

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, October 10, 2023  
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 Lavallee, Matt Mannarino, Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral, Darlene Anzalone, Geoffrey Allen, Diane Foss (6:36pm attended Budget Co. mtg.), Jonathan Lavoie, and HS School Board Student Representative, Hannah Hamilton*

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Golding called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**III. STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Superintendent spoke of a new monthly staff recognition award, the "Starfish Award". He explained this award is to recognize a staff person in the district who makes a difference one student at a time. This will be presented at the first board meeting each month and at the end of the year, one person will be chosen out of all them for a yearly award. He reviewed the starfish story, which is about making a difference one starfish at a time. Principal Fuller honored Ms. Christina Gauthier, administrative assistant at FRES with the "Starfish Award" for making a difference, one student, one parent, one teacher at a time. She reviewed many ways that Ms. Gauthier deserves this. She was congratulated and given a round of applause.

**IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no adjustments requested.

**V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

**a. Reports**

**i. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent informed the group that we are still struggling with filling the math and computer science positions. He have an introductory meeting, a prelude to an interview, with a math candidate tomorrow. If it goes well we will take the next step in the process. We received an email from a community member who is interested in tutoring to help with math. The community member is a robotics and computer teacher at a University. He will reach out to him. We have 66 survey responses. The mailer will go out and the survey will be completed by October 27. We may have to extend that if there is a need. We have hard copies at the schools as well and he confirmed the link is on the front page of the website.

**ii. Student School Board Report**

Student Hannah Hamilton reported that there was a lot happening this month. They had ALICE training and a senior trip to Mt. Monadnock. Some students have been frustrated with the new phone procedure. Students are excited about "Red Ribbon Week". They seem to like their new teachers this year. It has been a positive environment with all the new staff. A question was raised what is the biggest issue with the phones. Ms. Hamilton replied that during free period or passing through the halls some students feel they should be able to go on their phones but can't. Ms. Hamilton was asked about the trip to Mt. Monadnock. She spoke of the students hiking and being able to hike with some of the teachers. When asked about the classroom temperatures, she confirmed the climate has improved; there have not been many complaints. Ms. Hamilton was thanked for her attendance and her report.

**iii. WLC Principal's Report**

Principal Ronning thanked Ms. Hamilton for attending. He noted it is fantastic to have a student representative. There was a MS student representative as well but he has declined today. Principal Ronning will continue to look for another. He spoke of iReady testing and thanked Ms. Dignan who did a lot of work with the data. She presented to the staff today and spoke about how we can move forward. Teachers are analyzing data. With PSAT and SAT, it is the same situation. He spoke of Ms. Stephanie Erickson doing a lot of work with materials and types of questions to help with rigor and helps students feel more comfortable when they take the test. The WLC Newsletter was sent out to the Board, he will be bringing copies to the businesses in the area to let the community know of the good things happening. An Athletic Council is being formed as there have been many questions related to where athletics is going. We continue to work on the positives. Eighty-five Warrior Cards were sent out which represents about 30% of the student body. The Student Council meeting is this Thursday and he will talk about the phones with them and a few other items. Assistant Principal Gosselin spoke of September's discipline log. This year it looks a little different, she wanted to compare things and make it a little easier to do that. She reviewed 6% of the HS students had a log entry

that is specific to discipline office referrals. A new category has been added which is other. That can include things like suspension from the bus or athletics. The logs will be shared monthly. She was asked to provide more information on suspension from athletics. Assistant Principal Gosselin spoke, with an athlete; we expend equal if not better behavior. If there are areas in athletics it could be that, they are unkind to others, or showing poor sportsmanship. Those are a couple of examples. So far, it has not been a permanent suspension from the team but for a certain number of games. Principal Ronning confirms the Warrior Cards are mailed home to parents. He voiced appreciation when he gets calls from parents especially when there is a concern, allowing him to look into a situation and getting back to them.

#### **iv. WLCTA Report**

Ms. Rosana reported for the MS/HS that teachers feel student engagement is up and some think it is due to the cell phone policy. Some have said it is their favorite year teaching. They had a PD day on Friday and looked at syllabi and how to make them uniform. Teachers met about mid-terms and finals and how we could help make them more consistent between all classes and more rigorous. We have worked in our PLC to look at iReady scores and how they line up with the PSAT and SAT scores and some ways to implement those in our classrooms. She gave a shout out to Ms. Olympia Clark who has been helping in the cafeteria and her FACS students have been helping too. This shows students great citizenship. Overall moral is up compared to last year and a lot has to do with the great new hires this year. There is less slack teachers are picking up. Ms. Rosana reported on FRES and LCS. Teachers attended their first mid-year PD day on October 6. The accelerated math program has been implemented with 7 students participating at FRES and 3 fifth graders going up to WLC for math. Grades 1-5 and 6-10 have completed their first round of iReady testing and teachers spent a full day analyzing test scores and making plans to implement the most effective strategies for their specific learners. The first graders had their first field trip to pick apples at Windy Hill Orchard in Greenville and then made apple pies for all the students at FRES. We are nearing the end of our first quarter and preparing for Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 13. Report cards will be available at the conferences or the next day for anyone who can't make it. Students at FRES and LCS are preparing for their yearly Halloween parade. LCS will be parading at 12:15pm and FRES will start around 1pm; everyone is looking forward to this exciting tradition.

There was a little time before the Budget Committee was to join at 7pm and the time was used for approving minutes and reviewing a new hire, see below.

### **VI. 7:00 PM Joint Board & Budget Committee Session**

Present: Jeff Jones, Adam Lavallee, Bill Ryan, Charlie Post, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Jennifer Bernet and Michele Alley

#### **a. FY 2024-2025 Budget**

##### **i. Prior Follow Up**

Chair Jones spoke about a request at the last meeting for a target for the budget. He expressed the committee is recommending a flat budget, a zero percent increase, exclusive of the teachers' contract. They also want to make it clear that they still want to hear "the asks and wants" from teachers and administration. They want to see those things and not have things taken off if we are just a little over from the target. This is meant to be a target from the Budget Committee. Mr. Lavallee reminded the group that the recommendation is flat exclusive of all the warrants, not just the teachers' contract. Ms. LaPlante asked if Chair Jones could help administration understand how the committee wants to have the "wants" given to them. She adds the budget that has been given includes a lot of that. She questioned for the next meeting, do you want us to go back to the drawing board and come up with a zero based budget to start presenting at that point. She confirms we are about 4% currently. Chair Jones responded that when we started, we asked for the bigger wants to be broken out at the bottom. Are there bigger wants in there? Ms. LaPlante confirms no. A question was raised if administration can prioritize what is there. The recommendation was reiterated for a zero based budget with the wants broken out below. The Board was asked if they had anything to add to that or provide any feedback, as they have to work together on the budget. Chair Golding noted the Budget Committee sets the budget, and our feedback is only that when we vote on it. Ms. LaPlante questioned if the Budget Committee would entertain a zero based budget excluding contracts such as we are entering year 2 of the WLCSSA CBA \$65,000 increase and the transportation contract is entering in year 2 with an automatic \$43,000 increase. It was questioned if you don't do that you will just essentially remove that from somewhere else. Ms. LaPlante confirms. A question was raised what are the big unexpended fund balance items, is there a way they can see what it is, what was the cost that made that up to see if it needs adjusting as they didn't spend a lot somewhere to create the unexpended fund balance. Ms. LaPlante was asked to review the contracts again, she mentioned before. She confirms a 4.9%, \$42,000 increase in transportation for year 2 of the contract and \$65,000 increase for the WLCSSA CBA in year 2. She added there is also health insurance and dental, which we are contractually obligated to pay. Discussion was had that this is the danger of recommending a target that there are these things built in. Chair Jones noted if you want to build those things in that represents about a 1%-2% increase then we should just say that if the Budget Committee is comfortable with that so that we are not chasing those numbers all the time; this is his opinion. Discussion included we are either setting a target or not. The recommendation is a flat budget. Discussion was had regarding the bus issues this year and if there is anything in the contract that says if they do not deliver, we do not pay the \$42,000 or anything like that. Ms. LaPlante will look into that. A question was raised how much it costs to have our own buses like schools used to. Examples of the bus issues were given. Chair Jones reiterates the direction is a flat budget, none of the contractual increases included. The teachers' contract is a huge one and we are waiting to hear about it when the time is right.

##### **ii. Technology**

Mr. Buroker voiced he tried his best to deliver a flat budget. The biggest hurdle is that ESSER funding is ending and everything the Board approved has to be funded through this budget. The budget is at \$330,536 a 4.5% increase. Most of his budget lines

have gone down by just marginal cuts here and there trying to absorb the iReady Instructional Pathways. The software lines for schools went up significantly, that is almost exclusively Instructional Pathways. He had noticed the prior director budgeted SNAP equally for all schools and he did not think that was accurate and reapportioned that accordingly. He tried to cut everywhere he could and only where he felt it was reasonable to do so. A question was raised if on lines 410, 411, 412 software is listed for each school; he was asked if he could make those separate so they can be seen clearly. Is there a way to separate them by line items? Mr. Buroker will see what he can do; he has a list of them. He was asked to clarify the plan book as it is cut off on the print out. He will double-check that. A question was raised that Mr. Buroker said a lot of his budget is coming from things that were paid by ESSER. Is there any way the Budget Committee can get an idea of the total of his budget that did not exist because of ESSER funding. It was noted a lot or at least a portion of the fund balance was from spending federal dollars and not local. It would be good to know the impact. Mr. Buroker responded that right now he estimates about \$70,000. That is \$30,000 for Chromebooks that were purchased with ESSER and another \$40,000 for iReady Instructional Pathways and teacher Toolbox. That is about a quarter of his budget. A question was raised regarding the 20% replacement plan of Chromebooks and does he see this still accurate vs. just being part of the plan. Mr. Buroker responded it is part of the plan, if we don't purchase them right now we have 187 expiring (end of life) next year. The plan calls for buying 110 this year and having additional spares would be useful. A question was raised on line 430, a few things are listed like Microsoft, Blackboard website, template etc. what makes up the rest of that line. Mr. Buroker responded Blackboard was bought out by Finalsite and a fair amount is in website hosting. It was noted the description is not accurate. He confirms that is correct. It was asked that this be updated. Mr. Buroker was asked if he had to make cuts where would that be. Mr. Buroker responded probably in computer supplies. Although it is hard to predict how many projector bulbs or cords will need replacing. That also represents only about \$5,000. A question was raised if under "instructional" are all those programs in that block interdependent or if they were listed out could teachers and administration go through them to see if any can be discarded. Mr. Buroker responded some are very much on their own, some are not, some are tied to curriculum and he gave examples. He added in broad strokes yes, you could pull them apart. It was questioned if some are tied to curriculum why are they in technology and not in curriculum. Mr. Buroker responded per RSA 189:68, all software that students log into is part of student data privacy and needs to be approved through technology. We have a student digital privacy consortium that we are a member of that tracks that standard of privacy and as such, they didn't want anything to get around that approval thus falling out of compliance with that law. It was noted it would be interesting to see what parts of the budget are mandatory by law, or tied to curriculum because when you peel those away what is your actual budget for what you are trying to do. That is what we really should be looking at because if things are mandatory and others make the curriculum work it doesn't seem like we shouldn't be looking at that separately.

### **iii. Transportation**

Ms. LaPlante reviewed transport is to and from school, SPED transport and the van lease was there before. It does not include athletics or field trips as that is lumped into the schools. Last year we went back out to bid, the Board awarded the bid to the only bidder, Butler Bus, and the fee increased significantly. Because of that, we did get a new one-time credit of \$15,000, which now goes away. Regarding SPED transportation, we contracted with Durham with a 3% increase. Discussion was had including adding athletics transport into this budget vs. in the schools budget, there was also discussion of leaving it in the schools because the function remains the same. Ms. LaPlante broke it out this way this year so that the athletic director could speak to it. The code is still transportation. A question was raised if there are transport issues getting students to and from school. Ms. LaPlante does not know of any issues like that other than the start of school. It was suggested to send a survey on that.

### **iv. SAU**

The SAU budget is at \$40,147. The Superintendent reviewed there is a savings of about \$4,000. That was made by making marginal cuts across the lines. The only expenditure we don't have in there is potential for teacher retirements gifts that we gave last year but believe it can be covered in school board miscellaneous.

### **v. Business Office**

Ms. LaPlante voiced at the last meeting she had said she could have staffing presented at the same time as the business office but afterwards determined that since the health and dental rates are not out until about the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November she prefers to do it once those are in place. She reviewed that she took some costs such as teacher tuition and lumped it into the business office as well as FRES principal and interest on debt. There is a reduction of \$939 from last year. This is based on actuals and what she believes the need will be. Mr. Vanderhoof voiced he does not believe the teacher tuition should be listed in the business office since it is a mandatory expense. Ms. LaPlante confirms on lines 21, 22, 23 "sortable tab" food service needs to be fixed. She will also fix the line for principal on the "sortable tab" budget. A question was raised regarding what caused the year 2023 audit to increase. Ms. LaPlante responded going back to FY 22 there was significant costs with the audit as we transferred business administrators, which carried over into FY 23 and FY 23 encompasses two audit years by the way the audit fell. In FY 24, we will be over because we have some federal compliance issues we have to do that we did not know at the time. Once those are out of the way she does not see a larger increase.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Tatiana Franko spoke regarding the dress code. She is in favor of one. There are conservative parents in the community who would appreciate a staff dress code. Our children will naturally emulate the teachers and staff down to the way they present themselves. In a professional environment, discretion should be used with regard to tattoos, face piercings and unnaturally

colored hair. Even at Market Basket there is a terrific dress code that some of our students are familiar with because they work there. The School Board would be well advised to institute a casual dress code that brings honor to the teaching profession and teaches students what an appropriate casual dress looks like in the real world. She believes the Board is discussing nurse and counseling tonight. She wants to reiterate that counseling at FRES or WLC should be an opt-in basis and when it comes to sexuality with the nurses office and counseling some parents would rather that not be discussed that can be discussed at home. She wants to be sure if they institute a counselor at WLC, that it will be an opt-in where the parent has to sign approval for going to a counselor.

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

Ms. Mary Golding expressed to Ms. Hannah Hamilton, great job on your first report, she looks forward to hearing more. She spoke of it being a wonderful idea to bring the WLC Newsletter to the community. She thinks community members, taxpayers, and the like should know what the schools are doing and maybe get involved a little bit more. Great job. Regarding the cell phone policy, it is hard to adapt to change but it seems that students and parents might be liking it. It is an important policy that will benefit students, and seems teachers are already seeing a difference, and she hopes it stays in place. Yay Christina Gauthier! She is a blessing not just to Ms. Fuller but to all the staff as well. She is not just a starfish but a super star and deserving of the recognition. Ms. Golding thanked the Board for the hours they put in, time away from their family, dealing with people and issues that can be challenging at times. It is nice to see a cohesive and respectful Board again. I see you all and appreciate you all, everyone have a good night.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Ryan to recess the Budget Committee meeting to across the hall at 7:40pm.*

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

#### **VIII. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Chair Golding asked the members what they thought of the committee's request for a flat budget. Discussion included it is a good target especially given the other things going on in the district and they left it open to say this is our target, they didn't say it will not go over. Ms. Foss spoke that she supports it, the biggest thing she thinks driving it is the concern about the teachers' contract and it not being decided yet. She has a lot of concern regarding it as well. She is concerned how much it will add burden to the town. She concurs she does not think it is a closed shut down deal if you can't get to a flat budget. If there is a good reason there is a good chance it will be approved and it is not a 7% or 10% increase that is the feeling she got. Discussion was had including agreeing with Ms. Foss, it is difficult to plan without a target, how much would you contribute to inflation and did we build that in. Ms. LaPlante confirms she does that have it but can try to get the information for next meeting. There was discussion at the last Budget Committee meeting that there is concern regarding the SRO and how much money it will be. Discussion included there is a lot of difference of opinion on what an SRO does. Ms. Foss spoke about her experience with an SRO and thought it would be an asset to a school but didn't consider that the SRO would prevent a school shooting. She thinks there is a feeling from the community that is one of the driving things for having one and they don't agree whether accurate or not those are concerns she has heard over and over again. One is about the money and the other it won't protect our kids from a violent situation. Ms. Anzalone spoke regarding the SRO, she looks at it as more of a resource to the students to turn to but she would be curious if people feel it won't do much to protect our kids. Everyone takes for granted that Wilton PD is right there but if they are on the edge of either town how long will it take to respond if they are not 2 minutes away, it makes a huge difference. We should look at again, at what the SRO can do and that a lot can happen in 15 minutes. Discussion was had regarding this including we don't have metal detectors, having an SRO is a deterrent, it could help with vaping issues, if something happens someone is right there right away, and it seems to be a big issue with money. Chair Golding noted the SRO would be on the "old business" portion of the agenda for the next meeting. A question was raised how much was the bathroom repairs roughly. Ms. LaPlante responded we budgeted \$45,000.

#### **IX. NHSBA PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS**

Chair Golding spoke that the last couple of years we did this differently, last year the Board voted on each one. We voted on our own resolution to support it and voted down all others. Ms. Foss will attend the Delegate Assembly and vote the way the Board decides. Chair Golding asked how the members want to do this if they want to go through each or not and hopes that all members have had a chance to review them. He gave a brief overview of NHSBA's recommendations. Chairman Golding reviewed and read each one in its entirety prior to each vote and allowed time for discussion of each.

#8 Submitted by Oyster River Cooperative School Board

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to not support proposed resolution #8.*

*Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

#9 Submitted by the Dover School Board

NHSBA supports alternative language for this resolution. There was a brief discussion, which included is it saying what parents say shouldn't matter, it doesn't say anything about age appropriate materials, and they are saying the librarian should be able to offer a good balance of all kinds of books. It was noted we have a policy in place, IJL that sets our ground rules and we don't have to support this. There was discussion of not supporting it although Ms. Cloutier-Cabral voiced she would be fine with it, and notes we have always been able to opt-out of things for our kids and our policy defines it for our school.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to support NHSBA's alternative language to proposed resolution #9.*

*Voting: five ayes, and three nays from Mr. Allen, Ms. Anzalone and Mr. Lavoie, motion carried.*

#10 Submitted by Raymond School Board

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to NOT support proposed resolution #10.*

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

#11 Submitted by Monadnock Regional School Board

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to support NHSBA's alternative language to proposed resolution #11.*

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

#12 Submitted by Monadnock Regional School Board

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to support NHSBA's alternative language to proposed resolution #12.*

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

#13 Submitted by the Monadnock Regional School Board

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to support proposed resolution #13.*

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

#14 Submitted by Manchester Board of School Committee

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to support proposed resolution #14.*

Mr. Lavoie voiced that he is a believer of the more the money gets away from the town the less we have control over it and the more is wasted with fees and lobbyists. A question was raised if this is asking NH State to tax people more to cover this type of building aid program; it is something to think about. Ms. Cloutier-Cabal spoke that she has given this a lot of thought with regard to facilities and ESSER funds, which has been a game changer for us, and now that we are losing the funding, we are squirming around to find funds. We will always put it to good use. Discussion was had the funds come from us, if we delegate our funds well, that is a good thing but if others do not will they tax us for other districts who did not do it well. Discussion included many schools are in need of repair and no one is in a position to do unnecessary things. Chair Golding added the state has been underfunding the schools for years and they need to give us more and unfortunately it will come from us anyway regardless if this is passed or not.

*Voting: five ayes; three nays from Ms. Anzalone, Mr. Lavoie and Mr. Allen, motion carried.*

#15 Submitted by Manchester Board of School Committee

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Mr. Lavoie to NOT support the alternative language to proposed resolution #15.*

*Voting: six ayes, two abstentions Mr. Mannarino and Ms. Foss, motion carried.*

There was a brief discussion regarding abstaining from a vote.

#16 Submitted by Manchester Board of School Committee

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to NOT support proposed resolution #16.*

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

#17 Submitted by Manchester Board of School Committee

Administration was asked if this would be helpful. Superintendent responded that they do not understand this. If Medicaid was used rather than what the state is doing there may be a single parent below the Medicaid line because they have insurance. The way we do free and reduced now we would catch that family. Administration does not make a recommendation one way or another because we do not understand it. Ms. LaPlante added if there is a resolution specifically about making Medicaid funds available, she supports that but if it is tied to free and reduced she does not. She is concerned with the impact it may have on our families. It was also noted that some families might not want others to know of their Medicaid coverage.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Mannarino and SECONDED by Mr. Allen to NOT support proposed resolution #17 including all (3) alternative language provided.*

It was noted this resolution might be beneficial to Manchester. It was expressed there is not enough information to support it and they should bring it back with clearer language.

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

#18 Submitted by the NHSBA Board of Directors

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Anzalone and SECONDED by Mr. Allen to support proposed resolution #18.*

Mr. Allen spoke that their rationale is the same we discussed as to why we shouldn't belong to NHSBA. He thinks we should support this and we need to continue to look for alternative services.

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

#19 Submitted by the Concord School Board

Mr. Lavoie questioned Superintendent Weaver if this would be a step toward the way of Federal getting closer to home with the choices, is that what this is attempting to do. Superintendent responded he is not sure what the intent is. The program in place now is for families who need support for free or reduced prices. To him, this is saying the program should be for almost everyone. The National School Lunch Program seems to work now and kids that are hungry are being fed in our district and every other district. If they were not, we would find a way to feed them. He is not sure what this is asking other than a universal way to feed everyone and no one pays.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Mr. Lavoie to NOT support, (not consider it or debate on it at Delegate Assembly) proposed resolution #19.*

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral voiced that she appreciates the spirit of it but thinks it needs more. If they bring it back next year with a better proposal, she would support it.

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

## **X. POLICIES**

### **a. 2<sup>nd</sup> Read**

#### **i. GBEBA-Staff Dress Code**

Ms. Lavalley reviewed this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> read on the dress code. The edits are included that we discussed and agreed upon at the last meeting. She asks for any questions or comments. None heard. This policy will come back for a 3<sup>rd</sup> read.

#### **ii. JLCJA-Emergency Plan for Sports Related Injuries and Additional Protocols for Athletics Participation**

Ms. Lavalley reviewed there are no changes since the last read. She asked for any discussion. None heard.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavalley and SECONDED by Mr. Lavoie to accept policy JLCJA-Emergency Plan for Sports Related Injuries and Additional Protocols as written.*

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

#### **iii. JLC-Student Health Services & School Nurses**

Ms. Lavalley reviewed there are no changes since the last read. She asked for any discussion. None heard.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavalley and SECONDED by Mr. Lavoie to accept policy JLC-Student Health Services & School Nurses as written.*

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

**iv. JLCK-Special Physical Health Needs of Students**

Ms. Lavallee reviewed there were no changes since the last reading. She asked for any questions or comments. None heard.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to accept policy JLCK-Special Physical Health Needs of Students as written.*

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

**v. JLDBB-Suicide Prevention and Response**

Ms. Lavallee reviewed there were no changes since the last reading. This is a required policy with required changes. She asked for any questions for comments. None heard.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to accept policy JLDBB-Suicide Prevention and Response as written.*

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

**vi. IKFA-Early Graduation**

Ms. Lavallee reviewed that she worked on this with the Superintendent and administration at WLC to include the comments made at the last meeting. We added language regarding the cutoff date for application for early graduation including an example and a sentence on where to find the graduation requirements for WLC vs. the minimum graduation requirements for the state graduation. She asked if the Board was happy with the wording and for any comments or questions. None heard. This will come back for a 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

**b. 3<sup>rd</sup> Read**

**i. JJJ-Access to Public School Programs**

Ms. Lavallee reviewed there were no changes since the last reading. She asked for any questions or comments. None heard.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to accept policy JJJ-Access to Public School Programs as written.*

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

**c. Withdrawal**

**i. EF-Food Service Management**

The Policy Committee is recommending this policy be withdrawn, as it is more of a job description. Mr. LoVerme had requested it be presented with the job description (included in the Superintendent Report). She reviewed his concerns stated in the minutes. He wanted to be sure it included safe serve certification and that it be at the expense of the school. Ms. LaPlante informed the Board that this is something that is taken care of at the administrative level we already pay for it.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to withdraw policy EF-Food Service Management.*

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

**XI. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting**

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to approve the minutes of September 26, 2023 as written.*

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

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to approve the non-public minutes of September 26, 2023 as written.*

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

**XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**i. Budget Liaison**

Ms. Foss reported the budget meeting was held on September 26, 2023. The meeting was broken into two sessions. The first 30 minutes was with just the Budget Committee members. The second half was held as a joint meeting with the Board. The first half of the meeting covered reviewing and passing the minutes for the August 15, 2023 meeting. In addition, the FY 25 budget was looked at in summary. This presentation was of a first draft with the understanding that a second draft could be expected in a few weeks. It is a comparison of the past budgets and discussion to prioritize needs vs. wants. The teacher contract is not determined yet and an overriding theme of concern not just discussed in this meeting but the one tonight as well. There were concerns voiced about the bus contract and the bus being late, not showing up etc. There were concerns and questions raised

about the hiring of an architect for the locker room. Budget Committee members were aware that this had already been done, but they just felt a need to voice concern again. There was no public comment at this meeting.

#### **ii. Negotiations**

Ms. Anzalone reviewed they met on October 2 and went back to the WLCTA with the Board's feedback. At that meeting the WLCTA came back with a few additional changes they wanted to make and we will discuss those later. We let them know we will present back to them at the next meeting. The next meeting is October 16.

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

#### **a. FYI-New Hire-Maura Feller-WLC Title I Tutor**

Superintendent reviewed the new hire. He informed the group that we have all our Title I Tutors filled and hopes for a positive impact for students as some need that 1 on 1 assistance. We really appreciate that help especially since we are still looking to fill a few positions.

### **XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Mr. Jonathan Vanderhoof voiced we elect state reps every other year, right. You vote for who you think does the best, you can call them up, you can email them, knock on their door and say you want them to support this legislation or not this legislation and here is why. You can base your vote on the next election on how they perform, did they agree with you or not. Essentially, being your own advocate on what you want to happen. So you can make that decision to support them or not support them. What you can't do is not pay your taxes. What you all just did was sat there and decided what legislation should or should not be supported and the way you will do that is take money out of my pocket and give it to lobbyist and say this is what I want you to do with that. Whether you support it or don't support it you shouldn't be making that decision with other people's money and forcing to support or not because they can do that on their own. It is legal to do that if you do that with local funds and only local funds, which you are not, but it is illegal for state comingled funds or Federal. I will keep pushing that and I am going to push that as far as I have to. I don't know what the ramifications for you guys are going to be and I don't know what it will be for them but I am going to keep going after it because it is 100% wrong that you are taking money out of other peoples pockets and giving it to lobbyists to advocate for things they may or agree or disagree with. It's a horrible thing you are doing. You should have voted no on every single item, because you shouldn't be advocating for other people when you are taking money from them and giving it to lobbyists. If its money coming out of your pocket you say hey, I am going to pay you to go to the state with my money and say, I want you to support this legislation, I can't be there. That is one thing but you are doing it with other people's money and they don't have a choice whether they can give it to you or not. I have to pay my taxes or else it is all bad for me. We have your own representatives that, we elect every year. We elect to make these decisions based on how we feel as individuals not based on how some lobbyists feels based on 300 school board members from all over the state who voted however they wanted to. When you go up there you will have a situation where and probably multiple situations where this person will suggest a change and that person suggests a change and it will be a completely different resolution than what you thought you went up there to vote on and I have done it 2 years. It is really easy to go up there and vote no on everything when your directive is to not support lobbyists so we are just going to vote no on everything. Now you will have to decide when they make all the changes. Our intent was to vote yes, but now they changed a whole bunch of stuff and the intent of the resolution is kind of different and you have to decide if the Board wanted to support that or didn't want to support it because there is no general direction that we are not supporting lobbyists that are being paid with taxpayer funds. We are not supporting lobbyists because it is illegal based on the funding. I will keep pushing it as far as I can push it I don't know if there will be any ramifications or not, maybe it just keeps on going on like that. It's incredibly wrong and it's been going on for years. Shame on you guys for voting to support any of the resolutions based on the fact that you are taking money from other people and doing it. Funding people to be up there when you are at work, can't be there, and can't afford to pay for a lobbyist for themselves. I think it is bad and I do hope there are ramifications financially for the District and for the NHSBA.

Mr. Charlie Post, Lyndeborough spoke regarding the state publishing the scores for schools across the board. The scores for the HS math, here as were generally described in May, were incredibly low; it was 14% on achievement for HS math. It is remarkable, one of the lowest in the state. The thought was people didn't take the test seriously that is what I heard at the last meeting, it's the parents fault, it's the kids fault, its COVID and I also heard we always had these scores. Not like this, it's low, it is really low. The science portion of the test, they were at the state average. English was 50%, not at the state average but clearly, we are not teaching math at this HS. Grade 11 did poorly on that test. It is part of the community, it's our responsibility; now these kids are seniors, will graduate and when they get to college will they have to take algebra in college, will they get tutoring, will they work at Hitchiners, will they have the right skills in math, will they work for a contractor, will they be able to do that kind of work. It is a pretty big failure. It doesn't reflect well on the community. I think this Board needs to take this



seriously. You spend more time on policies than you do on teaching kids. Maybe the policy should be let's teach everybody, let's teach them as well as we can and that's clearly not happening. As a taxpayer and community member, it doesn't reflect well. A lot of parents are having the conversation now; I am not going to send my kid to that HS. I live here I am not going to send them here; there are members of the Board that don't send their kids here. You are seeing the participation drop. Lyndeborough has very low participation rate in terms of the number of kids that come here that live in Lyndeborough. It is time this is taken seriously. The Board needs to get out in front of this or the community will make the decision for you as to whether or not the HS continues. I have heard people say in the community, the school board seems to think everything is fine. Fourteen percent is not fine not fine at all. Nobody should be accepting of this, you shouldn't be making excuses. You should form a committee or just do something, just do anything.

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

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

Mr. Allen voiced, great job Christina Gauthier. When his kids were at FRES, she was instrumental to a lot of things. She is well deserving of the first Starfish Award. Great job with the newsletter and nice it is going out in the community, the more community involvement we can get, more accountable we are, the more ideas, the better.

Mr. Lavoie echoed the support for Ms. Gauthier, thank you for the diligent work. He is happy to see we are maybe filling that last half of math position. That might help with community comments. We do have a new Board many of us are new and doing the best we can. He expressed he thinks we have accomplished quite a bit, the portion about the iReady scores and the poor performance in the past, this Board has taken steps to help alleviate that and we are going to take steps with what we believe will help the community as a whole to help with the teacher negotiations and trying to get some cohesiveness with staff to hopefully improve on those scores because we do recognize the scores have been low. We are trying to do something about it. It will be a step-by-step approach and we have to gauge if what we did this year will help in years to come, it is not going to happen all at once. We are taking steps in the right direction.

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral voiced that life is hard. Those issues you brought up are important to all of us and that is why we are sitting here and will continue to sit here every Tuesday and at all the committees. She spoke of growing up in an affluent community, didn't feel she benefited much from what was offered there, and looked at Wilton-Lyndeborough; her cousins were here and wished she went to this school. It has been my great privilege to raise 5 kids in this district she said. Math scores were not great this year it is not our finest moment. I am so proud of our kids who came out of this district and super proud of the ones I have seen come out of my house. I am proud of the community members that I run into on a regular basis that I know are raised in this district and I am proud of everybody that comes here and especially the 2 of you coming to all the meetings to contribute and to give us constructive criticism because we need that. Let's keep doing what we can. I invite the community to be here and invest in this school and in these kids and as we have seen when we do that, they show that they have spirit and that is what we have been hearing all throughout this year. I look forward to the next tests and we will keep trying to do the best we can.

Mr. Lavoie expressed regarding the math scores, he believes this is the first year we have FRES 5<sup>th</sup> graders coming to the HS for advance math. That is a step in the right direction; his son is part of that program. He is excited about it and working hard. What they are doing is taking taking 5<sup>th</sup> graders who have excelled in math and trying to keep them excelling. They are bringing some of the 5<sup>th</sup> graders up to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level courses. He believes administrations intent behind that is to try to improve those math scores. It should help the scores when you have kids doing 6<sup>th</sup> grade math in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. That is a new program instituted this year and it's pushing in the right direction.

Chair Golding thanked everyone for a good meeting and good discussion.

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

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Mannarino and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to enter Non-Public Session to discuss personnel matters RSA 91-A: 3 II (B) (C) at 8:52pm.*

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

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

The Board entered public session at 9:14 pm.

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

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

Ms. Lavallee informed the Board of a legislative change effective October 3<sup>rd</sup> that requires them to review any sealed meeting minutes to determine if they need to continue to be sealed. If they do, it would be for 10 years and if not, they will become public. If the minutes are not reviewed and determined to be sealed for 10 years they will automatically become public minutes. She reviewed a couple of options for creating a process to do this. A question was raised if there can be a motion to cover all

548 sealed minutes to be sealed for 10 years. She will look into this. She read the RSA and noted we need clarification of what is  
549 “review”. There was a brief discussion. Ms. Lavalley suggested there be a policy and procedure to follow. She suggested she  
550 could work with Ms. Fowler to create a procedure to do this to be in compliance. Chair Golding noted we would get clarification  
551 around this. Ms. Lavalley asked if there was any objection to her working with Ms. Fowler to come up with a procedure. No  
552 objection heard.

553  
554 **XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

555 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Mr. Mannarino to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:21pm.*  
556 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

557  
558 **XVIII. NON-MEETING-NEGOTIATIONS**

559 A non-meeting was held for negotiations.

560  
561 *Respectfully submitted,*  
562 *Kristina Fowler*  
563