was no objection heard to remove the trees.

## ii. Principals' Reports

Principal Chenette reported it was an incredible experience to participate in field day with the community, fire department and police department. It was another example of how supported the schools are. She spoke of attending teacher Melanie Drew's retirement party who provided many years of education in the district. Mr. Mannarino spoke of being impressed with the results of the culture survey; she did an admirable job and has turned things around from last year.

Principal Edmunds reported having a very busy end of year. Graduation went off without a hitch it was lovely. Members of the first class to graduate WLC, class of 1972 were present; that was special. The boy's baseball team went to the semi-finals and lost, it was a heartbreaking loss. The students did a wonderful job, never gave up. She spoke of the wonderful work teacher Danyele Manning and her students did redoing the honor roll from the Sacred Heart Church. She spoke having reflective discussions today at the last teacher PD day. It was nice to hear from the teachers and how they feel about different things, they worked on this busy and fruitful year. Mr. Post congratulated Principal Edmunds and Assistant Principal Gosselin on the successful graduation and awards night, it was moving and they did a great job. A round of applause was given. Chair Kofalt spoke of hearing field day was phenomenal and graduation was very smooth. Ms. Lavallee voiced appreciation for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade promotion ceremony; it was great to bring that tradition back. She thanked Ms. Drew and congratulated her on her retirement. She will be sorely missed; she was a dedicated employee for this district for many years. Chair Kofalt commented the VFW has multiple programs going, the scholarship program and the Patriot's Pen, which may work well for that class. Principal Edmunds responded that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class does the Patriot's Pen.

## iii. Curriculum Coordinator's Report

Ms. Stefanich reported having the curriculum documents completed and in one spot. They will work on external documents and make sure they are ready before school starts. She included raw data of assessments. She adds we are just getting started on this and starting conversations to dive into this. We are assessing different factors and do a data presentation in the fall. Included is the final STAR data, we will be moving to iReady in the fall and training is scheduled. Principal Chenette spoke that she noticed the 1<sup>st</sup> grade data decreased in achievement. One of the things to be aware of, (and when we return we will have disaggregated data); when you are a kindergarten student you can take the Early Reading Portion not the reading and found many could not access the reading assessment so they are almost double counted. They made growth relative to early reading and not met the benchmark in reading. She wants the Board to be aware it needs to be disaggregated to be understood. Ms. Lavallee would like to see this data compared to other schools in the region and nationally. Could we get information regarding what other schools are doing that is working especially using ESSER funds as that is the intent of the funds. She would like about this and see if what they are doing is a good fit for us. Ms. Stefanich responded that once we get the data in the fall we can see and that will be on the iReady platform as well. Chair Kofalt added the NHDOE iPlatform is a wealth of data and it is good for us to see this data. Ms. Anzalone spoke of some of the numbers being concerning such as the 11<sup>th</sup> grade science scores and questions if it could be our curriculum not meeting the need, something to do with the test perhaps. Ms. Stefanich responded we will look into it, we are looking at it holistically she notes the 11<sup>th</sup> grade science test is hard. We are looking at all of that. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke he briefly looked over this vs. the one from February and there was some progress made. He would like to see a goal of where we want to be instead of constantly saying where we are. Ms. Superintendent asked Ms. Stefanich to speak about how we can use iReady to set goals individually and as a group. Ms. Stefanich informed the group that the decision was made have iReady K-12 instead of K-8, the cost was feasible and within the budget to do it and allows us to set measures as well as have individual student reports. Ms. Anzalone commented we have talked a lot about the struggling students and she questions what we are doing about the kids who are achieving and need more of a challenge, not just more work to do. Her child sees it more of a punishment. Ms. Stefanich responded we are having those discussions as well. We realize we have those students who need that push. One of the discussions has been at FRES and leveling math; we are exploring this at MS/HS too and leveling different subjects for where kids are. Mr. LoVerme noticed in HS math getting extra help from a different teacher other than the one who teaches the class can help. Ms. Stefanich voiced in the Technology Committee there has been a lot of discussion regarding the CTE programs and how can we get kids engaged. We are trying to find ways to get kids what they need and finding options that work for kids as no two are alike. Superintendent spoke of wanting to move forward an agreement with a local community college. They typically want to fill seats with kids who may continue. In the past, he has been able to fill those seats with accelerated students at the rate paid to VLACS. VLACS needs kids to work as independent learners and not all can be successful in that environment. It was a good option for families and a way to get kids excited about it and see what they are interested in. There is a lot of work to do in that area and we are working to build those articulated agreements. He confirms it would be for dual credit, they would get a transcript from the school and credit here. We do have some dual enrollment classes here but the tough part is the teachers need to have a Masters in that content area, not just a Master's degree. We do look at this when we are hiring. Principal Edmunds confirms Ms. Kovaliv and Ms. Coffey (guidance) provide families with the information regarding the opportunities; they also have evening meetings where they invite people in to talk to about it. Superintendent spoke about having to get kids excited about robotics and engineering and push that experience down as they move through the school system. Mr. LoVerme spoke about an issue with the timing of grades being posted; sometimes it takes a month for some teacher to post them. Students should see their grades immediately we need to monitor this. Kids can't get excited about it if it takes too long. Principal Edmunds confirms Algebra I is offered to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade is leveled. Superintendent spoke of the math summit happening tomorrow with all our math teachers grades K-12 to talk about strengths, weaknesses, and integration vertically. We will also look at data and what we need to do differently. It is systemic and no-ones fault; we want to move forward and change. This is the right approach and we are doing it in June and not waiting until school starts. Mr. LoVerme is right, we have unmotivated kids for all different reasons and anything we can do to break those barriers down and be more

efficient in giving feedback at least at the HS. Principal Edmunds and Assistant Principal Gosselin are working on it; it is low hanging fruit and doesn't cost anything.

## **b. Letters/Information**

### **i. Call for Resolutions NHSBA**

This was a lengthy discussion. Delegate Assembly is in October. Chair Kofalt asked if anyone has any resolutions to submit. Superintendent adds the deadline to submit is July 15, which allows for one more board meeting. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke that last year was interesting; if we want to submit anything he suggest so that we do not waste our time, to communicate with another district so that we can at least present the resolution. A question was raised if they want to submit the same resolution; Mr. Post and Mr. Vanderhoof are in favor of this. Chair Kofalt reviewed that the resolutions are voted on at the Delegate Assembly and that guides policy for NHSBA. A number roll over from year to year and a number are introduced. Last year our resolution was that NHSBA should advise member school boards as to their obligation under state law to segregate funds and not just an accounting segregation but in a separate bank account. So far, one district in the state does this and follows the law. This was discussed. Mr. Post added they refused to provide the percentage of lobbying dollars from our payment. Mr. Vanderhoof responded they published a report last year but it did not contain percentages. It was expressed they are unwilling to say here is your bill but this percentage is for lobbying. A question was raised when we vote as a Board to continue as NHSBA members or not. Discussion was had that it was a line item in the budget and the budget passed. Disagreement was voiced by Mr. Vanderhoof and he notes taking a vote to continue membership is something he wants to do. Chair Kofalt agreed. Ms. Lavallee expressed she strongly feels we should continue as members and if it is required, she will make the motion.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to continue to be members of NHSBA.*

Discussion continued including cost of membership, what we get and that the controversial part is they engage in lobbying efforts. The idea that taxpayers pay money to the district and they potentially lobby against their interest that is a point of contention. The cost is about \$2,400, we get model policies, webinars which we may have stopped using that part as that is \$450 about. Ms. Anzalone has attended a couple of the webinars but did not get anything out of them. Discussion included that to use our own council it costs the district money and we can call the attorneys at NHSBA at no additional cost. Ms. Lavallee calls once or twice a month and emails them, some calls are a half-hour. This is related to policy discussions that were raised at our meetings. Discussion continued including not wanting to contribute to lobbyists, they do not offer a subscription without lobbying, as a school board, they take money from taxpayers and it is turned over to this group and for lobbying for things not in favor of taxpayers, the model policies are often outdated and wrong. Mr. Post challenged one on free speech and gave them the opportunity to change it and they never did. It was acknowledged that Ms. Lavallee has done a lot of work with them but they are substandard. Ms. Lavallee voiced that she would like to be clear that this is one person's opinion. She asked the Superintendent if there are other associations we pay dues to. He responds we do, Principal's Association, he wanted on record that he has consulted with legal counsel twice on school board matters; NHSBA has been beneficial for him. He thought about paying the school attorney but decided since we are paying dues to NHSBA and it was the logical choice to answer procedural matters with the school board. There are other associations we pay dues to but he is not sure if they engage in lobbying. Chair Kofalt responded they do. The School Nurses Association came out against the Parental Rights, HB 14:31. The School Administrators Association regularly gives opinions about bills whether showing up as lobbyist or just making opinions known in a letter. It happens a lot, the NHSBA has been far more vocal in that process. He notes some of the education content can be useful but doesn't know if it is a whole lot more useful than going out and finding that information on the web. When the state of emergency went into effect there were many questions on how do we do things etc. he didn't think there was anything provided that was not provided from the DOE or on the web. He does feel there are some things they do that are helpful. It has been a real sticking point that they use taxpayer money for lobbying. Ms. Lavallee clarified and apologized for her earlier comment, it was not meant to say the opinion was any less than anyone else's, sometimes people listening can think when one board member speaks they are speaking for the whole board. She voiced that some taxpayers do feel that way and knows that some feel the opposite that the NHSBA is lobby's for their shared opinion. It is tricky when we try to appease any one board member or taxpayer; there is a varying degree of opinion. It is more about looking at it objectively, what is the value are getting. She understands from other perspectives there are some negatives but if the negatives outweigh the value enough to separate from them, she would say no. Discussion continued including they do not stand behind their policies, if we are going to draw the line here with NHSBA what leg do we have to stand on if we have someone complain about the Nursing Association or the Superintendent Association or Principal Association; if we set a precedence we have to follow through with it. Chair Kofalt reviewed the resolution from last year for Ms. Anzalone and what happened at the Delegate Assembly. Each participating school district in the state can send one member to serve as the delegate. Discussions continued and the motion that was made earlier was reviewed. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral spoke that although she doesn't love the lobbying part but she really likes using their services and has contacted them herself; they get back to you quickly and are very helpful especially as a new board member. She is in favor of keeping of them; she knows that Ms. Lavallee has used them tremendously regarding the policy work. She spoke of the Policy Committee work being lengthy and hard and without them; it would be that much harder. Mr. LoVerme spoke that this should be decided during budget time; we put it in the budget so it should be approved for us to bring it up again, it is like saying lets take out the money for the truck now. Discussion continued with disagreement voiced, it is not about whether you agree or disagree it is not your money to spend, there is nothing locking us into spending it, we hear this argument every year it is in the budget and we have to do it, nothing says it must be spent, it was also expressed that there were extensive discussions last year,

any community member can look at the minutes, we did a line by line budget, the community can access it. Ms. Lavallee voices we have a motion and a second and should act on it. Discussion continued; questioning how much was shared with the public, in the budget, the public usually focuses on the bigger things. Mr. Post spoke that he spends a lot of time at the state house these past 2 years and they come in and weigh in on legislation there was never any type of vote from member votes he does not believe, he was never polled for example one thing they opposed was putting curriculum online or making it available and they opposed that at a Senate Hearing. That was not discussed at the Delegate Assembly as far as he knows, they do move on their own without direction from the school board members.

*Voting: roll call vote, five ayes; three nays from Mr. Post, Mr. Vanderhoof, and Ms. Anzalone, motion carried.*

Chair Kofalt asked if we want to submit a resolution for the Delegate Assembly. Mr. LoVerme would like to resubmit last years and get another district to second the motion. Ms. Lavallee asked to have the wording completed before that meeting so there is a chance to look at it before the meeting. Chair Kofalt suggested the wording from the prior submission could be used, let's do that and plan to vote at the next board meeting.

## **ii. General Assurances FY 2023**

Chair Kofalt spoke that this an annual task we need to do, grant funds rely on it and the DOE requires it. Superintendent confirms a motion is not needed, we need to record in the minutes you have reviewed it. He notes on page 5 where it lists policies there are 2 we still need to work on but the rest are in place. One is DAF-6 and the other a subrecipient monitoring policy. We will need to call NHSBA about the last one. Chair Kofalt notes he imagines it has to do with (for example) when we got the first round of ESSER funds, High Mowing was a subrecipient of those funds. Superintendent agrees and notes NHSBA likely has a sample policy we can bring to the Policy Committee. Ms. Lavallee added we were discussing in Finance Committee. The Board has had a chance to review the General Assurances. Ms. Anzalone commented it was very confusing and asked if someone can provide an overview of what it is saying. This was provided. Chair Kofalt spoke that a lot of it is saying we are complying with the requirements. He gave examples. We are complying with the various laws; we are saying yes we comply with all of those things, which we would comply with anyway. Mr. Vanderhoof pointed out that we don't really comply with all of it, on page 11 it is about lobbying, we are not in compliance. This was discussed including if you are going to spend funds it has to be segregated. It was noted then all the dues fees would have to be segregated. Any funds going to dues for lobbying would. There was a discussion with some disagreement of the wording of this and what it actually says. Mr. Vanderhoof refers to RSA 15-5 on the next page under prohibited funds. Ms. LaPlante reviews a portion of the RSA; it is adopted in this through the RSA. Chair Kofalt agrees we are not in compliance based on this, page 11, section C, subparagraph 2. It was expressed that this is what brought up proposing this to NHSBA because we are not in compliance, we tried to get them to tell us how to do it, and they didn't want to. A question was raised does that mean all the subcontractors such as the bus company we have to verify that they don't lobby at all and we separate all those accounts out. Ms. LaPlante responded she thinks that is a stretch to correlate that to other pieces. We cannot do that for all of our vendors but we can look at that. She spoke of the issue last year and that it was a timing issue getting payment in because we were not getting much resolution. She spoke to Merrimack School District, which she believes is the only school district doing things correctly, but behind the scenes, they still comingle. She thinks it could be a good Finance Committee discussion to figure out how to manage it. Right now, we would have time to open another account and she recommends that is also something we talk about with the investment stuff the issue last year was the NHSBA did not allow for electronic payments, we could not pay electronically because they would not accept it. We have done the legwork on that it has stalled. Chair Kofalt agrees we should take it to the Finance Committee. Mr. Post clarified the difference regarding a subcontractor, NHSBA we are a member of and a contractor is a supplier of us, we don't control them other than they have to be in compliance. Chair Kofalt adds, if we subcontract lobbying to NHSBA whether we intend to or want to we pay for it. When NHSBA presented to us they tried to make the case that it was similar to a bus contract and the bus company spending money to lobby in their own interest. There is a different category when we are taking taxpayer money and paying for lobbying. It will be brought to the Finance Committee next week. Superintendent informed the members it needs to be returned by June 30 and the concern is obtaining approval for grants. There is \$142,000 for title grants and we are concerned there will be a freeze on some of the big SPED grants we have. Mr. Post responded his opinion is we submit it, every other school district is out of compliance but it still needs to be resolved. Chair Kofalt agrees, last year this came up, it was put on the back burner, we need to look into how we comply regardless if the other district are in compliance or not unless we want to turn down massive amounts of money we will execute this.

## **VI. WLCTA**

Ms. Becky Hawkes was present, she expressed we love presenting to you; we think it is good to build the connection, it has brought growth and a lot of team work. Thank you. The WLCTA finally presented their scholarship for \$500 to Madeleine Straw who is going to college to become a social studies teacher. FRES teachers had their final meeting with Principal Chenette about data and W.I.N. so that we know where the kids are and brainstorm entry points so we are ready to hit the ground running. Both of the concerts were great, standing room only. Celebration of Learning in May was a huge success; it was great to see the community back in the buildings. FRES W.I.N. Team collaborated with rest of FRES to get teachers to making videos, (she can share the links) for Kindergarteners coming up so they can get to know a variety of staff and different math games to keep them going in the summer. At WLC, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade was working on a project that included researching dream vacations in Europe included thing like climate, history, culture, and budget. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade went on a field trip to Lake Winnepesaukee and took a cruise on the Mount Washington. Teacher Mary Beth Wiley just earned after 2 years her K-12 Library Media Specialist

certification. She was congratulated and given a round of applause. Ms. Lavallee thanked the WLCTA for joining us this year it has been fabulous.

## **VII. WLC SUMMER COMPETENCY RECOVERY & ESSER III FUNDS**

Principal Edmunds is hoping to use ESSER funds for the Summer Competency Recovery Program; an 11-day program starting tomorrow. She reports not having many MS students who are in need there are about 10-12 HS students and we have 5-6 families from MS we are reaching out to for tutoring and competency recovery. We have 4 teachers, 2 MS, 2 HS and we feel it would be helpful for the students who struggled at the end of the year. A question was raised how many students were participants in the Warrior Block. Principal Edmunds responded some but not most of them. A question was raised if the students that did participate in Warrior Block are some of those the ones that were absent. Principal Edmunds responded yes. She was asked how will ensure their attendance. She cannot ensure but is in constant contact about specific parents about attendance and word from parents that they will be there. A question was raised if the competency recovery and tutoring are the same or separate. Principal Edmunds confirms it is the same. It was suggested for the future to bring in outside tutors instead of the same teachers, for a different perspective and a different learning experience. Mr. LoVerme asked if the students who didn't meet the competencies are they not turning in the work and getting F's or are these students failing work they are doing. Principal Edmunds responded some of both some have medical issues and can't attend school but are capable of completing the course work, some struggle with the work and some struggle to complete it. Mr. Post spoke in support of this and adds whoever put this memo together, thank you it is very helpful. He asks what does success look like when you are done. Principal Edmunds responded success looks like especially in the HS that they finish and receive credit for the courses. A question was raised what if they get an F but they pass the competency, doesn't the college look at the F not the competency? Principal Edmunds responded that now colleges look at competencies, they have moved to this not all schools but most. It was noted if this is starting tomorrow, it would be nice if the Board could get those kinds of requests prior to the day before it starts but it is supported.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Post and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to approve the request for Summer 2022 WLC Competency Recovery Program (funding from ESSER III) in the amount not to exceed \$7,250.  
Voting: all ayes; motion carried.*

Ms. LaPlante noted all these projects we allocated funds for we didn't spend 100% of all of the funds. She intends at the next meeting to show what was allocated and what was spent so we can allocate those back into the available funds.

## **VIII. POLICIES**

### **i. Re-adopt DFA-Investment Policy**

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to re-adopt policy DFA-Investment Policy.  
Voting: all ayes; motion carried.*

### **ii. IJL-Library Materials-4<sup>th</sup> Read**

Ms. Lavallee reported the committee met last week to discuss the changes in the policy. She reviewed it with NHSBA as well; there is nothing new to add.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to adopt policy IJL-Library Materials as written.*

Discussion was had regarding if there is any reference that legally we have to do this as indicated in the policy. Ms. Lavallee confirms it is not a legally required policy. Mr. Vanderhoof read it. She does not have the specific reference in front of her but believes it is included under the first amendment; it has to do with free speech. Mr. Vanderhoof would like to see it. One of the things he wants to see changed is in the first paragraph where it talks about "various perspectives" he wants to add "and opposing perspectives" as there is a significant difference in that if we are going to go there so we have both sides of an argument. Concern was raised for the middle paragraph, it starts out saying, "we affirm the responsibility and rights of all parents and guardians to guide their own children's use of the library..." It was expressed you are putting it all on the parents and where it says later in paragraph "legal and professional obligation to ensure that all students have free access to a diverse range of library resources..." The way one member reads it is we will provide anything and everything. It was expressed there is zero trust in this policy from a parent perspective. Concern was raised when you say you have a legal and obligation to provide books regardless of content that is extreme. It was questioned what this policy does or is trying to do. This policy goes more toward not challenging books or say you can't have it in there, as opposed to creating a policy that creates an environment for minors and for parents to know they will are not getting offensive material. This does nothing to assure they are getting good quality materials and we have 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the building. Ms. Lavallee expressed that it is not correct that it does not provide an avenue to voice concern; it references policies KEC and KEC-R, which outline steps for reconsideration or parent objection of materials. She adds we have trained librarians she trusts not to select materials that would go against their age group and she has had extensive conversations with them about that. This is ensuring the right of all parents regardless of point of view, what one parent may want their child to have access to another may not. The librarians highlighted in the presentation that they are open to having conversations with parents, students and facilitating them. We need to be very careful when it comes to restricting access

to materials based on our own personal, political, religious, views because need to recognize in our community we have a large spectrum of views and everyone's view should be treated the same. Mr. Vanderhoof agrees there are perspectives and parents may want different things but this is a school library without parent supervision and we should err on the side of putting books in the library that are not offensive to anybody. If there are books, parents want that are not in the library they can get them elsewhere, it does not required for the school to provide any and all materials. Mr. Mannarino pointed out the document doesn't go into specific content it is about framework and procedure, as far as restricting or promoting content that is not what this is for this gives people the mechanism to do that if they want and gives guidance to the librarians who are competent and grade level. There is a provision in here if there is something someone wants to object to having this gives us guidance on how to address that. It was pointed out that, it says regardless of content in the policy. It was expressed that this is not a NHSBA policy it was acknowledged Ms. Lavallee did work with them. Many districts don't have this and we are adding something that is not a requirement. Concern was raised that this is a policy that doesn't point to anything except the last sentence. Mr. Post read the part of the policy he has concerns with in the middle paragraph and spoke to those concerns. He thinks we should strike that sentence (2<sup>nd</sup> sentence middle paragraph) it does nothing to drive procedure it is a statement. He read the sentence in the last paragraph, the public pays for this material as well and should have the ability to weigh in. A question was raised that in the last meeting it was asked, this is the 4<sup>th</sup> read, if you have any comments, concerns, or changes to get those to Ms. Lavallee so we could present something close to the final, did anyone make any type of those comments. Ms. Lavallee confirms in accordance with law to be transparent she shared the one comment from Mr. Mannarino other than that she has received no feedback, no critique or criteria or suggestions on how to word things differently. She states she is staying with her motion and notes this is the 4<sup>th</sup> school board meeting that we have discussed this. Discussions continued including this is a public school and we are providing a public education, this framework came out of a request from the librarians to have a streamlined process to manage those things, we need to give our children guidance. Chair Kofalt spoke regarding Bedford School District having an issue where a book was ruled by a judge as obscene material, this was an extreme case. If extreme cases come up, we want to deal with them as a Board, the problem is right now we are talking in abstractions. He notes age appropriate is important and there needs to be some guardrails it will be hard to agree on what those will be. This says we will ask the Superintendent or someone to come up with those and we can look at those. He likes the first sentence in the second paragraph a lot, it is important to acknowledge the parents have the right to guide their child's use of the library. He agrees with some concerns but notes it was put together in the spirit of goodwill and understands the err caution. Mr. Post expressed the fact that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> reading is irrelevant we can go and go until we get it right; consensus. He adds he is not obligated under any means to provide feedback prior. He spoke of the way it was first presented that we need this, the librarians need support, we heard from them, and they talked about banning books and things like that. He did not think it had any relevance but that was their perspective. There was some concerning material on display in terms of age appropriateness as you walk into the hallway and in the library, there are young children in the building. He questions how this policy would address that. Discussion continued including that parents rights are important, this policy is written to hide behind it, it is not our responsibility we just put books on the shelf, it is your responsibility not ours, the guardrails are important and should be in here we have a policy that is clear otherwise it is just a policy to hide behind, the stuff that is behind the scenes is what should be in the policy and not that the Superintendent will take care of it. Ms. Anzalone suggested if we are looking to have a policy to indicate what you do if a parent objects to the material, she feels the first two paragraphs can be taken out. Chair Kofalt spoke about when the policy was brought to the Board he had raised questions at the second reading and later apologized to Ms. Lavallee. Every time this gets rewritten Ms. Lavallee and the committee, spend their time on this. There is no formal obligation to provide feedback but the request was made and as point of courtesy, we should recognize the amount of effort that goes into this kind of work. Policies are important and we should get them right so let's get them right but please as we move forward and not make the mistake and provide feedback to late in the process so that she is having to redo the very hard tedious work over and over again. A point hopefully taken to work together more effectively. A comment was made when we review policies it is not a personal attack on anyone. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke that he believes this work is something that should take place in a board meeting, not email; he is hesitant to send emails especially with work like this that can turn into a conversation over email. Ms. Lavallee spoke about her frustration; she is not offended by constructive conversations it more the other stuff that is frustrating. Discussion continued that we did have this conversation at the last meeting, we received guidelines on how they pick books and it was said that is what has to be in the policy it was reiterated tonight that the guardrails are the important part the information that says this is how we will do this. If we will have one it should be front and center, clearly established not just something to hide behind not just something to hide behind.

*Voting: roll call vote, five ayes, three nays from Ms. Anzalone, Mr. Vanderhoof, and Mr. Post; motion carried.*

Mr. Vanderhoof requests a follow-up when you make the decision or if the Superintendent will make it or a designee and who will that be. Superintendent clarified you want guardrails brought back to the Board. Mr. Vanderhoof request to get the notation on the policy where that legal requirement comes from. He asked for it to be emailed to him. Superintendent spoke of one of the challenges at WLC is we have a MS and HS developmentally those are 2 different groups and there is a different philosophy in the MS. It also speaks to the locker room and goes the same for other facilities including the library and it is important to have age appropriate. When we talk about guardrails and getting that on paper it is important to me as an educator and a father too. Those comments are not lost to me. Mr. LoVerme noted we have K-12 on the same school bus and no one mentions this. There are no guardrails and it is unsupervised. Mr. Post agreed there is a wide age group that uses the library he feels it is reasonable to say I don't have a problem that it is in there but if it is on display for every single age to see and promote it as these 3 books were I think it is an issue. That is the concern of parents. He asked how difficult it would be to get a list of all the books that were

acquired this year. The Superintendent responded it will take time but not an impossible task the biggest hurdle is the librarian is not working until August, he doesn't think she would oppose it and we may have it already.

## **IX. ACTION ITEMS**

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

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Golding and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to approve the minutes of May 24, 2022 as written. Voting: eight ayes; one abstention from Mr. LoVerme, motion carried.*

## **X. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **i. Facilities Committee**

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral reported Mr. Fran Bujak has volunteered for the Facilities Committee; he was welcomed into the committee. The last meeting was focused on LCS they noted the 2 trees in the front mentioned earlier in the meeting. They did spend time discussing the tennis court project and it is complicated, there are a lot of community members reaching out now especially since the tennis team is doing so well, Mr. Bujak had a lot to do with that. He did a lot of work to make them playable. She referenced an email from Mr. Chris Jacob (attached to minutes) and asked to read it but instead it will be included in the minutes. She summarized it by saying he is talking about the importance of the tennis courts. She spoke of when she first brought up the tennis courts she was concerned with the safety issues such as the fence and holes. It needs a lot of repair. Mr. Jacob is asking us to keep them, maybe we should talk about it. We have a timeline; we can take the fences down and start with that, those are the pieces falling apart. The door doesn't move, it has rust areas. She wants to make the area safe; she thinks there is merit in discussing it. Ms. Lavallee added she has had some discussions with community members and hears racket sports are part of the curriculum. We did take a vote before and we would need to make a motion to go on a fact-finding mission. She would like to hear from professionals about what our different options are. Are there other things we can do to make them usable and what is the cost is. Mr. Vanderhoof noted we took a vote, it was in the budget, there is a line item for it and it passed therefore we have to take it out right, just like the NHSBA. This was presented specifically at district meeting. A question was raised what the Roberts Rules on it. Mr. LoVerme spoke that we have listened to how bad the tennis courts have been. He didn't see any large crack, no one spoke of the poles for nets being raised, no one spoke about the fence coming down. We were told they were secured, 3 courts are playable. No one talked about the tennis court building falling down. He was up there over the weekend and pushed on the fences; he found the old score board leaning against it more dangerous He notes he is no expert but spoke of what he could do if he had the heavy equipment. He adds he has never seen a quote although had asked for them. We were told it would cost \$200,000-\$400,000 to build a new one. He questioned how much money have we spent to maintain them. We spend a ton of money on the baseball field, no money on track, little on the soccer field. An Eagle Scout put up the scoreboard. The dugouts we paid for the materials but volunteers built them. He notes we were misguided for years. Mr. Post spoke that he read Mr. Jacob's letter several times and one point he makes is the tennis courts belong to the town, they don't, they belong to the district. It was expressed that there are plenty of other places they can play. There is an avid interest from the tennis coach here and members who play. When we talked about it, we talked about them going to some other place to practice as a solution and hoped to hear from the Athletic Director on where that was going to happen. We had numerous meetings about this over and over again, the budget hearing, the public hearing, and the town meeting and no objection until now when they are about to come down. The previous Superintendent repeatedly told us he was on the tennis association and they were not acceptable, this is why we could not have a meet here. The frustration of losing it is understood, the population in tennis has declined. It is believed the number given by the Superintendent was about \$800,00-\$1,000,000 and is that where we want to spend our money. Ms. LaPlante spoke a question had been raised if there was a legal obligation to spend funds in a line item budget; there is more wiggle room in a line item budget than a stand-alone warrant article. This first came to the Facilities Committee in 2017 at the time there were various verbal quotes by Mr. Bujak, Mr. Lane, and Mr. Erb. There were various ideas and they were all discussed but when the price tag came to fruition it was put on the CIP and no longer became a topic of conversation at the Facilities Committee. She can find several emails and communications that there had been paper quotes. The record keeping in 2017, 2018 and 2019 there are no quotes in the file but appears to have been documents distributed and referenced. She thinks the information and numbers thrown around during the FY 23 budget process was using historical information from 2017, which we no longer have physical access to. We have contacted the original companies that we got quotes from back in 2017 and 2018, they are either too busy to call us back or no longer have our information on file to provide us an updated quote. Mr. Erb has reached out to 2 tennis court vendors in last month and is having a hard time getting calls back because it is the busy season but he is actively trying to get these companies out here to give us the options. Discussion was had that this has been discussed at great length, it is not unreasonable to gather new information, it is suspected that there is nothing binding us to the former decision unless we carry it out or make another decision, there is still concern regarding safety and the timeline. Chair Kofalt proposes we have some discussion between now and the next meeting and gather information, understand what the safety issues are and bring it back to the Board in more detail. Ms. LaPlante reports that Mr. Erb has spoken to Chris Carter who was going to take it down and is able to push it back to September. A question was raised if we want this happening when school is in session. Ms. LaPlante does not know his schedule, and cannot speak to when he would be doing it. Concern was raised regarding the timeline and it was noted this is a school board not town board, there are other options and although it would be nice to have it but it was not maintained. Is the objective to fix them so they can be used this spring? The unfortunate fact is funds are limited, we have a track team too but it comes down to we don't have a boys' team, not a full girls' team. Ms. Lavallee expressed that she made a decision at the time based on the information she was provided and believed it was correct. Since then she has heard information that is contrary to that. She agrees she should have asked to see the quotes; we did not have

all that information but would like to see it now before we move forward and remove a program. She remembers the cost was significant, our only option was to tear them up completely and if there was another option to repair and make them usable she doesn't recall getting that. Mr. LoVerme spoke that he has never seen the quotes since he has been on the board. When a quote is given, it is now the property of the district and questions who has the authority to destroy that. If we are going to fix them, we need to maintain them. Chair Kofalt proposes the information is gathered, prioritize safety issues, provide information as complete as we can for the next meeting. He asked if everyone was comfortable with that approach, no objection heard.

#### **ii. Budget Liaison**

Mr. Golding reported the committee discussed what to do with the remaining fund balance and how to spend that; things we need vs. giving the maximum back to the taxpayers, paving the parking lot etc. A brief discussion was had about the district's interviewing a new Athletic Director and they would like him to be part of the budget discussion next year, uniforms, keeping the field's things of that nature and do things like get the track back to being usable for our track participants. They may want to have a meeting in April with the School Board to discuss the surplus and some items we may be able to spend that on that would otherwise roll into the next budget year. There was public comment and concern raised about the use of funds and spending them on facilities, because they are hearing concern regarding the upkeep of these facilities including the sport fields, they are hearing athletes are embarrassed and when asked about our facilities they sell it is like this because we are a poor school. The next meeting is scheduled for August 9. A question was raised if we can legally do that; spend money that is not budgeted, can we randomly do projects at the end of the year just because we have money left over? Chair Kofalt noted we are 2 weeks away from the end of the fiscal year; we need to take a measurable approach. He does not think it is reasonable or responsible to go on a spending spree. We are pleased to return funds to tax payers, he has also heard from more than one person that the uniforms need to be replaced. The Superintendent has assured me a replacement cycle is the plan and is something we will work on moving forward. For larger capital projects, it is something we will talk about. Mr. LoVerme spoke of previous years where we had a 4-year replacement cycle, the Budget Committee took that out one year and as things are taken out, they don't want them put back in. The teams are embarrassed. Superintendent spoke that the Budget Committee talked about getting together with the Board in early April next spring seeing if we would spend some of that money for larger projects in June. Ms. LaPlante was asked if we could take excess funds and spend it on things not in the budget. Ms. LaPlante responded theoretically yes. Ms. Lavallee spoke of the warrant article previously discussed to retain 2.5% of the funds. Chair Kofalt noted that would need to be done as a warrant article at district meeting. He did voice his concern to Chair Jeff Jones of the Budget Committee in terms of what we do with this year's surplus; this is the worst possible time to say lets do this. People are struggling to pay bills. Chair Jones understanding of this is going forward the Budget Committee would like to have more of a sense of the pace of spending, and around March, April, look at the budget, where are we in the spending process and are there things allocated that we did not spend, why not. What should we plan between now and the end of the year. It is a reasonable conversation to be having. His concern was when he got an update on the meeting he heard it was to spend some between now and the end of this month. Mr. Golding confirms he believes it is for next year's budget. Superintendent spoke that he has heard about the uniforms and has had 2 interviews with the Athletic Director candidate, we spoke of a full inventory and building a cycle of uniform replacement and stick to this part of the 23-24 process. There is a middle ground somewhere, we are not a poor district, and we need to do a better job planning if we have maintenance money for the tennis courts we need to spend it. It is on the radar of the new Athletic Director. A question was raised what the urgent needs will be as we can do some fundraising; we are a generous community. It was expressed that the Athletic Director should come to us and communicate the need for uniforms, here is the plan for the tennis courts, this is where they will be playing, how they get there etc. We need more connection as obviously there was a disconnect. We need a fresh start. Chair Kofalt spoke of knowing one coach who takes money out of his own pocket to buy uniforms for the kids. Superintendent added the courts were playable this year because some people in particular the tennis coach did repairs.

#### **iii. Policy Committee**

Ms. Lavallee reported the last meeting they discussed draft policy IJL; there is a meeting the end of this month and a meeting in August. They will mostly look at what policies are left to look at and what do we need to start working on. There was a webinar going over legislative updates and will bring that information as well.

#### **iv. Technology Committee**

The committee met this evening. The hope was to get the vision document to the Board for review and sign off at this meeting. That will happen next time it was finalized tonight. You will get it prior to the next meeting. It focuses on a fairly high level; recommendations are a high level, not verbatim but almost what you have in the draft document. The Superintendent and Ms. Stefanich will meet with some teachers and start exploring how to make things operational and how to do a better job raising awareness regarding CTE and extended learning opportunities. Discussion on how to start the process with makerspace, getting teachers training, processes around cybersecurity audit. Mr. Bouley has done a lot of work to get us back on track. As we move forward we will come up with an action plan, it will be reviewed by the Board and will be monitored and followed up on.

### **XI. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES**

#### **a. Resignation Haleigh Abell-LCS ABA Therapist**

##### **• Resignation Lynne Movassaghi-FRES SPED Teacher**

Superintendent reviewed the resignations. He informed the Board that a motion is needed to release Ms. Movassaghi from her signed 22-23 contract and if we hold her to the 30-day requirement, we may need to pay her. He recommends not doing this.



*A MOTION was made by Mr. Post and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to accept the resignation of Ms. Lynne Movassaghi effective June 16.*

*Voting: all ayes; motion carried.*

## **XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Mr. Fran Bujak, Lyndeborough was present. He spoke of appreciating the opportunity to return the Facilities Committee after all these years; he was prior board member. He spoke of the large unencumbered fund balance, around \$810,000, assumes it is less but still it is hundreds of thousands of dollars of surplus funds. He is not here to advocate for tennis one way or another. It is amazing the decision that are being made without facts. He spoke of not ever seeing in Wilton or Lyndeborough budget hearings where someone will make a decision on a project for town or district property and not have a warrant article for people to vote on. There are a number of people upset at that. There is so much speculation going on here, you don't know how many courts you need to HS tennis, three and you are talking about replacing four. We talk about playing on 2 play courts that can't happen, playing at Hampshire Hills inside, that can't happen. He would ask you take the time to get professional quotes to do things. He can provide the history if anyone would like it but it not important now. What is even worse is your parking lot, the parking lot of this school has multiple holes, places where the tar has failed, the road to get to the tennis, baseball field is almost completely failed, and that is thousands and thousands of dollars. You have not bothered to seal any cracks. When you drive up the road look at the catch basins at the side of the road, you will notice there is no tar against them and when water flows down you will have further damage. We have so many spider cracks, the areas that have not been destroyed will be come this winter. In October when he participated at the LCS clean-up day, we talked about the paint peeling, talked, and saw rotten trim work, which means there is water damage, he questioned if it was fixed. Yet we have a multi-hundred thousand-dollar surplus and you wonder what to do with it. You probably have tens of thousands of pavement work. Cost is expensive now, how many did home repairs in the last 3 years, we know you did and prices are through the roof. Tennis courts should be sealed and if they were, they would last longer, they should last 30 years. We see our towns do it but we don't. Tennis courts are asphalt and we have not done in so long we have actually painted the lines 3 times. He cautions you and you do the same thing when you deal with the NHSBA, it is important you get all the facts, everyone can find something wrong with a company, it is important if you will make an informed decision. If you are going to trash the one thing, they did really bad and lobbied, you at least to have a full list of what they are lobbying. I can tell you from the school board I was on when we had some significant problems we saved the towns/district a whole lot of money by being a member of NHSBA. It is important that you follow through and actually look at all the information. The only reason I want to be on the Facilities Committee is just to help you folks get the quotes you need so you can actually understand what is out there. We see a lot of stuff on TV, we think all these people want all this money back; how many of you want a half a million dollars back and a hundred and ten thousand dollars in liability in paving and school buildings to fix. That may not be the right number, it may be close, and that number is not going to go away. All we are doing is making the facilities worse by not taking the time to fix them. This is not a poor district, people have always been supportive of education for the 36 years I have been here and they look upon this group to spend their money wisely not to just put every dollar back. You can do whatever you want with the money, it doesn't mean you should. It doesn't make a lot of sense to pick up a budget that has a replacement equipment line at \$14,000 that still has \$12,000 in it. Those budgets are set up to spend for stuff for this year and you, as a school board should be asking in November why those types of things are not spent. Because just like we don't want to waste a lot of money we don't want a lot of bills hanging over our head for when times truly get tough and we don't have a \$500,000 surplus and we have to go out and get \$150,000 to pay for it anyway. It would have been nice if we could have fixed LCS with the money we had now, it's probably too late to encumber it and get a quote. Same with the parking lot but to have holes in the parking lot are bigger than this podium that are filled with rocks is just not a way to run a business.

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

## **XIII. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral commented that this was a humbling meeting, we have a lot of work to do and appreciates everyone working together and thanks Mr. Bujak for joining us. She thanked all the faculty for a great year, a great graduation and appreciated Mr. Comerford's speech. It was touching and you can see why the students chose him, you can tell he cares.

Mr. LoVerme thanked Mr. Bujak for his comments. He thanked the Board for this school year, the teachers and administration and staff. It has been a tough year; we have to stop using that for an excuse and go forward to a new year.

Ms. Lavallee thanked the entire faculty for a good year and administration. We made progress this year with some of the relationship building. She thanked the Board, we had a good year, even when we had heated debates and she appreciates the

551 comments from everyone. She thanked the public that showed up to comment tonight the emails. It is difficult to come up, have  
552 a debate, and not hear from the public with what they want. It is frustrating to hear that a decision is made and the public doesn't  
553 feel that way, please read the agendas, it does make a difference to hear how you feel.  
554

555 Chair Kofalt spoke regarding some issues that get contentious and a strong desire to have everyone focus on the things that bring  
556 us together and agree on, which is not easy to do. Some issues come up and you can't ignore and have to take an issue one side  
557 or the other. He appreciates everyone here has a commitment to making it a good school district making it a great place for kids  
558 to get an education and a good place for the people who work here. Thank you all for that, the more we can keep that front and  
559 center the more effective we will be as a Board.  
560

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

562 *A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to enter Non-Public Session to review non-public*  
563 *minutes and discuss student matters RSA 91-A: 3 II (C) at 9:33pm.*

564 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*  
565

566 **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

567 The Board entered public session at 10:45pm.  
568

569 *A MOTION was made to seal the non-public session minutes by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino.*

570 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*  
571

572 **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

573 *A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to adjourn the Board meeting at 10:45pm.*

574 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*  
575

576 *Respectfully submitted,*

577 *Kristina Fowler*  
578