

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, September 12, 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, Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral, Alex LoVerme, Darlene Anzalone, Geoffrey Allen, Diane Foss, Jonathan Lavoie*

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Golding called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Principal Ronning recognized students, Tyler Gill, Jacob Phillips who are senior class president and vice president. They gave a presentation to 9th and 10th graders on the importance of taking the iReady tests seriously. He recognized Andrew Sweeny for doing a great job working with the facilities staff and Michael Marcinuk for doing a great job working as an intern with the Technology Department. There are also several students helping in the cafeteria, Damian Demache, Kevin Lachance, Naliia, Ingallina-Courtemanche, Savannah Lindgren and Tyler Ouellette. He thanked all the students for being troopers during the recent heat wave; they did a great job along with the staff for making it through the days.

IV. ALMA PRESENTATION

Mr. Buroker and Ms. Dignan introduced Theresa Schneiderheinze, representative for Alma who provided an overview of the student information system (SIS) which could replace PowerSchool. Ms. Schneiderheinze informed the group she did a presentation for the Technology Committee. She voiced Ms. Dignan and Mr. Buroker have been invested in this project, and voiced appreciation and to Superintendent Weaver. A copy of the slides can be found with the minutes. Eighty-seven percent of their staff are educators. She sees this as a good fit for NH. They are used in 57 districts and are the 2nd largest SIS in the state. They are 10 years old; cloud based and integrate with 3rd party integrations. Alma has grown tremendously in the past 5 years. They have a state contract with the NH DOE and spent the last year building the product for the state that will replace the current I4SEE (student data collection reporting) program. There is a 2-year period of roll out to all districts replacing the I4SEE system. She spoke of family engagement being important and the transition to be as smooth as possible. She gave an overview of the look and feel from a parent's perspective. She confirms it would not replace Google Classroom but they have a good integration. She believes they do have private schools onboard. She confirms the project is being funded through a grant completely and the schools do not get any funding but there is a discounted rate for it. She confirms the same information goes to the state as I4SEE. She confirms it does not send an alert to teachers to remind them to put in grades. Teachers have control of publishing grades. Parents would get an alert for attendance and missing homework assignments and within the portal; there is notification if you owe money. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral spoke of PowerSchool being dated and this addresses some of the things that became difficult over the years. Mr. Buroker confirms regarding SNAP (software that manages student health information), Alma has data links and we identified about 3 we want part of the system. They are SNAP, Meal Time and Clever. Ms. Schneiderheinze confirms the same setting restrictions will stay in place. She was asked if there is anything about the program she does not like. Ms. Schneiderheinze responded she has a hard time saying any; yes, there are probably some depending on the end user. Alma comes back to end users to see how we can expand the product. The system has only gone down for 10 minutes. Mr. Buroker confirms they will talk with administration to nail down dates. Ms. Schneiderheinze confirms there are a few different options for training and a school this size would be online training. A question was raised

regarding the cost in years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Ms. Schneiderheinze responding comparing apples to apples with what you currently have, it is about a \$2,000 difference and startup costs are one-time costs, which are fairly minimal. Within the state contract, we are providing the support package. Superintendent voiced that we still need to make sure our stakeholders (including parents) have dug into the “sandbox” to see if it is a good match for us. We want everyone who wants to have a chance to experience it before we decide if it is a good choice. We also need to look at the timeline; if we make the shift, it will be long-term. If the most of the districts and state are doing it, we will likely have to. In terms of cost, we have PowerSchool experts in the buildings who are paid small stipends. When you add up the cost, it is almost a wash. We want to dig into it more and come back to you. A question was raised if there are options to post announcements or the syllabus. Ms. Schneiderheinze responded within the whole family piece there are bulletin boards and it goes out as an email and posted to the bulletin board at the class and school level. Chair Golding asked for the slides to be included with the minutes.

V. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent requested to add a 2nd public comment before the board comments.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and SECONDED by Mr. Lavoie to accept the adjustment to the agenda.

Voting: all aye; motion carried.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

i. Vacancies

Superintendent reviewed we have the same positions vacant but were able to offer 2 Title I positions and will report those filled on 9/26. This will complete the vacancies for Title I.

ii. B-wing Bathrooms

Superintendent reported we are waiting on the wall dividers and coordinating with the plumber. There is no projected timeline we may have more information on 9/26. He confirms we are waiting on the dividers, but also fixtures and need a counter welded for the sinks. The delay he believes is the dividers.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Mr. Charlie Post, Lyndeborough spoke regarding item 10, under action items, minutes. At the last meeting you had a discussion about NHSBA membership but didn’t hold a vote, which was disappointing, he wanted to see where each member stood on it. The objection he has and other members of the community have is the NHSBA lobbies the state, they take our tax dollars and lobby the state and what they usually lobby on and have in the past is opposition to charter schools, Education Freedom Accounts and increasing the amounts on that and homeschooling. He voiced you should think about the fact you are taking taxpayers money and working against the interest they have chosen. He appreciates the things the HS Principal and HS Vice Principal have done but people should notice enrollment is way down and people are making other choices. He doesn’t think it is a good idea to take peoples tax money and pay somebody to advocate against these families. He spoke regarding policy JJJ-Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic, Charter School and Home Educated Pupils, letter B “The building principal will provide this eligibility criteria to parents or guardians of non-enrolled district students upon request”. He thinks the following should be added, “including the class syllabus which outlines these requirements”. It was discussed a lot last year about having the class syllabus, he doesn’t know if that was ever achieved; there was a lot of discussion, not a lot of action. Hopefully that has been corrected. When you do that and publish the syllabus, a family that will bring their child in will know and not have to wait for feedback from the principal, it would be written in advance and he thinks it would provide a lot of clarity and avoid potential litigation for the school district and you really should look at that.

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

VIII. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent thanked High Mowing for helping the district; we have been in a jam with transportation, not any different from any other school district, as there are not enough drivers in the state. High Mowing has allowed us to use one of their vans at a low rate to transport 7 students and without that help; we would have to contract with another company such as LA Limo at a higher rate. We are looking at ways to build partnerships with High Mowing. We have had a hard time providing transportation particularly with WLC. It is not the fault of the bus company, they work with us well and he met with them yesterday along with Assistant Principal Gosselin regarding the situation. We have not been able to take teams to away games such as cross-country and soccer, which is very unfortunate. Today we delayed a game and pushed back another to later in the season. We have an agreement for a driver who drove for us in the past who will drive for athletic events but he needs to finish the training and once he does, it will help alleviate some of this. We have called every transport company all the way to Littleton. We have considered using 2 suburban's from LA Limo to transport a team. When I say we are in crisis it is not an overstatement. He cannot guarantee it will get better in the winter. He is hoping to have another driver who used to drive for Steve's Bus. One of the areas we are looking at with Primex is in regard to policy EEAG-Use of Private Vehicles to Transport Students and these two things together prohibit families to transport students to events. It could be a way to alleviate some of it. If we had a way to do it I think parents would step up like they have always done but we need to do it in conjunction with the policy. He also spoke of a problem with our van, which needs a part. It is made in the country of Ukraine, we are unsure if we can get it if it is available. There is a hold on the part as it may be subject to recall. It is a hub assembly. Ms. LaPlante just spoke to a salvage yard about an hour ago who found the part with a 6month guarantee. We are hoping to get it and get the van serviced. We also learned from the Bus Company and LA Limo that there might be legislation coming out that would prohibit us from using the van to transport students. If that is the case, we are not sure what we will do. LA Limo has offered to purchase it and we will keep you informed, it could be as early as January if it happens. He confirms Butler Bus is trying to recruit more drivers and has increased the salary. That is one reason we were able to recruit the driver yesterday. He believes they are doing all they can. It is a lot to go through training; it is a challenging job and may not be a full wage for someone who needs full time work. All the schools are having this challenge. High Mowing has vans without drivers. He is not sure what the best solution is. When he met with Butler, he explained how frustrating it is for us and it punishes our kids unfairly but that is for every district not just us. The issue is statewide. One thing is supplementing the salary (for games/events) that Butler pays so that it is more viable for the person and be willing to drive for us exclusively, that is a route that makes sense and is a good investment for the kids. The cross-country team could use the van except it is out of service. He confirms Butler does not have the same type of short bus as our passenger van. Ms. LaPlante added it appears to be a national restriction through National Highway Traffic Safety Group (NHTSG) that has to do with the center of gravity and construction of the passenger van. They found vehicles with the lower center of gravity and a different construction are safer for students. It is not a NH thing; it appears to be federal. A question was raised if we could work with Butler to see if our coaches could be licensed through Butler to drive a bus. Superintendent responded we could. He may have talked one into it already. Our Athletic Director has offered to look into it and Mr. Bill Ryan has offered to work on the endorsement as well and may have already reached out to Butler. We have 3 in the pipeline who are open to it and one who is taking the updated 8-hour training who will drive for us exclusively. It takes time to get on the state roster etc.

Superintendent spoke about an academic logo for the district, which was previously developed. We have the warrior logo, which is important to us and does not go away but wanted one to put on our stationary that has more of an academic focus. The logo is on his report and is one we came up with and want to move forward and implement it. If we had a social media account we would use it there as well. It does not represent the athletic program just academics.

A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to approve academic logo to be used on stationary and anything other than sports.

Superintendent confirms the schools will still use their own although we may put it on the cover of the program of studies or may use both. The warrior has been used for a long time and it is foolish to consider getting rid of it but adding this is good for the district level. We are not taking anything away, just adding to it.

Voting: six ayes; one nay from Mr. Lavoie, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral spoke about the SRO. She was surprised by this and did look for the Wilton Selectman meeting minutes but did not find them. She had read the July 25 minutes. She thought we would go back to them to answer questions and talk about it. She doesn't see anything from public comment either in their minutes. There is support

from the School Board and their constituents. Superintendent voiced they went into nonpublic and when they came out there was a conversation of not supporting an SRO at this time. His sense is on 8/28/23 they decided not to move forward with the process we talked about with them. We got the information they asked for and the next step was a joint meeting, we didn't get to that next step. We just received the information on the 5th. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral asked if the select board has decided that we won't have a joint meeting and provided no explanation of why they came to that conclusion. Superintendent responded they discussed it and spoke to their constituents. He really does not know what they said; he has no minutes, no record of conversations and why they determined to not move forward. It is important to the people who spoke about it in the community and we owe it to the community to get on the agenda. That is the logical next step. They have their own budget process as well and if we do it, it needs to be sooner than later. It was noted the July minutes show the meeting came to order at 7:37am, is that the normal time they meet. Superintendent confirms they met around 8am, it was just a meeting with the town administrator, police and selectman and administration. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral would like to schedule a meeting to find out what we are missing and how they came to this conclusion, how can we help come to a solution one way or another whether it is part time or something to include our police department. We want to increase that relationship. Superintendent asks if the Board wants him to get on their agenda or schedule a workshop. Ms. Anzalone would like to get on the agenda to present the Boards proposal and why we are looking to get an SRO. It seems like they are making decision without all the information. She wants to make sure the Board gets a copy of the letter from the town manager. Chair Golding questioned if it makes sense to send out a survey to all our stakeholders. Superintendent agrees it makes sense to do that and when we meet with the select board, we can share that. Ms. Anzalone voiced if we are sending out a survey she wants some packet of information to go out saying what an SRO does, as she believes there is misconception. Superintendent responded we could include links and information.

Associate Principal Fuller thanked the staff and students for managing with the heat last week. Mr. Erb brought in pop-up tents and Ms. DiFilippo did the same at LCS. There was water and popsicles for students. Curriculum Night at FRES is the 21st from 6pm-7pm and at LCS, it is the 28th at 6pm. The PTO is doing skate-night on the 21st from 6pm-7pm.

Principal Ronning and Associate Principal Gosselin presented the WLC report. Principal Ronning voiced in regard to student rigor at the top of his report, grade 5 will start coming next week for math instruction. He clarified the online practice for iReady is My Path, not iPath. He explained Warrior Winner Postcards, which are sent out by staff recognizing students doing positive things. They are submitted to the principal, he writes a note on it, and they are sent home to parents. Thirty-six have been sent home so far. In regard to phone calls, we are building relationships with the community and parents. He has asked all teachers to call all students in the first few weeks of school. He is checking with staff now and at least 75% of families have been called. Staff recognition is quite extensive and has listed it in his report but what he didn't include is the amount of time it equates to which is over 250 hours outside of the classroom and mainly done over the summer. They held an iReady assembly for grades 9 10 and the MS about the importance of it some may have received a phone call about it. Yesterday they took some time to remember September 11, we read some information about what it is and the significance it has to our country and he recommended students talk to their parents and grandparents about it. Many students spoke to him and other staff about it. He spoke about Assistant Principal Gosselin and voiced appreciation for her, she is incredible with all the things she does and is involved in. He also voiced appreciation for Linda Draper, she wears so many hats, she is in the cafeteria, helping with the budget, preparing lunches etc. it is amazing what she can do. He spoke of so many staff stepping up; even if it is not their job, this is what makes it a terrific place. He spoke about being a coach prior to coming here and did drive a school bus. You are not allowed to have a school bus endorsement unless you work for a school or school bus company. His license lapsed but he will look into that. Mr. Taber is going to look into it as well. Any way we can help the students, that is what we do, we help serve the community and our students. We have scheduled a game from away to home and may move back the time for a later start if that helps. A question was raised if there was thought to having games on weekends. Principal Ronning responded it is a possibility. Mr. Lavoie thanked him for taking the bus inquiry he sent, it was taken seriously. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral spoke of seeing Manchester School District is missing transportation for a whole school. She appreciates all the efforts staff are making and the creative thinking, it is a new challenge we are all dealing with in real time. That is special about our district, we draw wonderful people here and she voiced appreciation for all. Ms. Anzalone voiced appreciation for adding teacher recognition, as we don't always hear what great work they are doing and especially over the summer. She voiced appreciation for the emails too as that is helpful as a parent.

ii. Curriculum Coordinator's Report

Ms. Dignan reported the first Curriculum Committee meeting was held yesterday and teachers were eager to get right to work and picked up right where we left off last year. It was seamless. They asked for more meetings to get more

done. In regard to iReady, we have most of the students at FRES and WLC who finished the reading portion, Kindergarten students are held back until the end of the month because it is a lot to put on them to do an assessment in the first couple of weeks. Ms. Anzalone asked if the syllabus could be added to the curriculum page on the website. Ms. Dignan responded we are working on the unit plans next and that will have the materials included. There are many unit plans being close to being ready to publish but it is still in the works. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral likes that Ms. Dignan and Mr. Buroker will be holding pop-in PD. Ms. Dignan noted the first one is September 18 on Google Sheets with Mr. Buroker.

iii. WLCTA Report

Co-Presidents Erin Rosana and Morgan Kudlich presented their report. They are happy to be back in school although not a lot has happened. Staff gathered for 4 PD days in August, one day was for a full day of ALICE procedures. Teachers had a chance to practice barricading doors, evacuating through multiple routes etc. It was a hard day but overall very positive. We have spent the last few weeks learning new faces and names, setting expectations and routines. At WLC, there are many changes but a lot positive and having to relearn and reteach past practices, teachers are all on the same page and it is trickling down to the students. Regarding iReady testing, we are starting math tomorrow. They spoke of some concerns regarding the temperatures last week and had spoken to the Superintendent and administration who were supportive to let them move to cooler spaces in the building or teachers were sharing rooms with AC. They are concerned when it gets that hot for safety and hopefully we will not have another heat wave anytime soon. Ms. Kudlich spoke of it being tough to get the kids to listen to the teachers when they are all sweating and the teachers can't be their most effective selves nor the students. The kids cannot get what they need out of school when we are at that level of discomfort. Negotiations have started and are looking forward to foraging a new contract that helps support and strengthen our teachers, our students and community. We have positive feelings about this year and how it will go and looking forward to that process continuing. Mr. Allen questioned regarding ALICE training and if they are given kits or if they are using what is in their room. Ms. Kudlich responded the goal is to use what is in your room but they have talked about providing us an emergency bucket that has a variety of things such as rope pulls, things they can latch on the door to help keep it closed. Mr. Allen spoke that there are a couple of organizations that provide that for free, he will look into a couple, and if he finds them, he will bring it back to administration. He spoke of discussions last year with the lack of concentration or buy in regarding iReady testing and asked if teachers have noticed a change this year. Ms. Rosana has at the HS. It is scheduled in the morning now and only for an hour. Before they were testing for 2 or 2.5 hours. She looked at her students' scores and they did overall, decent, better than last year. He spoke that one of the things being a catalyst to getting AC's was the temperatures in the rooms. Ms. Kudlich noted they have some teachers keeping track hourly, which she can share. Mr. Allen asks it be shared with administration and be forwarded to the Board. Mr. LoVerme spoke of the heat the last few days and asked what recommendations has their team made to rectify this heat problem. He also would like the heat data. Ms. Kudlich spoke at FRES having sparse air conditioners in certain parts of the building such as the library, and office. They reached out to the Superintendent acknowledging it is not a problem that can be solved overnight, the infrastructure does not allow for it but our hopes are in the future instead of putting small fixes in place make bigger changes to make it cooler and the spaces comfortable. It was suggested to start looking at whether or not we need them in all classrooms. A question was raised if mini-splits would be more efficient. It was noted the heat is not conducive to learning and glad iReady testing was not last week. It was suggested to perhaps schedule testing in cooler spaces. A question was raised if the teachers are happy with the new policies in place at WLC. Ms. Rosana referenced the no cell phone policy, it was overall something staff talked about and if everyone is consistent, the kids will follow. She feels that is happening and as a whole it is much better. She thinks the culture is starting to shift.

b. Letters/Information

i. Budget Timeline

Ms. LaPlante reviewed the Budget Committee tasked us with moving up the process. We will have the first full draft on September 26, which is a joint meeting. The timeline shows what she proposes for the budget discussions. She wants to break out the facilities discussion from the CIP. It is important Mr. Erb have the option to discuss what he needs for facilities aside from the CIP. She thinks the outline presented will give us a great opportunity for more discussion and is hoping for more discussion on the Board's position. She is hoping with more robust discussion it can be finalized by December 12. There is a little time in January, which is plenty of time for the budget hearing on the 8th. This is the schedule she intends to move forward with unless there is any objection or discussion. None heard.

ii. Board Member Stipend Form

Chair Golding reported board members should fill out the form and return it to Ms. Fowler at the end of the night. A question was raised if there is the ability to direct the funds toward a teacher for a stipend. Ms. LaPlante responded no, if you want to donate it to a specific club we would have to have you do it privately to the student activities fund. Revenue that comes in is not specifically earmarked for programs. Ms. LaPlante wants to keep within the guidelines

to make sure we are in compliance with the Dept. of Labor and state guidelines with student activity funds. She clarified you have to donate it through the student activity accounts; it is two separate pots of money. She acknowledges it should not be that difficult. A question was raised if I want to donate \$5,000 does it have to be donated to the student activity account. Ms. LaPlante responded if you are talking about supporting a specific club yes if not it would be counted as a revenue, which theoretically offsets an expenditure, but we don't record that revenue against an expenditure.

IX. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION

Chairman Golding questioned members how they wanted to go about this, do we want a flat budget, or 5% etc. We have the teachers' contract coming up. He spoke about everything being expensive and needing ideas on how to move forward. Mr. Lavoie spoke of each year having a fund balance of \$400,000-\$600,000. Some of that was recently used for facilities fixes. If we could use that, for example the \$400,000 we have been giving back to taxpayers, which they are not expecting back, the overall should look the same. He would like a flat budget, but eat into the fund balance. He would like to give raises to the teachers and other staff, retain staff, and stop looking for so many teachers each year. He would like to have some consistency for the students. He asks if that is possible. Mr. Allen spoke about last year being on the Budget Committee and seeing how that process went. He asks when was the last time when we look at our fixed cost as opposed to variable cost especially with a declining population. When was the last time we did a deep dive into our facilities, and staffing management and see what can shake out in our budget. Has that been done, I know it is done casually every year. Is there room to do that how we can we reshape our district. With the current climate, we have, a rising tax base, rising budget every year and when was last time it has been done in order to better serve our students, teachers and constituents. Chair Golding voiced it sounds like a directive for the Strategic Planning Committee. Superintendent voiced that we talked about this 4 years ago when he got here talking about the cost of managing 3 buildings, declining enrollment, class size etc. We looked at all of those things. It is a big conversation to have, does it make sense to move a couple of grades from LCS to FRES and FRES to WLC. Is that going to save us money? What does it do to the sense of community in Lyndeborough to lose a school? If we are looking at declining enrollment which was mentioned a couple times here and a flat budget, which is not necessarily going to be flat, we will have to make cuts to get it there. How can we have a conversation about saving money and making sure we don't compromise the education for kids. If the Board directs us to have that conversation, we will have it and if you want us to bring materials we will do the best we can in the time we have to prepare for it. We should not tip toe around it, let's get community members commenting on it. If we are not moving in that direction we shouldn't mention it as an option but if we are lets commit to it as a team and people talking about it and make sense of it as it impacts us all. Mr. Allen voiced if we asked the Superintendent that we are starting a district and what do you need then that is a good place to start. We fill it with infrastructure and existing staff. It is not always about saving money, if it's a byproduct then great, but it's about providing the best education we can, the best return on the taxpayers' dollars, in the most efficient, economical and best way possible. Superintendent voiced, all districts look at their facilities. Populations change, demographics change and we are not immune to it. Years ago, we had larger enrollments, it was not that long ago and we have the same size buildings. If we want to have that conversation, we will do our best to prepare for it and have it. It is like turning a battle ship, making sure people have input and making sure we can manage a transition like that. What does it look like if it becomes grades 4-8 and 6-12, there are variables we would look into and do the best we can if that is the direction the Board wants us to go in. Chair Golding asked how long it would take to gather that information. Superintendent is not sure we would have to discuss it and review it. He notes that conversation was here 4 years ago. We have full capacity at FRES, the rooms are filled with kids and staff, there are no open spaces in FRES, is that good for kids, and he is not convinced of that. We will put our heads together and go from there. Maybe will report out some information on the 26th. He asked the Board if they are comfortable with that and Chair Golding asked the same. No objection heard. A question was raised if we should set a date for the Strategic Planning Committee so that it can be constantly looked at and managed. Chair Golding will speak with the Superintendent and Ms. LaPlante to get a date. A suggestion was made regarding the budget, when it is presented will the payroll be backed out. We won't be comparing apples to apples because the new payroll is not added in. Mr. LoVerme would like to see it without payroll. He would like to see it left out and saved until the CBA contract is final. He notes as far as a flat budget, you cannot have a flat budget without major cuts and then it is not always apples to apples. He gave an example. He notes everything is going up. Ms. LaPlante voiced the DRA says all cost for a CBA need to be in a separate warrant it would never be in the budget. She can do our hard cost, and non-people cost and summarize the people cost to date so it is reflective in what we are looking at in year 1, 2 of our support staff contract etc. She wants to be mindful of the Budget Committee. We do need to have a separate warrant article that speaks specifically about the teachers' contract. It was suggested to have some sort of warrant so that if there are funds left over we have the taxpayers vote to see if they give permission to retain a certain percentage. Ms. LaPlante will put the language in for a warrant when

it is discussed. It was voiced that it seems FRES is at capacity; the Superintendent was asked if LCS is. Superintendent responded it is and the MS is. There may be room at the HS but does not want to answer that officially without doing research. It was voiced, just doing a head count alone you should be able to come up with a quick answer regarding the buildings and it sounds like it is not possible to eliminate a building. Superintendent expressed he does not want to alarm families about a school closure. We will look into it, it is something we should look at, and it is about what we do with our assets. We will do the best we can to get the information and hopefully can answer that question if we have the capacity to move classrooms over and what it looks like. Mr. LoVerme voiced that we returned a lot of funds to the towns last year, it is a fluke, we received more funds from the state. Mr. LoVerme asked for a 10-year look back to see how much was been returned. Ms. LaPlante will do a look back but wanted to mention that there have been vacancies that we cannot fill. Superintendent added we have hired young teachers also which is a reduction or savings and yes, vacancies that we have not been able to fill, it was probably 75%-80% of the savings last year. Ms. LaPlante agrees.

X. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to approve the minutes of August 22, 2023 as written.

Voting: all aye; motion carried.

XI. POLICIES

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral reported the committee met and discussed some policies for withdrawal including JICIB-Bullying & Cyberbullying-Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention. Mr. Lavoie spoke of this policy being covered in another policy and the committee wants to clean them up overall. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral suggested the policies be brought to the September 26 meeting for withdrawal.

i. BEDDA-Board Meeting-Rules of Procedure & Order-3rd Read

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral reported this is the 3rd reading of this policy. No changes have been made since the last reading.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to accept policy BEDDA-Board Meeting-Rules of Procedure & Order.

Voting: all aye; motion carried.

ii. IHBA-Programs for Pupils with Disabilities-1st Read

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral reported this is a 1st read; updates to the policy were made. The age requirement changed from 21 to 22 as required by the state. She encourages everyone to read the policy and it will come back at the next meeting for a 2nd read.

iii. JJJ-Access to public School Programs-1st Read

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral reported this policy is required by law it is the 1st read. She noted Mr. Post referred to it during public comment. Mr. Post reviewed his suggestion for change. Under letter B first paragraph last sentence, should add the following, "including the class syllabus which outlines these requirements". Ms. Cloutier-Cabral suggested it be reviewed again and be brought back. She recommends people read the policy and bring questions. It will be reviewed at the Policy Committee meeting on September 15.

iv. IMBD-High School Credit for 7th/8th Grade Coursework-1st Read

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral reported this policy is required by law. It is the 1st reading. Discussion was had regarding credit, does a student get HS credit if in the 7th or 8th grade, and takes honors classes. Superintendent clarified for classes such as Algebra I, but digital portfolios is a requirement to graduate and would earn the graduation credit for that. A question was raised if this is in effect now. Superintendent will get that clarified. Discussion continued. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral spoke she believes it is in effect and has been what we have been doing for a while it is just a policy now. It is unclear if that was in effect for 7th grade but it will be now. She spoke of some students being able to advance grades. This policy will return for a 2nd read.

v. EFA-Availability and Distribution of Healthy Foods-1st Read

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral reported this policy is required by law and this is the 1st read. She recalls there were questions regarding this policy. It addresses certain program we must follow and we need some information about which programs we are using and put that into the policy. We have to state what is mandated. We are waiting on more information for that. Discussion was had regarding healthy foods as one member believes it reads as though we only sell healthy foods. Ms. LaPlante clarifies we are required to meet certain requirements in foods and what we purchase has to be in compliance, smart snack requirements for example or if we do not we are out of compliance with the whole program. Discussion continued. Superintendent added as a whole it has to meet certain requirements

or we cannot be reimbursed. Individual items may not be “healthy” such as croutons or white bread etc. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral voiced we need to figure out what those things are and this will come back for a 2nd read. Members are encouraged to send questions or suggestions. What we are missing is identifying which 3-4 programs we are using. The Policy Committee will meet on September 15 and she welcomes anyone to attend.

Mr. Lavoie spoke of the dress code policy and asked if the Superintendent has received feedback from staff. Superintendent responded yes and he believes he has sent that to the Chair of the committee. Mr. Lavoie voiced that not much has changed in the policy; it was fairly well done, just not enforced. Principal Ronning has brought up the student dress code, which is in the handbook and is being enforced.

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Negotiations

Ms. Anzalone reviewed the committee met last Tuesday and it continues to be a good couple of meetings with the WLCTA. The Board will have further discussion later.

XIII. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES

a. FYI New Hire-Abigail Ellis-ABA Therapist-FRES

b. FYI New Hire-Roxanne Charlton-ABA Therapist-FRES

Superintendent reviewed the new hires.

• 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.

XIV. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Foss thanked all the school staff for hanging in there through the heat wave last week. She has worked in a number of schools and they all have this problem no matter what and she can appreciate it is difficult to keep all on task including the adults. She appreciates all the work you do.

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral welcomed the new hires. The student and staff shout outs is a cool piece and she likes all the detailed reporting. These have been productive meetings and thanked the Board and public for asking questions and being involved. She thanked Ms. Schneiderheinze for coming and she is excited to hear of Alma.

Mr. Lavoie thanked everyone and welcomed all back to school. From what he has heard from his children, they seem to be having a good time at the lower levels and seems to be the same at the higher levels too.

Ms. Anzalone thanked everyone for the first couple of weeks. She has not received any complaints and she gave a shout out to a member of the public Lynne Crouse, who posted an amazing video online. She spent hours working on it and thanks her for being a dedicated parent and coming out to games.

Mr. LoVerme thanked the public who were present for the meeting tonight and taking time out of their schedules to be here. He welcomed Mr. Post back and gave a shout out to staff members sitting in this room for a job well done. He spoke of a hearing from a grandparent that Mr. Buroker pointed out to a student that they shouldn't put stickers on a computer. Mr. LoVerme expressed we should charge the student for it; it is not the staff responsibility to take stickers off. He rode up to the field and it's a sponge, very wet. The track, wow, other than the spike marks, it is beautiful and also the road and parking. Hats off to the people who voted to pass that and get the work done. He thanked the Board for the work that has been done and on the committees. He wishes good luck to the Negotiations Committee.

Mr. Allen echoed thanking the public and we are fortunate that we have a great community who appreciates what we have done. He voiced appreciation for the administrative team at FRES and WLC. He is hearing incredible things from students and parents. You are doing a bang up job so far. He gave a shout out to Emily Hall, every time he walks by her she tells him of an incredible idea she has come up with to add value to the school and for students. He hopes she is getting some attention. He spoke of his kids coming home wanting him to show them something online, ChatGTP, as they couldn't get into it at school. Awesome to shut it down Mr. Buroker! He thanked the Board; he appreciates the positive feedback and criticism you all give him.

Chair Golding spoke regarding the SRO and being very disappointed with the Wilton Town Select Board and Administration. He spoke of their use of nonpublic and hopes they bring someone to attend the next meeting, as it will be on the agenda.

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

A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Mr. Allen to enter Non-Public Session to review the non-public minutes and discuss personnel matters RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C) at 8:55pm.

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

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 9:53pm.

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

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

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

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

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Fowler

XVII. NON-MEETING-NEGOTIATIONS

Non-meeting was held for negotiations.