

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, November 12, 2024
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School
6:30 p.m.**

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

Present: *Dennis Golding, Brianne Lavalley, John Zavgren, Michelle Alley, Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral, Darlene Anzalone, Geoffrey Allen, Diane Foss, and Jonathan Lavoie*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principals Tom Ronning and Principal Bridgette Fuller, 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 6:31pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. STUDENT/STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Principal Ronning praised Ms. Amber Brewster, Athletic Director, who has done an outstanding job in the fall; we only had 1 game cancelled due to her hard work and efforts. Tomorrow is Athletic Awards Night and he encouraged all to attend if they can. He acknowledged Ms. Mel Jones and the Dance Team who took 1st place in a competition this weekend. They came in 1st place in jazz and hip-hop and came home with big trophies. He acknowledged all the students who participated in the Veterans Day Celebration including the Myah Montmarquet who read her Patriot's Pen Essay, Eila O'Toole and Evan Kimball read their Voice of Democracy Essays, and the choir did an outstanding job led by Ms. Taryn Anderson.

IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

V. 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.

VI. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent reported meeting with 2 Superintendents in our region regarding transportation who have similar concerns such as no drivers available and collapsed routes. It is not an issue of space on the bus; it is an issue of time. Collapsing the routes for us makes a very long ride home for students, some almost an hour. The next step is the Superintendents will meet with the owners of the bus company to see if there is a solution, we are not seeing. Right now, it is unacceptable but we can do only so much. When we put out the RFP, they were the only bidders and the other 2 districts had a similar situation. We are excited to meet with Butler and see if we can come up with a solution. We have talked about a 2nd van and if that would help with savings and alleviate some issues with athletics etc. He spoke of the cost including the maintenance, fuel etc. vs. what we pay for an away game. We have not dug into the details yet because we are also looking at SPED transportation. Right now the cost is almost \$200,000 for in district SPED transport. We want to see if it would be a good investment for us to have a van for SPED in the district. He will inform the Board when he has that meeting scheduled. Ms. Lavalley had asked around in other districts as well and ConVal who have a different provider but are experiencing the same thing. She is glad the Superintendent is working with other districts on this. She asked about NEASC, which is noted in his report. We were accredited in 2019 and asked when that has to be redone. Superintendent spoke of the process and it being different now. Principal Ronning confirms that we just completed and submitted the progress report and we will be up again for accreditation in 2029, it is every 10 years. Discussion was had regarding purchasing a bus. Superintendent confirms he spoke to a vendor in Maine who can provide a bus with a wheelchair lift and the maintenance cost is about \$200-\$250 per month. We are looking at this for SPED and cost to have a bus to take kids to athletic events and looking at alternatives too. Amherst has purchased 5 vans and Milford just purchased vans of their own too to relieve some of the pressure for athletic events. They had issues just getting students to their CTE programs. They did a cost analysis and thought it was a good investment and Milford did the same too. Mr. Allen recommended looking at Municibid. Superintendent acknowledges we need to dig into the math if we are going to ask you to consider it. It is difficult to tell students they can't go and which ones do you cancel. This weekend the dance team did not have a driver for their event, we then got a driver but if not parents may have had to drive them and he didn't want to put that on parents. That should be the last resort.

62
63 **ii. WLCTA Report**

64 Ms. Erin Rosana reported for WLC:

- 65 • Thank you to all parents who showed up to parent-teacher conferences to support their child(ren)!
- 66 • Library- WLC is continuing its partnership with the Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library! 8th grade Library Skills
- 67 students took a field trip to the library, where they took a tour and explored all that the library has to offer. A great time
- 68 was had by all.
- 69 • Spanish- 7th grade, quarter 1, Spanish students recently had a visit from María Ramírez Arranz (WLC's exchange
- 70 student from Spain). They were able to ask her questions and found out about school and life in Spain.
- 71 • HS Social Studies- Bill Keefe, the Wilton Town Moderator, visited WLC and spoke with juniors and seniors about
- 72 local government. He spoke about how the election process is run here in Wilton.
- 73 • Drama Club: WLC's high school drama club presents our fall show "Puffs". Come see this silly take on the Harry
- 74 Potter world from the point of view of the Hufflepuffs. Our shows are November 21st and 22nd both at 6pm in the
- 75 WLC cafeteria. Tickets will be \$5 for students and \$7 for adults.
- 76 • NHS: students from the NHS provided free babysitting during WLC parent-teacher conferences. Applications are
- 77 wrapping up.
- 78 • UK/France Field Trip update: so far, we have 8 parents and 19 students signed up to attend!
- 79 ○ First fundraiser will be the online Double Good popcorn sale Nov. 29- Dec. 3.
- 80 • Teachers are working hard to continue to push the kids academically and uphold high rigor/standards going into the
- 81 holidays.

82 Ms. Rosana reported for FRES/LCS:

- 83 • Happy Veteran's Day to all those who served in the Armed Forces.
- 84 • Kindergarten will be starting monthly walking field trips to the JA Tarbell Public library.
- 85 • FRES will be continuing the tradition of the Turkey Trot on November 22nd.
- 86 • The 4th Annual Holiday Concert will be at FRES on December 11th not 12th at 6 pm. The Scholastic Book Fair is also
- 87 happening that week and will be available to shop before and after the concert.
- 88 • First quarter grades went home, with all of FRES using Powerschool for the first time. Through some major hiccups we
- 89 were able to get it all sorted out, and going forward should be a smooth process to continue using the software.
- 90 Teachers hosted conferences with parents on 11/6 and 11/7.

91 **iii. Business Administrators Report**

92 Ms. LaPlante reported the year-end close out for FY 24 has been officially closed internally and with the State of NH. After

93 applying the \$100,000 that the voters approved to transfer to unspent funds to the Building & Roadways Capital Reserve,

94 \$231,556 was returned to the communities to offset their local portion of their tax rates. It was a little less than anticipated due to

95 a reduction in Medicaid aid and we are working with the vendor. The boilers at WLC are substantially completed doing the final

96 touches, and completely funded through ESSER. The art room countertops have been ordered and should be installed over

97 Christmas break pending when they come in and when the staff can do the work. The locker room project has been scaled back,

98 we met and reviewed how to best focus for our students and visitors, which is to look at the showers, bathroom, storage and

99 handicap access benches and lockers, are nice but it is not a priority right now. Tennis courts are substantially complete, crack

100 sealing has been completed at FRES and LCS and the parking lot at WLC should be done by this Friday. She reviewed the

101 research she did on substitute pay rates. We pay currently \$100 for a teacher or paraprofessional substitute, nurses are \$130 and

102 long-term substitutes are \$264 equivalent of Bachelors, Step 1 on the teachers' scale. We are behind in our region looking at

103 where people might go, if the Board would consider it, she recommends increasing the daily rate for teacher substitutes from

104 \$100 to \$120 effective immediately. She does not think our budget could handle raising that to \$130 right now without having

105 an impact elsewhere and the same for the paraprofessionals. The nurse rate she recommends increasing that to a daily rate of

106 \$155 and then \$175 and the long-term substitute follows the teacher's contract. Ms. Lavallee recuses herself from the vote and

107 discussion as she works as a substitute occasionally in the district.

108
109 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and SECONDED by Mr. Zavgren to increase the rate to \$120 per day for*

110 *substitute teachers and increase the rate for substitute nurses to \$155 per day effective immediately.*

111

112 Mr. Lavoie noted it should have been on the agenda and a brief discussion was had. Ms. LaPlante confirms we still have a lack

113 of substitutes. It was suggested to notice on the website that we are looking for substitutes, it is on the sign at LCS but should

114 utilize those things we have and hopefully we will get applicants. Ms. LaPlante confirms she does not see any issues increasing

115 the daily rate to \$120 with this year's budget. A question was raised if there needs to be any specific qualifications like a degree.

116 Ms. LaPlante confirms no, not for substitutes. She confirms the average rate in the area is \$120-\$130 and she recommends

117 increasing current rate to \$120. She confirms we have a limited number of substitutes and are fortunate that WLC has 2 that are

118 available all the time. It is more limited at FRES. She confirms if anyone is interested reach out to Ms. Lori Spurrell at the SAU

119 office.

120
121 *Voting: eight ayes, one abstention from Ms. Lavallee, motion carried.*
122

123 Ms. LaPlante asked that the manifests be signed regularly. A question was raised if there is any cost associated with the locker
124 rooms and does it come from the capital reserve fund. Ms. LaPlante confirms funding does come from the capital reserve and we
125 are getting costs on that and the plumbing etc.

126 **iv. Principal's Report**

127 Principal Ronning corrected in his report that MS basketball began today it does not it begins tomorrow. We started a validation
128 process for final exams, staff are meetings in groups to make sure we are all on the same page and we make the impact on
129 learning we should. Ms. Amber Brewster, Athletic Director spoke about wrapping up fall sports, all were successful. She gave a
130 shout out to the PTO for serving snacks during the games and warrior gear was successful. Hamburgers and hotdogs were sold
131 separately to fund the WLC Athletic Program, it netted \$750, and it was a great success. She thanked Ms. Lynn Crouse for the
132 photos and taking those to represent our teams, they came out great. We cultivated a relationship with High Mowing with the
133 girls' volleyball team using our gym 3 times a week. Surveys will be sent out to parents and student athletes to obtain feedback
134 on the fall season. Awards Night is tomorrow at 6pm, honoring 32 athletes for their academic efforts; there is a huge push on
135 academic accountability this year. She spent roughly on average 5 hours daily beyond the regular school day on busing, phone
136 calls, scheduling and we can say only 1 game was cancelled this entire season due to busing challenges. We are excited to get
137 winter sports rolling with sign-ups for varsity basketball, MS basketball, swim and indoor track. We have 75 students signed up
138 to participate in winter sports. We cultivated a partnership with Milford to allow indoor track and swimming participation and
139 information has been communicated with students and parents about health forms needed etc. as long as they are in students
140 should be able to participate. MS basketball starts tomorrow with tryouts and the 1st game is against Hillsborough-Deering. HS
141 basketball begins November 18 and the 1st game is scheduled on December 10 against Sunapee. Mr. Allen voiced that this has
142 been one of the best runs he has seen in athletics and it has meant a lot to the kids. A brief discussion was had about the hours
143 Ms. Brewster has been putting in and it was questioned if that is typical for an athletic director (AD). Ms. Lavallee spoke of the
144 Policy Committee working on some athletic policies and she would love some input from Ms. Brewster. Her concern is that we
145 could be doing some things different to make the number of hours less. She spoke of it taking time to track down forms from
146 parents but she looks at it as a partnership and everyone needs to own their role in it. She asked Ms. Brewster what tasks she is
147 doing in those 5 hours. Ms. Brewster responded she does make outreach to parents with missing forms and Final Forms is new,
148 parents are trying to figure it out, in October when it is prime soccer season she is going back and forth with other AD's or
149 working on bussing issues, meetings and scheduling meetings, or uniforms etc. it changes daily. Ms. Lavallee noted as Final
150 Forms is rolled out we should have some improvement and if we can fix the bus issue it would improve there as well. Any input
151 for the Policy Committee would be helpful. Ms. Brewster noted we are not going to allow participation in sports if we do not
152 have the information we need. A question was raised if it would be possible to move the MS basketball tryouts to earlier next
153 year. Ms. Brewster responded there is a specific start date and we are not allowed to have kids play prior and tryouts is
154 considered playing, it is not possible. Principal Ronning was asked about teachers putting together their finals and what does that
155 look like. Principal Ronning explained, you bring your final exam and for example, today we looked at US History. He reviewed
156 the reason for validating final exams. If for example it is a multiple choice, how does that help students with the PSAT etc. He
157 confirms most final exams are not a level 4. Superintendent added that one of the things that school districts don't get to do is
158 calibration of grading. He gave examples of that including reading the same content or essay and all grading it differently, what
159 does an A look like in one class vs. another. One of the outcomes we want is to get teachers to know what a good assessment
160 looks like. One of the challenges for us as a district is to get the adults on the same page of what a good assessment looks like, it
161 takes time and requires you to block time out for that and most schools don't ever get to this step, we are fortunate that Principal
162 Ronning and Assistant Principal Gosselin have started it. Ms. Lavallee spoke regarding the DC trip, there was discussion of
163 collaborations with other schools tonight, has it been considered to include High Mowing, maybe we could reach out to them to
164 see if there is interest in the future. She spoke about the discipline data, at the HS, it appears to be a one to one ratio, and at the
165 MS, the ratio is a lot higher like 8-3. She asked Principal Ronning if he has any insight into why this is. Principal Ronning
166 responded in the HS as you get older you realize what is right and wrong and what will happen and believes that is the difference
167 between MS and HS students. Yes, the HS numbers are down when you get to the MS some is the transition between elementary
168 and MS. He is having conversations with Principal Fuller about what we can do to make the transition easier. He thinks when
169 you look at the MS, it is like the "terrible 2's" because when you look at the 2-year old brain development, they do a whole
170 bunch of stuff because their brain is expanding and that is the same with MS. As they get older in MS, they begin to understand.

171
172 Principal Fuller informed the group the holiday concert has been updated from the 12th to the 11th for grades 3-5, 6pm and there
173 will be a day performance for staff and kindergarten. Please call Ms. Spurrell at the SAU or visit her at the SAU office, we are in
174 need of subs; specialists have been covering and Principal Fuller has been filling in as well. More substitutes would make it
175 smoother. The Spelling Bee is being organized by Ms. Kudlich. The behavior update is provided in her report with a correction
176 that data log entries were done October 2024 not 2023. She was asked about the Plymouth State University's professional
177 educational theater troupe. She explained the Tiger Assembly is a group of actors who had been coming here for years but took a
178 break during COVID and for the 2nd year, they are back. All the children appeared to enjoy it but the 4th and 5th grades got more
179 out of it. She was asked about the bus incidents and if she is seeing an increase of incidence and behaviors. Principal Fuller
180 explained October 2023, there were 11 and this year there are 2. A decline she believes is due to having a bus monitor on the bus
181 that has seen the highest number of incidence. Mr. Lavoie spoke of concern having the Principal cover classes and does not

feels she should be substituting, she has enough to do and questioned if she is not in her office when behavior issues arise who is attending to those. Principal Fuller responded she has not had to do it much but has had to cover for meetings and has had to cover classrooms for a couple of days. For behavior issues we are lucky to have a great staff with Ms. Gauthier in the office, a pool of ABA therapists and Ms. Dignan for one day a week although it is not ideal, it is extra for her but those behaviors are addressed and the reports she would do after. She was asked if she receives additional compensation for that when teachers double up we pay them. She confirms she does not.

VII. YTD REPORTING

Ms. LaPlante reported sending out the YTD Report today through November 12. It is unaudited; she still needs to shake some of it out. For example, you may question why we have a zero dollars budgeted with an expense, 99 times out of a 100 it is in our payroll side and the need to neaten up the accounting. You may say why are the teachers at the MS over by \$106,000 we have the background she just needs to shake that out. We have a blessing and a curse this year, we are fully staffed with all of our teachers and are fortunate that the voters passed the CBA and are seeing great results with our staff but it means we have a tighter budget. Previously we had savings from unfilled positions, FICA, Medicare, retirement and health and dental and this year we don't have that. We are running about less than three quarters of a percent of our wages and benefits unspent and uncommitted at this point. The Principals and Superintendent Weaver have done a great job to make sure the staff we are getting in is in line with what we budgeted for staff last year. The only encumbrance of significance that is not locked in here is heating oil cost because we are finalizing the rate. We are looking at about \$525,000 unspent right now about 3.5% which is concerning for her only because we have never been in this position in her time here. It requires we sit with the Principals and administrators to go over what did you put in the budget, what did you purchase and of what we have not purchased why didn't we purchase it to make sure we are using the last of our funds wisely. At this time last year we were sitting at just shy of a million dollars 9% of our budget was not spent and a lot of this is because we have filled those positions.

VIII. BOARD BUDGET/WARRANT DISCUSSION

Chairman Golding reviewed at the last meeting we talked about an SRO warrant, facilities and SPED. He asked what members are thinking about an SRO warrant. Superintendent spoke that with the SRO situation we need to build a partnership with the Town of Wilton, the officer would be an employee of the town. He spoke to Mr. Germain, Wilton Town Administrator today and the numbers we are working with are old. The Select Board is meeting Monday and Mr. Germain will reach out to Mr. Garcia in particular to see if it is something that can be put on the agenda and if so should we attend and what would that relationship look like. We spoke that in order to move forward with an SRO, it may be a warrant article but if the town doesn't want to support it we would be in a pickle. Ms. LaPlante needs to research the language to see if we can even put it on a warrant. It was requested for Ms. Alley to report on the last Budget Committee meeting. Ms. Lavallee questioned if it is legal for us to put it on a warrant binding another municipality. She supports the SRO position and what it would do here but is concerned about the financial complications knowing where we are at with the budget. Ms. Alley reported there was not a lot of debate on it; they are still doing presentations and not a huge discussion on the SRO. There was 1 vote regarding the \$5,000 for the Europe trip and some discussion that some do not want to support it. We voted on that and did want it in it was not contentious. She confirmed they do not have a number or goal to work toward. Ms. Lavallee spoke that she is concerned with the feedback she is hearing from parents and if we are looking at a situation of taking things out of the budget then adding in an SRO especially when we don't know where the funding will come from. Previously when they changed the funding of retirement it was a huge hit to the taxpayers. Ms. LaPlante confirmed we need to have the warrants completed in January. We need to work with the DRA on the language so that it is such if denied and Wilton approved or vice versa, there is an escape clause. She confirms only a municipality can hire a police officer. Discussion was had including we should be able to put a warrant together with a contingency that it washes itself out if there is a mixed vote. Chairman Golding commented as long as we keep the dialog open and asked Mr. Schultz, Wilton Selectman in the audience if it could be added to the Selectman's agenda. Mr. Schultz spoke and thanked Superintendent Weaver for reaching out to Mr. Germain, he did put a detailed email together with the request to add it to Monday's agenda and certainly, we would welcome the Board and Superintendent Weaver and anyone else. He spoke of a special committee that was to meet and he thinks there was only 1 meeting and none since. He offered to come as well because he thought there was value in the discussion. He thinks there should be no assumptions either way and we have not voted yet. He adds he is not here representing the Selectman. He supports an SRO, has for some time, and still does. He would like to see it set up as a full-time officer shared between Wilton and FRES. They have to be part of a police department, part-time or full-time. Schools do not have the authority to hire a police officer. It would be good to continue the discussions. If Wilton Selectman voted, it would make sense they have their own, and if you had your own it would help if you had the recommendation from the Selectman. If you are willing to do that and move forward. He spoke of worrying about what could happen with funding with the latest proposal to totally demolish the Department of Education, 10% comes from federal and if that department is demolished that money will have to be replicated, you should be taking a hard look at funding as it may evaporate. He would love to have as many folks come down and you can request items to be on the agenda through the Deputy Town Administrator Janice Pack. He will ask tomorrow about adding it to the agenda and follow up with Superintendent Weaver. A question was raised if the Board should assign members to attend. Chairman Golding asked if the Board wanted to do that. Ms. Alley volunteered and Chairman Golding volunteered to attend providing it will be on the agenda. Mr. Allen asks that all the Board be informed. Mr. Schultz confirms Board members would be allowed to speak. Discussion was had when the vote was taken last year what was the exact wording, it is believed that it was voted yes to move forward with the process of finding out information and presenting it. The Superintendent believes that is correct as well. We were still waiting to build a relationship with Wilton and did not have final

numbers. Superintendent voiced we have entry-level numbers, middle and veteran while they are not exact the range it is there with benefits. The biggest sticking point is if Wilton agreed to put it on a warrant and have an SRO what percentage would that be for the district and for the police department. We have not gotten to that hurdle, as we have not built that partnership yet. If the Board says yes we want to move forward and this is the cost structure then the town would have to take a vote as well, it is contingent on both agreeing and what numbers we settle on. There is no guarantee; if one is voted in and one is voted down, it is dead in the water. He confirms at this point Ms. LaPlante is putting together what the numbers are and we need to talk to Wilton and see if they support it. Ms. Anzalone expressed that this has not made much progress and would like to put a deadline on it. Superintendent responded our goal is to have the warrant and language agreed to by Christmas break or early January that is our drop-dead timeline. Monday when we meet with the Selectman, we can answer questions then we can determine the next step. If we can move forward, we could make a joint working session to hash out the 75/25 split etc. Ms. Anzalone asked what the goal is for Monday. We put out a survey to parents, the majority supported it, what information does Wilton need for Monday, is that when they will make the decision? Superintendent responded our goal is to encourage them to have the conversation and let them know we want to move forward in the process, we have not taken a formal vote because we don't have an exact number but we want to move forward with the conversations of a split etc. Discussion was had whether there should be a vote if the Board wants it as a warrant or not and if it is useful. Ms. LaPlante confirms you can do it as a warrant; it is the technicality of the wording she needs to work on.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Anzalone and SECONDED by Ms. Alley that the School Board would support an SRO warrant article.

Mr. Allen expressed he would not support this because we do not have the details, we don't know what we are voting on. Discussion was had regarding this including if we can all agree if all the financial conditions were met and if we prefer that number be in the budget or as a warrant, which is preferable. It was suggested to table this until the next meeting if Ms. LaPlante can come back with the language for a warrant and the numbers. Ms. LaPlante confirms if we put it in the budget, we are obligated to raise and appropriate the funds, if it is in a warrant with conditional approval however that shakes out, and it doesn't get approved we do not need to raise and appropriate the funds. There is a risk if it is in the operating budget. You can't have a motion from the floor to cut that specifically. She feels it is more protected if in a warrant especially given it would be the 1st year. Discussion was had including some agreeing with Mr. Allen that is unclear. Mr. Lavoie voiced the idea started because we want to go to the Selectman's meeting and be able to tell them the Board supports a warrant; it is so they know it is supported and they would not be working toward a warrant for no reason. If we table this, we miss their meeting on Monday that we are going to attend to try to get this in motion. The idea is we support putting a warrant together, no numbers, just so they know it has some teeth to this. Ms. Lavallee spoke that she agrees with Mr. Allen and could not support it without knowing the dollars behind it, we already voted that we support the idea of an SRO and the fact finding to get the numbers and we are still in that fact finding phase. Even if we had numbers, we don't know how that would be broken down between the towns. She doesn't support it in the operating budget depending on how much that is. Mr. Allen spoke that he would support a motion to direct administration to come back to the school board at the next meeting with a proposed warrant article. Ms. Anzalone spoke of her frustration that things have not changed and we have been talking about this for a very long time, and reviewed what has happened up to now. We need to do something formal as a Board. We are telling them we want to do this and the best way is through a warrant article. She does not see the harm in saying we would support it as a warrant; we are not saying we agree to support a number. Discussion continued including there is no money involved now but how many of the members want to see this move forward, there is no money involved in the motion and if it is funded, do we support it being funded in a warrant rather than in the budget. Mr. Allen voiced we can direct the business administrator to create a warrant to bring back to the Board for approval for the position of an SRO. The language was discussed. Mr. Allen suggested the following language for a motion to direct the administration to draft a warrant article to be presented at district meeting for the position of an SRO and bring back to the Board for approval as that is the direction the Board wishes to pursue.

Discussion was had including that you should be able to take that to the Selectman because they will have to do the same thing and do their due diligence and brought back for approval. Once we know the cost, we could say we don't approve that. There was a brief discussion on this. Mr. Allen commented he is trying to meet the concerns that Ms. Anzalone and Mr. Lavoie have and reach consensus so that we are all comfortable.

Ms. LaPlante believes if she hears the discussion correctly, the question is do we support the concept, get that on paper and what does the funding model look like, it is more about the concept rather than the split or the funding source.

Ms. Anzalone AMMENDS her MOTION to does the Board support the concept of a warrant article for an SRO and Ms. Alley SECONDED.

Discussion continued including should it say we support it, vs. a question. It should be a statement not a question.

Ms. Anzalone AMMENDS her MOTION to the Board supports the concept of a warrant article for an SRO and Ms. Alley SECONDED.

Discussion was had if we want to put a threshold on the amount and we are only committing to a concept, the whole point is to go as a united front in support of the position, it is a formal yes we support wanting to do this. Ms. LaPlante was asked how much of this could she have for the Selectman's meeting. She voiced funding depends on what their pay matrix looks like and what they are thinking based on their knowledge of the police history what would we be looking at, pay rates, health etc.. She has sent an email off to the district's attorney for assistance. Chairman Golding noted the last time it was discussed he believes we did not want a 1st year officer. A question was raised if we vote on it in a warrant and there is difficulty filling the position where does that leave us from a legal standpoint. Ms. LaPlante responded the funds would not be spent.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone that the School Board directs the Business Administrator to begin creation of a warrant article for an SRO to bring back to the Board for approval or denial.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Chairman Golding asked if the Facilities Committee discussed an amount for the Building & Roadways Capital Reserve Fund. Ms. LaPlante responded no it would be discussed at the next meeting on December 2. Chairman Golding spoke of the SPED capital reserve fund and the cap has been reached on that so we will leave that unless something happens between now and later. He notes we also asked Ms. Alley to bring up the potential for the lights and sound project to the Budget Committee and asked her to speak to this. Ms. Alley voiced there will be a presentation from the WLC Performance Tech Committee at the next meeting on November 19. She instructed the Budget Committee to refer to the June 11 minutes, the whole presentation was in there but she thought they wanted it first-hand. Mr. Allen voiced the Performance Tech Committee met and went through their numbers, Ms. Crotty will come to the budget meeting with the \$5,000 they raised and other grants they have applied for, and asked the Budget Committee if they wanted to put a portion in there or do a warrant article. Chairman Golding responded that hopefully we would get the Budget Committee's recommendation on how they want to see it if funded and hopefully we can make a decision based on that. Ms. LaPlante reviewed the budget schedule to make sure everyone is on the same page. The Budget Committee meets next Tuesday and will have the tech committee discussion, the facilities director, CIP discussion and presentation, revenue, grants and other warrants. Wrapping up FY 26 on December 3, a joint meeting and if we can't wrap it up, set goals and deadlines so we can move forward. The Budget Committee was going to have a "what if" meeting on the 10th that is now the 9th. We have a lot still to go through; she thinks we will need that meeting on the 9th. We will go over wages and benefits at the next meeting too, we just got our health and benefit rates, which are higher than predicted. We have no intention coming to the voters with these number and no expectation that this is the final number; we are cognizant of what our students and teachers need and what the community can absorb. Her goal as discussed with Mr. Jones in the spring was that questions would be asked along the way so that when we got to the end of the budget process we were not saying this number is still high and going back to the drawing board. There has not been much discussion on the Budget Committee's side as far as reducing any of those numbers. Her concern is that when we get to the meeting on the 3rd, there will still be sticker shock and there will going to be the need to look at what else we can do to reduce the budget. Her wish is that on the 19th after all are presented, she is hoping for a formal or informal vote if they are comfortable with that number so we can either come back on the 3rd with more cuts etc. there has not been much direction so far with that number.

IX. POLICIES-1st Read

a. KCD-Acceptance of Gifts

Ms. Lavallee reported the policy was created after discussion last year related to the dance team. This allows us to accept gifts, which is considered unanticipated revenue, and we have to follow the provisions under the RSA 198:20b. Under that statute, the Board may accept gifts of money if the legislative body of the district has approved a warrant article authorizing the School Board to accept and expend those unanticipated revenue dollars. In 2015, we did have a warrant article and asked the taxpayers to approve it and they did. If we approve this, we already have the warrant article in place that allows us to follow it. She asked for any questions or comments. Ms. Alley questioned if there is anything that speaks to a donation going to a specific area. Ms. Lavallee reviewed paragraph 7. If we accept a gift, for example \$7,000 and the gift was for audio visual, which we are trying to fund, and we also had additional funds putting us over that, we could accept it and use the left over funds toward the drama department. It allows us some leeway but does not lock us in so we don't have unspent funds just sitting there; the intent was to help students. Ms. LaPlante added our current policy says gifts of \$5,000 require a public hearing and the state law is \$20,000 requiring a public hearing; that has been updated. This policy will return to the next meeting for a 2nd read.

b. DFGA-Crowdfunding

Ms. Lavallee spoke that this also was related to the dance team and was created at the request of administration. It allows flexibility and ensures a transparent and consistent process is followed. She confirms it does not apply to the PTO, they are separate from the school, and it is anything that goes to the business office. Once this is adopted we are going to create a form and have discussed it with Ms. LaPlante, DFGA-R is what it would be named, administration can create a form for their needs and it can be changed as needed. She asked for questions or comments. Discussion was had that "b" is overreaching and how can anyone create a crowdfunding thing on behalf of the district if not part of the school district. An example was given if I wanted to create a crowdfunding thing and are not part of the school for my kids to go to Washington DC, am I not approved. If I am creating one for WLC for the kids to go to DC but not a school employee does that fall under b. Ms. Lavallee spoke it does,

because you would have to discuss that with the district. If you as an individual parent decide to create a go fund me for your child to go to Europe (as example), that is a separate entity, you would accept the funds and then you would write a check for those funds. If you are a volunteer (not coach) on the baseball team, you are not an employee of the district but you could assist in creating it but it would have to go through the proper channels so that they are aware. Otherwise, you could be misrepresenting yourself as raising money for a team when perhaps you are not actually raising money for a team. Discussion continued regarding clarity around this policy and how it differs from the first policy. Ms. LaPlante spoke that crowdfunding speaks to the source and using online resources or digital currency mechanisms and we don't allow those things, we can't set up a Venmo account or PayPal etc. This speaks specifically to online and digital campaigns. A question was raised what if an individual collected money and wanted to donate on behalf of himself or herself but is not allowed under "b" but is allowed in the previous policy. Ms. Lavallee responded a lot is how you represent yourself, if you are doing this in your role as a volunteer or a parent. The wording is to allow the district to differentiate what they are putting their stamp of approval on. Anyone could say I am raising money for something and if the school did not approve it, they will not be held responsible for any fraud. If someone says the want to raise money, they coordinate with Ms. LaPlante, there is accountability, and some transparency then the school can feel comfortable putting their stamp on it. A question was raised if I crowdfunded on behalf of myself and wanted to donate the money it is kind of saying we can't accept any money that has been crowdfunded. Ms. Lavallee responded the district has the right to say no thank you; we don't want that money, if you have not received prior approval from Ms. LaPlante. There could be some questionable things and it allows Ms. LaPlante to say not thank you we will not accept it. A question was raised if it allows Ms. LaPlante to accept it. Ms. LaPlante responded yes, and then you go to policy KCD. It was summed up as it allows the district to deny nefarious activity and if seems it was good intentioned you can accept it. Ms. Lavallee added it provides us the ability to say no. This policy will return for a 2nd read at the next meeting and will update the name of the form.

c. JLCD-Administering Medications to Students

Ms. Lavallee reports this policy was last updated in 2010, amendments made with the help of our nurses. Amendments were made specific to our district and buildings, updates from NH School Nurses Association and amended to reflect the enactment of RSA 200:44a and RSA 200-53, all regarding the self-administration of certain medications. She asked for questions and comments, none heard. This policy will return for a 2nd reading.

Ms. Lavallee reported the Policy Committee would meet tomorrow night and begin work on the legislative update and any others administration brought forward.

X. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

Correction to line 11, should read Jon vs. John.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Mr. Zavgren to approve the minutes of October 29, 2024 as written.

Ms. Foss AMMENDS her MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Zavgren to accept the minutes of October 29, 2024 as amended.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to approve the nonpublic minutes of October 29, 2024 as written.

Voting: eight ayes, one abstention from Mr. Allen, motion carried.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Facilities Committee

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral reported the committee met on November 4, a lot of their meeting was already discussed tonight. We were hoping to have a recommendation for a warrant article but that would be done at the next meeting. They received updates on LCS and FRES, they are up to date, we are looking to do the boiler at LCS this year, and the science room at WLC is also on the agenda.

ii. Budget Liaison

Ms. Alley reported that we discussed this earlier tonight. She added we talked about buses for SPED, there is a document that has quotes, and she asked if that could be sent around. It may be in the Budget Committee documentation. The next meeting is next Tuesday and we should be hearing from the Performance Tech Committee about lights and sound. Chairman Golding asked if there is any direction for Ms. Alley, none heard.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

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

Ms. Mary Golding comment on Ms. Brewster's great report and she is looking forward to the basketball season. She is doing an incredible job. Principal Fuller did a great job subbing; she was in the room when she filled in for a short time. It was great watching her instruct. She appreciates that she stepped in at the same time managing all her duties. Great job Ms. LaPlante. Ms.

Lavallee, you are a policy powerhouse, good job its amazing all the knowledge you have. Ms. Golding is the bus monitor on bus 6 in the afternoon, they do not have one in the morning and feels it has made a difference and if anyone wants to take her place, feel free. She knows the substitute issue is a thing; she is in Title I and was told they could not substitute and it makes her sad. She asked if there is any kind of loop hole that allows her to fill in for a little bit when needed for a short time, if someone could look into that and let her know. Great job.

XIII. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Allen is thankful for the administrators and the principals; it seems to be a really good team this year. Everyone seems be in a good mood when he walks through the halls, his kids like all their classes, that is a bonus. They are putting in tons of overtime; he thinks the culture that has been created this year helps drive people to put in extra, which benefits us all as you can see through Ms. Brewster and the teachers etc. He is pleased with the direction it is going and fellow board members who help create that consensus and environment.

Mr. Zavgren echoes Mr. Allen's comments.

Ms. Anzalone congratulated the dance team and thank you to all the teachers; she had just been to parent/teacher conferences last week and she knows they were here late 2 nights. Thanks to all the teachers for doing that. Fingers crossed we can start the SRO process moving forward as it has not gotten anywhere lately.

Mr. Lavoie in addition to the teachers, what Ms. Anzalone said, thank you to the parents that showed up and put their foot forward to help their kids succeed. He thanked everyone involved in the Veteran's Day assembly, he was surprised the kids in food service put together a brunch and gave a special shout out to Principal Ronning for a great job running it and all his staff that helped, they did a great job for all involved.

Ms. Lavallee did not get to the Veteran's Day celebration this year but has always enjoyed it and heard the reading of the essays was really good, it was great there were multiple perspectives represented. It is great we have a school that fosters the critical thinking in a same place to be able to voice our opinions, that is amazing and a great lesson for all on Veterans Day especially. She is looking forward to the Spelling Bee at FRES and hopes Ms. Kudlich asks her to volunteer again as she thoroughly enjoyed it.

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral commented we had a lot of great discussions tonight and even when it is difficult when we are trying to hammer these things out; it is great we can have these conversations and figure out where we want to go. She appreciates everyone for doing that. When we talk about how our star staff are it is a reminder of the extra effort people put in because they care, it is not something that is demanded of them and all are working well together to figure things out when we ask questions. She acknowledged Ms. Brewster who is creating a smooth sports season and through all the challenges and Ms. Jones consistently being here, part of the building and part of the community who has stepped up to substitute, work in food services and goes where ever she is needed and has been the dance coach since forever. We owe a lot to her.

Ms. Alley commented that she has really enjoyed the leadership of the school. They moved here in 2021 and in the last year, she has seen really amazing leadership at each school. She has enjoyed the Facebook announcements and pictures and seeing all the parents and teachers interacting, it's amazing. She is really proud of the sports, Ms. Brewster and her leadership. She encourages anyone to come to the Budget Committee meeting on November 19, support it and give your say.

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

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to enter Non-Public Session to discuss personnel matters RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C) at 8:43pm.

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

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 9:31pm.

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

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Allen and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:32pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*