

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, April 22, 2025
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School
6:30 p.m.**

The videoconferencing link was published several places including on the meeting agenda.

Present: *Dennis Golding, Brianne Lavalley, John Zavgren, Michelle Alley, Paul White, Erin Collins (online), and Diane Foss
Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt,
Technology Director Nicholas Buroker, and Clerk Kristina Fowler*

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no adjustments requested.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Kelly Gibson, Wilton, spoke regarding the tennis program with Advantage Kids. The 2nd session will be starting the week following the return from break. She raised concerns regarding the tennis courts and area around them. She voiced that she learned a lot from listening to the other teams coming to our courts. There is porta potties infested with wasps. Strangers are walking in our halls to use the bathrooms without restricted areas gated off. She raised concern regarding bleachers not put together and wants them on either side of the court. She raised concern about ticks from the tree line getting on the kids and general upkeep that is needed including the shed needs painting. She expressed the baseball and soccer field look good but not around the tennis courts. She has concern regarding all this especially because there is discussion about tuitioning in students, we can do better. She suggests having the PTO ask for volunteers. She wonders if it could be a tax write-off. She asks for an overhaul and not to bog down Mr. Erb. She spoke of the program growing and by the end had 4 additional students. She suggests changes to the 5th grade curriculum to include the tennis program and doing other things to raise interest. She spoke of her daughter playing well and suggests uniforms be given to the students in the tennis program to represent our district.

Mr. Jonathan Vanderhoof, Lyndeborough questioned how many letters of interest were received for the school board vacancy. Response was 1. Mr. Vanderhoof congratulated Ms. Anzalone. He spoke about the Superintendent submitting his resignation and voiced that several previous Superintendents have commented that the position did not need to be full-time and that was a time when there were almost 600 students in the district. Whether that was motivated by them wanting a part-time position he is not sure. He commented that there has been talk about getting rid of LCS and suggests you take a long look at what the district will look like, and we may be able to get by with a half-time Superintendent especially with all the support staff.

Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment. None heard.

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Business Administrator's Report

Ms. LaPlante spoke regarding facilities in the absence of a facilities director. We have been working to reconcile projects that we had going on this year and with those we planned for the summer. These are in various stages of getting quotes for certain projects. The big ger projects on the schedule for the summer included replacing VCT tiles at WLC, phase 2 of 3, replacing the carpet in the library as well as in the front office, and paving. In reviewing the status of bids and the obligations within her schedule she feels it could be best to wait for the new facilities manager to be onboard and acclimated. This funding does not expire. She doesn't feel she would do good service to the district to piecemeal pricing together. We will know more once

the position is filled. We are looking to start interviewing on or about May 5. She will keep the Board updated on the status of those projects but wanted to inform you that there might be a delay with some of those projects until we have adequate staff and able to take care of these capital projects. She spoke back in January having a heating issue, one of the heating units froze open and there was significant water damage. The vendor will be back over April break to finish the last of those repairs. We had to replace quite a bit of glycol within the system, and they will be doing more flushing. She voiced appreciation for Anne Bird, Pete Stephenson and Thiago Ferreira who have been doing a great job making sure the day-to-day operations in the buildings are being done, communicating with each other and the principals if there are any larger needs. She spoke about the YTD financials and wanted to raise a little bit of an alarm that if everything expected to be spent at this point of the year is, although not definitive, we could be running into a spending deficit of \$93,000. She doesn't believe we will because as the encumbrances are released, they will flow back into unspent funds. She thinks we will be looking at less than \$50,000 at the end of the year. She is not going to manipulate the reports to show that kind of change but in this report the number assumes we are. She gave an examples of the encumbered funds, it assumes we will have substitutes every day, all day through the end of the year and the schools will use all their money for field trips and things like that. It takes into account students being able to celebrate the end of the year responsibly. She wanted to touch base on that and give the caveat that it is not definite that we're in that position. In August she worked with the Board to approve the withdrawal of funds from the capital reserve. In looking at that motion, it didn't include some of our projects that have occurred since then and it was not necessarily ambiguous, but she would like to be clear in perpetuity for the future what the Board's actions were and what funds were approved. She is asking the Board to consider entertaining a motion to withdraw \$289,050.99 from the Building & Roadway Capital Reserve for expenditures which include replacement of the VCT tiles at WLC that were completed over the summer phase 1 of 3 \$48,861.89, prep work before paving at WLC \$5,700 (removing trees, grading etc.), paving at WLC \$167,390, striping the WLC parking lot after pavement \$3,277.50, replacing gym windows at WLC \$61,000 and the architect design layout at WLC \$2,821.60. She cannot move forward to request the funds from the Trustees of the Trust Funds until the Board acts on that. She is hopeful that discussing it through her report, it has been transparent along the way and we could act on that this evening despite it not being on the agenda. She confirms the claim from January is \$30,000 and will have some additional expenses coming up over spring break. A question was raised regarding the status of the locker rooms. Ms. LaPlante confirms we have 1 rough quote and need 2 more before we move forward. It was confirmed there is no scheduled date for the Facilities Committee to meet. Ms. LaPlante confirms regarding the request for funds from the capital reserve, the work has been completed, and they have been paid, and the projects had been discussed previously.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavalley and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to approve the withdrawal of \$289,050.99 from the Building & Roadways Capital Reserve fund for the reimbursement of all the invoices paid (projects include: replacement of VCT tiles \$48,861.89, prep work before paving \$5,700, paving the parking lot \$167,390, stripe the parking lot \$3,277.50, replace gym windows \$61,000 and architect design/layout of locker room \$2821.60, all for WLC).
Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

ii. Director of Student Support Services Report

Mr. Pratt reported he is here to begin the process of going over procedures for SPED. He has provided a couple documents including the Procedural Safeguards handbook which is updated by the DOE and talks about parents' rights which we will review later. He has also provided information put together by the Parent Information Center regarding the steps of the SPED process. It simply explains what SPED is about although a little old, last reviewed in 2021. The plan is to talk to the Board about some programs and will that at the May meeting and likely in June. As we get into the budget season, we will talk about the financial aspects of how we move forward. He showed a manual he uses, which is the rules and regulations of the state and federal government which is the nitty gritty of the federal law. He informed the group that SPED is about 50 years old in this country although it didn't start 50 years ago, it started in 1828 when the Perkins School for the Blind was established. That was the first recognition of working with people with disabilities such as blind, deaf or in wheelchairs, what was less looked at was people with mental health issues, or people with a different intellect which we know for many years were shunned and put aside. As we went into the 1960s, there became awareness that institutionalization was not the appropriate way to go. The true start of our work was with the Board of Education which says education for all and the passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which is 94-142. We have had many additions along the way and alterations and will spend time over the next couple of meetings talking about that and asking questions. If you have any questions before the next meeting, reach out to him.

iii. PTO Report

Ms. Crystal Gill spoke regarding the Penny Sale, which she is excited to talk about. She passed around some photos and a flyer for the upcoming Teacher Appreciation Week. The PTO takes 50% of the profits from the Penny Sale, splitting the other 50% with the Lions Club. The PTO then takes 50% of their share and gives that to the junior class. This year they raised \$5,400; the junior class was given \$2,700 for prom. She spoke about the number of student volunteers they had this year and how hard they worked along with the other volunteers. The students wore orange T-shirts so they could be spotted and had so many students that they didn't have enough shirts for the parent volunteers. Overall, it is not a large group when you think about the number of people that attend. The students were polite and amazing! They learned how to rip tickets, tape down things and answer questions about things they never did before. This is the PTO's 3rd year, and she could not be prouder. The kids ranged in age from MS to HS and a lot are National Honor Society students and her daughter is a 5th grader

who helped. There were over 150 prizes, which was unbelievable. They had a WLC alumni from last year, Savannah Dubois who has successfully started her own business and donated her own services which was pretty awesome. There was a lot of donated food, warm hot food which Ms. Jones allowed them to continue to heat up. Mr. Stephenson from FRES helped and they would love to have him every year. It was the most successful penny sale, and she felt it went smoothly. She spoke about her 2nd favorite day of the year, (1st is Penny Sale), Teacher/Staff Appreciation. This year they are calling it the All Stars and will be decorating teacher lounges. The flyer shows a quick glimpse of what they will be doing, and links are not posted yet but will be for anyone who wants to sign up to volunteer and has a love of cooking. Soups and stews will be provided and would love donations of those and or a dessert for Thursday. They will spend 5 days feeding the staff, its her favorite day to give back and students help too. Ms. Alley thanked Ms. Gill for all the hard work the PTO has done. A question was raised if Ms. Gill finds the amount of work they put in and the amount of money raised is worth is what they get in the end and is there anything that would improve it. Ms. Gill confirms almost all of the Penny Sale comes together with donations. The PTO doesn't end up spending much other than for water and tickets but it's not a very big expense. They focus on the money going back to the junior class and they also got a coca cola donation this year, same as last. It's really a lot of donations and the hard work of people going out there to get them. It is minimal cost for a massive outcome and it's a really fun day. The kids that were with us last year showed the new kids and she told the new kids to come next year to help those new kids and on it goes. She tries to continue that community building with all the kids. Two weeks after the Penny Sale they throw a pizza party for all the kids who donated or helped. They ask the junior class to provide ice cream as a thank you to everyone who helped them and that is what we do every year to help continue that thank you and move it through to the next year.

VI. SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY-INTERVIEW & VOTE

Chairman Golding reported that there was 1 application from Ms. Darlene Anzalone, Lyndeborough who served on the Board in previous years. Ms. Anzalone introduced herself and spoke about why she wanted to be back on the Board. She voiced that when she originally decided she wanted to be on the Board as a parent, she tried to do as much as she could to be involved in her kids' school but you feel like you are doing enough because you've got other stuff going on. When the opportunity came up to run the first time, she thought it would be a great opportunity to be involved in the school and to do stuff for the community but also as a parent for her one of the biggest things is transparency. It's not a matter of not trusting the teachers but as a parent she wants to know what her kids are learning so she can help them because it is interesting and something she can find ways to talk to them about because teenagers don't talk that much. She also wanted to find out what is going on at school and how she can be more involved and help. She has good relationships with the teachers. The last 3 years of being on the Board she enjoyed, got involved, spent time on the Policy Committee and enjoyed working on the Negotiations Committee and worked on 2 CBA's. She had the opportunity to stand up in front of the community and talk about those and about the SRO. It's not just about what she wants, its about what the whole community wants and is something she will push for and try to fight for. She thinks there is a lot we started to discuss with the Strategic Planning Committee and that's why she stayed involved with that. If she were be back on the Board, she wants to continue to be part of the Strategic Planning Committee and continue to try to figure out what are creative ways that we can pull the community together, parents together and everyone together to try to find ways that aren't going to tax our taxpayers as much but give the kids opportunities. That is the reason she wanted to stick with the Board. Ms. Lavallee voiced that Ms. Anzalone worked on the Board for 3 years. When she worked on the Policy Committee she put in a good effort and tried hard, and it would be great to have her back on again. Mr. White commented he has no problem with Ms. Anzalone being back on the Board, when he decided to run it was the only seat to run for. Superintendent Weaver commented she has been the biggest advocate for the CTE program, we now have 21 kids and wanted to give her that shout-out. He added that one way or another we will make it work financially with the additional students.

Ms. Lavallee nominated Ms. Darlene Anzalone, accepting her application to come back on the Board, Mr. White seconded the nomination. No objection heard.

Ms. Anzalone will be sworn in before the next meeting.

VII. YTD REPORTS

Ms. LaPlante reported as of right now we could be looking at a \$93,000 deficit. She wants to reiterate for the record, she does not believe we are going to be at that point, but it is a potential if everything goes through. She gave examples of what some encumbrances might be that could be freed up. As we start to neaten those things up and as the school year ends, Ms. Spurrell is closing out positions in the program, its going to put that money back into unspent funds. Right now, it shows what we could be spending. Back in February she said we were looking at possibly having \$95,000 in surplus at year end and now we are looking at possibly having \$93,000 in the negative. Since then, we have had almost \$35,000 in maintenance invoices that have come to the business office. We have additional ones that may or may not come but everything is locked up here right now. We have had about \$120,000 in SPED purchase order revisions. After doing a very, deep dive in the months of February and March she is comfortable that we are not going to exceed this amount but she has always said she will be honest and upfront as she can and will have a better idea the end of May. If it looks like we will have a spending deficit she will come to the Board with a recommendation to likely draw from the SPED capital reserve because as we discussed at the

last meeting, SPED is over budget by \$470,000 due to student specific needs. It's not mismanagement, it's none of that. It is student specific needs that we didn't know in September of 2023 when we built the budget. She will keep the Board updated. She confirms it would come from the SPED capital reserve which has \$330,000 but are trying to avoid that because we could have a catastrophic need if a student moves in. Ms. Foss expressed appreciation for Ms. LaPlante looking at the worst-case scenario vs. informing them at the end of year. It is never good news hearing you are over budget, but these things happen if anyone is aware of the seesaw that is the SPED world there are some things you can't control. She adds if anyone is concerned with the over budget issue she encourages you to reach out to Ms. LaPlante, she is outstanding at what she does. There is no doubt it is a possibility but that is honest and there is no mismanagement. Ms. LaPlante added due to student specific needs, if we didn't have that we would be looking to return that money. She thinks it goes to show that we are building a budget that is responsible, for the 1st time in over 5 years we're fully staffed. We're spending our salaries, and all the benefits, it's a testament to the times. We are lucky to be in this situation as stressful as that situation is for her right now.

VIII. POLICIES-2ND READING-IKF-HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Ms. Lavallee reviewed there are no changes since the 1st reading. She asked for any questions or comments, none heard.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. White to approve policy IKF-High School Graduation Requirements.

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

IX. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to approve the minutes of April 8, 2025, as written.

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

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Mr. Bill Crouse, Lyndeborough, commented that since we have a new school board member but do not have a functioning Facilities Committee or Strategic Planning Committee as far as he can tell, he questioned if and when we will be able to remedy that. Chairman Golding responded at the next meeting we'll set that up, vote and post the dates. Mr. Crouse added for the record he was excited to get on the Facilities Committee again and is looking forward to shepherding the locker room project quickly and efficiently to some sort of conclusion.

Ms. Anzalone gave a shout-out to Ms. Gill and let her know how much she is appreciated and Mandy as well. They did an amazing job like they always do with everything. She wanted her to know how much she is appreciated and let her know for Teacher Appreciation Week she will help set up. Thank you to the PTO!

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

Ms. Mary Golding, Wilton, taxpaying, registered voter, and Wilton resident. She commented that the BA (business administrator) is the best BA we had in her 20 plus years' experience being involved with school boards. Thank you for all that you do for our community, she appreciates her so much. Mr. Pratt, good old Franklin Perkins School, my have we come so far since then. She prays we never go backwards. SPED and the support staff, we have some of the best. We are lucky for that. She thanked Mr. Pratt and Ms. Gill and the PTO powerhouse. There are few volunteers, but they are mighty and she knows how much work it is and how much time it takes. All volunteer hours. She loves seeing that the PTO supports not just sports students as in previous one's way back. Great report, great organization, so get involved. Parents helping, keep donating, it is so needed and so appreciated. Savannah Dubois, make sure you look that up on Facebook. She is generous, talented and a WLC graduate. She applauds her for all of that. Thank you everybody for all the hard work you do!

XI. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Collins congratulated Ms. Anzalone and welcomed her back to the Board. A huge thank you to the PTO, great job with the Penny Sale. She has not gone to one and would love to connect with them, maybe she can donate something. Thank you for all the great work that you've been doing.

Ms. Foss thanked Mr. Pratt for giving them the SPED documents, it is always good to have something like this to refer to.

Ms. Lavallee thanked the PTO who did an excellent job at the Penny Sale. They do a really good job of instilling a sense of community and importance of volunteering with our youth and she appreciates that more than anything else and of course she appreciates the money they raise. She congratulated Ms. Anzalone on coming back to the Board and looks forward to

working with her. She thanked Mr. Pratt for the information he brought regarding SPED. She thinks it is important that we as board members understand not just the legal requirements of special education but also the need and purpose because our goal is for all children in the district regardless. It is for them to be successful by the time they leave here and that result is different for all different kids whether college bound kids, CTE programs or going into the workforce, it's important to meet the needs of all the children to make sure they are successful.

Mr. Zavgren thanked Mr. Pratt for the handouts and looks forward to learning about special education.

Mr. White echoed all the comments and congratulated Ms. Anzalone and Ms. Gibson for helping with tennis and everybody that is spending their time helping us out.

Ms. Alley thanked the coaches who are working hard with the teams and for the policy we have for making sure kids keep their grades up. It has really helped her boys to keep their grades up so that they can stay on the team. She thanked the coaches for spending so much time. Her boys are in track and the coach was on all day Saturday and drove them; there were about 20 teams there and he was there the whole time. She appreciated that and congratulated Ms. Gill and thanked her for her hard work. She congratulated Ms. Anzalone.

Chairman Golding reminded the group to get a hold of Ms. Gill if you can help for the teacher appreciation days.

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

A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to enter Non-Public Session to review the non-public minutes and discuss personnel matters RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (B) (C) at 7:23pm.

Ms. Collins commented the art opener is this Thursday.

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

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 7:54pm.

A MOTION was made to seal the non-public session minutes RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (B) (C) by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Alley.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. White to adjourn the Board meeting at 7:55pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*