

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, June 25, 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, John Zavgren, Michelle Alley (online), Darlene Anzalone, Geoffrey Allen, Diane Foss, and Jonathan Lavoie*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principal Bridgette Fuller, Assistant Principal Katie Gosselin, Technology Director Nicholas Buroker, Curriculum Coordinator Samantha Dignan, 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. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Requests were made to add a nonpublic session regarding a personnel matter, add an appointment for 3rd grade teacher and immediately after public comment add Performance Tech Committee that Board members were appointed to last meeting to report committee findings and for the Board to ask any questions they may have.

Chairman Golding asked for all in favor of adding the adjustments to the agenda.

Voting: via roll call vote, all aye.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

• PERFORMANCE TECH COMMITTEE

Ms. Ariel Crotty and Mr. Mike McGonegal were present and spoke of their request for upgrading the sound and lighting at WLC. Ms. Crotty informed the group they received a couple more quotes for the cafeteria sound, which is their priority. They wanted to come back to the Board, provide the quotes and see if they could talk about it some more. She acknowledged it is a huge number they asked for last time but really, it is the cafe sound they are aiming for so that they can hear the students during events in the fall. She informed the Board, they do plan on fundraising. The quotes are between \$20,000-\$26,000 with labor. They are willing to fundraise however; \$26,000 is a lot to get by September. They are looking for a vote on this before the end of this fiscal year. Mr. McGonegal informed the Board the new quotes are not a full match of what they presented at the last board meeting as the companies do not carry the same things and he advised them to go with what they carry. Ms. Crotty spoke that they wanted to know if they can get the Board to vote on this and if they can't does it mean they have to wait until next year because her child loves singing and music but this sound issue is making him not want to do it anymore. She would hate him to quit over this and she knows he is not the only one. Ms. Anzalone voiced that she would love to get this taken care of but does not know if it can happen and defers to Ms. LaPlante and the Superintendent. Superintendent spoke that typically in a school year we don't have big expenditures at the end of the school year partly because it becomes a red flag in an audit. We have already brought to the Board uses for unspent funds and this request came after. If the Board wanted to vote for \$26,000, we would have to figure out where that could come from, one of those ways is using unspent funds. In terms of town support, he doesn't see the town balking at this, it is a community arts center and not just for kids. He does not see the community being much of a barrier as he does the accounting. Ms. LaPlante confirms the Superintendent is correct as far as expenditures; our oversight comes from the auditors and the Department of Revenue. Because we are subject to receipt of federal funds, depending on the value of money we get in we may go through a generic inclusive audit, they dig deep, and one of the things they look at is the timeliness of spending. By law, all funds, lapse unless we have a legally obligated reason on June 30. Those funds need to be legally obligated by June 30 as well as they need to be "attached". What she means by that is there needs to be that purpose by June 30 and we have to say why we couldn't get it done by June 30 if we are carry those funds over into the next year. Those are the rules around encumbrances and those are the people who will be looking and digging into this or who could be asking those questions. Her concern is that being June 25, even if we placed an order tomorrow, if board approved unspent funds, we could theoretically purchase the materials but we can't encumber any labor because it really does not qualify, there is no legal reason why this could not be done by June 30. She notes no disrespect, the state law says or one of the supplemental readings we have says failure to spend in that time is not a justifiable reason. Looking at that and the rules she has to follow that is the position that she took when she provided feedback to the sound group that it is probably not appropriate. Ms. Foss questioned if the biggest

flag is how much or what if it was a smaller amount, what if the Lions Club came through with something or the town. Is there a way we could avoid that red flag. Ms. LaPlante explained it is not about avoiding a red flag, it is about saying it could raise a red flag she wants to be as transparent as possible. Given the proximity to the end of the year, she doesn't know which series causes them to look into it, if it is a federal audit that triggers them to look into things and does not know how deep they go. Her concern is the proximity to the end of the school year and the fact it has not been discussed by the Board or given any budget consideration until the last meeting. Her concern is it is not financially in the best interest of the school board or district to start 5 days before the end of the fiscal year obligating funds especially because it is materials and labor. A question was raised when we would have to start doing something and how long would it take to take care of it. Could you start raising money in other places and is there a way through this. Ms. Crotty responded there is always an opportunity it is just a huge amount, even if we get the parts and then raise money for the labor. Mr. McGonegal confirms it would take a week to install. A question was raised what the split between materials and labor is. Mr. McGonegal responded, assuming we use the numbers we came up with originally, \$21,000 for parts and \$3,000 for labor to install. If we end up raising money for the labor he is ok with that and he is 99% sure Sweetwater has it in stock. Ms. Crotty noted \$19,546 is what Mr. McGonegal paired down to get the quote under \$20,000 for parts but that is the biggest portion because it is new technology. Discussion continued including if the unspent funds that were put into the capital reserve for building and roadways could be used or adding it to the budget and tracked through facilities which would give time for fund raising. Ms. LaPlante voiced that it is not likely that we can access the capital reserve for this project. Mr. Allen spoke that one of the biggest issues we have is the intent of the law and our ethical obligation to it. At the federal level, we are expected to be good stewards of the budget, plan it out and spend accordingly to that end. Any money we save the taxpayers or any money left over for whatever reason, people get in trouble every single day because they do a mad rush to zero out their balance and that is not what we are supposed to do we are supposed to return that balance. We as a School Board decided as a general rule, that we process things that are emergencies and move things up to free up funds down the road. This is neither. He thinks we would have a very difficult time, I would have a very difficult time with that now but thinks there is a path through if the goal is to get it done by the start of the school year, October, November; it would be nice if we had it by September. There is a lot of talk around about community fund raising and it is hard for us to encumber cost based on that. He would like to see maybe laying out specific steps to move forward. Steps such as starting a fund raising campaign and see what we can get. How much equipment could be donated or raised then come back in August and see where we will be on fund raising, where we will be with expending next year's budget, see if the delta between what we raised and required is something we can look in our the current fiscal year budget. Ms. Alley questioned if the raising a red flag is due to the number or just spending at the end of the year. Ms. LaPlante responded it is more about the spending at the end of the year and does not meet the intent of the budget the voters passed; is there a legally forcible obligation. A question was raised regarding the mechanisms of funding and how does it affect the timeline. Ms. LaPlante responded those are the mechanisms, fund raising, a warrant article or put it into the budget. She agrees she thinks the students deserve a more trust worthy, capable sound system, are there other ways we can improve it, are there equipment rentals to bridge us through, is that an avenue we can go and spend (example) \$5,000 to rent until we can get the funding. Mr. McGonegal responded we could rent something. Ms. Crotty thinks it was \$2,500 to rent sound. Ms. Waldo had looked into that. Ms. Crotty notes \$2,500 is 10% of what we could spend on owning it and does she really want to spend that rent it for 2 days when it could go toward owning it. Discussion continued including support for the project but understanding it is an optional thing to help the community and you can't say it is a necessity that is the problem. A question was raised if the School Board could get a loan. Ms. LaPlante responded no. Superintendent spoke that all our money is intermingled with state and local money and this seems so rushed. The other things the Board agreed to spend took time and if it had been the middle of the year, it may be different. He thinks the red flag is a real flag and it is about our reputation. He is all in for fund raising and production and all in to work with administration and fund raise to see if we can get some in the operating budget. If we had a 2-year window, I think we could do it. It is just right now on record, he has to support Ms. LaPlante, he can't advocate for this expense with only 5 days left in the fiscal year. Discussion continues including it is more about the moral and the ethical piece. Would it be possible or within bounds to see about renting a system for key events and bring that back to deal with it as a Board so that we can have something in place for next year. In the meantime, we work to build it in the budget and meet the intent of being fiscally responsible of taxpayers' dollars and the committee's needs for this year. Would they support that? Superintendent spoke of the Board and community being supportive when it comes to kids; he is not too concerned they would be against renting. We do need the right sound for the performance and it is all about the fine arts and we have community members who have momentum we don't want to lose kids because the lack of it. In the meantime, we put the right sound system in place while we work on the rest. It is like our sports teams, we have lots of conversations about athletics and spend because it is what the community wants and it is for kids. We are starting to come to a solution and it maintains the momentum you started, this would give us some time to think bigger. He is looking at the \$120,000 overall not just the \$26,000. How do we get businesses involved, community members, do car washes, get kids involved etc. We do these things with trips and sports and can do it with the performing arts as well. He is glad we have a plan moving forward. Ms. Crotty noted if we have to rent it this year while we raise funds she is perfectly fine with that, she just wants a sound system. Last year, the Alliance tried to rent it Ms. Waldo is not hear to speak to why it didn't work but it didn't work. As long as we can hear them, that is her main goal. A question was raised if renting one would compare to installing one, would it be better perhaps than owning it. Mr. McGonegal replied he uses Behringer for a rental system, it won't be better. From the audiences perspective it will be identical, it will sound the same, and he doesn't know how many mics etc. are in his rental system. He is under the impression he brings in his own amps and cabinets but he doesn't know, as they didn't really focus on that. A question was raised how long it would take to install a rental. Mr. McGonegal responded it would take about 2-3 hours. A question was raised how often we would need to rent one. Mr. McGonegal responded it would depend on how long it takes to raise the money and

there are grants. Superintendent voiced he and Ms. LaPlante would help writing a grant. Ms. Crotty believes we would need a rental for about 5-6 events throughout the year, she is not sure we would need it for all of them. It was noted renting one might be the way to go to bridge the gap. A question was raised what the life of a system is. Mr. McGonegal responded that as long as they are treated well and that is the key statement, maybe 10-12 years then the electronics start to go. Ms. Foss suggests the committee reach out to the Lions Club they will do whatever they can in the community. Ms. Crotty responded a committee member, Mindy Degan is a member of the Lions Club and she had said they prioritize medical help a lot of the time; they helped with some kids going to camps too. Ms. Foss encourages her to reach out to them. Mr. Lavoie suggested tabling this until the next board meeting. Ms. Foss agrees. Chairman Golding notes we will table this and revisit it on the 13th. Ms. Crotty asked if there were anything, the Board would like from them for that meeting. Chairman Golding responded we would task the Superintendent and Ms. LaPlante to see about rentals for now. Ms. Crotty said we would start talking about fund raising, she does not know if all the committee can come on the 13th. Mr. Allen voiced he would hate for this to get lost or on the back burner. Whether administration or the committee comes back with where we are at with fund raising, available grants and what we need for next year and if we are better off renting for the year or for those specific events. Mr. McGonegal responded it would be for specific events, renting for the year is expensive, this guy rents for the event. Ms. Anzalone spoke for clarification, she understands, when she looks toward the next meeting we will not be able to spend the \$26,000, the next meeting will be what can we do for next year, what can we do for renting equipment and what can we do for budgeting next year. She wants to be sure she is not misunderstanding what the Board is saying and that they leave with some answer. Chairman Golding responded we want to continue to have the conversation, but he doesn't think we can spend the money; it is not fiscally responsible right now. Ms. LaPlante expressed that for her, the summer is obligated with closing out FY 24. She wants the opportunity to discuss grants and sponsor opportunities not just look at rentals, she is concerned she cannot do her part by August 13 and wants to postpone it if we can, as July and August are busy for her. Superintendent voiced that he thinks we can still can keep it moving but get our August start up done and in September make sure it is on the agenda, we would have met already about fund raising, and plan to solicit companies and have a cover letter written. Let's say we choose 2 event for next year and we can talk about fund raising we have been able to raise or plan to and then we can in the first steps of the budget process and have to discuss if we want to put this in the budget. We are stretched out in July, and August and Ms. LaPlante is right to move this to September. Mr. McGonegal noted moving it to September will allow him to get another quote from Sweetwater. Ms. Crotty asked if we do the rental, is that money going to take away from other things for these kids to pay the rental fees. Ms. LaPlante confirms no, we will not punish the kids; we will make sure they still have their programs etc. Chairman Golding asked this be on the September 24 agenda if no objection and asked the committee to send over anything they have in terms of quotes etc. in the meantime.

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Business Administrator's Report

Ms. LaPlante reported it has been a busy spring opening up FY 25 and all the other financial components, closing out the year, the state changed how we access title funds and it took them by surprise. They also worked on a COPS grant for \$105,000. She does not have an elaborate YTD report right now, the best way to report out is that as of the middle of this month we have is \$495,000 in unspent funds, which includes about \$100,000 worth of projects the school board did approve with unspent funds. By the time we factor in the \$100,000 that was approved by the voters we have \$395,000 left. That number may increase by the time we close out all the purchase orders that we still have outstanding right now. She is content with where we are at right now. Mr. Allen exited the meeting. As teachers and kids are going out of the building, the facilities crew is going right in emptying rooms getting key ones ready for the summer programs. The boilers have been ordered and we are waiting on the vendor to receive the product and schedule the install, which will be done by September 30. New England Courts who is our tennis court vendor has determined that the material where the concrete was heaving is substandard we had to pull out the tennis poles as referenced and the material underneath them was substandard causing the heaving concrete. We are waiting on cost to figure out what it is going to take to possibly replace some of that material so once we re-cement the posts they are in there for the long term. Some of the 1-2 inch cracks that were quoted back in 2022 when we first started looking at this have opened up so he is looking at what it will take to cover and fill in some of those, maybe adding some mesh membrane. Any increase cost will come out of FY 25. We are also working on rough estimates for the locker room, it is not as simple as 1, 2, 3 because that is only the construction and demo cost. We also have to have an idea of materials and plan to bring it to the Facilities Committee meeting to discuss materials. Then when we bring it forward to the Board, we will have the total cost. She highlighted some donations received in the 23-24 school year: Eugene Edwards - \$100 for baseball program, Brennan & Mackay Appliance, LLC - \$500 for baseball program, Sara and Patrick Kenney - \$50 for baseball program, Sandra Reynolds - Technics SX-PX-344 Electric Piano and piano bench valued at approximately \$400, \$150 - American Legion Auxiliary Bent-Burke Post 10 for meal account debt, \$110 - Boys & Girls Club of the Souhegan Valley for meal account debt and \$270 in anonymous donations for meal account debt and knows there are other donations as well these are for the district itself. We are very thankful for what the community does to support our programs directly and indirectly. She spoke of this summer being busy, we are in the office, we are reconciling our financials, the state made some changes and one thing she needs from the Board is to sign the manifests. If they are not signed, it means we are finalizing sometimes 6-8 weeks at a time and it is not the most effective use of our time if we can keep up on it that is the most effective. When you receive the email to sign manifests if you commit to it please do it, if she needs to stay late or come in early she can do that. Mr. Lavoie volunteered to be the Lyndeborough representative to sign the manifests. The tennis court encumbrance, voters approved \$75,000 to rehab the tennis court, which includes site work, is

complete, straightening and fixing the fence, which was completed and court resurfacing. Legally those funds have to be spent by June 30 unless we have a legally obligating reason. In the absence of a contract, our legal obligation is the school board voting to encumber those funds, saying, the school board recognizes it could not be done because of the weather, it rained cats and dogs all summer long last year and that affected our vendor. There are only so many vendors, we are at their mercy and obviously we couldn't do it this spring because they are still playing catch up. It is not failure to spend it; we could not get contractors here due to circumstances beyond our control. She needs a Board vote to carry over and spend the remaining \$42,790 from the warrant article to legally carry over these funds and complete this project. If the Board will do that, whatever extra materials costs etc. will have to come from FY 25 otherwise the options are to suspend the project and not fund it or pay it out of FY 25, which is not budgeted. Concern was raised about the situation. A question was raised if we ripped up the entire surface, dig down far enough it sounds like the original surface is going to be repaired and if it does not get taken care of the cracks will come back, has it been looked at. Concern was voiced about patching this and not fixing it. Mr. Erb spoke that there is a lot of clay and debris underneath you. We brought it up before and it was voted to fix them, you might as well do it. He brought up that he knew there was clay, no one listened to him, to do it (fix them) you are talking hundreds of thousands of dollars. The vendor has a solution to put membrane over the crack and that would buy you 6-8 years but there is still no guarantee because of what is underneath there. We now have to dig deeper to put the poles in. What was done before, was supposed to keep it down but it didn't work. It was noted this is something for the Board to consider, pouring money into an "empty hole". This was a lengthy discussion, including that the tennis courts have been talked about for quite a long time. If it ends up being too much money to take care of them is there another solution. Discussion about needing to dig down to solid ground as the clay is not solid which is very expensive and will need new quotes. The clay is not just segregated to where the posts are. The Board didn't support it before, the voters voted to spend the money, and now it is worse than first thought. Could we just say no to spend it due to new facts being discovered. What can we do now? Superintendent spoke that it is up to the Board to decide, there was a time the Board approved destruction of the courts. He felt they were unsafe and then that was the right decision to repurpose them but that was a couple of years ago and then the community voted to repair it, the dilemma is it is not going to be enough money to repair it and we will be in the same situation and a new Board will face it. The reality is if we keep down this road, we already invested \$20,000-\$30,000 in the fence and site work. We made that investment and to tear it up now is a difficult decision but we also have to accept the fact that the work we do will only be for 6 or so years at best with the membrane and how do we fund the excess cost. That is the next step for us. A question was raised if the Board can decide to tear it up, can we as a Board say we need to make the decision to tear it up and what would it cost to do that, what is the process to say this, what is our obligation, do we need to put it back out to the community? Superintendent spoke that we meet on August 13 and he would like to think at that time the vendor would have an accurate quote for us with the membrane so you know exactly what the excess cost is, and when it can be done. We really need that evidence, if it is only \$5,000 more; that might be a different decision vs. \$25,000 more than we budgeted for. The issue becomes what if they can do it in July and now you won't be able to see it until August, this is beyond authorizing a board member to approve a new teacher, this would take more than a full Board vote representing the community. The timing is tricky. Ms. Alley spoke remembering the discussion at district meeting. At the end of the day, you want us to say to carry over the \$42,000 before June 30 but with thought we won't have any answers until August. Is that what you want us to do? Ms. LaPlante responded this is the legal mechanism. The Board can vote to carry funds over, the Board can decide to not finish it and it would become part of unspent funds. If you choose to carry over the funds we will safeguard that if you don't carry it over, it all comes out of FY 25. Ms. Alley noted, if we don't pass it, the kids can't use it anyway. What happens to that ground and the cost of not doing anything but tearing it down. Mr. Erb responded a couple of years ago it was \$26,000 to tear it out and put loam in to make it a practice field. Ms. LaPlante noted ideally we would have known about the costs but this has only transpired in the last couple of weeks. Discussion continued that this has been talked about for years; we had a quote to turn it into practice fields and received an email from a couple of citizens saying we need these. It was brought to district meeting, one citizen made an impassioned plea, it was said it may not work and now we want to reapprove this money and potentially add more to fix something that we already knew would not be warrantied to begin with. It was never torn up to begin with and that was something we voted to do. It was noted weather happens but this seems irresponsible, the courts have been talked about for years, if there is clay under there and we are talking membrane and may last 6 years if we do not have monsoon rains like we did 2 years ago. Chairman Golding notes he does not think we should put any more money into it. Mr. Lavoie exited. Mr. Zavgren asked if there is a way we can stipulate we will only spend that only if the repair will last some period of time. Chairman Golding responded that he believes we can only follow the intent of the original warrant. All we are doing now is encumbering the money that was allocated for that warrant and spend it appropriately now. He confirms we do not know how long the repairs would last as there is no warranty on the work. Mr. Zavgren noted he hates to spend the money that does not achieve anything. Mr. Allen returned, he comments right now we are looking to encumber the remaining money from the warrant but will have to raise further funds to repair them. Because it was a warrant article what are the legal obligations in filling that warrant. Ms. LaPlante responded they are to spend the money as the taxpayers gave it to us. It wasn't a mandate to get this done or a warrant to make this happen it was a warrant to raise and appropriate funds to only be used for this purpose. Mr. Lavoie returns. Mr. Allen asks if we vote to not encumber the funds, as he understands that amount of money is not enough to fix the problem, so we can still spend the rest of the \$75,000 and they will still not have tennis courts they can use unless he misunderstands something. Can we vote to not approve this money? Ms. LaPlante confirms you can, your options are, do nothing and the funds go back to the taxpayers, encumber the funds say the repair comes back at \$50,000 and we have \$42,000 and only need the balance to come from the FY 25 budget (as an example). It depends on the scope of the work; those are our 2 financial options. A question was raised if we encumber the funds and the quote comes back at \$100,000, do we have the option to say we can't come up with the rest of the money? We have the option to encumber the funds and wait to see what the quote

is. Ms. LaPlante responded correct, we are in this situation because of weather and scheduling through no fault of our own. If the funds were encumbered with the intent to complete the repair, her only caution would be the Board does not vote to complete repair then there be a tangible reason. As an example, we only have \$42,000, the project came in at \$100,000 we can't do the rest of it. That is an option if we don't use the funds it is part of the funds being returned to the taxpayers next year. Ms. LaPlante was asked if she has an opinion on the most ethical choice we could make. Ms. LaPlante responded because we have a possible scenario but no actual scenario the most responsible scenario is to carry over the funds, it protects our investment and next years budget. It was well communicated throughout the process it is not a guarantee, there is no warranty if now the cracks have increased and we are looking at using membrane she has concerns, it would be reasonable to see if what we are doing, is the most responsible. Chairman Golding agrees it is our responsibility to encumber this amount only.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie to encumber the funds until next fiscal year, task Mr. Erb to get to get a total cost with quotes to completely dig up and build a proper tennis court for the community, bring these new findings of fact to the co-op meeting and let the towns people decide what the next best move to make on this subject to be.

There was no second to this motion.

Ms. LaPlante notes it needs 2 separate motions, 1 needs to be to encumber the funds, the auditors and DRA and then another with what you want Mr. Erb to do.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone to encumber the funds until next fiscal year.

A question was asked if the tennis courts would last 6 years if we did the membrane, was that correct. Chairman Golding responded it is possible they could last 8 years we don't know yet. A question was raised if there would be legal issues if we chose not to encumber the funds. Ms. LaPlante responded, she is not a lawyer, the voters gave us permission to do that, if the school board decides not to do that, they gave us funds to spend not a mandate to do the project. Superintendent added, keep in mind if we don't encumber the funds we need to figure out what to do with the courts. It is still sitting there, an unsafe situation whatever the decision we make there is a cost associated afterwards. It could be \$42,000 to tear it up now. A question was raised if we encumber this next year and decide not to do it, we then can't use the funds to destroy it correct. Ms. LaPlante confirms that is correct.

Voting: via roll call vote, six ayes, one nay from Ms. Alley; motion carried.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie to task Mr. Erb with the total cost with quotes to completely dig up and build a proper tennis court for the community, bring these new findings of fact, to the town co-op meeting and let the town's people decide what the next best move to make on this subject should be.

Mr. Lavoie explained that his idea is we just voted to encumber the money, the money is to fix the tennis courts we now know it will take a lot more money to fix the tennis courts, let's bring these findings of fact to the people who voted for it originally. Let them know it will cost, a certain amount of money to fix these things if they want to take that money and repurposes it, let them decide it is not up to us to decide at this time. They wanted to see the tennis courts get fixed, we tried to fix them, it is not financially responsible for us to continue the project at this time, let's table it and bring these findings and fact to the community. Chairman Golding notes essentially you want to have a warrant article to ask the community what they want to do. Mr. Lavoie thinks it is the most responsible thing to do. Mr. Erb spoke if we are going to wait that long we have to do something where we pull the net poles out to preserve, we will need to do something with the cracks and holes if wait that long. Ms. Alley spoke that she wants the motion to include so the public knows what the options are if it is not feasible to finish the court what the options could be to use that space and the amount it would take to fix that space for practice fields or whatever we decide. A question was raised if we need to have a warrant article for each. Ms. LaPlante responds if she understands correctly you want a warrant article to raise and appropriate \$250,000 (example) to create new tennis courts or a warrant article for \$75,000 to tear down the tennis courts (example), if that is what you are speaking of they do need to be separate warrant articles. Mr. Allen commented he is sick of hearing about these tennis courts and would much rather see Mr. Erb come back to turn it into a kickball field, encumber the funds and if it comes in to fix them an unreasonable amount, return the funds to the public and see if we have funds to turn it into fields etc. Ms. Anzalone commented, encumber the money and determine how much it will realistically cost and as a Board make the final decision. She doesn't want to continue to bring it up as a warrant each year. If we can fix it for \$50,000 great and we can come up with the other \$8,000 or do we have the authority to say we are not going to do this, we make the decision and whatever you do with the funds you do. Superintendent hopes we will have a quote to repair them for 6-8 years for the August 13 meeting. Let's say it is \$50,000 the Board can decide if we want to repair it' we need direction. Mr. Erb has worked for 7 months to get into the queue because the project is so small for them and the weather has not helped. We have fence and site work completed and poles dug up and holes that are filling with water, we won't do anything in July and August have the quote and the Board will give us direction then. If we can get in the queue for August, we will do that but we may need a down payment. Chairman Golding noted we already encumbered the funds, \$42,970. If the quote came in close, we probably won't have an issue to repair them but he doesn't know how much further we would go.

Mr. Lavoie *WITHDRAWS* his *MOTION*.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to put a hold on this project until further notice, task Mr. Erb with a total cost with quotes to completely dig up and build a proper tennis court for the community, also quotes to dig up and remove the tennis courts, bring these new findings of fact to the town co-op meeting and let the towns people decide what the next best move to make on this subject should be.

A question was raised what will happen to the courts until the district meeting. Chairman Golding responded he believes it will depend on what the quote comes in at for the repair work. Right now, we have voted to encumber the money, if the quote comes in and it only comes in at that much, great, if it comes in for a little more we will probably fix it because we already encumbered the funds. It would irresponsible to not fix it but if it comes in over that, we will make that decision when we hear about it at the next meeting, hopefully.

Superintendent asked a clarifying question if the motion seems the opposite of what was said we would do. It sounded like we would hold off and not do anything until you have quotes for the March (district) meeting. It did not sound like we would bring quotes to the August 13 meeting for the repair work. Mr. Lavoie spoke that his intention is to pause the project until we have the number, the updated quote to Band-Aid the problem then we can decide from there if we will hold off until the co-op meeting or if we will continue with the project. Superintendent noted it sounded like the motion was to hold off with the quotes until the March meeting. We will work on the updated repair quote, as Chairman Golding said and hopefully the vendor can help us get the other quote to tear it up for a practice field or tear it up and make a proper one. Discussion was had if we need a motion to say we will get quotes, we already encumbered the money, it seems the motion is saying we get the quote and have to wait until district meeting to make a decision. Chairman Golding spoke he believes the intent is if it goes above and beyond which this additional repair work might be it goes to the town to determine what they want to do. Ms. Anzalone asked can't we as a Board just make that decision? Chairman Golding responds yes. She would rather just wait to see what the quotes come back as. Ms. Alley asked if there is a concern that they will start work on it before the next meeting. Chairman Golding noted there is that possibility as we have already encumbered the funds and that was the intent of the warrant. Superintendent asked for clarification, if they can start the work in July and they say it will cost \$50,000 are we still going to continue with the work and ask for the balance that we are over? It sounds like the Board wants to vote on the total cost of the repair. If it costs \$75,000 the Board may not in favor of repairing it but if it is \$43,000 you will probably agree to that. Superintendent asks if you are saying if we can get the work done in July to go ahead and move forward with it. It sounds like we should be waiting for August 13 for the Board to give us direction to move forward depending on what the cost is for the repair. Mr. Lavoie spoke that this is where his concern is, he know having clay as a base it will just never work. He doesn't think we should spend \$50,000 with that finding of fact to Band-Aid this thing because we will have to do it again and again until eventually someone gets smart, digs up the entire thing and rebuilds it from the base up. His motion is going beyond where we need to be today but feels it is the most financial one. Mr. Allen spoke that his intent is to vote against this motion, but would entertain a motion to direct administration to take no action without Board vote until the findings come back only so it does not get done while we are on recess in July. Chairman Golding spoke his personal opinion is if he quote comes in over the \$42,970 that we don't spend another dime on it.

Voting: via roll call vote, seven nays from Ms. Alley, Mr. Allen, Mr. Zavgren, Ms. Anzalone, Mr. Lavoie, Ms. Foss and Chairman Golding, motion fails unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone to direct administration and the facilities manager to make no repairs until the Board has reviewed the quotes for repair and had the opportunity to vote to move forward.

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

ii. Director of Technology's Report

Mr. Buroker reported 71 new tickets, 8 open tickets with an average close time of 23 days and many of those need to wait until summer vacation for them to be acted on. Collecting Chromebooks this year was much better than last year. He gave a shout-out to Assistant Principal Gosselin and Principal Ronning for their invaluable support. ParentSquare is up and running, administration has been invited to train on the new platform. We will push out training to teachers when they come back. Tomorrow work will be done to integrate the radios with the PA system at WLC. He spoke of the Data Governance Plan, he reviewed not much has changed since last year other than one exception, the Board revised policy EHAB last year and of the 4 major changes talks about an exception to data privacy we hold students to. The exception being students pursuing career interests. He read the section "utilizing approved but non-vetted applications for career exploration courses with parental consent. NH RSA189:66 provides an exception that students participating in career exploration or career technical education may, with written parental consent, register for technology platform and services to be used as part of the student's approved program of study, which require the provision of personally identifiable information. The RSA also requires that copies of written parental consent shall be retained as part of a students' educational record". It would only apply to HS and we would send out a parental consent anytime there was a platform we needed to use for college or occupational training that type of thing, but could not get it approved because it does not meet our privacy standards. We would need to get it back before the student can use that platform. There is also a provision in here that students cannot be penalized for not having parental consent and teachers

must provide an alternative activity for the time they would be using these career, exploration platforms. This will be appendix P.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Mr. Zavgren to accept the Data Governance Plan as written. Voting: via roll call vote, all aye; motion carried.

VI. DATA PRESENTATION

Ms. Dignan reviewed the agenda, timeline and what the colors mean in the graphs (a copy of the PowerPoint is attached to these minutes). She highlighted certain slides and notes she is happy to go over any other slides. Slide 13 shows grades 2-5 iReady math is similar to what we had in the MS (last board meeting) each graph shows first our results, NH results and national results. We are outperforming the state and nation. Slide 16 shows grades K-1, iReady math, our first grades and Kindergarten are out performing the state and nation. With Kindergarten, they cannot be more than 2 grade levels behind. Slide 22 shows reading iReady grades 2-5 we are either above or around the state and nation. Slide 25, K-1, iReady-reading shows more students on or above than the state and nation and 1st grade is relatively close to the state and nation. NHS SAS (NH Statewide Assessment System) assesses students in reading, writing and math in grades 3-8, science grades 5, 8, and 11. She reviewed the colors and scale. She notes for our data, we put level 3 and 4 together because they are both considered proficient. Slide 29 NH SAS shows class of 2031 (our current 5th grade) consistently, historically at or above the state average. These are all preliminary and not on the state website yet. Slide 30 NH SAS math, class of 2032 (our current 4th grade) had a 21% increase in math proficiency. Slide 31, NH SAS math, class of 2033 (our current 3rd grade) shows there is no state data yet released from the state, results show 48% of these students are proficient in math. NH SAS just released the ELA, class of 2031, slide 33 (current 5th grade) shows they are consistently at or above the state average. NH SAS, ELA, slide 34, class of 2032 (current 4th grade) has increased their score again with a higher percent of proficiency. NH SAS, ELA, slide 35, class of 2033 (current 3rd grade) shows 47% are proficient in ELA. Principal Fuller reviewed what we have done on slide 37, we continued with data and transition meetings, continue to develop and vet the curriculum through our PD days, continue with math PD (slide 38) and target our interventions for numbers and operations and vocabulary. Slide 39 shows what is next for LCS and FRES specifically. We met with our sending and receiving teachers for data meetings. Summer Academy will start after July 4th holiday. We have a new kindergarten extended year program happening now at LCS, which targets our neediest learners there. We are going to utilize the kindergarten screener to tailor classes next year and continue our PD in science of reading. Many teachers are attending LTRS training and the vocabulary book study. We have an accelerated learning program, which had 12 students in it, and the Crazy 8 enrichment program has a wait list. Ms. Dignan added that there was also tutoring at FRES for reading and math. She shared some bonus data, math K-8, our median student made 100% of their annual typical growth goal in math, which is a huge amount and the same thing for reading, our median student, made 121% of their annual typical growth goal in reading K-8. She included iReady bonus data in the slides about growth from when students took the assessment for the first time and this last time.

VII. CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

Superintendent explained this comes up each year, the NHSBA resolutions are their guiding principles, in some ways it is like our policies, and they guide the process and policies of their organization. Each district can send 1 delegate and the assembly members vote on the resolutions. Before that as a School Board, you look over the proposed resolutions and vote on how the delegate should vote. You also have the opportunity to write and submit one. We did not submit a resolution last year, we did submit one in 2021 and it addressed the concern with the Board of comingling funds. That is the only significant resolution the Board considered and it has to do with how they use lobbying funds and how do we separate the funds and not mix them together which looks like every district violates. Ms. LaPlante has a plan to move forward next fiscal year with it. The Delegate Assembly is October 19. He recommends we review resolutions in September and elect a delegate. The dilemma with the resolution is if you want to do one we would have to do it tonight as the deadline is August 2. Ms. LaPlante spoke that it has been talked about since she started here that we have to protect those funds. There is an RSA that states you can't use federal funds for lobbying and there have been a lot of questions regarding if they are considered a lobbying organization. A work around we made last year but not in time to make the payment is we will open a separate bank account, only deposit local funds into it and cut the check from that account. She didn't want to open it now so that the auditors didn't spent time and effort auditing an empty account, it will be done for next fiscal year when we pay the NHSBA dues and it will meet the requirement and intent. Superintendent spoke that conversation from a prior board member was a reasonable one, other districts have tried to find a solution and it is reasonable, we have a solution just have to wait for July 1 to make it work. Ms. Anzalone asked would it be money we locally raise. Ms. LaPlante gave an example she may take an appropriation check and some of that goes into that account, it is not comingling it with any federal funds. Ms. Anzalone state that makes it worse, now we are using our local money going to lobbyists. Ms. LaPlante notes it is all the same money. Right now, all of our funds go into one bank account. What we had done to show the School Boards intent of not using federal funds is send a letter to say we do not consider these federal funds. Whether it is local funds or federal funds, we currently will receive the same pot of money no matter what. Chairman asked if anyone has a resolution to bring up. Mr. Allen stated he doesn't have a resolution but would like to see this Board have a resolution that directs the NHSBA to not use member dues for lobbying dues. Ms. Anzalone agrees with this and it was discussed. She thought the intent of the person who brought it up before was that our dues are going to lobbying that not everyone may agree with. Do we just vote as a Board to do that? Superintendent notes we would use the same format for submitting it, he doesn't know that we can take the time to write it out here but the Board would have to vote. He will write your intent in the language and whoever is the lucky person going to the Delegate Assembly has to speak to that resolution and

advocate for it in front of the assembly. The Board would need to vote on this. It will be sent to the person appointed in July and that board member can look it over to be sure it is the motion and intent.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Anzalone that as a Board we present a resolution to not use membership dues for lobbying... Motion not completed.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone to direct administration to write a resolution in the appropriate language that directs the NHSBA to not use member dues for lobbying purposes.

Ms. Foss spoke that when she went to the Delegate Assembly last year, she asked them about their lobbyists because hearing people talk from this Board she expected to see a huge lobbyist group representing them. That is usually the way it is like in her speech and language group, but they told her they don't have that. They have, she believes the president, a female, (doesn't remember the name) who has to list themselves as a lobbyist. If you don't have a group that goes and follows these bills, you don't know what is coming. The individual there is listed as lobbyist as they felt it was better to list her but it is not like she goes out to lobby and has clientele. She doesn't have a problem with her answer and Ms. Foss would not support this solution. Mr. Allen responded if that is how she represented it to you she was completely inaccurate in her represented and is it listed on the NHSBA website that one of their major roles is legislative advocacy lobbying and they are registered as lobbying because they do lobbyist activities. Ms. Foss asked if it specifically says who that is. He didn't dig into the specifics. In the emails they send us they list which bills they support and don't, what their lobbyist activities are on behalf of us and sometimes they represent our taxpayers and sometimes they go against our taxpayers. A lot of constituents have issue with taking our local, federal tax funds it doesn't matter giving it to an organization that they feel lobby's against their interest. He likes NHSBA because he feels it does save us in attorney fees, they are a good resource for legal services but he feels their lobbying efforts are not always, in line with what we as a district maybe it does some individuals but he feels he does not want them to use their funds for lobbying. The feedback he gets from the people he talks to in the community and he feels they would rather not pay an organization to do blanket lobbying, sometimes they agree with it and sometimes they don't.

Voting: via roll call vote, four ayes, two nays from Ms. Foss and Chairman Golding, one abstention from Mr. Zavgren, motion carried.

Superintendent was directed by the Chairman to draft the resolution as soon as possible.

VIII. YTD REPORTS

Ms. LaPlante reported she does not have an in-depth YTD report because of the way our encumbrance are showing and defers back to her Business Administrator's Report. We have about \$495,000 in unspent funds with about \$100,000 tied up to go into the Building & Roadways Capital Reserve fund as a result from voter action. We are looking at about \$395,000 as the middle of this month.

IX. POLICIES

a. 2nd Read

i. EEA-Student Transport Services

Mr. Lavoie reviewed there were no changes since the last reading. He asked for any questions. Ms. Anzalone spoke that she believes that one stipulates we have to provide transport within a certain amount, it is not saying if some student lives closer we will not provide it. Mr. Lavoie responded, correct that would be a Superintendent issues. Ms. Anzalone asked if we look at every school, if someone lived close to FRES but not WLC, do we judge it by which school they attend. Superintendent spoke that the primary issue is safety there are something communities where is not enough room on the bus for us it is more about safety. He gave the example of the parent who spoke at public comment last meeting her issue was about safety. Principal Fuller worked with the transportation company and they altered the route so they can ride the bus. Typically, the routes are set early and usually it is a good process. There is a policy that parents can request a change.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to accept policy EEA-Student Transport Services as written. Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

ii. EEA-R-Procedure for Requesting Bus Stop Change

Mr. Lavoie reviewed there were no changes since the last reading and asked for any discussion. No discussion heard.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to accept policy EEA-R-Procedure for Requesting Bus Stop Change as written.

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

iii. EEAE-School Bus Safety Program

Mr. Lavoie reviewed there were no changes since the last reading and asked for any discussion. No discussion heard.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Mr. Lavoie to accept policy EEAE-School Bus Safety Program as written.

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

iv. EEAE-R Safety Guidelines for Parents/Guardians of Students Using School Buses

Mr. Lavoie reviewed there were no changes since the last reading and asked for any discussion. No discussion heard.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Mr. Lavoie to accept policy EEAE-R Safety Guidelines for Parents/Guardians of Students Using School Buses as written.

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

v. ECAF-Audio and Visual Surveillance on School Buses

Mr. Lavoie reviewed there were no changes since the last reading and asked for any discussion. No discussion heard.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Mr. Lavoie to accept policy ECAF-Audio and Visual Surveillance on School Buses as written.

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

vi. JICC-Student Conduct on School Buses

Mr. Lavoie reviewed there were no changes since the last reading and asked for any discussion. No discussion heard.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to accept policy JICC-Student Conduct on School Buses as written.

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

X. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to approve the minutes of June 11, 2023 as written.

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

b. July Appointments

Superintendent reviewed because there is a school board recess in July, there may be times when we have a position we can fill and to wait until August 13 to have the Board vote on that, we may lose the opportunity to recruit and hire that person. The Board has appointed a single person that can make that decision on behalf of the Board. In past years, we have a number of openings in July and it was challenging. Currently we have 1 opening remaining assuming the Board approves the position tonight for computer science. Looking ahead, that person may work with administration to review the resume and authorize the hiring of the candidate. The Board has to take a vote to nominate one person and then that one person will be the spokesperson in July or until the Board reconvenes. A brief discussion was had nothing had come up last year but the full board will be informed if it is needed. Chairman Golding volunteered, no objection heard.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone to give authority to Chairman Golding to appoint teachers until August 13 when the Board reconvenes.

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

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Strategic Planning Committee

Ms. Anzalone reviewed it was a short meeting; she was elected Chair and Ms. Cloutier-Cabral as Vice Chair. Superintendent added, he recalled 2 things, 1 was an action plan for administration to complete the district report card, look at data points, set goals and present that to the Strategic Planning Committee in early August. The Strategic Planning Committee will speak on August 13 at the Board meeting. This will look at data points different from Ms. Dignan's data, attendance data, the number of kids taking advanced courses etc. The bigger issue is the purpose of the committee and its role, what is our mission and objective. We talked about the SRO being placed on that agenda and still on there and part of the budget process and if we will include it in the budget but what is the role of the committee and mission. August 5 is the next meeting. Chairman Golding spoke that it is a Board directed committee, we give you the task and they do the legwork. He sees no reason to change that. Superintendent spoke of his experience with strategic planning, it is to develop a comprehensive plan, some bring in a facilitator, and that is not the mission of this committee. We have the SRO, data report card and to set goal for the next school year, those are the big things in August for us. Chairman Golding commented he thinks that is a great direction.

XII. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES

- a. FYI-Resignation-Christina Stamoulis-Paraprofessional**
- b. FYI-Resignation-Jill Hopkins-Food Services**
- c. Resignation-Alison Bass-FRES 5th Grade Teacher**

Superintendent reviewed the resignations. He read a from Ms. Bass's resignation letter emphasizing her decision is not influenced by her colleagues or students at FRES. "It has been a tough choice because the students here are truly amazing and have made the last 2 years worthwhile. Additionally, my colleagues, particularly the 4th and 5th grade team have been incredibly supportive of me and each other, adding another layer of complexity to my decision". He feels we turned the corner and there was a time with a different tone. She is leaving reluctantly and that says a lot about our district. It is a credit to our community and School Board where we are and the focus on the kids.

There was a brief discussion out of curiosity, of the penalty for resignation in the new WLCTA CBA and if it is in effect as it starts on 7/1/24 but a contract was signed for 24-25. Superintendent suggested checking with the attorney to look at that and get back to the Board. He was asked if there were anything else he would share about that resignation. Superintendent responded, not really other than it was a family decision.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Mr. Zavgren to accept the resignation of Ms. Alison Bass, 5th Grade Teacher.

Voting: via roll call vote, six ayes, one nay from Mr. Lavoie (who does not want her to go), motion carried.

Ms. Anzalone reviewed that section in the CBA. Ms. Foss spoke of wanting to know the likelihood that we could hold someone accountable for that. She wanted to know if it would cost a lot of money if we pushed that if someone resigns. She has concern about that. Mr. Allen voiced that lawyers vetted these contracts when they were written and he believes this question was asked. He remembers them saying it is a contract. Superintendent confirms our school attorney did look at it and approved it. Ms. Foss would like it asked again.

• **Appointment-Andrea Lawner-FRES-3rd Grade Teacher**

Superintendent reviewed the nomination of Ms. Lawner and notes she completes her Masters this week. It was noted we don't have an opening for 3rd grade; we have an opening for the 5th grade. Principal Fuller explained that is correct. We have a 3rd grade teacher ask to be transferred to 5th grade, Ms. Hobbs. Superintendent noted she had taught 5th grade in Massachusetts and this will be her 3rd year with us.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to appoint Ms. Andrea Lawner, 3rd Grade Teacher, salary of \$49,000, Masters, Step 1.

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

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. Mel Jones apologized she was not in person with Ms. Crotty and Mr. McGonegal. It sounds like there was good information tonight from you guys and asked if there was anything else, the Board needs from them. She had dates etc. but no one was chatting with her. Chairman Golding responded I think we are all set right now.

XIV. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Allen commented we got through a lot of things tonight, some bigger ticket stuff as a Board and did that well together which is appreciated. One of the things he loves about this Board is our ability to agree or disagree and drive on. He appreciates the staff for the work they do behind the scenes to make these meetings run smoothly, you do an incredible job every day in and day out. He is very appreciative, it is indicative of how this district is moving, and we are doing things correctly and ethically. He appreciates all of you; you are doing a phenomenal job.

Mr. Zavgren spoke of the efforts of the WLC Performance Tech Committee it is a positive thing and would do anything he can to help that go forward.

Mr. Lavoie congratulated the staff and administration at FRES for another successful testing year, things are on the rise as usual, as they have been and congratulated Principal Fuller for leading that. You are doing a great job. Have a great summer everybody.

Ms. Alley thanked the WLC Performance Tech Committee for coming by and presenting what they feel the school needed and effort they put into that. She congratulated the new teacher and sad to see those leaving FRES and WLC.

Ms. LaPlante asked for permission to comment. Permission was granted. Ms. LaPlante commented that she is thankful for the way this Board has functioned this past fiscal year, school year. It was evident in give and take discussions tonight both hard conversations about the sound system and tennis courts, things like that and really wanted to applaud the Board for the progress you made with being more inclusive with feedback, both amongst yourselves and administration. She voiced to be blunt, a year

617 and a half ago she probably would not have given you the feedback that she did. As an employee to employer, thank you for
618 making this a much more welcoming environment for us. Thank you.
619

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

621 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Anzalone and SECONDED by Mr. Allen to enter Non-Public Session to discuss personnel matters*
622 *RSA 91-A: 3 II (C) at 9:12pm.*

623 *Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.*
624

625 **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

626 The Board entered public session at 9:53pm.
627

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

629 *Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.*
630

631 **XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

632 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Mr. Zavgren to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:54pm.*

633 *Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.*
634

635 *Respectfully submitted,*

636 *Kristina Fowler*
637