

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, April 8, 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 Lavallee, John Zavgren, Michelle Alley, Paul White, Erin Collins, Geoffrey Allen, Diane Foss, Jonathan Lavoie, and school board student representatives Hannah Hamilton and Andie White*

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Golding called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**III. STUDENT/STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Principal Fuller honored several students who were recommended by their teachers as Assertion Ambassadors and reviewed the many reasons for their recommendations including contributing to a positive classroom environment, showing great progress, clear communication and demonstrates confidence in stating their needs and a strong sense of self. The Cooperation Ambassadors are Ella Merrithew, Raegan Trombley, Molly Morrow, Shea Bigue, Sadie Bent, Eve Haynes, Addison Raymond, James Dewing-Baird, Teagan Popores-LaFluer, Anthony Leite, Jameson McCoy, William Morin, Andrew Hare and Hannah Gill. The students were congratulated and received a round of applause.

Principal Fuller and Assistant Principal Gosselin reviewed the nominations for the Starfish Award and the many reasons they were nominated. The nominees are Melissa Norton, Taryn Anderson, Donna Garnham, Stephanie Loiselle and Ariel Desfosses. Ms. Anderson was the chosen recipient. Ms. Anderson is always here with a smile on her face. She has made an impact on the school and became department head in just 2 years. She has been a key member advocating for kids and has done a remarkable job. The music program has flourished since she has been here. Ms. Anderson was congratulated and received a round of applause.

**IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

*A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Ms. Collins to move the Student Representative Board Report to immediately after adjustments to the agenda.  
Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

**• STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD REPORT**

Ms. Andie White, MS representative voiced it has been a great start to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and students are transitioning well. The new students are doing well and finding their way to classes. They have made friends to help them out with it. A suggestion in the suggestion box was regarding the boys bathrooms have been vandalized a few times and that has been an issue. She reminded the group that when she started reporting to the Board she spoke of having a robotics team and it was supposed to happen halfway through and she has not seen anything happening. She also wanted to know if there is any plan to have one next year. Ms. Lavallee responded it is in the budget for next year.

Ms. Hannah Hamilton, HS representative is excited to announce that the Drama Club would be presenting the musical The Little Mermaid on April 10th and 11th at 6:00 PM in the WLC Cafeteria. The cast and students have been working many hours to bring this enchanting story to life, showcasing the talents of our students in acting, singing, and stage production. We encourage the entire school community to come out and support the students as they perform this production. Tickets are available at the door, and all are welcome to attend. Spring sports have officially kicked off, and we are thrilled to see the enthusiasm and commitment from our athletes across several teams. Our MS baseball and softball teams have begun their seasons, and we are looking forward to watching their growth and progress throughout the year. Additionally, the varsity baseball and softball teams are off to a strong start, with both teams showing determination and skill as they compete. Track season is in full swing, and athletes are pushing their limits in preparation for upcoming meets. Finally, our Unified Volleyball team is continuing to inspire the school with their teamwork and dedication. We wish all of our spring sports teams the best of luck as they represent our school in the coming weeks. As part of our ongoing commitment to student success, many of our HS students are dedicating time to prepare for the upcoming PSAT and SAT exams. Students are utilizing resources both in and outside of the classroom, with test prep sessions scheduled throughout the weeks as we approach the exams. These efforts will help ensure strong

performance on the tests. Our seniors continue to work hard on their senior projects. This year's projects are incredibly diverse and reflect the wide range of interests and passions our students have. From community service initiatives to research-based projects, each senior is investing considerable time and effort into creating meaningful projects. Everyone is looking forward to seeing their final presentations and celebrating their accomplishments as they prepare for graduation. The Senior Project Date is May 15<sup>th</sup>. The HS woodshop students have been busy creating beautiful, handcrafted cutting boards, which were sold at the district meeting. The quality of the work is incredible, and the cutting boards were well received by all. The students put a great deal of effort into each piece, showcasing their skills in woodworking, design, and craftsmanship. It was a proud moment for our school to see their work displayed and appreciated by the community. We are excited to see what other projects they will create in the future. Ms. Lavallee informed the group that she and Ms. LaPlante will be getting together with the school representatives to do some training in the next couple weeks. Ms. Lavallee commented on the woodshop projects and really enjoyed them and that they were at district meeting. She asked if they could bring back to the student body if there is interest in being at Lyndeborough Days in August and have a booth with her. If there is interest in volunteering to run a booth with her and maybe carry over some of that community outreach with the projects we do at school.

#### V. POLICY BBBE-VACANCIES AND UNEXPIRED TERM FULFILLMENT DISCUSSION

Mr. Allen requested this item to be on this agenda. Mr. Allen informed the group he will be resigning from the School Board effective as of 9AM tomorrow as he will be taking the position of Town Administrator in Lyndeborough. He notes statutorily he can remain on the school board, he felt there would be a conflict of interest between his service here and his new position. He does not want to leave Lyndeborough without full representation and asks that there be discussion as noted in policy BBBE, section E to recognize the vacancy has been created and direct the Superintendent to advertise it for 2 weeks so we can have a vote on the person at the next meeting. He offered to stay on the Facilities Committee and Strategic Planning Committee should he be considered.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Mr. Lavoie to direct the Superintendent to advertise a vacancy on the School Board for a Lyndeborough resident only to run from tomorrow to the Monday before the next meeting and add to the agenda for the next meeting, discussion, interviews and vote for that position.*

Mr. Allen expressed he has thoroughly enjoyed his time here and has appreciated the Superintendent; the Board is not the one that he walked into. A lot of good work has been done and he commends everyone on the Board their dedication and diligence and allowing him to be part of it. He appreciates the support from the Board and administration, it has not been an easy decision for him to make. Chairman Golding voiced appreciation for the work Mr. Allen has done on the Board and will not enjoy not having him here. Ms. Collins congratulated Mr. Allen and wished him much success. Ms. Lavallee wished Mr. Allen success, he has been an integral part to that change and the work he did on the Facilities Committee is appreciated and was needed. She appreciated his comments tonight and notes he will be missed.

*Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

#### VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Mr. Bob Newton, Lyndeborough was elected Moderator, introduced himself to the group, and offered any assistance in planning, organizing and running the school district meeting. While the last meeting is fresh in everyone's mind, he asks if there are any ideas to share with him. He is putting together a plan on how to run the meeting smoothly. Earlier is better to contact him, anytime during business hours. Ms. Lavallee congratulated him.

Mr. Adam Lavallee, Lyndeborough suggested the Board makes a policy that you split the funds for sports equally across the seasons because he finds spring sports gets the short end of the stick. It is all spent for fall and winter and spring sports are left digging for scraps.

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

Ms. Darlene Anzalone thanked Mr. Allen for his service on the Board.

Ms. Mary Golding, Wilton, 30-year resident, taxpayer and registered voter congratulated all the Assertion Ambassadors and Taryn Anderson as the Starfish Awardee. Ms. Golding purchased a cutting board at district meeting that she loves and would support them again. She voiced being happy for Mr. Allen, but is sad to see him go and the next person has big shoes to fill. She thanked him for all his hard work and dedication with the CIP and volunteering. She will miss seeing his face, is so happy for him, and wishes him nothing but the best. She notes she knows the Board will carefully consider all applicants and choose the next member wisely.

## VII. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

### a. Reports

#### i. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent reported serving as a judge for the Youth of the Year at the Boys and Girls Club and a judge for BioTrek at WLC. He was inspired by the kids at BioTrek today and the ARMI could not believe they were 9<sup>th</sup> graders with the level of quality in their presentations; she is used to seeing juniors and seniors. In a round about way, it was a compliment for our students and staff. The Youth of the Year essays were so good; there is so much talent out there. He spoke of needing a van and doesn't know when we can get support for this. Ms. LaPlante has been looking at transportation costs going up. We spoke of a need for another van for athletic transport away games but knows we need to dig deeper into it. He offers to do a full presentation with the Board's support, right now, it is just preliminary research but it seems there would be a savings. He can't say if it is significant as it would depend on how much it would be used. He informs the group the trip to the Lisbon game cost \$1,500 in transport. We have over 100 away games between the MS and HS. He would like to present something using unspent funds similar to what we did with the truck with the Boards support.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Collins and SECONDED by Mr. White to direct the Superintendent to look into the possible purchase of a van and present this the 1st meeting in May.*

*Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

Superintendent informed the group of his resignation at the end of the next school year. He notes it has nothing to do with how the district is going or how he is doing or his relationships, it is more related to if he can give 100% full time, and his family's needs. He is hoping to find more of a balance and flexibility. It is good to have this conversation when the district is doing so well and this gives Board time to consider how they want to move forward. He appreciates the Board for letting him work here. There was a brief conversation on federal grant funding with some of the executive orders. A question was raised if council has looked at what we offer and verified that nothing we're offering could potentially fall under that because of some of the wording in the executive order is vague and do we have clarification on what constitutes DEI. Superintendent responds that we don't have a DEI Coordinator in the district. We don't have those programs, we may have some policies that have that language in them and would welcome an audit if there were such a thing. He adds when we see it, we know it and larger districts are struggling with those issues today and trying to address them. He doesn't think we have any and even if we had clearer definition from them, it is a pretty low concern. He attended a grant workshop and they didn't put it in writing but said our grants won't go down. Until we know that, we have to be careful on what decision we make and if we can have certain programs such as our mentor program and Title I, some STEM activities and if we can build a Title IV robotics program. They were clear that they don't know what will happen 2 years from now. He spoke of working on a consolidated grant application, which is new that we have to do and is due in June but trying to complete it this month so there is time if there is an issue. A large part is proportionate shares with High Mowing and we meet with them about how do they want to spend it, how much and when it is coming. Mr. Lavoie commented on the Superintendent's resignation stating he will be missed and he enjoyed having him here and appreciates the advance notice. He asked if there was anything on the Superintendent's list that he may want to get accomplished before his last day. Superintendent responded that since he has been here there has been a lot of talk if we can sustain ourselves. He would like to do the research and present it to the Strategic Planning Committee. He has heard that maybe we should tuition our HS out, he has not heard that it is because of a lack of opportunity for our students but that people look at it from a budgeting perspective because of our size. He has also heard if we can maintain all 3 buildings and he would like to put these things to rest through research because it is really distracting. When we interview teachers they ask, are you going to be open 4 years from now? He wants them to see we are not going anywhere. It doesn't mean we don't pay attention to our budget and programs that are best for kids. He wants to maintain our staff and thinks we have some of the best he has ever worked with in his 30 years in education. We have a good CBA and doesn't want to lose support staff either. We number 3 in our region out of 9 schools, it is hard to beat Hollis-Brookline or Amherst but thinks we can get closer and wants to dig into that ranking more. Chairman Golding voiced we can use our discussion on community members to allow the Superintendent to do the research.

#### ii. Student's School Board Report

See above.

#### iii. WLCTA Report

Ms. Kudlich reported for FRES/LCS:

- 2nd graders went on a field trip to the Colonial Theater in Keene to see "Kattam and His Tam-Tams," which features music from Africa, the Middle East, and India.
- 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders have started their NH SAS testing and will continue through May to complete this yearly state-testing requirement. They will also be doing their end of year I-ready testing, which will provide teachers a benchmark for starting next year.
- 4th graders have been growing their plants for the plant sale, and they're looking great! They will be sold on May 10th, which is the same day as the Community Fair in Main Street Park.
- 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will be having their Spring Concert on May 29th at 6pm. This concert will also feature the 4th and 5th grade band students.
- 4th quarter has started and 1st-5th students are getting a chance to choose their Friday Specials class. Ask your student which class they chose!

Ms. Collins commented that she got to see Kattam and Hs Tam-Tams, which was an amazing field trip experience. Ms. Kudlich voiced the last time she was here was for district meeting and thanked the students, Board and community for what they voted and showed up for. She gave a huge thank you to administrators, teachers, community members and all the artwork that was in the halls for everyone to see. It is great to be part of this community. Chairman Golding responded that it is because of the effort put forth by the teachers and we appreciate it.

Ms. Rosana reported for WLC:

- Middle school staff is creating a cross-curricular project centered around Thomas Jefferson's presidency. 8th graders will compile a portfolio linking each subject to the era. In math, they'll analyze inflation and prices of goods at the time; in science, they'll explore the natural resources of the Lewis and Clark Expedition; in language arts, they'll write creative narratives from a traveler's perspective; and in social studies, they'll map events leading to the Louisiana Territory expedition. The project will be showcased at Curriculum Night on April 23rd.
- HS students taking PSAT/SAT on April 9th
- Huge thank you to the PTO for working with the class of 2026 at the Penny Sale on March 26th. We had 12 juniors, plus NHS students and other student volunteers working with the community to run the event. It was a huge success and we appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with PTO.
- Math tutoring started back in January, and since then there have been 12 different students that came in on their own time to work on math, ranging from 6th grade math to PSAT9 practice. 4-5 of these students are regulars that come in every week!
- Drama club performing The Little Mermaid April 10th and 11th. Special thanks to Taryn Anderson for all she does to make these productions possible!
- National Honor Society 2024-2025 induction ceremony April 17th @ 6:00 pm
- April 23 @5:00: Curriculum Night + Student-Led Conferences (MS)
- Students from grades 10-12 who signed up are going to Washington DC May 5-8. Thanks to Katy Morshed for making this trip possible!
- Junior/Senior Prom is coming up on May 10th at Alpine Grove. Thank you to all community members who have donated at fundraisers to make prom possible!
- The Quarter 3 MS Multimedia Artwork is currently on display at the downtown Wilton Library until May. Join us for the opening reception on Thursday, April 24th, from 5-7 PM. Everyone is welcome to enjoy and support the arts in our community! ~ In May, the HS Art Show at the downtown Wilton Library will showcase works from Drawing, 3D, and Communication Arts classes from Semester 1 and 2. Stay tuned for details on the opening reception!
- Additionally, WLC Arts is hosting the Spring into Summer Community Fair on Saturday, May 10th, from 8 AM to 2 PM in Wilton's Main Street Park—which coincidentally is the same day as the FRES Plant Sale! Emily Hall and Bri Lavallee are collaborating with the promotion of both events, as Ms. Hall will be fostering Quarter 4 6th-grade art students to create vibrant, repurposed lawn signs to promote these events and brighten our downtown area with youth art!
- If you or someone you know is interested in tabling at the event or performing live music, please reach out to Emily Hall. Let's make this a colorful and unforgettable celebration of community and creativity!
- Senior Project Extravaganza May 15 - Special thanks to all mentors and Bill Comerford for his role in spearheading Senior Project.

#### **iv. Principal's Report**

Principal Fuller reported FRES field day is June 5 with a rain date of June 6 and LCS field day is June 6. A question was raised if the Chess Club had volunteers. Principal Fuller responded teachers Ms. Radloff and Ms. Loiselle are working with the Chess Club and there was a lot of student interest, so much that they have 10 students on the wait list. It was noted that it is exciting that LCS students observed chicks hatching. Mr. Allen commented he liked how the behavior updates are broken out and student representation. He asked if you roll out the 12 months what percentages are repeat offenders. Principal Fuller responded we do have repeat offenders and some one-offs every month and would need to analyze the data to get his answer. She confirmed there are large numbers for March. Six out of school suspensions and each one is its own incident and not related. A question was raised if other districts are doing/presenting this type of data and could they do a comparison. Assistant Principal Gosselin responded in terms of the report, you don't see this often, this level of break out especially comparing to last year and the breakdown of incidents. We noticed last year it was a great concern and is why we take the time to do it. At the end of the year, we are required to submit a safe schools survey to the state, which includes bullying, detentions, in/out school suspension so there is a level of tracking it. However, in terms of other districts doing this, she has not seen it. A question was raised if we have utilized social media for recruiting substitutes on community pages. Assistant Principal Gosselin confirms on the Facebook page is a link to the openings on our website. She confirms they need substitutes regularly. Ms. Collins offered to make signs to put out front of the school calling attention to it. Both Principals welcome this. Principal Fuller also adds the need it to her Friday

memo. She confirms they want as many as they can get. Assistant Principal Gosselin expressed being thankful for the teachers who step up and cover otherwise she would never be out of the classroom.

Assistant Principal Gosselin reported curriculum night is the 23<sup>rd</sup>. 5pm-7pm grades 6-12. There will be lots of things showcased, senior projects, and cooking demonstrations. We have student led conferences for grades 6 and 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> grade doing interdisciplinary projects it is very much like the STEAM night we used to have. Assessments start tomorrow. She was excited to report we have our lowest number of students on academic probation, with only 4 students. She confirms it is typically 4-9 and you can only be on it once. These 4 kids have never been on it. If you start the season with an F or 2 every 10 days you have to have a grade check and your teacher has to check off that you are in good standing if you are not you are no longer eligible. It is a huge incentive. The way the teachers offer remediation, any kid who wants to do well will and the coaches are supportive. She gave a shout-out to the PTO and Lions Club; it was a very successful Penny Sale. They give back so much to the junior class every year and thanked Ms. Gill. She reviewed the nominees for the Hall of Fame, Ryan Harkleroad, Nick Jowders, Dave Finch, Carol Young, Shauna Carter, Mike McMurray, Catherine Lass and Kristen Vander-Heyden, that is happening May 20 at 6pm. She confirmed the bathroom vandalism that Ms. White spoke about is the upstairs MS boy's bathroom and we are running into challenges there. Principal Ronning has been spending a lot of time trying to police it and keep kids going. She confirms there have not been a lot of suspensions or detentions but with these, it has been a lot of parent meetings because it is a little unusual for some of these kids and hope to have a reduced number in April. Some of this is dress code issues popping back up but mostly things are going really well. She spoke about the Patriots Pen Essays and the Voice of Democracy Essays that the student write and we had several students placed, we just found out today. Patriots Pen, MS students that placed are Maddie Hanks, Gabby Abasciano and Avery Niquette which was outstanding. Voice of Democracy there were 3 other WLC students that placed within the local Posts, Evan Kimball, ISA UI and Emily Hazelton. Maddie Hanks went on to the district level and placed third. Some of the students read them during our Veterans Celebration. They have been invited to a special day in a couple of weeks to get some recognition for a job well done. It was suggested to post those on the website. Ms. Lavallee commented that she finds it hopeful that a student wrote a suggestion regarding the bathrooms and it speaks to the students themselves taking care of the buildings and want it addressed. It goes to the point she wants to make that when she joined the Board there was a focus on addressing culture and climate. There was work being done but there were still challenges. After hearing the students at the district meeting speaking about how the kids feel about our schools and the pride they have, it speaks a lot about the administration and the teachers and staff at the schools. You have really turned to the right direction and we are seeing that positive outcome of the increased pride the students have in our schools. Thank you for all the hard work the last couple of years, she has noticed the difference. Assistant Principal Gosselin confirms a lot of the vandalism comes down to plugging the toilet with paper towels and then it got used and was clogged further. Dress codes is mostly with boys wearing inappropriate shirts, beer logos or inappropriate words on them and for girls it is mostly wearing crop tops. Responding to a question regarding cell phones, teachers do a good job logging everything. We have a couple of students who are on a plan where they cant bring their phone beyond the main doors and leave it in the office but for the most part we have good parent support when a student has struggled with their cell phone. She thinks some of the proof that these policies are working is the number of kids on probation, the rigor and increased scores. The kids are paying attention because they have to. The teachers do a good job minimizing the phones and we are seeing the results from it.

#### **v. Curriculum Coordinator's Report**

Ms. Dignan reported being at LCS the day the day chicks hatched. There is nothing more magical than watching kindergarteners watch chick's hatch. March 28 was we had our 1<sup>st</sup> full PD day of the year. Teachers met working on competencies, working on alignment and meeting in content area teams making sure they go in order K-12 and there are not gaps in the alignment at all. New teachers met in March and talked about being a marigold. Marigolds help the plants that grow around them to grow and walnut trees actually poison the soil around them and kill the other plants. We talked about the difference between being like a marigold vs. the walnut tree in education and that brought things full circle. This time of year testing starts. The PD Committee has been working on the May 16 PD which we will do "choose your own adventure" including technology, basic reading, math skills and whatever the teachers said they wanted more training on. We have asked the presenters to teach 3, 45-minute sessions and teachers need to sign up ahead of time. Our curriculum is coming along and getting it all perfectly documented for the NEASC review. We started NHSAS, it opened April 1, 5<sup>th</sup> grade completed science, 4<sup>th</sup> grade completed writing and grades 6-8 will be doing the writing assessments this week.

### **VIII. ASSIGN COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES**

Chairman Golding reviewed community member/s who volunteered for the Facilities Committee. There is only 1 from Mr. Bill Crouse, Lyndeborough. .

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to appoint Mr. Bill Crouse as a Lyndeborough representative on the Facilities Committee.*

*Voting: all aye; motion carried.*

Chairman Golding reviewed the Board wanted 4 community members on the Strategic Planning Committee, wanted 2 from each town. We have 4 interested from Lyndeborough. He does not have an issue having all 4 from one town as long as we have community input.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to accept all 4 applicants to the Strategic Planning Committee, Ms. Darlene Anzalone, Lyndeborough, Geoff Allen, Lyndeborough, Adam Lavallee, Lyndeborough, and Mr. Bill Crouse, Lyndeborough.*  
*Voting: eight ayes, one abstention from Ms. Lavallee, motion carried.*

Chairman Golding voiced that the Superintendent brought up the viability of sustaining 3 buildings and tuitioning students out. Mr. Allen suggested the Board look to appointing other board members to the committees he was on. Chairman Golding suggests waiting until the vacant seat is filled. The Superintendent can do his research and then we can set committee-meeting dates once we have a new member. He asked if the Board was amenable to that, no objection was heard. He confirms the Superintendent has his new marching orders (doing research).

## **IX. END OF YEAR BUDGET EXPENDITURES**

Ms. LaPlante is estimating a return of about \$75,000, low estimate. She reviewed her findings of the SPED funding lines being \$471,110 over budget. She believes the remainder of the budget can absorb it; we are not in a deficit at this point. We are looking at what we spent year to date and do not anticipate that gap becoming any greater. A question was raised regarding just under four million budgeted in SPED with over four million forecasted to be spent this fiscal year and how many of those expenses are mandated by law or things we requested. Could we keep anything in house rather than send out and where does the authorization to spend come from. Mr. Pratt reported having some offset in the teacher line, with a \$59,000 deficit, which is offset by the reading specialist line of \$59,000. Reasoning for this is we had a contracted service and now have an employee. The rest are in buckets, the first is out of district tuition, we budgeted for a student who moved out and now a student moved in that is more expensive, that is the \$64,000 shortage. The next bucket is transportation, which we have talked about at the Board level and with the Budget Committee and the challenges of it. With the new student coming in, transportation alone is \$80,000 and one other transport has changed. A vendor could not do the transport anymore and some days we call for transport and things have changed. We looked at where we will be next year and are very certain we have the right funding in there with the people we have. In 8 months that could change. The next is the ABA/RBT bucket. We had some problems hiring and keeping ABA's and that forced us to go outside and hire through contracted services. We had some relatively reasonable. A typical ABA will cost us about \$60 an hour through a contracted service. We spend \$20-\$26 per hour for our ABAs. We had 3 paying about \$35-\$40 more a day for 32 hours a week for 36 weeks. That is that overage. Finally, the paraeducators, we started the year down 5 paraeducators and not for the lack of trying. Recruiting was difficult this year. Agencies charge \$50-\$55 per hour and some could be up to \$60-\$75 per hour. They are all necessary. We have started recruiting for this year and have been successful already receiving applications. He warned Ms. LaPlante that we need to get these folks contracts ASAP. We don't intend to use any contracted service next year, they were necessary to provide services to our kids not only would we not be in compliance but lawyer fees would have been much more. He spoke of being grateful to have a Superintendent, Business Administrator and Administration Team and their support. Even though Ms. LaPlante said we could absorb it in unspent funds, we still have the capital reserve if needed. A question was raised how many para positions are open in the district. Mr. Pratt confirms 5 and at the end of this school year will have another. We have a position in preschool we are trying to evaluate whether it will be preschool or another school. He confirms he has spoken with 6 candidates more than once. He confirms we have contracts through the end of the school year and notes there is a caveat of having to pay a fee if we hire their staff, which costs about \$30,000 each. He confirms we are obligated to maintain them through the end of the year. He confirms most require payment of the fee but some will offer more flexibility but you pay more (per hour). He confirms there are 3 ABA positions open and he has had 2 applications from candidates close to our towns. There was a brief discussion that other districts have had a tough time filling positions. A question was raised if there is anything at the state level that they are looking at to try to make training and hiring more efficient so school can meet the need. It was noted that paraprofessionals are a legal obligation if in the IEP or 504 and if a student requires a para and doesn't have one it does affect other students in the class. Mr. Pratt confirms he meets with other SPED Directors a couple times a month and is grateful for our teachers. He spoke of the larger districts doing great programs and offering incentives if you stay you get a certain amount of dollars and they offer training and what they are finding is the paras will go to another district for \$2 more an hour. Your best bet for getting paras are hiring ones that live locally. ABA's it is tough, we have a great crew that want to be here. Related services such as OT, speech, PT, it is hard too. He spoke to a speech person today who said if we booked her through an agency; it would \$120 per hour, there is sense of loyalty. He continues to look for ways to incentivize and tells the group to talk to parents. Discussion was had regarding the requirements for driving a SPED bus and if it is something, we should look at, what are the legal requirements and training. Mr. Pratt confirms there is a lot of liability and training. He does think we should think about investing in our own van/s. Out of district is hard because sometimes the kids are going in opposite directions but in district we may be able to get more bang for our buck. It was suggested that if we do the research it might behoove us to talk to other districts near us to see if we can develop partnerships. Mr. Pratt confirms we did meet with Milford and they were amazed that our transport was not costing as much as theirs. It was suggested to offer the additional \$2 to retain the employee and develop the same loyalty. A question was raised that we keep talking about transportation, is there a way to move that up. Superintendent voiced that we want to get some of the research to you and time it for the budget. If we look at a new small bus with a lift, it is about \$120,000 new and then we need to train the driver. The training is not expensive, it is finding the driver that wants to commit to doing the 10 hours of classroom training and taking the written and driving test to get the designation on their license and then commit to us. We would have to be sure to pay enough to keep the drivers here. We're charged \$45 per hour for Butler's buses but doesn't know how much the drivers are paid and they are paid the whole time for away events including during the games. He did speak to a vendor in Maine about SPED busing. A

used van with about 20,000-50,000 miles is still about \$50,000 for lightly used 12-15 passenger van. It's a big commitment; we just want to be sure to have all the information before we actually say yes we will buy a SPED bus. Discussion continued including that we would still save money, difficulty in finding drivers, looking internally to do some incentives to drive. Superintendent they start in July already talking about the budget and looking at where we could cut and where we can increase and if we are looking at buses to try to get that into the budget and where could we find offset. Those are the conversations they have. He confirms we have started doing the research, looking at used vans with low mileage, we found 3. There was brief discussion regarding Butler being the only vendor in the region. Amherst purchased 6 vans last year and Milford purchased 3 but they didn't have drivers. Butler actually purchased a couple of SPED busses but those are used in the larger districts. It was determined that the Superintendent can look at/research purchasing a van. A question was raised if the unspent funds that went into the capital reserve (for situations beyond our control) last year could be used for a van. Ms. LaPlante responded no, it is specific to buildings and roadways. It was suggested that we might be able to save money by using Municibid and using unspent funds we would not have to wait a whole additional budget cycle. Transportation issues are not going away if anything they are going up. A question was raised if we could use funds from the SPED capital reserve. Ms. LaPlante does not think so, but will check with the DRA. A concern was raised purchasing a used vehicle and the cost to maintain it and that should be considered in the research and safety of a used vehicle. Mr. Allen pointed out that buying a vehicle off Municibid is not the same as buying one for you family. The Town of Lyndeborough purchased a fire truck hardly used and save money. When they switched to preventative maintenance agreements, it saved them in the end. A question was raised where the \$471,000 in SPED expenditures was being absorbed. Ms. LaPlante responded it is being absorbed across the budget. She will have a YTD Report for the April 22 meeting and will better identify those surplus areas. A question was raised if this happens again next year will we be able to absorb it. Ms. LaPlante responds she doesn't know. Mr. Pratt added that we are also scrubbing encumbrances in the SPED area; we maximize encumbrances at the beginning of the year and may have some savings there. Ms. LaPlante informed the group back in 2004 the SPED capital reserve is written for the purposes of educating educationally disabled children and thinks using it for a van is a stretch but will look into it.

## **X. POLICIES**

### **a. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

#### **i. IKF-High School Graduation Requirements**

Ms. Lavallee reviewed this the 1<sup>st</sup> reading. This was revised to reflect updates to RSA 193:26A and RSA 193. Administration looked at them as well and on top of the edits done in Policy Committee, they added a table, which includes the 2026-27 changes and the ones for this year, and the language was updated regarding the civics exam in anticipation of additional changes from the State. Superintendent noted the biggest change is an increase in graduation requirements in social studies what is interesting is it requires more credits than math or science and that social studies is the only content that is not tested. It is increased in a way that doesn't even make sense. He thinks it is absurd. Rather than increasing English or math expectations, they increase the one that is not even tested. It's hard for the small districts because we only have so many social studies teachers. Who teaches the additional classes and what electives will the students lose because of it. We have civics now but will have to teach it in a different way; they are presenting it as a standalone class, a semester class vs. the way it is folded into US History for example. Ms. Lavallee asked for any questions or comments, none heard. Policy will return for a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. A question was raised when it will take begin. Assistant Principal Gosselin responded after the 7<sup>th</sup> graders and there will be a transition one you have both diplomas at the same time, we will get very creative for sure.

### **b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

#### **i. IGE-Parent Objection to Specific Course Materials**

#### **ii. IHAM-Health Education and Exemption from Instruction**

#### **iii. JLCJA-Emergency Plan for Sports Related Injuries and Additional Protocols for Athletics Participation**

Ms. Lavallee reviewed there were no changes since the 1<sup>st</sup> reading on any of these policies. She asked for any questions or comments, none heard.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to adopt policies, IGE-Parent Objection to Specific Course Materials, IHAM-Health Education and Exemption from Instruction, JLCJA-Emergency Plan for Sports Related Injuries and Additional Protocols for Athletics Participation.*

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

### **c. Annual Review-DFA-Investment**

Ms. Lavallee reviewed this is a policy us up for annual adoption. No changes made on this or legislative changes all year. We don't need to make a motion to adopt just need to add a review date that the Board reviewed it. No questions, comments, or objections heard.

## **XI. ACTION ITEMS**

### **a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting**

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to approve the minutes of March 18, 2025 as written.*

*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Mr. White to approve the non-public minutes of March 18, 2025 as written.*  
*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

## **XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **i. Policy Committee**

Ms. Lavalley reported a typo on the document, it should read March not February that the committee met. They worked on the last policies of the fall update and policies will come to the Board in the next few meetings. They reviewed policy DAFB, which came up in an audit but was determined we don't need to have it as it does not pertain to us, we don't have a separate Title I school. We worked on spring policy updates and there are some minor updates coming. We worked on BGGA which will come to the Board and takes current policies on policy development and condensing them so we don't have multiples and will have additions such as if only a review is needed we can move forward with it in committee vs coming to the Board for only minor things like adding a legal reference. Work on the Title IX continues and the Superintendent and Ms. LaPlante will attend training and will take questions with them from the committee. We used the draft policies from Drummond and Woodsum and there is some overlap and appears some things are missing and one is related to nondiscrimination in food services so Ms. Lavalley will compile the questions and that will be the bulk of the next meeting going over the Title IX policies. They will do a little work on the facilities policy, the naming of the facilities policy and a few others like meeting minutes because we had some recommendations from Council of things we can add to policy BEDG-Meeting Minutes. She asked for any questions or comments or if there were anything the Board would like the committee to address. None heard.

### **ii. Budget Liaison**

Mr. White reviewed the committee met and elected Mr. Ryan as Chairman and Ms. Lavoie as Vice Chair. They appointed committee members but he doesn't know the members yet but they were able to fill all the slots. The next meeting is May 21 and we will start discussing how we would like the budgets and things we want for comparison and will start with that. Mr. Ryan is the Board Liaison with Mr. Vanderhoof as a backup.

Chairman Golding informed the group that the Technology Committee will meet May 7 at 6pm at WLC.

## **XIII. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES**

### **a. Resignation-Michelle Mason-Paraprofessional-WLC**

### **b. Resignation-Allison Hobbs-Elementary Teacher-FRES-End of Year**

Superintendent reviewed the resignations.

## **XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public comment section of the agenda was read. No public comment from public present.

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

Ms. Darlene Anzalone officially thanked Mr. Allen for his time on the Board and wishes him the best of luck in his new position. She enjoyed working with him. Superintendent Weaver, she is very bummed to hear of his resignation and wishes him the best when he leaves. She is looking forward to working on the Strategic Planning Committee. She gave a shout-out to the PTO and all the kids that worked so hard at the Penny Sale. It was very successful. There were a lot of students, not just the junior class who were supposed to be there volunteering. It was great to see a lot of kids at the school step up and volunteer.

Ms. Jenny Lord, Wilton, asked for her comments to be read. She thanked Mr. Allen and appreciates his time and service an input. Ms. Kudlich and Ms. Rosana are both awesome. They help with so many things, thank you both. She also wants to say she agrees with Ms. Rosana about math tutoring with Mr. Kiliulis, it has been incredible and helped tremendously this quarter with one of her children. He goes weekly and truly appreciates these teachers.

Ms. Mary Golding, commented, great meeting. The van idea if its time hopes we can find the funds for that. Girls on the Run is a great program, she is coaching this year. It empowers our students and would love to see more programs for students that will challenges and motivate themselves, build their confidence and forge lasting friendships. She hopes we can find some new programs for the students similar to Girls on the Run. To Superintendent Weaver, she is glad you are sticking around at least for one more year, who knows maybe longer but family first always, and she understands. She is glad you will be here at least one more year. She agrees we are a small district but we are mighty! If we can do the research to put that nonsense to rest, and quite the noise, and focus on the future, imagine what we could accomplish as a great WLC community. She believes the contracts are coming up for the ABA and paras in the next budget cycle and believes there is a negotiations committee formed for that. She would like to see us try to save some money when it comes to SPED because it is quite a hefty price tag. She thanked the Board and appreciates you all.



485 **XV. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

486 Ms. Alley thanked the teachers, she appreciates them and appreciates the coaches for their time and effort they put into the  
487 athletes. She congratulated the Assertion Ambassadors and congratulations to Taryn Anderson and wished luck to the actors in  
488 Little Mermaid. She thanked the school board representatives and the 4 presentations for BioTrek. She asked if the winner could  
489 give a presentation to the Board. She would like to hear from the PTO. Chairman Golding responded he could make that happen.  
490 She thanked the committees and all the hard work they are putting in. She is sad to see Mr. Allen leave but congratulates him on  
491 the position.

492  
493 Ms. Collins echoed all the appreciation. She loves seeing the students here. She asked if a volunteer is needed for table at  
494 Lyndeborough Days. Ms. Lavallee responded no but thought it might be good idea to have students there to sell things. It is  
495 August 17.

496  
497 Ms. Foss echoed all the kudos to the students honored here tonight. In particular, one thing that stood out to her if someone  
498 asked her to come to a Board meeting and speak when she was a freshman she could not have been able to do it. She has a lot of  
499 respect for the young people who come here. It's really special.

500  
501 Ms. Lavallee commented on BioTrek and thanked the school for letting her come in as a judge. When they were in with ARMI,  
502 they were surprised at our 9<sup>th</sup> graders as a lot of the other districts have older students doing it and they were surprised at how  
503 great they did. She thought that was telling of how great the children are. She thanked Ms. Blaise for spearheading this. She likes  
504 how it blossomed and that she went to the training and does it year after year. The marigold metaphor is spot on, the idea of us  
505 all being interconnected and the idea if one succeeds we all do. She recognized all the time the teachers spend with the kids in  
506 school and for the time they spend outside of school hours whether participating in community events like the Penny Sale or  
507 Wilton Old Home Days. It sends a positive role model to the children so they grow up and put their heart and soul into whatever  
508 job they choose to do and whatever community they choose to live in. She thanked Mr. Allen for his service.

509  
510 Mr. Lavoie voiced that we have been hearing from Superintendent Weaver about a student going to an Ivy League School and he  
511 is very proud. It is finally released, congratulations Harrison Krug who is going to Dartmouth. He will not enjoy not seeing Mr.  
512 Allen to his right and asks that he doesn't give him too hard of a time in his new position. He thanked Ms. LaPlante for doing the  
513 work with Mr. Pratt to zero all that out to work into something we can understand. It really spelled it out for everyone on where  
514 the numbers are and it spelled it out on what we need to improve on. It was helpful.

515  
516 Mr. Zavgren thanked the Superintendent for his service; he thinks he has done a great job. He looks forward to hearing more  
517 about making transportation more efficient and affordable. He mentioned he wants to get math and science scores up. He  
518 doesn't know how to do that necessarily but has been working in math and science for over 50 years and has a PHD in math. If  
519 there is anything he could help with, maybe come up with ideas for special purpose tutoring and mentoring and that sort of stuff  
520 and is happy to help in any way. He looks forward to working with him going forward.

521  
522 Mr. White thanked everyone for welcoming him back and making his transition back easier. It is nice working with you all for  
523 the 2 meetings he has. He is sorry to hear Superintendent Weaver won't be with us for through the journey but wishes him well.

524  
525 Chairman Golding gives Mr. Allen the last words.

526  
527 Mr. Allen voiced that the Superintendent always told him there is no way he can stay here if he left. He thanked everyone on the  
528 Board when he came, you showed me grace when I made some mistakes and he appreciates that. He looks at where we started  
529 and is excited to see where you go. He reminded the group that committees are required to provide a written report and he looks  
530 forward to reading those and the packets. He thanked Ms. Lavallee for always doing it. When they first moved here, they talked  
531 about moving their kids out and they have done nothing but thrive here and doesn't see that changing. Thank you for all you do.  
532 He knows it is a thankless job and don't always get kudos and but get the crap and half takes place behind the scenes. He leaves  
533 with a little bit of advice, if you hear something call that person before you go and make an assumption because people like to  
534 talk. I appreciate all of you.

535  
536 **XVI. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (B) (C)**

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

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

540  
541 **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

542 The Board entered public session at 9:50pm.

543  
544 *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*  
545 *Ms. Foss.*

546 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

547  
548           **XVII.   ADJOURNMENT**  
549   *A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavalley and SECONDED by Mr. White to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:51pm.*  
550   *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*  
551  
552   *Respectfully submitted,*  
553   *Kristina Fowler*  
554

DRAFT