

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, June 27, 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 Lavalley, Darlene Anzalone, Geoffrey Allen, and Diane Foss*
Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, and Clerk Kristina Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Chairman Golding opened the public hearing at 6:33pm. He reviewed the Town of Wilton has notified the District that they have received \$96,921.87 in School Impact Fees collected as part of their building permit process. By statute, these funds will be applied as Wilton specific revenues to offset their tax rate. He asked for any school board member questions or comments. Ms. Foss asked for clarification. Ms. LaPlante reported that in 2001 the Town of Wilton adopted an Impact Fee Ordinance. An impact fee is basically a growth management fee they apply for building permits or are attached to the building permit process. It is intended to help meet the needs of the growing town. They do this on roads, fire or emergency services and schools and it is written in there how it is adopted and how it goes to offset their portion of tax rates. It's a building fee that is charged by the Town of Wilton to offset future needs based on growth. Chairman Golding asked for any additional questions from school board members, none heard.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavalley and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to move to accept \$96,921.87 in unanticipated revenues from the Town of Wilton for School Impact Fees.

Chairman Golding asked for questions or comments from the public regarding the public hearing, unanticipated funds. Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment. None heard.

Voting: all aye; motion carried.

The hearing closed at 6:38pm.

IV. FINANCE COMMITTEE SCOPE & PURPOSE

Chairman Golding reviewed we will decide if we need to have a committee, and if we do what will we use it for. Ms. LaPlante provided a document containing a rough framework of what she believes the committee could be. She noted that in her first year, there was concern regarding the transfer of one business Administrator to another for various reasons but we never really dug deep into the finance of the district. She reviewed the history of the Finance Committee, which was to specifically address the \$411,444 reduction in the 20-21 budget, which was approved by voters at the district meeting. The minutes are specific that it was to be a limited scope committee, together for 1 year. The committee has continued to meet. In her observation over the last 2 years, our Budget Committee is unique from other Budget Committees, they stay involved much longer and she thinks this is good so that they can stay current and ask questions as the budget develops. There are two sections of the budget, there is building the budget and once approved, implementing it. She thought of marrying these two together with a common goal. The common goal of these two groups is money and making sure it's spent appropriately and effectively. Her idea is to have an advisory committee to look at things, perhaps meeting in the summer and review how the budget shakes out, are

there any lessons learned to take into building the next budget and maybe meet again around February or March to look at where we are in the spending process. It is also providing another level of safeguard for the taxpayers and is another avenue to say we gave you this money why are not spending it. This is her take on it if the Board wants to move forward. A suggestion was made to meet earlier than February to report out at district meeting the expected balance of funds and what that could be spent on. Ms. LaPlante responded she did not list January because that is the time when we are finalizing the next year's budget, will we be able to focus on that while working on the projection but it could be a good avenue for consideration. Mr. Allen expressed that it a great idea and the only question for the Board is one of the concerns discussed at the Board and at Facilities Committee is where we are in the spending process with projects. It had been voiced at one time that the desire was to have a report at every board meeting or once a month or something like that regarding where we are with the CIP or just spending in general. Would we want that to be maintained with the full board, which would add to the length of the meetings, or would it be beneficial to push that down to a committee and it can be briefed back to the Board. Chairman Golding voiced because Ms. LaPlante is proposing 2-3 meetings a year we could probably do that at a board level and save everyone time at the committee level. He suggests we leave the Finance Committee tabled until such time as something like that \$411,444 reduction comes up again and it be revisited. Ms. LaPlante added from Oct-end of the year there are monthly or every other month YTD reports on where we are financially. In her experience with the district now, questions are asked in the moment but she has not received any other follow up from committees or members of the public. She is confident we are sharing accurate data and the information is getting out there. There is an avenue for people to ask questions; our books are open and as transparent as can be. She wants to encourage the public if they have questions they can feel free to email or call her. She confirms the Budget Committee as a whole can ask her any questions regarding any monies. Superintendent confirms in September we will have a discussion with look back at our ups and down with the budget as a school board. We will plan on late January-February before district meeting to do it again and look where we are, what is anticipated as unspent and any other items we need to look at and do it a third time toward end of year if needed. It was suggested to have charts also showing the larger spending areas to make it visual and easier for folks to understand. Ms. LaPlante agrees.

V. NHSBA CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

Chairman Golding asked if there were any resolutions. We had submitted the same resolution the past 2 years, which was not passed. He asked for any suggestions. None heard we will move on from this. He noted the only thing we would need to do is determine who would attend the Delegate Assembly. Ms. Lavallee noted we have time to decide and suggested holding off until the resolutions are known then we can determine who may want to attend knowing what would be voted on. The resolutions come out around August or September.

VI. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES

Superintendent informed members he has a couple of additions. No objection heard.

- a. **FYI-New Hire-Chrissy Morrissey-Paraprofessional-FRES**
- b. **FYI-New Hire-Jamin LaPonsie-Instructional Aide-LCS**
 - **FYI-New Hire-Amanda Guay-Instructional Aide-LCS**
 - **FYI-New Hire-Jennifer Forrest-Paraprofessional-FRES**

Superintendent reviewed the new hires.

- c. **Resignation-Samantha Thapa-ABA Therapist**
- d. **Resignation-Allison Blondin-MS Math Teacher**
 - **Resignation-Kristi Costello-Food Service**

Superintendent reviewed the resignations.

- e. **Appointment-Sophia Menke-1st Grade Teacher-FRES**

Superintendent reviewed his nomination for 1st Grade Teacher.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to accept the nomination and appoint Ms. Sophia Menke, 1st Grade Teacher Bachelors, Step 1 salary of \$38,000.

Voting: all aye; motion carried.

f. Appointments for July

• **Appointment-Joseph Sullivan-MS Math-WLC**

Superintendent reviewed his nomination for MS Math Teacher.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Mr. Allen to accept the nomination and appoint Mr. Joseph Sullivan, MS Math Teacher Bachelors, Step 1 salary of \$38,000.

Voting: all aye; motion carried.

A question was raised how many open positions we have. Superintendent responded 4 right now and we are taking steps back to see what we can do, we have MS science, MS math, HS math and computer science teaching positions. He spoke of seeing a difference in the amount of applications we received compared to other years, it is not just our district and there are articles written about less teachers in the university systems going into education and earning their education degree. People are leaving education in the last quarter of their career and looking to get out earlier, it is almost a perfect storm. It is challenging for communities like us to compete financially with other districts. There are so many openings it is easy to take another job that is paying \$15,000 more than we are. We are looking at every angle; the positions we have open are critical areas. FRES and LCS are all set and most of WLC is set. He spoke of some of the other options he is looking at such as looking to see what teachers we have that can teach math for example and do we negotiate with a teacher and pay extra to teach a class, we have some classes in basic technology such as MS portfolios that may be easier to manage. He is talking to other Superintendents to see what they are doing. He spoke to High Mowing today about collaborating on classes. They don't have a program like portfolios, if we can send science kids there and they can send kids here for portfolios; he is trying to find ways to bridge the two schools. They are open to it; they have limited classes they can offer students. We have some advanced classes they don't offer such as AP Calculous. There are also other public schools like Milford, could we send the kids on a van tuition them for a class. He would ask for the Board's support before doing that and a challenge is their schedule is not the same as ours. Ms. Lavallee voiced in April in Concord they developed a committee because it is a statewide issue and very complex. There are a number of things we can do to try to fix the issue in the moment but thinks as a Board and administration we need to be looking at what can we do as a small district with only so much latitude with the budget. What else can we do to attract people and what is the role of the Board in that. What is the message we are sending staff, are we supportive of teachers, are we creating a positive environment. She thinks it is helpful we are doing the exit interviews now and looks forward to seeing the information collected. She believes we need to as a Board, start having these hard conversations about what could be some of the systemic problems that are causing teachers to not want to come here as a district and the state, why are people choosing not to go into education. We need to promote our school district to gain interest. Superintendent spoke about the intern program (paying interns a \$1,000 stipend to come here) and he met with Keene, Franklin Pierce and Rivier along with Mr. Comerford. We tried to sell them on our district in terms of their internship. The selfish goal is to recruit them but also show them they can grow here; last time we hired all interns we had. He spoke of teacher retention and not wanting to lose sight of that when we move into the workshop. How do we measure it and what can we do to make a difference. A question was raised regarding VLACS and is there a way to use that and utilize interns to work with the students. Superintendent responded it is an option that has been around; it is a challenge especially with something like 11th grade math or Algebra II, they would need an adult working with them who really understood that. He spoke of getting creative such as having an engineer working with students for a stipend to oversee an Algebra II class or pre-calculus class; it would be a good learning environment for kids. That is the kind of thing we do not want to rule out. Ms. Anzalone cautioned with VLACS the experience can differ depending on the teacher working with the student and that they need to be available when the kids need them.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Tatiana Franko commented that tonight's agenda has on it a discussion of what the school board's goals and visions are, she suggested to the Board that they consider the physical activity level and health of students and the time allotted to students especially at WLC where there is no recess. She has spoken at length with other mothers of boys who need to have outdoor activity time. She knows a mother who homeschools their child because he cannot handle the limited amount of activity time. In this day and age of iPhone, iPads, video games, TV and screen time, our children are losing the appreciation and closeness to creation. They are often overweight, lackadaisical, bored, hopeless, depressed and directionless as well as confused. It is high time to infuse our children with life, energy and enthusiasm and hope. All of which can be found in a forest, near bodies of water, in a field or a farm or just outdoors.

162 While on a school trip, I witnessed staff separate boys into stillness while all their bodies wanted to do was run after
163 sitting on a bus and having lunch and standing in line at a museum. This is her plea to have more physical outdoor
164 time especially for boys and especially at WLC they are stuck inside, it is almost like prison time and does not look
165 forward to sending her son here when she knows he needs outdoors. Most children spend screen time at home and sit
166 and they need more life into them.

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168 Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.
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170 Ms. Mary Golding congratulated the new hires, yeah Chrissy, she is great and will do wonderful at FRES we are
171 lucky to have her. She thanked the Board for working so hard and doing what you do for no appreciation. I
172 appreciates you! Thank you everyone.
173

174 **VIII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C)**

175 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Allen to enter Non-Public Session to review the non-*
176 *public minutes, and discuss superintendent evaluation RSA 91-A: 3 II (C) at 7:06pm.*

177 *Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.*
178

179 **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

180 The Board entered public session at 8:24pm.
181

182 *A MOTION was made to seal the non-public session minutes by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss.*

183 *Voting: all aye; motion carried.*
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185 **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

186 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:24pm.*

187 *Voting: all aye; motion carried.*
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189 *Respectfully submitted,*

190 *Kristina Fowler*
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