

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 23, 2024
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School
6:30 p.m.**

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

Present: *Dennis Golding, Brianne Lavalley, Alex LoVerme (6:44pm), Matt Mannarino (online), Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral, Darlene Anzalone, Geoffrey Allen (online), Diane Foss, Jonathan Lavoie*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principal Tom Ronning, Assistant Principal Katie Gosselin, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt (online), Technology Director Nicholas Buroker, and Clerk Kristina Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Principal Ronning spoke of hosting Recycled Percussion today at WLC. He invited them because many of our students have been doing awesome things, meeting our core values, and our mission statement etc. He brought forward 2 of those students this evening, Matt Hannigan and Taylor Cole who have gone above and beyond, had zero office referrals and have been working really hard. He gave examples of what has made them stand out. The students were congratulated and received a round of applause.

IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent requested to add waiving a portion of policy KCD (Acceptance of Gifts) to accept a donation over \$5,000 for the dance team. That portion of the policy requires a public hearing to be held if the donation is over \$5,000. The donation is no more than \$8,000, the donor wants to remain anonymous, and Principal Ronning will speak to it.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone to accept the adjustment to the agenda.
Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.*

• WAIVE POLICY KCD-ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

Principal Ronning spoke of Coach Jones doing a great job with the dance team; they are going to Nationals. They leave on February 1 and return February 5. The competition will be live streamed. We have someone who would like to donate up to \$8,000 to allow 5 students and 2 chaperones to go to Orlando, Florida to compete in the national competition.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to waive policy KCD to allow us to accept the donation of up to \$8,000 to send 5 students and 2 chaperones to the national competition.

Ms. LaPlante requests for only a portion of the policy to be waived. Section 3 of the policy where it refers to RSA 198:20-b, which has the requirement of needing to hold a public hearing for gifts of \$5,000 or more in order to accept the donation that RSA has been revised to increase the amount from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

Mr. Lavoie AMMENDS his motion, seconded by Mr. Mannarino to add "waive section 3 of policy KCD"

A question was raised if the \$8,000 will cover the cost. Principal Ronning responded based on the expenses he believes it should cover what is needed, up to \$8,000. Ms. Lavalley commented that she is excited for the team and staff and it was great to see the team's enthusiasm and great to see the community come together for them. She thanked the anonymous donor and all who made it happen.

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

Chairman Golding informed Principal Ronning he can accept the donation and congratulated the dance team.

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Business Administrator's Report

Ms. LaPlante spoke of the FY 22 audit and wanted to make the Board and public aware that there can now be fines for every day the audit is out of compliance. In speaking with the audit company, they are close to completing it; a lot has to do with her predecessor and the grants. The auditor is confident that this will be a nonissue for us. Once completed we can move onto the FY 23 audit. The number of auditors doing this work has declined, this is being seen statewide, and we are not unique to the situation. She spoke of the food service debt and working with Ms. Nantel, Food Service Director to outline a collection process that is in her report. They looked at the debt and there is a statewide dialog about hiring debt collectors to collect on debt. She would like to start with a friendly approach and feels we owe it to the community where this is brand new and some students have significant debt, she hopes we can re-coop the bulk of this by June 30 and will work with families with significant debt and beyond that, we will work through certified letters. We really want to make this a friendly process. She spoke of the fire alarm control panel at WLC, which she reported on back in the fall, it is significantly out dated, and on its last leg and needs to be replaced sooner rather than later. Mr. Erb has received quotes, BK Systems quoted \$41,500, which is the most palatable price and can do it this year. He does have 2 other quotes. It would require us tapping into some of the unspent funds, which she believes we have significant savings in staffing. She asks the Board to consider authorizing up to \$45,000 to replace the fire alarm panel at WLC before June 30 (hoping to get on April vacation time) to lock it in. She spoke of the LCS play kitchen for students that was originally in the FY 25 budget and has been floating around since it was cut from the budget it is \$800. She notes the Budget Committee recommended purchasing it with reserve funds as we have significant savings from wages. She will proceed with that unless there is objection to purchase it this school year. No objection heard. The last item is the stove at LCS. The kitchen there is not compliant to serve student meals. The stove is propane and everything else is electric, we never cook on it but still pay significant rental fees on the propane tank because we don't fill it enough as it is not used. We replaced it with an electric stove and would like approval to see if any staff may have a need for it and if not will offer it to a Lyndeborough or Wilton resident. It is in good working order but is no use to us now. Chairman Golding asks if the Board wants to take action on the fire alarm panel.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie to authorize Ms. LaPlante to offer the cook top.

Mr. LoVerme asked how much we pay for the rental for propane tank, and how much it would be to purchase the propane tank. Mr. Erb informed the group the LCS renovation was done in 2015; it is almost 9 years old. It was given to us by Ms. Moore the prior SPED Director. It is probably about 12-14 years old in total. He confirms it was not new when she gave it to us. Mr. LoVerme questioned when it was first discovered that the fire panel had issues. Ms. LaPlante informed the group it is no longer repairable; we need new devices, horns and wire work as well for existing devices. She confirms BK Systems is not the original vendor, there are multiple vendors but BK Systems can get it done within our schedule and the cost is the most palatable. A question was raised if policy DJE-Bidding Requirements was followed. Ms. LaPlante confirms we did not put it out to RFP, she asks the Board to waive that portion of the policy. Ms. Lavallee confirms the Board would need to vote to waive the first section of policy DJE if we want to move forward. Mr. Allen spoke of concern; it doesn't sound like an emergency if it was discovered early in the year, it is the first he has heard of it, he doesn't see it on the on CIP nor does he see it brought to the Facilities Committee. He notes we have some money in the maintenance budget that was set aside. He prefers to not make a habit of brining things to the Board for action without first going through the Facilities Committee and using unspent funds for things unplanned. He prefers this be brought to the committee, do research, ask questions, get 2-3 quotes and allow the Facilities Committee to do their due diligence for what they were put in place for. A question was raised if this is imminent; if the panel does not work does that mean the alarm does not work. Ms. LaPlante confirms correct (if not working would need to close school or post a fire watch) but it is currently working but one failure could put it out of commission and there is no option for repairing it. Ms. LaPlante understands what Mr. Allen is saying, this was discussed through the Facilities Committee last year when devising the CIP, she cannot speak to why it was not put on the CIP and she has given a heads up in her report to the Board on November 28. She read that portion of her report "The Fire Alarm Control Panel at WLC has far exceeded its useful life. After a recent panel malfunction, the vendor is no longer able to secure replacement parts and we now need to replace the panel. We are estimating \$45,000 for this project; Mr. Erb is working to obtain quotes from three vendors". Mr. LoVerme spoke that if this was discussed on November 28, there was plenty of time to get the correct number of bids. It seems we make it a practice of taking shortcuts and not getting the bids. Ms. LaPlante responded Mr. Erb has 3 quotes and this is the most economic. Mr. LoVerme asked to see them. Ms. LaPlante notes we can wait and discuss it on February 5 at the Facilities Committee meeting. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral asked if it was out of code compliance currently. Ms. LaPlante confirms it is. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral notes we need to act on that quickly, it is in violation. She asks if we have had inspections on other things. Ms. LaPlante responds absolutely. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral asked when it became out of compliance. Mr. Erb responded it is the board that you read that tells you if something is going off, you can't erase what is on that board right now, the original company, RB Allen built the original panel, and he has a letter from them. They came and hooked their computer up to it to try to reprogram it but they feel if they do it may wipe out the whole system. If the system goes down, you have to hire people to do a fire watch to keep the school open. The system works right now, the reading part of it, but the screen is not working, it is gone. We have had problems with it in the past. The mic doesn't work and has not worked as long as he has been here the only reason we can get away with that is that we have the intercom system in the school. He feels for \$41,000 it is a good deal to have a whole new panel put in and wired. A question was raised if it passed safety at the last inspection. Mr. Erb responded it did, we just can't erase what is showing on the panel and you can't get parts for it. Mr. Allen spoke that if it is something that needs to be done now and we have 3 quotes, it sounds like it has been an ongoing problem and was supposed to be on the CIP before he was even on the Board. It sounds like it has been kicked around, he knows there

is money in maintenance that won't be used and will be more if we move forward with the paving. He supports doing it now but emphasizes and wants to set a precedent, that these things need to be brought to the Facilities Committee first so they can add them into the budgetary planning, discuss them and dig into it deeper.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Foss allow Ms. LaPlante to give away the propane cooktop at LCS that we no longer need.

Voting: via roll call vote, eight ayes, one nay from Mr. LoVerme, motion carried.

A question was raised if a motion is needed to purchase the LCS play kitchen. Ms. LaPlante responded no it is our intent to take it off the budget (document) and do it that way. There was no objection.

They moved to the joint session, as it was 7:01pm and resumed the schedule on the agenda when it was completed.

i. Director of Student Support Service's Report

Mr. Pratt reported that we continue to work on trying to fill vacant positions. (There were some audio issues.) We continue to have challenges of hiring qualified personnel. We will continue to move forward but need to provide staffing for our kids and are doing it the best we can. He took a moment to thank all staff, specifically the SPED support services staff, their flexibility, professionalism, and willingness to take on tasks and just do them. It is amazing and those of you who are in the schools across the board it is absolutely amazing. We are not working on budget FY 24, that is a typo in his report. We had a productive meeting last night and thanked the Budget Committee for their support and the School Board. We are working hard to continue to provide necessary support and staffing in order for the students to be successful. Mr. Lavoie spoke of hearing some things about a position that Mr. Pratt was knocking on our door for, a mental health coordinator at FRES, and he learned it has transformed a little bit. He notes he was in the dark and was not sure if the School Board is and wanted to know what has been done. Mr. Pratt responded that he did share it at a public meeting that we discovered when we hired the licensed social worker that there was a need for more behavioral intervention and worked collaboratively with Lisa Boen, BCBA. We had a number of kids this year struggling doing their work in the classroom for a variety of reasons and are able to provide a safe place to do that work and help with the problem they are having that day. He knows he shared it at least once at a meeting and spoke to the Chairman and Vice Chair about it. Ms. Lavalley questioned since we are using an ABA and part of the SPED budget, are we still serving all kids, not just IEP and 504 are we exclusively using it for that. Mr. Pratt responded we are using that program for them and part of the SPED program is working with general education staff, if a student is having an issue we can help them appropriately as with the licenses social worker, we are always making parent contact about it. If a student has a bad day, they (parent) are contacted to discuss, we do the same thing and will within the spirit of the law. A question was raised who the supervisor is. Mr. Pratt responded Principal Fuller is in charge of everything in her building, she is always involved in her building and Ms. Dignan. Ms. Boen provides leadership for that in RISE and her background is behavioral based, it is collaborative. We are trying to make sure all kids are doing well on any particular day. We use that room and program appropriately, we want kids to do well. Much like intervention for reading, we have to give intervention and get them back ASAP. A question was raised by Ms. Anzalone, as part of the Strategic Planning Committee and looking at an SRO or getting a social worker, what are we paying for the social worker at FRES. She wants to be able to do a comparison. She understands there are 2 of them. She wants to compare that to what a SRO might cost. Mr. Pratt responded that in the district we have 2 positions, a school psychologist who is district wide and does mostly testing. We hired a social worker but do not have one right now. We are using our professionals and backfilling with contracted service providers to provide the support for RISE and in that program under the leadership of Lisa Boen and building leadership. Ms. Anzalone would like a breakdown of the cost of the psychologist etc., a breakdown of what we pay for each so she can get the whole picture vs. SRO. It would be good for strategic planning. Mr. Pratt will send that out. Mr. Allen spoke when we voted as a Board for a position or program and then hire within that and the program is changed without coming back to the Board, he assumes these people were hired in June or May for FRES and that they are staying on again for another year in this capacity. He doesn't know if there is anything that we can do about not coming back to the Board. Mr. Pratt responded he did bring it back to the Board, he said that we had a personnel change and we changed a little bit of the focus, he apologized if it was not clear. The greater question is that we are filling the needs of the students in the context of their need to have some place to go when they are having difficulty in the classroom trying to serve their needs and the entire classroom. He apologized if he was not clear enough with the individuals or the entire Board. Mr. Allen does not recall him coming back to the Board with it.

ii. Technology Director's Report

Mr. Buroker informed the group there were 76 new tickets, a significant decrease and he believes it is because of the holiday break. He expects those to increase, we are meeting his goal of a 7 day average closure and 10 open tickets maximum. We are sitting at seven. Over the break we installed vape detectors and worked with facilities, it was professionally gratifying. We did walkthroughs for the radio upgrade project and that is proceeding. There is no scheduled date for install; it can be done in a single day. We had our 4th, 5th, and 6th spear phishing attack over the past month. No student data was compromised; staff is getting good about reporting them. There is a million other people out there trying to attack us. If the trend continues, it will be problematic.

VI. 7PM JOINT BOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION

Present: *Jeff Jones, Leslie Browne, Charlie Post, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Caitlin Maki, Bill Ryan, Adam Lavalley, Michelle Alley, Jennifer Bernet*

Chairman Jones called the Budget Committee to order at 7:02pm.

a. FY 2024-2025

i. Prior Follow Up

ii. Budget FY 25

Chair Jones asks the group if there is anything else to cover on the budget, none heard. He informs the group that last night the Budget Committee approved the FY 25 operating budget of \$14,271,384 an increase of \$328,168 (2.35%) over FY 24. That is a slight decrease from version 3 of the draft budget. Ms. LaPlante provided a memo to the group describing the items reduced from the budget. He asked for any questions. Ms. Anzalone questioned with the reduction in the facilities position, how would that affect Mr. Erb and his department. Ms. LaPlante responded we have not been able to fill that position this year. Mr. Erb has been filling it with a HS student who has been doing most of the work outside and he believes it will be sustainable for the next year as well. She confirms we didn't fill the position, and are not cutting a person. Chairman Golding expressed he thinks they did a good job getting to it. Mr. Lavallee commented he thinks we did a horrible job.

iii. Warrants

Ms. LaPlante reviewed the warrants, #4 is the operating budget, which the Budget Committee approved last night. The warrant will be updated to reflect this. Warrant Article #5, teachers' collective bargaining agreement has been published since the last board meeting with no changes; she will add the estimated net tax impact. Warrant Article #6 is boilerplate language that gives permission for another meeting if article #5 is defeated. Warrant Article #7 remains unresolved for the capital reserve for Building & Roadways. Chairman Golding asked if Mr. Allen wanted to talk about that article. Mr. Allen spoke as of now we had some questions that were sorted out with Ms. LaPlante. The projects scheduled for next year to be completed are the bathroom counter and sinks, WLC VCT tiles phase 1, we are also appropriating funds for future projects that we had in there, the first payment for replacement of the remainder VCT tiles at WLC phases 2 and 3. The hope is after this round of replacement when we put them back on there we can consolidate those and spread the budget out longer. It is the 1st of 2 appropriations for the exterior stucco and metal roof at WLC, it is the 1st of 2 for the ware coat for the road to the school and was supposed to be the 1st of 3 for the paving the main parking lot. We had discussions with Mr. Erb who got quotes. There had been complaints received and discussions about moving that project up due to several reasons. Mr. Erb was able to get a quote almost \$100,000 less than what we were expecting. If we raise the appropriation in that area, use funds remaining in the capital reserve for the CIP, then we can move it up and complete it this coming year. Even though we are only raising this year's appropriation by \$20,000, we can kick out and remove the next 2 payments of \$85,000 for a net savings to the taxpayer. We created the CIP to get back on track and a decent schedule, the first 3 years of appropriations were hefty and this reduces those. The Facilities Committee would like to propose the CIP warrant be \$275,000 this year. Mr. Lavallee commented we should have used the unexpended fund balance when we had a million dollars and this parking lot would have already been paved and we would not be asking for another nearly \$300,000 from the towns, big mistake giving those funds back in their entirety. Seven hundred thousand is a lot and we shouldn't have done it. A question was raised with the total for the CIP, how much is needed to take from the unexpended funds to equal that amount. Mr. Allen responded zero. It was asked if we need article #7. Mr. Allen spoke that article #7 was a different discussion. He spoke of things coming up unexpectedly including the sewer pipe for \$9,000 and if we run a tight line item on the CIP, we have to take money from something to complete those things. The question was clarified if he believes article #8 is needed. He personally sees value in having it for emergencies that come up throughout the year but would not be comfortable without a Board discussion and with taxpayers to see if their want is to keep a line item in the CIP for things like that. If the discussion with the Board is yes then we include it in the warrant and present it to taxpayers as an emergency fund, or future things like we did last spring and we maintain it and if not, we don't. Mr. Post questioned regarding article #7, how much was approved for the capital reserve (Building & Roadways) last year. Ms. LaPlante confirms \$190,000. Mr. Post noted this would be an increase ask. Mr. Allen confirms it would. He adds, after we built out the CIP, we added things left out in the past, worked with the Business Administrator, Administration and Mr. Erb to identify items they feel should be on this, some were a fairly quick turnaround based on that, we have 3 years of warrant article CIP requests for about this amount. The committee feels this will get us caught up on maintenance. After the 3 years, the warrant request will go back down for the foreseeable future of about \$160,000-\$185,000 and will have us caught up on all maintenance in the district. Mr. Post questioned on article #5 (CBA) what was the salary range increase. He notes we asked for this several times and never got it from 2024 to 2025. Ms. LaPlante responded she was not prepared with it this evening, does not want to misquote it. Mr. Post points out that we asked several times for this. Mr. Lavallee questioned what was the date you may have known that number or were capable of knowing that number that Mr. Post asked for several times. What was the earliest date you might have known about that? Ms. LaPlante responded the salary schedule was spoken about at length at the December 12 meeting once things were finalized and figures were reported out at that meeting. The CBA is posted online. She did not realize she needed it for this meeting and can gather it and report it verbally but does not have the salary schedule range right in front of her. Mr. Lavallee questioned if Ms. LaPlante is saying if she had been asked specifically to have it prepared for this meeting, she would have had it. Ms. LaPlante responded yes. Chairman Jones commented we shouldn't be second-guessing our administration and let's try to keep the comments to what is pertinent tonight. Mr. Lavallee noted to be clear he was not second-guessing her, he wanted to be clear to establish the fact that nobody asked her specifically to prepare that for this evenings meeting. Ms. Lavallee noted the last meeting we had in December, it was a joint meeting, it was not completely ratified yet and our answer was we were waiting to ratify and this is our next meeting. In Ms. LaPlante's defense, this is literally the next meeting following that and it is posted on line, it is not hidden, it could be found. Mr. Lavallee

commented to Chairman Jones point we should not be second-guessing administration with statements like I asked several times. Ms. Anzalone questioned, going back to the paving, if we do the repairs now will we save money and asked Mr. Allen to go over how much we would be saving. Mr. Allen responded not necessarily saving money, we would be reducing future asks. The original quote we have to pave the main parking lot was \$250,000. Based on that we planned to appropriate \$85,000 over 3 years, Mr. Erb changed the ask a little bit and now we are able to do all of that with a quote of \$158,000 and can move the project up. At the Facilities Committee meeting, there was a very definitive urgency brought forward to move it up. If we can move that project up, we can do away with the next two \$85,000 payments we planned. He wants to be clear that it is not as much of a “savings”. He mentioned earlier we have significant asks coming up of about \$275,000 in order to bring the CIP back to where it should be and not defer maintenance. That \$275,000 scheduled to ask for next year and the year after, would be reduced because we are reducing it by an \$85,000 payment that we had expected to have in there. If we can do away with the next 2 asks of \$85,000, it is a win-win for taxpayers, budget and those who use the parking lot. Ms. Anzalone notes we are lucky to get a lower quote and if we wait the 3 years, it will be higher. A question was raised if there was any worry that presenting articles #7 and #8 that both will fail because it is too much money. Mr. Allen agrees it is a risk, we have seen taxpayers show up and cut a lot of things. His hope is when we explain it to the public that they like that we are being transparent and do what we say we will do with the money, he feels the CIP and this proposal does exactly that. We are not using unspent funds to do these projects so it looks like we are saving money. We are being open and honest, here is what they cost and this is what we need to fund it. If the public says no, it is their prerogative and we can explain the other if it is on there but it has not been decided yet. Ms. Lavalley commented that she appreciates all the hard work the committee has been doing trying to get the facilities and buildings in good shape and she can see the difference. Thank you for researching and planning it out long-term to make it as feasible for the taxpayers, good job everyone. Chairman Jones noted the CIP on the website is dated March 2023 and comments in terms of transparency for the public, if we could get that updated. Mr. Allen responded the reason it is not up yet is he feels the CIP is not a document the Facilities Committee should throw out “willy-nilly”, it all has to be vetted through the Board and the one we are using currently as a draft, has not been approved by the Board yet. Once it is, it has to go on the website and stay up there and be transparent and as soon as the Board approves it, he hopes it will be there. Ms. Lavalley asked if that would come forward to the next meeting. Chairman Golding asked if the Facilities Committee would finalize it at the next Facilities Committee meeting on February 5 and bring to the Board on February 6. Mr. Allen responded we could, he doesn’t know we have to; it can be approved now as far as he is concerned. There are things that need to be finished, anything in red, nail down dates and amounts but it does not change the plan necessarily. He is okay finalizing it now and the policy will be forthcoming, has a direct manner for adding and subtracting things, and won’t run into the issue with things disappearing. He does not have a problem adding it to the next agenda and any changes to it, he hopes will be done formally through the Board with a public record. Chairman Golding asked if the Board has had a chance to review it. It was confirmed that the latest would be from January 8. Mr. Allen reviewed the changes that need to be made to that draft such as the roof section and tracking when those were completed and making sure dates were brought out. If approved today, we would add those dates in there and then all changes will go through the Board. If we determine the roof section is 5-10 years off, we would bring it back to the Board and ask to change it on the CIP. He doesn’t think it affects anything if it is approved tonight. Ms. Lavalley notes she would like to look at it again and didn’t receive the most up to date. She notes if we do it at the next meeting, it would go in the Board packet and posted prior to voting and accepting it. She asks to move it to the next meeting, put it in the packet, adopt it formally, and have it online as finalized. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral spoke of things that may need to change such as dates if they are out of our control like not being able to get materials. Those notes would be made on it and should stick with the history of it. Chairman Golding asked if the Board wanted to take any action. Mr. Lavoie noted for the most part it was looked at but he fears if we hold off, we will have this 30-minute discussion again.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to approve the proposed CIP from the Facilities Committee.

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral respectfully asks to table it, as we have not looked at it at great length. If we are planning for it to come to the next meeting, we all know we need to review it and come back with any questions.

Mr. Mannarino has exited the meeting sometime prior.

Voting: via roll call vote, four nays, three ayes, one abstention from Mr. Allen, motion fails.

Mr. Lavoie spoke he feels it would be an easier sell to take some funds from article #8 unexpended funds and move it toward the ask for article #7. The reason he brings this up is the town already gave that money to the school, the people already gave that money to the town, it is gone. If the extra money goes back to the towns they can choose to spend it how they want or they can give it back to the taxpayers which I feel never really happens. Try to find a way to funnel it from article #8 to article #7, reduce the ask from article #7 that way it doesn’t look like we are asking for \$275,000, we are trying to level it out by taking \$75,000 (example) from unexpended funds this year so we don’t have to ask for \$275,000 next year. We will only ask for \$200,000 additional dollars. This way it is not a big bump to the taxpayers. Mr. Lavalley agrees with this, we should fund more of it from the unexpended fund balance. Ms. Anzalone also agrees but asks what the process is that we have to follow to ask permission to use the unexpended funds. Mr. Lavalley believes it is a Board vote. Chairman Golding confirms once the town appropriates the funds the Board can spend it as they see fit, we don’t like to spend unexpended funds if we don’t have

310 to. Ms. Lavallee agrees with Ms. Anzalone and explained when we have to ask taxpayers to vote on it, it is when we keep the
311 money and don't spend it before the end of the fiscal year. If we allocate the funds before the end of the fiscal year, we don't
312 have to go back and officially ask to voters to vote on it. We would need a public meeting to discuss it, allow the community
313 to speak to it but we as a Board can vote like we did it last year. It was asked if Ms. LaPlante had an estimate of what the
314 unexpended balance would be. Ms. LaPlante does not have an estimate, there are purchase orders pending. She explains those
315 funds lapse on June 30 and this is a way to retain those funds, which is the language you see in the article. That is a "bird's eye
316 view" of the process to take funds and secure them beyond June 30. A question was raised if we have to ask for a certain
317 amount for the CIP and how do we figure out how much that is. Ms. LaPlante responded we will have at least \$275,000, we
318 have several positions we could not fill. The YTD report is in the Board packet and is through December 31. She can fine tune
319 that for the Budget Hearing and have a better handle on it for district meeting. As long as the warrant is completed and
320 discussed at a public meeting, there are opportunities to change that at the meeting. Discussion was had about using funds
321 from this year's unexpended fund balance. Superintendent noted that article #8 has not yet been decided. Mr. Lavoie explained
322 why he suggested using the \$275,000 from the unexpended fund balance. Discussion continued including swapping articles
323 #7, #8, and that it is difficult to understand and if you don't lump them together you run the risk of losing both. Discussions
324 continued on this topic including concern that it may sound a little shady to separate one cost into two separate buckets and a
325 suggestion was made to put it into one warrant. Ms. LaPlante confirms if you get voter approval in a non-lapsing fund (capital
326 reserve fund) you can retain unspent funds otherwise you cannot retain unspent funds. It was noted that the town uses the
327 returned funds to offset their warrants for the town budget and that is not transparent to people, they still come back and say
328 the school is over spending, our unexpended funds are being used to fund the town budget. It was expressed the years are
329 incorrect on article #8 and should read 2025. Ms. LaPlante explained we are taking funds in the current year, lapsing June 30
330 and transferring to July 1. She has all the documentation from the DRA and the article is written exactly that way, this is the
331 only way we can do it for this fiscal year and that is why it would be discussed at the March 9 meeting. She will send the
332 language to Mr. LoVerme as requested. Ms. Lavallee had pulled up minutes from the Lyndeborough Budget Committee
333 meeting, they were talking about their unreserved fund balance because they keep one, and the state recommends they keep an
334 unreserved fund balance between 5%-17%. In the 2023 budget, they had a surplus of \$400,000 and decided to recommend
335 retaining \$200,000 of that. They recommended retaining 50% of their unreserved fund balance. She asks if there a requirement
336 that it is put into the Building & Roadway Capital Reserve Fund or can there be an unreserved fund balance created for it.
337 Chairman Golding believes when Ms. LaPlante spoke of it before, it has to go into a separate account. Superintendent noted it
338 is also up to a certain percent. He spoke that this is simply asking if we want to take, some of the unspent funds like was done
339 last year, you voted to do for the roof etc. at LCS. Do we want to put it in the CIP and use it for future projects like was
340 suggested instead of asking for \$275,000? He spoke of there being a lot of money on the table with the operating budget and
341 the CBA. Ms. Lavallee gave an example of an emergency or "rainy day fund" she used for her household and this is similar.
342 She agrees this is very unclear and has concerns of how it would be presented to the taxpayer but if we are being fiscally
343 responsible, it is appropriate to have money set aside. The fire panel for example is \$45,000, we didn't plan on that and it is
344 not on the CIP. We heard from taxpayers to use the money and fix the schools, fix the leaking roof, I already paid that money.
345 Maybe we need to change the language, if we had done this last year maybe we would not have had the discussion of article
346 #7 for \$275,000. Discussion continued. Mr. Post noted he doesn't believe you can call it a rainy day fund, only the state is
347 allowed to have a rainy day fund, and putting money into a capital reserve fund is not a rainy day fund, it would be moving the
348 money in there. He notes he thinks it was mentioned the Budget Committee does that, he thinks the Select Board does that in
349 Lyndeborough. Chairman Jones spoke that he feels it is a responsible budget, we didn't talk much about the CBA tonight and
350 feels with article #7, we put that at some risk, and article #8 would show zero (tax impact) to taxpayers. He thinks it is
351 palatable and shows we are being prudent with the funds they gave us. They told us numerous times you want us to keep up
352 and fix the buildings. He encourages a decrease in article #7 and increase article #8. Ms. LaPlante spoke going back to Ms.
353 Lavallee's discussion, and overall discussion because we are asking for specific amounts to go into this non-lapsing article, it
354 is separate than just retaining up to 5%. We would have to get voter approval to retain up to 5% every year that goes into what
355 is the slang reference a "rainy day fund". That is not what we are asking for, that one sits on the books in perpetuity. This one
356 is one we have to come back every year if the School Board or Budget Committee feels strongly or the public, it could be a
357 petition warrant article, that is one that comes up every year and those funds go specifically into that one account because of
358 how it is written. Regarding the language, this is the state language and anything we put in that is different they will not
359 approve our warrant article. The language needs to stay as presented although we would change it to say an "x dollar amount"
360 to appropriate to go into that account. It is confusing but is the language the state requires us to use. She confirms you can
361 request a percent up to a ceiling but she believes the Board's intent is to do a fixed amount. Chairman Golding noted take out
362 the percent. He asks if the Board wants to take any action on article #7 for \$275,000. A question was raised what percent does
363 that add to the overall ask. Mr. Lavallee responded about 2%. Chairman Golding asked if we are going to table this. Ms.
364 Anzalone noted if Mr. Allen feels we should ask for the \$275,000 then we should.

365
366 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Anzalone and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to appropriate to the capital reserve fund for the*
367 *Building/Equipment & Roadways, warrant article #7, in the amount of \$275,000.*
368

369 Mr. Lavoie suggested changing it to \$190,000 and add extra to article #8, move \$85,000 to article #8. Ms. Lavallee agrees
370 with the sentiment but the gamble causes her concern.
371

372 *Voting: via roll call vote, six ayes; two nays from Mr. Lavoie and Ms. Foss, motion carried.*

373
374 Chairman Jones asks if the Budget Committee could vote on these as the School Board does rather than waiting until the end.

375
376 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Ms. Browne for the Budget Committee to recommend passage*
377 *of warrant article #7, for \$275,000 to the Building/Equipment & Roadways Capital Reserve Fund.*

378
379 *Voting: via roll call vote, seven ayes; two nays from Mr. Lavallee and Chairman Jones, motion carried.*

380
381 Chairman Golding asks what the Board would like to do about article #8. Ms. Anzalone spoke that she understands that we
382 cannot change the language but can we explain it, she liked Ms. Lavallee's explanation. Ms. LaPlante responded that is the
383 beauty of traditional town meeting, once the article has been presented; there are opportunities to ask questions and discuss it.
384 That conversation can occur on the floor. She confirms once the voters approve article #7 that article stands. Discussion
385 continued including the more we could explain things in every day terms the better. Mr. Allen expressed if we have this as a
386 separate article, he would want Ms. LaPlante's input. We could do one of several things, as mentioned we have the next 3
387 years stacked heavy to get back on track as a district. If we can retain some of those funds, accomplish some of those early or
388 next year, we are scheduled to ask for another \$275,000 and could easily reduce that amount, what you are doing is putting
389 money aside to move up some projects or offset it. Ms. LaPlante was asked if she has an amount in mind. Ms. LaPlante
390 responded she is not prepared to recommend an amount. It allows taxpayers to tell us what they want us to do with their
391 dollars. She wants to make sure she is giving a solid recommendation. She thinks approving it to go on the warrant gives the
392 voters the say with what they want us to do with the money rather than what we think they want us to do. A discussion was
393 had regarding it being a zero tax impact. Ms. Maki questioned if that money was given back, then wouldn't that reduce the ask
394 to residents for upcoming tax season so therefor if you are not giving it back you are actually asking for more money, doesn't
395 that really have a tax impact. She notes she is all for it though. Ms. LaPlante responded absolutely in the big picture you are
396 not giving it back, if you don't give it back maybe that reduces the ask, it has a zero impact because we are not asking them for
397 more in the aggregate. For the purposes of the warrant article, it has no tax impact. Ms. Maki commented isn't that shady to do
398 it that way without taxpayers fully understanding the consequences of the vote. Ms. LaPlante responded it is her understanding
399 it has not been a Board practice in the past to add the tax impact on it. It is not a legal requirement to have it there, having it on
400 there just says if you approve this we anticipate that it will increase the district spending by "x" amount and has "x" tax
401 impact. We can just not put it on that warrant article there is no requirement. She is offering solutions, not recommendations,
402 with all factors involved, yes. Discussions continued Mr. Lavoie spoke regarding what Ms. Maki was talking about, if you
403 have a responsible town and responsible Board, they can take that money and put it into something that has already been
404 approved but it is money that goes back into their general fund. They could suddenly decide we are going to have trash pick-
405 up in town and use that money for that or build another gazebo in the police parking lot. They could come up with a
406 completely new project and spend it that way. It could go either way. What he is proposing is, we already asked for the money
407 and should try to keep it and use it in house so it does not go out and make a sidewalk or something like that. Chairman
408 Golding asked if the Board wants to keep article #8. Ms. Lavallee does and nominates Mr. Lavoie to speak to it at district
409 meeting. Chairman Golding noted, we want to keep article #8 but do not have an amount yet. No objection heard to keeping
410 article #8. Chairman Jones asked if there is a max amount that can be requested on this article. Ms. LaPlante responded
411 theoretically, whatever you have left but we have no way of estimating. A question was raised if it matters how much we have
412 left. Ms. LaPlante responded we have to establish a dollar amount; we have to have that ceiling. Without knowing the total
413 intent of it, whether that is to set it aside for emergencies, for the capital reserve to smooth out future increases etc. without
414 knowing the semantics \$100,000 is doable within our budget because of the unfilled positions we have, that is an example and
415 not her firm recommendation. She prefers to have it on February 6. She confirms February 6 is your last time to revise it on
416 the warrant. It can be revised to decrease or increase that at the public hearing. February 6 would be the best time for the
417 Board as a whole to solidify that. Chairman Jones asked if the Board is planning to present the warrant articles at the public
418 hearing. Chairman Golding responded that is not the Boards intent at this time. Ms. Browne clarifies the Budget Committee
419 talks mostly about the operating budget but presents all warrants so the public knows what is going on. Article #8 is so
420 complicated; it would be nice to have Ms. LaPlante there at the public hearing. Ms. LaPlante agrees, she adds the last date for
421 petition warrant articles or any warrant articles is February 8, the date of our public hearing, everything needs to be locked up.
422 Ms. Cloutier-Cabral spoke that there is nothing to lose by presenting article #8, if they decide they don't like it and vote
423 against it, it is just a presentation of research we did. It is their choice and she thinks it is fair to present everything we thought
424 about and considered and let them decide how to move forward. Chairman Jones asks if it would be okay for the Budget
425 Committee to join the Board on February 6 for a joint session for that warrant article. Chairman Golding agreed. Ms. Lavallee
426 pointed out the Board needs to discuss articles #4 and #5.

427
428 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Lavoie to recommend warrant article #4, operating budget*
429 *for \$14,271,384.*

430 *Voting: via roll call vote, seven ayes, one nay from Mr. LoVerme, motion carried.*

431
432 The Budget Committee has already voted last evening.

433

434 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Lavoie to accept warrant article #5, the collective bargaining*
435 *agreement between the school board and teachers' association with the language presented tonight, with the addition of the*
436 *estimated tax net impact to be added.*
437 *Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.*
438

439 Ms. Anzalone spoke that Mr. Post asked about the increases and Ms. LaPlante sent it out but she doesn't know if Mr. Post has
440 anyway to look at the salary information. Chairman Golding spoke the increases were discussed in the meeting on December
441 12 and are in the minutes under lines 230-258, the percentages of the increases are there. Mr. Post spoke he assumes we will
442 have a vote and Chairman Jones said that it was not appropriate for us to question the School Board's decision. However, I
443 was elected by people that are asking, okay, what is the salary range so if I don't know that how can I vote for that and is it my
444 responsibility to go back and get that information before I make my vote. Chairman Golding expressed he believes 100% it is,
445 you were here at the meeting, it should your responsibility to do all your due diligence, it's just his opinion. Mr. Vanderhoof
446 spoke that he had asked what the percentage increase per wages was at a previous meeting; he is not saying he asked for it to
447 be prepared specifically for this meeting but had asked what the percentage increase per wages from the current year to next
448 year, not for a percentage vs. the entire budget. He asked if Ms. LaPlante has that. Ms. LaPlante responded as discussed on
449 December 12, in year 1 our first 5 steps has an average increase of between 17%-21%. Our middle steps are between about
450 8%-14%. Our top steps are 7%-8% all in year 1, in year 2 and 3, the first steps 4%-4.5%, middle steps 3.5%-4.5%, the top step
451 3%-3.4%,. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke that he doesn't know where all of our teachers fall on that scale. He is asking for an overall
452 of salary spend based on current staffing under current contract moving to the contract next year, what is the salary increase
453 over current year. Mr. Allen offered to do the math to speed it along if someone tells him what the teachers budget was last
454 year, he will take the \$600,000 and figure out what the overall increase is. Ms. LaPlante responded it is not that simple she has
455 to pull the individual teachers from it because of how everything flows into individual account numbers; as far as the wage,
456 the percentage, she will that and send that out. Mr. Post asked for the line numbers the information is on in the December 12
457 minutes, response, 230-258. Chairman Jones spoke that if the Budget Committee wants to wait and vote on this that they can
458 do that at the meeting on February 6, we have to vote on the other article anyway. There is no rush to do that unless someone
459 wants to make a motion tonight. Ms. Browne indicated to wait until next week. Chairman Jones noted we will vote on that in
460 the next go around and asks for any other questions. None heard.
461

462 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to accept the language in warrant article #6 as written*
463 *(special meeting for defeated collective bargaining agreement).*
464 *Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.*
465

466 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to accept warrant article #9, as written (transact*
467 *other business).*
468 *Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.*
469

470 Chairman Jones asked if the Budget Committee could vote on article #9.
471

472 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Browne to accept warrant article #9, (transact other business).*
473

474 It was confirmed the Budget Committee does not need to vote on article #9, as there is no financial impact.
475

476 *Ms. Browne WITHDRAWS her motion.*
477

478 **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

479 The public comment section of the agenda was read. Chairman Golding reminded the group there is a 3-minute time limit.
480

481 Mr. Don Rankin, Wilton thanked everyone for their hard work, it is a lot of long nights. As far as the money left over, article
482 #8, he thinks we can explain that to the people in the town very well. We also have to give them the counter point. This is all
483 money we appropriated for the school, if it goes back to the town, it goes back to 2 separate towns, that have 2 separate
484 meetings for their budget and it never really shows up as the school board doing what they are supposed to do, trying to save
485 money. He thinks it should be presented and will talk at school meeting and say things like that but it is part of the approach.
486 Money was appropriated to the school, if you don't retain it here at the school, it goes to 2 separate towns and the town takes
487 care of it. It does not help the schools at all. The people at the school meeting are there for the school, the people at the town
488 meeting are there for the towns. That is his approach to that. He will be happy to talk, work with anyone and try to make
489 language that is clear. Thank you all.
490

491 Ms. Browne spoke that we received the YTD report and have a significant balance right now, a fair amount is from staff
492 positions not filled and likely, we will have that at the end of the year. She urges the school board to be thinking of that and

look at projects that need to get done and do their best to not get caught at the end of the year come March or April and say oh wait we have to spend this money or can we spend this money.

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

Ms. Mary Golding, commented, the Budget Committee not voting on the teachers salary increase, boo! That is all she has to say about that. She thanked the School Board Chair, Vice Chair and Business Administrator for coming to FRES today to celebrate the iReady scores from the students. Recycled Percussion, performed and we really appreciate your support and interest in our students. Thank you so much. She thanked Mr. Allen and everyone on the Facilities Committee, what great work you did, bravo. She agrees with Mr. Rankin and some of the other people on the Board to spend the unexpended funds. We already gave it to you just use it. Thank you for everybody's hard work, have a good night.

Chairman Jones requests that February 6 at 7pm to do the joint session if appropriate for the Board; Chairman Golding responds we can do that. Chairman Jones asked if that was okay for the Budget Committee. No objection heard. He notes the plan is to vote on the warrant articles in that meeting unless the committee feels they need to have a separate meeting. Chairman Golding is hoping to have a number for article #8 then. The Budget Committee will meet at 6pm on February 6 and join the School Board for the joint session at 7pm.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Ryan and SECONDED by Ms. Browne to adjourn the Budget Committee meeting/session at 8:38pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

VIII. YTD REPORTS

Ms. LaPlante reviewed the year to date report is through December 31, showing 7.91%, \$1,124,000 uncommitted and unspent. She reminded the group throughout the last 2 years we switched from encumbrances for everything to just doing them in the moment. She believes in past years it would show you have less remaining because the encumbrances locked up the funds. We are spending what we need at the moment. The district is in good position now; a lot of the savings is from staffing. Mr. Pratt has some paraprofessional positions that are unfilled and filled some with ABA therapists. Some teaching positions remain unfilled and there is savings in changes in health benefits and wage changes. She is comfortable where the budget is. She will be in a better position to outline what we may have for unspent funds for the February meeting but it will be just an estimate. Ms. Anzalone asked going back to a warrant article if we have to put a dollar amount. Ms. LaPlante responded that if you do a percent, you have to give a ceiling, such as up to \$100,000. Ms. Anzalone asked if we have money left over are we allowed to use it to pay off the food service debt. Ms. LaPlante would need to look into that. Ms. Anzalone spoke of a lot families struggling and could we be able to use it to help, maybe provide a fund for kids who need it. Ms. LaPlante clarifies that if they want a meal, we give that to them but snacks are not allowed to charge.

IX. POLICIES

a. 1st Reading

i. ACN-Nursing Mothers

Ms. Lavalley reviewed these policies are all the first reading. Policy ACN is a required policy as of this year. We didn't make changes and it will come back for a 2nd reading if there is no objection. No objection heard.

ii. EHAB-Data Governance

Ms. Lavalley reviewed we have updated this policy because of legislative changes. She asked for any comments, questions and if no objection, it will return for a 2nd read. No objection heard.

iii. BBBE-Vacancies and Unexpired Term Fulfillment

Ms. Lavalley reviewed this policy is not a required policy but is recommended. We discussed at the Board level to have a policy like this to help us in situations where we need to fill a vacancy and provide consistency for people in the towns, and hopefully prevent a lot of debate and discussions. She asked for any questions, comments, or suggestions, none heard. This policy will return for a 2nd read.

iv. BEDG-Meeting Minutes

Ms. Lavalley reported this is a recommended policy but the reason we are bringing it forward is that this year there was a legislative change regarding sealed minutes. We have 10 years to review minutes, unseal, seal again or make them public. We left it vague in the committee so who was on the Board you can vote on it every year. We recommend you set a standard in March when the new board is appointed and move forward at the time. She asked for questions, comments or changes. There was no objection heard to bring this back for a 2nd reading. She will have more policies for the next meeting, Attendance and District Social Media.

X. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to approve the minutes of January 9, 2023 as written.

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

b. ESSER FUNDING REQUEST-TUTORS

Ms. LaPlante reviewed this request is coming from Principal Fuller at FRES to do a 3rd year of afterschool tutoring. The request is the same as in prior years, \$19,325. We have spent \$608,090 of the \$684,000 and if approved we will have about \$76,000 left. Ms. Anzalone commented, don't we need that at WLC. Ms. LaPlante confirms it has not been requested. Ms. Anzalone asks because she knows that we go to the teachers and she questions if they are paid when doing the extra work. She can reach out to Principal Ronning to see if he needs it, if so what it would look like. Ms. Lavallee spoke that they do have tutoring there, there is a schedule and she believes they get a stipend. We can get the schedule. You bring up a good point with math scores given we have \$76,000 and believes that is for learning loss. She would like to see if there is a program we could do at WLC other than the afterschool tutoring that students would access and parents would buy into if Principal Ronning and Assistant Principal Gosselin have any recommendation. Superintendent spoke that we talked about hiring an SAT person to teach math skills too, and ELA that goes with SAT tests. The challenge with WLC is that the kids don't want to stay afterschool. The FRES kids love to stay afterschool with their teacher and work hard at FRES. He likes that teachers do stay at WLC on a regular basis that is the best help they can get. You can get the schedule if you email Principal Ronning or Assistant Principal Gosselin. We do have to spend this balance by September 2024; thinking about evening or afterschool program academically is the best way to use the balance. Chairman Golding asked how much of it do we have to spend on learning loss. Ms. LaPlante confirms we committee \$139,207 and have already met that mark. Chairman Golding would like to see the rest earmarked for learning loss.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to accept the proposal for spending ESSER funds not to exceed \$19,325 for tutoring program at FRES.

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

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Budget Liaison

Ms. Foss reported since we spent so much time with the Budget Committee, that it all started with January 10, and the minutes were forwarded to the School Board. We finalized and okay'd those last night On January 10, there was concern regarding how much the budget would be and the CBA. People were uncomfortable and they asked us to go back to the School Board and Ms. LaPlante and cut more money. That resulted in the memorandum from Ms. LaPlante we have before us with the potential cuts. We decided not to cut everything, (see second paragraph of memo), there was about \$80,000 that we kept in the budget and that resulted in the operating budget we have now. The meetings have been "testy" but we got through them.

ii. Strategic Planning Committee

Chair Golding reported the committee met on January 3rd, this was the 1st meeting. The Chair and Vice Chair were voted on, He was voted the Chairman and Ms. Anzalone is the Vice Chair. We decided since our committee charge is to get baseline information and report on school culture, curriculum, athletics, arts and beginning with a district report card and grade distribution with a focus on the future. What we will do is research neighboring schools if there are any programs or some of their structures that may benefit us. We are going to report on what SAU 63 may be able to offer as a small district that larger districts are not able to offer. We are also going to research tuitioning students in and out of district to determine cost, savings, benefits, detriments to a wide variety of scenarios and report to the Board our findings and recommendations. This will include but not limited to SPED, athletics and arts. Research ways to market and share our successes. We will look into partnerships with area schools including Pine Hill and High Mowing. Our committee will explore opportunities for internships; apprenticeships in CTE programs including evaluating current opportunities being utilized or how they could better be utilized and the best way to advertise our opportunities. So far we will meet on Wednesdays monthly however the next meeting is Monday February 19, at 5:30PM and Presidents Day because we had some conflicts. Ms. Anzalone added that DJ Garcia will be part of the committee and she asked that the Selectman provide a list of questions. She will send them a friendly reminder that we will need the information she asked for. She thinks that will be helpful to us. Mr. Lavoie spoke that he and Mr. LoVerne talked about trying to bring tuition students into our HS. There are a few towns going through issues and it was mentioned to the Superintendent who seemed semi-interested. He wonders if the Board would want to entertain something like that for the committee to look at. Chairman Golding spoke that he does not have an issue and doesn't believe that would be something we would want the Superintendent to do. He doesn't mind heading that project. There is never harm in looking at how to improve the district. Ms. Anzalone added for anyone on the School Board to reach out, she is all for it to say hey, look at us but not trying steal from any. Superintendent noted that it is a conversation Chair to Chair with a presentation about why they would want to come here. Mr. Lavoie explained the idea is we have room in the HS to bring more kids in, tuition in to fill the classrooms would save money. He can come up with a presentation, share that with the Chairman and go from there. He doesn't mind doing it but doesn't want to do it without Board direction. No objection was heard, several member said to go ahead. Mr. Lavoie will prepare something. Ms. Foss asked what are the logistics, suppose we have a district who wants to come here. Do we just decide to accept them? Ms. Lavallee explained it depends how the setup is. There is more than one scenario and it is handled differently. If it has to do with the Articles of Agreement, we would have to go to the towns. It depends on the situation and there could be a lot involved. Plus the towns themselves who may be interested are already in an

agreement and they would need to look at being removed from that. If people want to tuition to us that is different. Mr. Lavoie added if we could get other towns in that it would help people.

iii. Policy Committee

Ms. Lavallee reported the committee didn't meet this month. She did send an email to set a new date. She discussed it with the Superintendent given the amount of preparation for district meeting that administration has going on and that she brought forth policies tonight and still has 4 more ready to come forward, she thought it was prudent to get through February and schedule a date in March if Mr. Lavoie and Ms. Cloutier-Cabral do not have an objection. No objection heard. Ms. Lavallee will get with administration, finalize those policies and, move forward and meet as a committee in March.

XII. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION

Chairman Golding asked if there anything the members wanted to discuss. Ms. Lavallee noted there were a couple of things she wanted in the minutes. The cancelation of IXL, the supplemental learning program will not have an impact on the students. It was used a lot at FRES but now they have Instructional Pathways and students can access it outside of school too. At the HS level, they transferred to Khan Academy. The good thing about Khan Academy is it directly links with the SAT system. Although she was concerned about taking away IXL, she felt better about it with this information. Regarding the facilities employee (decreased hours) she knows we were not able to fill a part-time position. Years ago when we had to make changes to the budget and the LCS position was changed to part-time, we lost the employee. She is just throwing this out there to the Board, it is great when we can change things to part-time for financial reasons we save a significant amount of money but if we are not able to fill the position it does a disservice to the students. If we change it to part-time and are not able to fill the position when we talk about the budget next time we should talk about if we want to maintain it as part-time; it makes it harder to fill a part-time position. She added great job Ms. LaPlante.

XIII. 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.

Ms. Mary Golding spoke about the Director of Student Support Services report and she commented that the support services staff is great, absolutely is, and by support staff she means ABA's and paraprofessionals. She thinks if you showed up at the schools and saw them first hand and actually supported them you would realize how difficult that is. She misses the mental health social worker and original vision the mental health room was supposed to create which was to support for all students, that is not happening. She was curious if the direction change mid-way through occurred when the social worker left and if so why was not another one hired and you could have kept that same direction but she believes Mr. Pratt left after his report. The Strategic Planning Committee, you have a full plate, best of luck with that. Thank you everyone for the funds to do the tutoring at FRES, it makes a difference. You are great, administration and the School Board, she appreciates all your hard work and everything you do.

Mr. Pratt added, he thinks Ms. Golding hit it straight on; we hired a social worker and couldn't find another. We had to find the best way to support the program, it does support more than SPED; it supports kids that need help.

XIV. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Anzalone thanked the anonymous donor for the money going to the dance team. Regarding reducing full-time to part-time, she is glad no one lost their job but we need to consider that like when we decided to cut the gym teacher down to .80. As a parent she spoke of not being happy that we have not had enough (gym teachers) to cover gym class and for 2 years kids have not had gym.

Mr. Lavoie commented the gym floor looks great and asked the assembly was on the floor and not on the stage. Maybe we can look in that for next time. We are not even allowed to eat in there. He thanked Ms. Jones for doing the taco night tonight; unfortunately, we are at this meeting and could not make it. A lot of us would have been there if we could. Great job continuing to raise money.

Ms. Lavallee spoke about the Penny Sale with the PTO and Lions Club. They are looking for volunteers from the School Board. She helped with food last year and Mr. Post made pulled pork to sell which was great. They are looking for either donated food or managing the gym and reminding people no food or drink in there. If we could create 2 times, 4:30pm-6:30pm and 6:30pm-8:30pm she can create a spreadsheet and you can sign up. She will circulate the spreadsheet. It is on March 23, a Saturday and will forward it to the PTO; if you don't have time during those times they also need set up and cleanup is a lot too.

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral was excited to see Matt and Taylor tonight, we are so proud of them. She thanked the anonymous donor and Ms. Jones is rock star. She has seen the school spirit here outstanding and to see the attendance at the games lately. She

673 sees kids here at games that she has never seen here. Mr. Taber is doing an awesome job, we have music, announcers, we have
674 someone sing the National Anthem before games, she is proud of all of that.

675
676 Ms. Foss thanked the anonymous donor for the dance team. Regarding the program that Mr. Pratt is spearheading at FRES,
677 she is glad the program is helping not just IEP kids but kids in general; it is a good thing and well worth our time and to be
678 grateful for that.

679
680 Chairman Golding spoke of his time at FRES on the 18th judging the Spelling Bee again which was so much fun. Anson, a 5th
681 grader won and William, a 3rd grader placed 2nd which was awesome. Anson goes on to the finals in Keene, what a blast and
682 would love to do that again. He spoke of having a great time over at the CARES Day at FRES watching Recycled Percussion.
683 The kids enjoyed themselves immensely and it was great to watch them have fun.

684
685 Mr. Allen congratulated Matt and Taylor. He thanked and congratulated the dance team. Those students practice hard. He
686 thanked those who work on the Facilities Committee, School Board and Budget Committee. He included administration, Ms.
687 LaPlante and Mr. Erb as well. Transparency to the taxpayers is huge and being able to ask hard questions and not always
688 knowing the answer and no one takes it personally, all realize there is no malintent. We are just trying to come up with the best
689 solutions for the students, school and community. He appreciates that we can have those discussions as we go. He thanked the
690 School Board and administration, staff, teachers, the whole 9 yards.

691
692 **XV. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (C)**

693 *A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to enter Non-Public Session to review the*
694 *non-public minutes, RSA 91-A: 3 II (C) at 9:38pm.*

695 *Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.*
696

697 **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

698 The Board entered public session at 9:43pm.
699

700 **XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

701 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:44pm.*

702 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*
703

704 *Respectfully submitted,*

705 *Kristina Fowler*
706