

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, May 24, 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 (6:35pm), Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral, Charlie Post (online), 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 (online), Technology Directors Jonathan Bouley and Nicholas Buroker, Curriculum Coordinator Emily Stefanich, and Clerk Kristina Fowler*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Kofalt called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**III. PUBLIC HEARING-UNANTICIPATED REVENUE RSA 198:20-b**

Chairman opens the hearing at 6:32pm. Provided an explanation of the purpose and reviews the breakdown of funding sources, which were provided. The hearing's purpose is to provide an opportunity for the Board to accept grant money that has come to the district. The State requires that we hold a public hearing and formally take a vote to accept the funds. Ms. LaPlante provided a review of funds in more detail. In FY 22, the district budgeted \$256,442. We anticipate receiving \$1,080,856.40. Because of the American Rescue Plan and relaunch of robotics, we have an excess of appropriation in the amount of \$824,414.40. That significant increase is related to the CARES or ESSER III and robotics. Chairman asked for questions/discussion from the Board. Ms. LaPlante confirms for Mr. Vanderhoof that the ESSER funds (\$684,010.01) are not included in the budget and were not discussed in an unanticipated revenue hearing therefore it is new as far as that discussion. You can use it all at once but don't have to and as long as we say yes, we accept these funds, we meet the criteria for the public hearing. Chairman asked for questions/comments from the public who are present and online. None heard.

Chairman closes the hearing at 6:36pm.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Golding and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to accept and expend an additional \$824,414.40 for the purposes outlined in the special programs.*

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

**IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Chairman requested to move up the library materials discussion from its position in #9 to right after public comments.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavalley and SECONDED by Mr. Golding to accept the adjustments to the agenda.*

*Voting: via roll call vote, seven ayes; Mr. Post did not vote-technical difficulties, motion carried.*

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment. There was no public comment.

**• POLICIES**

**i. IJL-Library Materials-3<sup>rd</sup> Read/Librarians Attending**

Ms. Stephanie Loiselle, Librarian at FRES/LCS and Ms. Mary Beth Wiley, Librarian at WLC presented on why they want a policy for library materials. They want to empower students, parents and the community to have an outlet to express their opinions, and feelings, participate and have a choice in what their kids are taking out. They want a transparent process using procedures that they will follow in case of concerns or challenges. They want people to know where to go and can utilize the process across the district. They want to prevent bias in handling situations and want all people and materials treated the same during any reconsideration of materials process. Having a policy ensures everyone will follow the same procedure. The policy will help them do the right thing and follow the right procedure. It could be construed as a student violation of a student's First Amendment Rights to remove materials if it was done to prevent access of ideas, viewpoints or opinions. There is Supreme Court case law that speaks to that. Book challenges are increasing. They provided statistics on this. This is the highest number of book bans according to the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom since they started tracking it 20 years ago. It is becoming

more frequent and want to be ready in case it happens here. The librarians feel considering the increase in challenges, it is of the utmost importance to get it on the books now before it becomes a larger issue in our district. Ms. Wiley reviewed a case that happened in the Bedford School District where the librarian faced a new challenge and didn't know how to respond on her own when someone wanted to remove a book from her district's library. She did not have a procedure to follow. They created a policy to help going forward. Information was presented such as 81% of schools have a plan and procedure in place; they reviewed nearby districts that have reconsideration policies and information on where the book bans are happening in the US. A copy of the presentation can be found with the minutes. Ms. Anzalone thanked them for coming in, she agrees we need a policy in place and questions how we decide what books will in the library and questioned if they anticipate people coming to them asking for books to be put in the library. Ms. Loiselle responded that they have selection criteria and passed out copies to the Board. Ms. Wiley reviewed it includes things like finding out what the classes need, it meets high standards literacy, artistic and aesthetic quality, physical format, appropriate for the subject area and age, social and emotional wellbeing of the students, accurate and appropriate content, they strive for favorable reviews and use legitimate sources verified by professional personnel, provide a global perspective, and they provide a variety of resources, in physical and digital format, online, eBooks etc. They balance the cost with the need and follow the criteria when they purchase books. Both certified librarians follow the criteria. Ms. Loiselle spoke of a couple situations she encountered last year which were handled internally through administration. These situations do come up and they need to have a plan to follow. Ms. Wiley agrees she would like a plan in place and would feel more safe if there were rules for her to follow a documented system. A question was raised to provide an example of a book that would not meet the criteria provided, as at least 8 of the 11 are very subjective and go toward viewpoint and opinion. Ms. Loiselle responds their goal is to represent all viewpoints and opinions. A question was raised how the criteria list would help if a book were challenged. Ms. Wiley responded if a book was challenged they could say they have the list and looked at the publications, the professional personnel reviews and it is designated for this age range, etc. agrees it is a little subjective. Both librarians are certified in creating a quality collection and put a lot of thought into what they purchase. They want to be sure the books are checked out by students and enjoyed, and have literary value. It was noted, seeing this is not a public library but a school library, if we are going to have a policy it has to have "teeth" in it. It has to be something we can enforce and explain. The subjectivity for any literature will be tough to have a concrete discussion with someone when it is so subjective. When putting a policy in place we need to be clear about how we will do it. There is potential for a big debate. There is concern raised the policy doesn't become something that administration, Board and staff can just say it meets the policy so there is nothing I can do about it. Once we have a policy who will go through all the books we have and make those decisions. Ms. Lavallee clarified the difference between the procedure and policy. She did follow up with Attorney Phillips on this, the selection criteria we are discussing is not part of the policy. It is part of the administrative procedure, which is different from the policy and legally is held to a different standard. Although it is referenced in a policy and there are other procedures referenced in other policies but are not voted on by the Board and do not rise to the level of legal standing as a policy. It was noted that is the problem having a policy that doesn't specifically say what it is intended to do. Discussion continued. A question was raised if they would ban a book all together or just for a specific child and an example was given. Ms. Loiselle explained she thinks it's a conversation you have with your child, she can be included in the conversation and has been in the past if a child has tried to check out a book their parent would not want them to have. They don't want to ban books, but this policy is about removing books from the shelves and that is what is needed because it opens us up to lawsuits and other challenges and sets a precedent and we need to treat everyone the same and follow the same policy. The process should be a multistep process and involve others who are analyzing the book itself and determine if it is suitable for every student in the school. Ms. Lavallee reviewed some of the discussion they had in the policy committee; they have been working on this since the middle of winter. The development of the policy is to communicate the values, philosophy and culture of our schools, what are we saying, what is the message. The procedure/process is how that is carried out it is 2 separate things. When we developed this policy, we said we wanted to affirm the responsibility and right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children's use of the library and resources. The decision of what book is appropriate is subjective and not just to the professionals but to the parents. By removing a book from the shelf you may be appeasing a group of parents who want it removed but you may also be upsetting a group of parents who want that materials to their child. The policy is saying we are making unbiased decisions based solely on professionals not guided by any sort of predetermined agenda. Discussions continued including the policy specifically identifies the Superintendent or designee will create procedures necessary. It was clarified if there were to be an issue there would be a committee to discuss the issue of that book. Ms. Lavallee referred to policy KEC that specifically says a committee is set up to review all materials; it would be that same committee. It was noted this is establishing a framework for procedures, it is not outlining specific criteria, it is saying there should be a mechanism to express it. Discussions continued including when we make a policy we are saying this is what we shall do, there is no wiggle room. There was discussion regarding the language in the policy and the external sources referenced. Ms. Lavallee shared the Policy Committee had not met since the last board meeting and has consulted with Attorney Phillips to create an alternative version and the draft will got the committee before bringing it to the Board. The 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph was taken out. She read the draft. The Attorney preferred this version but noted both are acceptable from a legal perspective. Mr. Vanderhoof wants to see something in the policy that in some ways states effectively that we acknowledge this is a school library and largely serving minors and with that in mind, acknowledging that there are other places to get materials such as town libraries, etc. Mr. Mannarino expressed the criteria is a larger discussion for another day and could change over time and the framework should be constant and there should be some mechanism in place to review or challenge and he does not think that should change over time. Ms. Lavallee expressed the Policy Committee needs direction. Mr. Post voiced his thought is that it goes back to the committee for review and bring it back to the Board to either approve or change it rather than just hearing it tonight. He does not want to vote on something that not be ready and we should take our time on this

and be purposeful. It was expressed the intent tonight was not to vote on it but the committee needs direction. Mr. Kofalt read the new version entirely. He recommended that the new version be emailed to the members and a date be given to provide feedback on it. He does not want the committee to be discouraged that they are taking a deep dive into this and believes the results will be a solid policy. This removes the ambiguity and external references. It also talks about balancing with age appropriate content for students. Ms. Lavalley will send this out and has a schedule conference call with Attorney Phillips; she will make sure we are not missing anything. No objection heard to the approach. The librarians were thanked for coming.

## **VI. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

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

Ms. LaPlante spoke of all the work done on the grants; she is working on getting grant assurances for 3 other grants and is pleased with the progress. She spoke about the last meeting and a brief discussion about unspent balances remain and she wants to go back and see the history of funds and allocations for FY 22 and compare this with the FY 23 to see if the decrease has been picked up. A question was raised regarding the transfer to food service that is showing up at \$21,000. She responded we are running a great surplus due to the free and reduced lunch foods now. She confirms that number will look considerably better.

### **ii. Director of Student Support Services Report**

Mr. Pratt reviewed his report is about student mental health. He provided a review of our school counseling caseloads and the part-time social worker and school psychologist caseloads. We range between 10.1% in elementary and 16.6% for counseling for general education students and 21% for special education (SPED) students. He spoke that when you look at the counseling caseloads it looks pretty reasonable. One thing we saw during the pandemic and now is these are the student who have more intense needs in general education or SPED. It does not account for the ones who touch-base once or twice a month. Everyone is focused on mental health and it is a situation that is taking up a lot of our counselors and part-time school psychologist and social workers time. We did have a contracted full-time psychologist this year but broke that up with a part-time social worker and psychologist. We have been really blessed to have 2 great people working with us who focus on students and families and collaborate with our staff. In his position as Director of Student Support Services and being in the schools almost daily, he sees a concern that it could become a greater number who are looking to access counseling or services. In the past, we referred student for outside counseling and there would be a waitlist. The waitlist is now is longer and in some cases months before a student can access any services. This doesn't help the schools. As your Director, I am asking you to help me solve this problem. He is taking a 2-prong approach, the first is to present the data to you and secure the additional services for school psychologist and social worker. He would like to use the current budgeted amount for the school psychologist and ESSER money to provide service to our school for all the kids, not just for SPED kids and be able to help these folks on a full-time basis next year. The second prong is the acknowledgement that we need to look at some sort of formalized program for students whether mental health or behavioral, this would be part of that approach. Whether SPED or general education or hybrid it is to address short and long-term needs in students in the area of mental health and address them in the schools. He will bring forward a more detailed plan in June. He was asked to clarify if he was asking for additional school psychologist or social worker using ESSER funds. Mr. Pratt responded he would like to make both the current part-time school psychologist and part-time social worker full-time next year. We have a number of other students who come and go and we have a 3<sup>rd</sup> group that is undetermined that really are not forth coming about the issues they are having. We know they are going through some stuff and we need professional folks to help us with those kids while those numbers look reasonable, the number of kids we need to address is really much higher based on discussions I have had with staff. A question was raised if he is linking it to COVID. Mr. Pratt responded he will provide a long-term plan on June 14, this would address one year only from ESSER and in the next budget cycle, he will address some problematic pieces. He confirmed this request is to use ESSER funds for something that was not budgeted, it would go into the budget moving forward, and he may be able to provide some cost savings at the same time. This is clearly a one-time request for next year and then it would be addressed through the appropriate budget process. He confirms the numbers are an increase from prior, at least 30% in SPED, he doesn't have the percentage increase in general education but knows it is an increase. We hear from parents and students that need services but are not getting them, some are waiting 6 months to see an outside counselor.

### **iii. Director of Technology's Report**

Mr. Bouley spoke of this month being light on tickets mostly because there was a week off. They have done more work on closing new tickets and driving down old tickets, none are more than a year old and are things that need to be done in the summer such as requiring wires to be run in the hallways. He has been helping the new director Nicholas Buroker who was present and has come in to spend time on site so we can get him access to documents and technology and make it as smooth as possible for July 1. He has been great to work with him side by side and get him onboard with some of the documents created for the Technology Committee, making sure it is as much his as mine. The biggest thing in his report other than introducing Mr. Buroker is asking for an extension for the temporary help he has had through ESSER funding. He would like to extend this through the end of August; currently it is funded through end of June. There is a need for help with updating the new and existing Chromebooks while the director works on cybersecurity goals. He has been trying to work on a non-private version of security information so that we can have a way for the Board to see the progress being made on goals and discuss it. Chairman

welcomed Mr. Buroker. Mr. Bouley confirms it has been working out well having the extra person. He was asked at what point it becomes a non-COVID issue and just something that we need. Mr. Bouley responded we are in the same boat as Mr. Pratt, he thinks Mr. Buroker would advocate for needing the help. He feels we are just now getting the ticket counts down to a manageable level and if we lose that position, it will climb right back up. None of the tickets are complicated it just takes time. It is something that would need to be worked on with the Budget Committee. He confirms most tickets are around training on how to use technology. Superintendent Weaver clarifies the request to extend the IT position is to extend it to September 30 to get us through the summer and get school opened. It was expressed previously we were doing the day-to-day functions in the technology department but getting to other projects that need attention. Now, we are finally getting to them. An example of this is the single sign on; we don't have that in the district, single sign on doesn't make that go away but helps in the flow of those tickets. Mr. Bouley agrees it would help and it would reduce the number of passwords people have to remember. We are trying to automate some of this like making it less time consuming to create a new user. Mr. Bouley was thanked for his commitment and Mr. Buroker was thanked for attending.

## **VII. YTD REPORTS**

Ms. LaPlante provided the percent remaining in the budget unspent and unencumbered. She spoke of some wages not being budgeted in the appropriate lines, which she has spoken of before. She provided a report of the percentage of unspent and uncommitted funds, which is what she will have more detail at a future meeting. The summery report is listed out by type and object. We are looking at 6.3% of the budget as of May 15 unspent and unencumbered. The heating oil allocation has helped us, those funds will remain unspent and they will start to get estimates for the FY 24 budget, what that might look like and what we are looking at overages on heating oil for next year's budget but it helps to account for some money unspent and uncommitted right now. A question was raised why principal on debt was over budget and interest on debt was under budget. Ms. LaPlante confirmed it was budgeted incorrectly. There is payment schedule published by Municipal Bond Bank and those numbers were not updated for the FY 22 process. Principal is overspent and interest is underspent she believes. It was noted this format was useful and it is helpful having the nonwage and wage broken out and color-coded. She notes it was budgeted for FY 23 moving forward.

## **VIII. PTO UPDATES**

### **i. FRES/LCS PTO**

Ms. Alyssa Lavoie was present and reports the PTO has been really busy last month. A report was shared with the Board. She thanked those members who came in to popcorn for the students; we are a small group and anytime we can get participation takes the burden off us to allow us to focus on other things. The first week of May was Teacher Appreciation Week, we provided lunches, snacks, and desserts to FRES and LCS staff and sent home forms with kids the week before for them to write a note or draw a picture to show appreciation. One of their parents, Ms. Gomez did a chalk drawing on the front of the school as well. We tried to put the effort in to show the teachers how much we appreciate what they do for our kids. May 7 they had the second annual plant sale and raised \$859. The book fair was successful raising \$3,700 in scholastic dollars; they have an additional \$2,700 in scholastic dollars earmarked for Ms. Loiselle (donated to FRES) to increase the books. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade yearbooks are ordered and the PTO covered the cost 100%. The newly voted in Board includes Ms. Lavoie, President, and Ms. Ally MacFadzen as Vice President, Ms. Megan Nantle as Secretary and Ms. Chrissy Morrissey as Treasurer. They are excited about Field Day if any of you are available, it is all day events, activities, relay races, the fire department, police department are coming. We will start a new tradition with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade vs. community members in a kickball game. She reviewed who the participants are. It will last about 30 minutes and we would love it if any of you can come out. The next meeting is June 7, 6pm and next year they will meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 6pm in the library at FRES. Chairman Kofalt had come to the April meeting and that was a huge help, she welcomes board members to attend at least one meeting next year. Chairman Kofalt thanked Ms. Lavoie and both PTOs and acknowledged how great it is to have that kind of support for staff and students.

### **ii. WLC PTO**

Ms. Crystal Gill was present and reported May started pretty strong for them as well with Teacher Appreciation Week. They provided an abundance of food throughout the week. Lynn Crouse heads our banner program; we put up 7 more banners. She is taking it to the next level trying to grow it. It provides some money in and provides advertising for local businesses. We are trying to find ways to keep the banners up longer and make them more visible. The spring concert is this Thursday at 7pm; we will put our gear out for the first time. We were able to purchase come to have on hand instead of just having the 2 web stores. We have step-up night for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders and plan to attend that, answer any questions for parents and provide information, and show a friendly face. We have not been at graduation before and have been asked to provide concessions such as water, etc. Our main focus is to get as much involvement in next year as we can. We are a small group as well. We are looking into providing a scholarship for graduating seniors who excel in volunteering and community service above and beyond the normal hours they need. She still needs to learn a lot about it and will be talking to the guidance counselor about it and hopes to implement it next year.

## **IX. POLICIES**

### **ii. IJL-Library Materials-3<sup>rd</sup> Read/Librarians Attending**

See above, this was moved up on the agenda.

## X. NARCAN DISCUSSION

Ms. Cathleen Bertoncini, School Nurse was present. Superintendent voiced she has been the go-to in terms of nursing things and health needs and we really appreciate her. He reports most districts do not have Narcan and the ones that do have clear policies with specifics. Ms. Bertoncini has done some research on this. Our police department in Wilton does not carry Narcan. Ms. Bertoncini reached out to school nurses in area districts such as Milford, ConVal, Souhegan and Mascenic. Milford does not have it and there is nothing in their policies or procedures. The other 3 all have it, it is kept locked in the nurses office, only the nurse administers it, it is part of their first-aid policy and not available for after school hours or activities, nothing outside the school day. They also have 2 nurses at each site in those schools. She looked into how we get it and how do we get training. There is a place in Nashua that would come out, provide it, and train the nurses. The police department does not have it; they felt confident in the response time of EMS. They are seeing mostly non-opioids and mostly alcohol. Superintendent spoke to Primex to discuss exposure to liability; she said it is a local decision but if you do it, you will have to be clear in policy and procedure, who can use it, who has access, what do you do when you dispose of it etc. Implement the policy clearly and consistently. She said less than 50% of schools in the state have it on their campus. Ms. Lavallee asked for confirmation that the other schools had 2 nurses on site so someone can assess and administer, Ms. Bertoncini confirmed that is correct. Ms. Lavallee asked if she found out any information of effects of when a patient comes to. Ms. Bertoncini responded that is one of her concerns, based on what she has read and her own experience the patient can be violent. Ms. Lavallee asked if the training goes over that. Ms. Bertoncini does not know. Superintendent spoke it is a critical issue, if it is 7 minutes before help arrives, what happens in that 7 minutes do we shelter in place, does it happen outside, if so who is covering the nurses station if the nurse out on the baseball field. He thinks some of these issues is what has prevented some districts from having it. Coming out of Narcan and being violent creates another set of circumstances that we are not prepared to deal with as administration and staff and securing the students etc. A question was raised if we got data on the prevalence in our community. Ms. Bertoncini did reach out to EMS but did not get a call back. There is drug monitoring in our state that goes over dose deaths and breaks it out by town. The most recent publication is August 2021 and says Narcan administration in Lyndeborough is under 0, Wilton is 1-10, it is not clear if that is 1 or 10 and it would have been helpful to hear from EMS. A question was raised what are the safety concerns other than what was discussed, what danger are we creating by just having it around, what are the side effects for someone other than unpleasant side effects giving someone Narcan if one has not overdosed. Ms. Bertoncini did not know the answer to this. Discussion was had the cost is not terribly high more or less per dose, concern was raised that we hear of Fentanyl being unintentionally used, examples were given. Looking at all of that it seems cost etc. is not very high compared to saving a life. A question was raised if there is a cost associated with training. Superintendent spoke of the withdrawal process being unpredictable and we don't know what those look like person to person. For us, we are fortunate that the police, are just down the hill, EMS is just down the hill and the fire department is just down the hill; he would like to think the response time is quick and believes that is why the police department chose not to deal with Narcan. Ms. Lavallee spoke of having a discussion with a community member talking about when we look at resources and time what are we directing them to do in the district, and keeping those things in mind, what are we doing from a preventable standpoint and an education standpoint. Perhaps having a community wellness committee and what resources can they help in regard to education. Discussion was had it is a good idea to have it, we have AED's and other stuff we hope not to use but we have it, cost is not prohibited, training sounds reasonable. Superintendent notes if the Board directs us to have it, part of the process should be how we handle withdrawal. Ms. Bertoncini asks that if we have it we have it clearly outlined as what is the expectation, she asks that exceptions be made because although it is in good supply now, that may not always be the case. We stock Epi-Pens and we are still waiting for them for this year due to a supply chain issue. She wants to be sure we are not always held to having it, she wants some flexibility. Mr. Vanderhoof believes it should be added to the policy that was just approved. Ms. Bertoncini expresses she sees the benefit of having it but as the sole clinical person in this building, she wants to be protected and prepared. She thinks about visitors who she knows nothing about and being put in that situation, she wants to be sure that we have covered our basis. A question was raised if nonclinical people could be trained to administer Narcan. Ms. Bertoncini responds you could but that's a bigger discussion if you want to put that on administration and teachers. She thinks that is a big ask. Ms. Lavallee did speak to Attorney Phillips about that and he gave specific wording to include from his experience working with other districts who have it and the nurses were ones who would administer, he did not see any others trained. Mr. Post spoke that it was a comprehensive presentation and he agrees with Mr. Vanderhoof. He understands there are some things we didn't think about it but thinks we should provide the training if the nurses are willing to participate in the program. Chairman asked for a straw poll of where members are at with this. Mr. Post and Mr. Vanderhoof are for it, Ms. Anzalone is on the fence and spoke of concern that if people knew we had it would they try to steal it. Ms. Bertoncini responded that ConVal did have an issue with theft with that and the AED and now they are under lock and key. Superintendent notes there is no high benefit but can see it happening. Mr. Mannarino is open to having the discussion and exploring it, the training was his biggest concern. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral is interested in having it if the training is good and there is some kind of uniform training that everyone gets, some kind of certificate or it is backed by something with some kind of protection like the Good Samaritan Law should it go wrong. Ms. Lavallee would like more information, there are a lot of assurances she would like before she was OK to go ahead with it. She is on the fence and would like to thoroughly research it so staff has a sense of support and assurance from the Board. She has some concerns like Ms. Cloutier-Cabral brought up, and would need to do research. She has concerns during the day with events being held with the public attending, we don't know the persons history. Chairman Kofalt is leaning toward being in favor of it but is concerned about protecting staff. He has concerns about Fentanyl showing up in unsuspected things and people not knowing it is in there. He believes it is worth exploring. Mr. Golding is not in favor of having it at all. Hearing that Milford doesn't have it and they the size of their district and the lack of statistics. Chairman Kofalt suggests next

step is that it is worth exploring further and questions if we can have the training done without making a commitment. He asks the Superintendent to research it all and come back to the Board with additional information.

## **XI. 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 10, 2022 as amended. Voting: via roll call vote, all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

### **b. ESSER Request**

Superintendent reviewed there are 3 requests for ESSER funding, 1 is to extend the IT help desk support through September 30, 2022 not to exceed \$15,000, 2 is to add an instructional interventionist at FRES. This is for a one year teaching position targeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade whose early learning growth was most disrupted by the Pandemic. Cost associated is not to exceed \$85,015 including wages and benefits. The 3<sup>rd</sup> is for after school tutoring at FRES for the first semester of 22-23 (about 60 sessions) not to exceed \$19,325. Principal Chenette spoke to the group regarding the request for the instructional interventionist teacher and provided graphs including outcomes of spring tutoring, phonemic awareness and phonics in grades 1, 2, and 3. The data is laser focused it is not averaged or scaled scores; these are actual skills and the response to that instruction. She explained what phonemic awareness is. She reviewed each of the graphs. First grade phonemic awareness shows what they look like when arrived and outcomes after intervention, which shows progress. Phonics for 1<sup>st</sup> grade should be in place by the end of 1<sup>st</sup> grade, the data is not completely finished. The assessments are individually administered and take more time. Second grade we knew some came in with issues in phonemic awareness; we took STAR assessment data, which is really a screener to find out if there is something wrong and you then can dig much deeper to find out what is wrong. We have not completed the end of year. She reviewed the graphs, which showed some 2<sup>nd</sup> graders who could not identify letters or sounds that should've been in place in Kindergarten. The graphs show pretty good growth by spring. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade graphs shows significant need in phonemic awareness in the fall. Intense intervention was provided. In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade we needed to do a deeper dive in phonics, there has been significant growth in her opinion. Some are not at grade level still and she is asking for the interventionist to continue the work and work with letters and numeracy. She expressed if you cannot ready by the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade your chances are significantly decreased to become a successful reader. A question was raised if this is something that would go back to normal or is it saying this may be a permanent need showing that something is not working. Principal Chenette responded something is not working and we are working on that at FRES. She cannot guarantee 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be spot on when they leave. What she does know if we were able to make up this kind of ground in a year then another year makes a lot of sense as well as pairing it with tutoring. Concern was raised after the ESSER funds are gone what does that look like and does the community support that budget if we want to keep all of it. Its something that was supposed to be related to a COVID issue and it becomes a budget issue. Principal Chenette acknowledged that and questioned if they have seen the students be this significantly off. Mr. Vanderhoof responded yes. Principal Chenette voiced that the data left in her office was all put together by percentages or grade level equivalency of all children. She does not know if it was dug into deeper and if that was shared with the Board. A question was raised what the interventionists week would look like, what kind of work specifically look like. Principal Chenette responded pulling groups from the moment they arrived until it was time for the children to go home, no group typically larger than 3 but it would depend on grade level, attention and need. Ideally, they could come early and do pre-work or stay after and do additional. They would need planning time and be part of the grade levels IMPACT Team. She needs a certified person. Chairman Kofalt confirms it is not to exceed \$85,015 wages and health combined. Ms. Lavallee thanked Principal Chenette and believes she provided information that has been lacking and a few gifted students can skew the data and doesn't let us see the struggling students. She is happy to see quite a bit of growth and acknowledges the teachers for this. The data is helpful and highlights what they have been hearing about in relations to the Pandemic and good to see the data on our district specifically. Principal Chenette confirms she has this for every grade level in math and reading. Ms. Lavallee noted we did discuss this during the budget season, we had initially said we needed another teacher and then backtracked saying we could use ESSER funds for an interventionist. Principal Chenette agrees. A question was raised would this be similar to someone working in W.I.N. program. Principal Chenette explained it would be much more intense collaborating with the teacher, far more intimate. She confirms this is not based on STAR it starts with STAR. These are assessments are well done and she has used them for years. It does not make it difficult to transfer to a new assessment system. It was noted the STAR data would fully integrate into the next platform. A question was raised how many students were invited to attend tutoring and was it consistently attended. Principal Chenette confirms tutoring is voluntary, the attendance was good, and a few families opted to not attend. Summer Academy will be based on the tutoring model. Superintendent expressed that we are also looking at curriculum; there are other conversations and decision-making discussions. Our Title I tutors will likely shift to MS in the next 2-3 years. It depends on Free and Reduced lunch. The way it looks based on data now it will be LCS and MS. That will mean FRES will lose close to 75-80 hours a week of adult intervention during the school day. It is a huge issue for FRES and we are looking at the data again, he wants to recalculate it. It only takes a couple of students to shift that and it is not clear if FRES will make the threshold. Principal Chenette expressed we need to work harder to everyone to fill those Free and Reduced forms out. Principal Chenette reiterated we have the best chance of closing those gaps before MS. She confirms there are plans for teacher training as well. Superintendent added this is an important one, it has not been discussed if it will become a budget issue or not yet. Right now, it's a one-year trajectory. Teachers are looking at the data, Principal Chenette has a good plan and facilitates those meetings, and they are consistent because we have the same facilitator. We wouldn't ask you for this if we didn't think it would make a difference for the kids.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Golding to extend our IT helpdesk support technician/IT generalist for an additional 3 months through September 30, 2022 not to exceed \$15,000.*

*Voting: via roll call vote, seven ayes; Mr. Post did not vote-technical difficulties, motion carried.*

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino for an instructional interventionist at FRES not to exceed \$85,015 wages and benefits combined.\**

Clarification was asked if this was the plan prior or if this is something new. Principal Chenette clarified we will have 19 students in each 3<sup>rd</sup> grade next year, she is asking for an additional teacher, not an additional classroom teacher.

*\*Voting: via roll call vote, seven ayes; Mr. Post did not vote-technical difficulties, motion carried.*

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Golding for the afterschool tutoring program at FRES for the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year not to exceed \$19,325.*

*Voting: via roll call vote, six ayes; one nay from Mr. Vanderhoof, Mr. Post did not vote-technical difficulties, motion carried.*

## **XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **i. Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee did not meet.

### **ii. Technology Committee**

Chairman Kofalt reviewed the committee met this evening. A draft document was sent this afternoon and a copy has been handed out. He encourages members to read it following the meeting. He spoke about what they talked about this evening and what he wants to focus on and we go from here. There are some recommendations in the document but they don't stand out well. The committee really wanted to focus on a couple of areas including Infrastructure and Security, How does technology support academic excellence, How do we support technology competency specifically, and the fourth had to do with administration, internal systems like accounting and purchasing etc.. We are looking at refining some of the recommendations into something we are making asking the staff to either implement something or explore an idea further and develop it further to come back with some kind of plan of how it might roll out. In the area of security, Mr. Bouley has already started working on the infrastructure and security piece. He reviewed some examples. One of the things that seems to be missing is a lot of those things are not reflected in Board policy. Although he is hesitant, adding more to the list there is a need to do so in this case. We have a computer and IT policy, which was revised in 2010 and seems very basic and antiquated. He provided an examples and notes one of the recommendations is that we encapsulate some of the recommendations in this document into Board policy. We may also want to look at end of life, end of service policies and set some parameters around what we intend to do in terms of replacement equipment, have compliant equipment and keep us in compliance. Regarding security, we need some governance in place to mirror what Mr. Bouley has in place. Ms. Lavallee will send him policies EHAA and EHB and will check to see if there are any updates since 2010 as well as follow up with Attorney Phillips. The Policy Committee can put it together, and then have the Technology Committee review it before it goes to the Board. He reviewed the bullet points (4, and 5, 6 in particular) that point to some of things that we need to have in a policy. Superintendent notes for the next Policy Committee the technology directors can weigh in virtually. Chairman reviewed the second category, "we support academic excellence" and one recommendation is regarding keyboarding which Ms. Stefanich is working on a plan for implementing that. Regarding "align professional development more closely with needs for the staff to understand how best to utilize these tools and standardized that", Mr. Bouley has already started working on this so that staff doesn't have to grapple with 5 different tools that do the same thing etc. standardization and professional development is another recommendation in that category and is in fact already being done but we want to be able to track progress overtime. The third is more of an overall directive, for the staff to engage in meaningful integration into the classroom. One of the things we heard from the survey was people feel like technology is used a bit too much in math in particular. This is a directive for the staff to engage intentionally in that conversation and come back with their findings and recommendations as to what they are doing to fine tune the approach to using technology in the classroom. Ms. Lavallee thanked the committee for all their hard work. Ms. Stefanich and Mr. Bouley were thanked for their efforts. The category of "technical education" this is one that has been interesting and exciting. Chairman spoke of touring Milford's CTE program to see what kind of offerings they have there and it is pretty remarkable, video production, accounting, drone photography, business etc. they have advanced machining equipment, a full commercial kitchen and restaurant. There is a difference in scale, they have over 700 students in their high school and we don't have that many students in our entire district. We are not really thinking of wanting to a CTE here necessarily and certainly not in the short-term. A practical approach may be to align coursework to create a path to CTE education and doing more to promote awareness of those options for parents and students. Students need to complete certain coursework before they can get into those programs. It would require aligning the curriculum here to make it possible, it is possible today but people have to jump through some hoops. We also wanted to ask the staff to explore opportunities for hands on education. One of those would be robotics programs, a maker-space etc. to introduce students to the tools such as 3-D printers, CNC machine and other tools to open the door to creativity and could be integrating with some of the other technology, art, science etc. Under "technical education", this includes exploring partnerships in the industry and others to foster practical hands on career relevant activities. He spoke about having a conversation with some people at UNH; they have an advanced manufacturing program where they host the robotics competitions for the HS. Under the "technical evaluation", most are in the category that they are asking the staff to explore these and come back with concrete ideas



and implementation plans and how to roll it out. Throughout the process we talked about this district not having unlimited funds and need to be mindful of what we are spending but want to look at ways to work with organizations offering these things and seeing how we can leverage that. Superintendent spoke about the visit to Mascenic's CTE program. They only have the auto technology program currently, it used to be larger and it is a nationally recognized program; it is an impressive place. It was initiated through community and school interest and they found a way to fund it. When it was built, the community members built it. It is a good model on how a school can take an idea and bring people together to make it happen. Now it is a recognized CTE program that receives Perkins money to support it and has a good robust budget. It is a money generator for the school as well. Chairman reviewed the last category was "administration"; they did not touch on this one much. What do we need to do with technology to advance administrative functions of the district. There were no recommendations at this time. That is the general direction we are going. He invites feedback on the document that was shared. The goal is to refine the list of recommendations and incorporate that into the document to have a roadmap we can return to and follow up on those specific recommendations, where are we, what are the next steps. As far as the detailed implantation plan, that is where we draw the line between the board activity governance and the staff coming up with the implantation plan and carrying it forward. This will be revisited at the next meeting.

### **XIII. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES**

- a. Resignation-Joshua Bartsch-WLC Paraprofessional**
- b. Resignation-Candace Heinemann-LCS Preschool Teacher**
- c. Resignation-Zachary Frament-MS Science Teacher**

Superintendent reviewed the resignations.

- d. Appoint-Alison Dee-FRES Elementary Education Teacher**

Superintendent reviewed the recommendation to nominate Ms. Alison Dee, as Elementary Teacher at FRES.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Golding to appoint Ms. Alison Dee, Elementary Education Teacher at FRES, salary of \$41,500, Masters, Step 2.*

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

### **XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

### **XV. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral thanked the PTO at FRES for inviting the Board members in to make popcorn for the kids; it was fun and great to be in the schools. Principal Chenette did a great job with the presentation were great tonight and showing us the need in such a specific way and gave us a lot to reflect on.

Mr. Vanderhoof reiterated his request that as much as possible, to get the board packet information in the board packet. There were 2 documents here tonight waiting for them and there is no way to process this while they are in the meeting listening while it is being talked about. It is difficult to take part in the conversation or fully understand what is being presented and it seems to be happening a lot.

Ms. Lavallee thanked all the staff members who came in to present and all the work they did to prepare. She thanked the senior class for allowing her to come and see some of the senior presentations. She felt fortunate she was able to participate and thanked the staff who help coordinate that.

Mr. Post thanked the staff at FRES for the popcorn component, it was great to be in the school and see the seriousness with which the students and staff took the testing. It was fun for him and he thanked them again. He thought the presentations tonight were great. Mr. Vanderhoof makes a good point, calling in remote he did not have some of the relevant material that was being discussed.

Chairman Kofalt acknowledge and apologized for the late arrival of the technology committee document. He also wanted to acknowledge and thank the librarians for coming in and the PTO for everything they have been doing to support the schools.

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

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Golding SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to enter Non-Public Session to discuss personnel matters RSA 91-A: 3 II (C) at 9:26pm.*

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

### **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board entered public session at 10:46pm.



487 *A MOTION was made to seal the non-public session minutes by Mr. Mannarino and SECONDED by Mr. Golding.*  
488 *Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried unanimously.*

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490 **XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

491 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Golding and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to adjourn the Board meeting at 10:46pm.*  
492 *Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried unanimously.*

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494 *Respectfully submitted,*

495 *Kristina Fowler*

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**Kristina Fowler**

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**From:** sau63-schoolboard@sau63.org on behalf of Chris Jacob  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 7, 2022 4:51 PM  
**To:** sau63-schoolboard@sau63.org  
**Subject:** Tennis Courts

Dear School Board,

We are writing to ask the School Board to reconsider their decision to remove the tennis courts from the WLC campus for the following reasons:

1. The tennis courts have been an integral part of this community for 35 years and are often used by families in town. If removed, the only existing courts in town would be the clay courts located in Wilton Center. Use of these courts requires a summer seasonal membership of \$200. These fees are out of reach for many families in this community. Once these free public courts are removed, it is confident they will never be replaced. These courts belong to the taxpayers of Wilton and removal should involve input from community members.
2. Removal of the courts will significantly impact the physical education curriculum and reduce the likelihood of having a tennis program at WLC in the future. Tennis instruction is an important part of both the middle and high school physical education curriculum. Removal of the courts would require taking away from the students and modifying the curriculum.

Although there has been low turnout for the girls' tennis team at WLC in recent years, it is difficult to project participation in the future. Overall, participation in tennis nationally has spiked in the past two-years and is expected to continue to increase. Removing the courts will make it extremely difficult for a tennis program to exist at WLC, as court availability in neighboring towns is virtually non-existent during the high school tennis season.

3. From FY 2014 to FY-2021, the district budgeted \$33,000 to repair and maintain the tennis courts which was approved by the taxpayers. Of the \$33,000 budgeted, only \$11,710 was been spent on court maintenance. What happened to the remaining \$21,290 budgeted for maintenance of the courts? As taxpayers, it is concerning that funds were allocated for court maintenance, but the money was never used for this sole intended purpose. The courts have been in disarray for over 8 years, the time when they were last resurfaced. What happened to the missing funds?

4. If the school board proceeds with demolition, please strongly consider having the asphalt tested by a reputable company before it is grinded/milled and spread around the school's campus. These courts are made from asphalt painted with a specialized heat resistant acrylic paint. Asphalt is known to contain both lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, both which are known to be potentially toxic to humans and the environment. Reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) is generally used under paved roads or on construction sites. RAP should not be considered clean fill and more than likely should not be used on playing fields occupied by children.

The four courts contain over 12,000 square feet of asphalt with a 2–4-inch depth. Milling/Grinding the courts down and spreading the asphalt around campus may create a host of health concerns and environmental issues. Please strongly re-evaluate and investigate this milling process of demolition and look toward removing the asphalt completely from campus.

In conclusion, the tennis courts at WLC have been an important part of this community for 35 years. It was a notable event in town when these courts were constructed decades ago, as public tennis courts are a rarity in small towns. Please re-evaluate your decision to remove these courts and seek an assessment of actual repairs from a reputable company (...Advantage Tennis, Inc.). Following an assessment, please consider collecting input from the community on the importance of maintaining and restoring the courts for future use. This really should be a community decision.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chris and Michaela Jacob