

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, April 16, 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, John Zavgren, Michelle Alley, Darlene Anzalone, Geoffrey Allen, and Diane Foss*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principals Tom Ronning and Bridgette Fuller, 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

Third grade teachers, Ms. Dame and Ms. Longval were present to recognize their students Katie Rawson and Addie Pretzer who were recognized for their academics, effort, and hard work. Principal Fuller recognized Brendan Gerry also from the 3rd grade who was nominated by his teacher Ms. Hobbs for his willingness to help his peers and his academic achievements. The students were given a round of applause and congratulated.

IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent requested the following adjustments, remove “project and ESSER funding requests” (move this to May 14) and add a “personnel matter” to the nonpublic session. Ms. Lavalley requested to add “WLC PTO” to correspondence.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavalley and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to accept the adjustments to the agenda.
Voting: all aye, motion carried unanimously.*

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read. Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

Ms. Mary Golding apologized for signing on late and although she missed the student acknowledgements, she wanted to congratulate them.

VI. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Business Administrator’s Report

Ms. LaPlante reported she has outlined the facilities projects in her report. This will be discussed further at the Facilities Committee meeting in May. They will not change significantly. She spoke of the tennis courts and looking to have surface work done in May, Mr. Erb has 2 contractors lined up and we should see some movement on that soon. She followed up on the mold investigation done in room 101. The Lawson Group did the investigation and found no signs of mold in the room; it is coming from the washing machine, which is used specifically in the RISE program. The washer has been removed and will be replaced. When Mr. Pratt returns we will work on a maintenance plan for that. It is great to hear there is no mold in the room other than the washer. Superintendent Weaver has spoken with the parent who spoke of it at a meeting. Responding to a question Ms. LaPlante informed the group she does not know how old the washer is, it is at least 5 years old before Mr. Pratt’s time. She believes the replacement is being delivered Thursday. She confirms it does not need to be an industrial washer, it is UL listed and used in the RISE program. Superintendent added it is used in the life skills program, part of the independent living used for learning measuring, folding etc. Responding to a question Ms. LaPlante confirms we were able to get the price on

paving that we got because they are doing work in our area, when they come is dependent on when the work in this area is scheduled. She will look into it to be sure it is completed by August 15.

ii. Technology Director's Report

Mr. Buroker reported 102 new tickets; we are sitting at 10 open tickets and a 7-day average, which is the goal. They completed SAT testing and from a technology view, it went off as well as we hoped with some minor issue with the College Board application. Currently they are gearing up for spring break to work on projects, which were planned for February but didn't work out but lessons were learned. The radio upgrade projects is moving along, the radios are in. We can contact FRES on them. There are a few kinks to work out and we are working with the vendor. The beautification of the curriculum database is prettier and easier to navigate, he is proud of this. We had your "garden variety" phishing attack on staff at FRES. He is pleased to report that his staff did things perfectly while he was on vacation. Ms. Lavallee voiced kudos to the staff and Mr. Buroker for their training. A question was raised if the walkie-talkies would be hooked up to the police department on a different channel. Mr. Buroker confirms we have not looked at how we are doing that but do have a couple extra and there should be a way to get their radios to access our radio channels. It is one of the goals though. Mr. Allen asked what are you using, is it GMS? Mr. Buroker does not have that information but can get it. Mr. Allen noted it was not needed. Mr. Buroker confirms we do have licensing. A question was raised regarding who is the "we" he refers to, is there a team working on projects like ones worked on February break. Mr. Buroker clarifies he has 2 technicians in his department plus a student intern and himself.

• WLC PTO

Ms. Crystal Gill was present and spoke of the success of the Penny Sale. She thanked those who attended. It was amazing to have teachers, kids, school board and the PTO all working together. It was a "weather day" and still had over 400 people. It would not have been such a success if it were not for the help we received. There were over 23 students ranging from 6 grade to 12th all wearing matching t-shirts. She spoke of how proud she is of them and anyone who was there can attest to all the work they did. We brought in just shy of \$13,000, the PTO takes half, pays out expenses and the junior class received a check for \$2,800. She spoke of the smooth transition and how hard everyone worked, the students, Lions Club, Board, PTO etc. She spoke of the next event, Teacher Appreciation Week. This is an event she is passionate about. It is May 6-10 and will have the "Friends" theme. This is an event that we can show all our appreciation to the teachers and will have lots of food. Ms. Lavallee will send out a couple of links for sign up or donations. She is asking if any board members want to help on May 9, providing crockpots or food reach out to Ms. Gill. They appreciate any help. Mr. Allen spoke of the awesome job the PTO does and it is a lot of work, time and effort that is put into the events. He will absolutely bring a crockpot or make something. Ms. Gill noted they would take anything.

VI. YTD REPORTING

Ms. LaPlante informed the group that she is finishing the annual report the Board signs and anticipates having that for the next meeting. Regarding year-to-date, we are looking at about \$645,000 in unspent funds projecting through June 30. This doesn't take into account the revenues. From the \$645,000, a \$100,000 comes out for Warrant Article #8, retaining those funds going into the building & roadways capital reserve. She spoke of working with the Superintendent throughout the year on purchase orders. One of the things we try to carry forward from the previous Board is if there is a need for this year we will fund it and if it is controversial, we bring it to the Board. She thanked administration for working with them regarding this. Last year the Board started vetting purchases with unspent funds and we have been racking our brain regarding any program needs or facilities needs and will bring any forward on the May 14 meeting. She spoke of a few, FRES stage curtain, which we are getting a quote on, WLC scoreboard, and pulleys for the backboard, field bleachers, manlift as ours is no longer serviceable, and we need to rent one when it is needed. She is not looking for any decisions tonight but just wanted to give an idea of the things they are looking at although these are not set in stone. She confirms the bleachers are not unsafe; there is no danger of someone falling through otherwise we would have taken them out of service. Likely the damage is from moving them. A question was raised if there are any line items that we are not spending as much as others. Ms. LaPlante confirms we have savings in staffing as there are positions not filled or through hiring new staff and benefits such as budgeted for a family plan and there is no insurance needed. She spoke of going through it carefully with the Superintendent, the historical spending and ask what is different etc. A question was raised if there are any line items we are overspending that are alarming; way over what we thought. Ms. LaPlante spoke of unanticipated facilities costs such as the fire alarm panel at WLC, the FRES boiler issues, and broken sewer pipe at FRES, none due to neglect. She had spoken with Ms. Mary Jane Ryan in Special Education today about SPED expenses and some overages there, but nothing alarming; making sure spending goes against each building for future cycles. Those are things we will address in the future budget. Superintendent spoke of the athletics program, there is a volleyball team now and we

want to grow the athletics program. We have 12 kids running track, an example is we needed a discus; it is little things like that. We want to budget for what we actually need and look at uniform rotations. We had some issues in the past with that and the inventory not being correct, this spring baseball needed some equipment and we think those lines are a little flat and want to look at it realistically; we want more kids participating in the athletics program. It was noted there was a great turnout for the first home game and the stage curtains are a great project. A question was raised regarding the greenhouse, in the past it needed some repairs. Superintendent spoke about this. He had discussions 4 years ago and found there was no curriculum and it was not in working order. He believes it would be a significant cost to bring it back to where it needs to be. He cautions investing in it if we don't have a robust curriculum built in. It is a shame it has deteriorated, kids can grow things and do experiments but now it is just storage. He does think there are a couple of leaks in it. We could get the cost if it is something we want to invest in but wants to be sure the curriculum is there. If we use it for storage, should we put money into making it more useful storage so it does not leak? He was asked about how much is significant cost, does he remember about how much it was then. He is not sure but Chairman Golding recalls it may have been \$10,000-\$20,000. Superintendent noted it might have been something we could have used ESSER money for. A brief discussion was had about the value of students learning to grow their own food, gaining knowledge, bee keeping etc. things crucial to the environment. She would be supportive of it. Superintendent notes we can get it on the agenda to follow up on and see if we can come up with a current number and decide what to do with it moving forward. A question was raised if Ms. LaPlante has any initial estimates on the projects she spoke of. Ms. LaPlante responded she would have more of a formal proposal on May 14. She was asked about the pulleys. She responded it is a carryover from the former Principal and wants to provide a document to the Board and publish it for the public with the information. It was noted it is not an ideal time to price out a scoreboard seeing it is baseball season. Superintendent noted ours is working but not working properly, the bleachers are about \$7,000-\$9,000 for a set of aluminum bleachers and the scoreboard he believes would be less than \$10,000. We need to reassess the pulleys as that number is outdated and there is no estimate on the curtain replacement. It was noted the curtain is overdue.

VII. PROJECT & ESSER FUNDING REQUESTS

This agenda item was removed.

VIII. SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

Chairman Golding informed the group we had set a tentative date for a workshop with the NHSBA (New Hampshire School Board Association) for April 30 but they cannot do that date. Superintendent informed the group they have offered to do it on May 15 or 16 but have said they are leaning toward May 16. He asked them to reserve May 16 for us. The calendar looks good for that date as well, it does not appear there is anything scheduled that night. He suggests 5:30PM or 6:00PM. There was a brief discussion. It was noted not everyone may be available but if we can get the majority of members, it is preferred. Superintendent will lock in May 16 at 5:15pm with NHSBA for a workshop. It was asked for those who could not attend if there are any resources that could be provided.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Ms. Anzalone and SECONDED by Mr. Allen to approve the minutes of April 2, 2024 as written.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

b. Appoint Community Members to Facilities and Strategic Planning Committees

Chairman Golding reported there is 1 letter of interest received from a Lyndeborough resident, Sarah Chadzynski to continue on the Strategic Planning Committee.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Ms. Alley for the approval of Ms. Sarah Chadzynski to be a community member on the Strategic Planning Committee.

A question was raised where it was advertised. Superintendent confirms the school district website and the town websites. Chairman Golding notes we try to have 1 community member from each town on the Strategic Planning Committee and Facilities Committee. Mr. Allen confirms there were 2 on the Facilities Committee but only 1 attended. Chairman Golding notices Ms. Heather Gibson who was on the committee and asks if she is interested in continuing. If so to send an email to Ms. Kristina Fowler. Superintendent asked if the Board would like Ms. Fowler to repost this. Chairman Golding confirms yes, for 10 additional days (and as many times as we can). It was suggested to post it on the WLC Facebook page and ask the PTO to post it on theirs.

170
171 **X. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES**

172 **a. FYI-New Hire-Long-term Substitute Elementary Teacher-Patrick Dee**

173 **b. FYI-New Hire-Long-term Substitute Physical Education Teacher-Kelsey Gregorio**

174 Superintendent reviewed the new hires for FRES who were interns with us. He spoke of being grateful to have these
175 interns and the Board being supportive of a small stipend to get them here. The Universities have thanked us and
176 everyone commented on the positive experiences they have had with us. We are working on getting student interns
177 for the fall. Mr. Comerford is working hard on that. Typically, it is in the second semester and in the spring, they do
178 their internship. Mr. Allen voiced praise for bringing that program forward, it was a great example of out of the box
179 thinking and administration working together to create a program that worked well for the entire district.

180
181 **XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

182 The public comment section of the agenda was read. Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names
183 joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

184
185 Ms. Heather Gibson commented that she would like to be on the Strategic Planning Committee again and didn't
186 realize she needed to throw her name in again. Ms. Fowler confirms she did a send an email to her a minute ago.

187
188 Ms. Mary Golding thanked Ms. LaPlante for recognizing the folks online, some forget they are there and wants
189 everyone to use their microphone so everyone can hear them. She is happy to hear there is no mold in the room and
190 replacing the washing machine is an excellent idea. She is glad to hear about the walkie-talkies. Mr. Buroker you
191 may sleep well, you have a great staff and she appreciates Dan LaSala at FRES, he is magical when figuring out how
192 to print something from a Chromebook. She welcomes Mr. Dee and Ms. Gregorio, and is very excited to have you
193 both. She spoke about the PTO and the amazing success they had with the Penny Sale. Everyone she spoke to had
194 such high praises for everyone and loved seeing the children volunteering, what a huge part of their success. It is
195 wonderful to do something without expectation of reward. She spoke of Teacher Appreciation Week, it's a great
196 event and teachers deserve it. She commented the Chairman would make his cheesy dip in the crockpot, maybe. She
197 knows when Ms. Gill says "we" she means herself and Mandy. Ms. Golding was a member of the PTO and it is
198 usually 1-3 people at most doing all the work. She asks those to help if they can. She heard Mr. Allen volunteer as
199 well. She spoke of the basketball fundraiser for Mr. Dailey, which was great, she could only stay an hour but the
200 Chairman stayed throughout. Ms. Lavallee was there, not sure how many other board members attended to support
201 that but everyone had a great time. They raised money for the scholarship, great event, hopes it continues each year,
202 and gets bigger and bigger. She spoke to the Board, wonderful work as always, you are so appreciated and she knows
203 you are not professionals and you do this you because you love your community and schools!

204
205 **XII. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

206 Mr. Allen commented great job; he appreciates the staff and the due diligence they put in. He congratulated the
207 students who were recognized today and appreciates all.

208
209 Ms. Anzalone congratulated the 3 students who were acknowledged tonight and great job to the PTO and all the kids
210 who volunteered, great job bringing in so much money. She spoke of Teacher Appreciations Week; she has helped,
211 Ms. Gill and the team do most of the work. She asks if anyone can help to set up things in the morning, she will try
212 to come in the morning to help.

213
214 Ms. Lavallee spoke about the FRES/LCS PTO noting she is not a spokesperson for them but attended the meeting
215 last night and they are working on fundraisers as well. They are holding a book sale in May and the annual plant sale
216 is on May 18 at FRES. If anyone has any perennial plants you want to dig out of the yard you can contact her or the
217 FRES/LCS PTO to let them know, pick up or drop off and she looks forward to seeing the community there. They
218 will have some annual pots for the patios that the LCS students will plant and put together on Earth Day. It is very
219 excited to involve the kids this year who will be helping.

220
221 Ms. Alley congratulated the students who were recognized tonight. It is so great to see them helping the PTO. She
222 spoke of the PTO putting together the teacher appreciation; it is a lot of work. She is grateful the teachers are able to

223 receive so much food and love that week. She thanked Ms. LaPlante for answering every one of her questions; she
224 always seems to have an answer and she appreciates that. She thanked our long-term substitutes coming in to fill
225 those positions, we have quite a few open and nice to hear those are filled.

226
227 Chairman Golding commented the Harry Dailey Basketball Tournament was a better success this year than last,
228 looked like a good turnout. There could have been more adult teams but were a lot of kid teams, which led to a very
229 fun time. He hopes it continues with many good donations for a good scholarship for our kids here at WLC.

230
231 **XIII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C)**

232 **i. Review the Nonpublic Minutes**

233 **ii. Student Matter**

234 **iii. Personnel Matter**

235 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to enter Non-Public Session to review the non-*
236 *public minutes, discuss personnel and student matters RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (B) (C) at 7:35pm.*

237 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

238
239 **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

240 The Board entered public session at 8:18pm.

241
242 *A MOTION was made to seal the non-public session minutes RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (B) (C) by Mr. Allen and*
243 *SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone.*

244 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

245
246 *A MOTION was made to accept the resignation of Mr. Ben Thyng, MS Science Teacher, effective April 19, 2024 by*
247 *Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Mr. Zavgren.*

248 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

249
250 **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

251 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:19pm.*

252 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

253
254 *Respectfully submitted,*

255 *Kristina Fowler*

256