

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, December 17, 2024
Lyndeborough Central 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 (6:45pm-7:44pm), Geoffrey Allen, Diane Foss, and Jonathan Lavoie*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, 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

There was no acknowledgement.

IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent requested to remove agenda item 3 and add an overview of the WLC gym dedication.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavalley and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to remove agenda item three and add the Superintendent's dedication report under Board Correspondence, item 1.
Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read. Online audio was only going one way. There was no public comment.

VI. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

• WLC Gymnasium Dedication

Superintendent reported a flyer was sent out about a week ago describing the dedication of the WLC gymnasium to Dave Finch, former longtime teacher, athletic director and coach of 38 years. That will occur on January 3 between 2 varsity games, 1st is the Girls Varsity Basketball which starts at 5pm then the dedication ceremony of the WLC gym to David Finch at 6pm (lasting about a half hour) and the Boys Varsity Basketball game will follow. He apologized for not bringing this to the Board when he heard of it; it was not his intent to leave the Board in the dark as it needs to be a partnership with the Board. It is hard to walk that back once a mistake has been made. In hindsight, the Board should have been involved from the beginning. The process started back in 2019 before he arrived. Apparently, there was a real push to dedicate the gym in his name, in his honor after serving as a coach, an athletic director and teacher. Then we had a pandemic. Around 2022 or 2023 when the Hall of Fame was initiated there was discussion of revisiting that and the decision was made. At that time, the Board should have been part of that conversation and decision but was not. He apologized again and notes the best part that came out of this besides the dedication to Mr. Finch is that there is a need for a policy to guide future Superintendents. There is a draft policy, FF that helps districts work their way through a dedication whether a classroom or gym etc. He would like to introduce that in January when the Policy Committee meets and then work it through the School Board to be approved so that the next time there will be language to guide us. There have only been 2 occasions this has happened, once in 2013 when a Kindergarten classroom was dedicated to a principal and the other time was when FRES was named (after Florence Rideout). Ms. Cloutier-Cabral voiced that she remembers talking about the dedication in earlier years and knows it got away from us but was not surprised about it, it is a great thing, and Mr.

57 Finch has given so much to our community. Superintendent noted there are a lot of positive comments on social
58 media, with some negative regarding this. Mr. Allen questioned if we have a policy for this currently. Chairman
59 Golding responded that right now it would have to go through administration. Superintendent responded from here
60 on out, any dedications will go to the Board. The Board wouldn't necessarily make a recommendation but should
61 hear the recommendation and have the final say as elected officials representing the community. A good process
62 would explain why and how it has a positive impact on our students and the Board can ask thoughtful questions
63 about the recommendations and make the decision. Mr. Allen noted, this time we got it right. Superintendent
64 expressed that he has thought of this over a couple of weeks where there are times when we name a building etc. and
65 perhaps 20 years later something happens that may take away from that and maybe we want to reconsider having that
66 name on a building for example. Without a really good process in place that guides that, we are really winging it.
67 That has happened in his experience. Ms. Lavallee congratulated Mr. Finch; it is a great message to send our staff
68 that we are acknowledging the commitment staff members have and acknowledging longevity in a district has a
69 positive impact on the whole community. Those who had him as a teacher and the parents of students who had him.
70 It is good thing to recognize the teachers that stick with the district and really put in those years and make a positive
71 impact. Superintendent added it will be a beautiful ceremony on January 3 and encourages all to come.

72 **i. Business Administrator's Report**

73 Ms. LaPlante spoke of the tax rate analysis. The tax rates have been certified by the NH DOE and DRA. The school
74 district portion increased again and there are a few factors as to why. A net increase of \$1,042,448 in expenditures
75 that were approved by the voters back in March. A net decrease of about \$160,000 in our general fund revenues; we
76 will recoup a significant portion of that this year but cannot collect on that for last year. A decrease of \$400,000 in
77 previously classified revenues based on how our federal grants are budgeted, we have not lost those grants it is how
78 it is classified as revenue. A net reduction of \$322,268 in money returned to taxpayers. One way that she uses to
79 figure out what we are doing and how we fit into the community is that she looks at the expenditures and revenues of
80 our 2 communities since we are a 2-community district. In communities, they can retain fund balances, whatever
81 they don't spend in expenditures and whatever they get in excess revenues; they can retain the fund balance. They
82 don't have to give 100% back to the towns; they are allowed to retain it. A lot of communities use it to pay down
83 their portion of the tax rate in future years. That is not an accurate measure as far as how we are doing compared to
84 the communities because we have to return absolutely everything at year-end. We cannot reserve any of that for
85 future years when we know what the cost might be. If you strip out the amount of fund balance that each community
86 has used to pay down their taxes, she looks back over the last 5 years what the tax rate looked like in comparison to
87 the whole because your tax rate will change based on your values when you have a revaluation. Tax rates will change
88 especially on the community side when they use their fund balance. If you strip that out, say what part of the whole
89 do we make up, and has that changed significantly. That is what she uses as a marker to see what we are doing and
90 what are the other elements of the tax rate doing. In Lyndeborough, the districts portion of the tax rate over the last 5
91 years and again stripping out fund balance has averaged about 53% of their total tax rate and this year's tax rate is
92 about 55%. In Wilton, the district's portion of the tax rate for the last 5 years has averaged about 56.55% of the total
93 tax rate and right now, we make up about 56.57% of the tax rate. If you strip it out and you look at how we are
94 comparing to how the communities, the county and state are spending tax dollars as well, our portion although
95 significant has not changed because the partner communities also have expenditures. They are seeing decreases in
96 revenues, they are seeing the exact same things we are but we cannot pay down our tax rate to keep things more
97 level. She is confident that with meticulous work of the Budget Committee and with the School Board and with how
98 she and Superintendent oversee the budget we will be able to balance the needs of the district and address the
99 taxpayers concerns and they are legitimate concerns. She takes her role as steward of the district's money extremely
100 seriously. By the time we strip out all of our contracts, which are vetted twice before they go out whether it is for a
101 teacher or whether it is for a para, Title 1 which is grant funded, we vet those twice before they go out and every
102 dollar beyond that comes through her for approval to spend. She knows there is a lot of frustrations, she sees in social
103 media as well and she can absolutely sympathize with the taxpayers. She certainly put it out there that if anybody has
104 any questions or they are questioning an expenditure, or why did we do that, it's open books, it's your money, it's the
105 community's money and she would be happy to answer any questions. A million dollar increase is a lot, a
106 \$15,500,000 budget is a lot. On her end, the back end, she can literally trace every penny and is happy to answer any
107 questions, she doesn't want the public to mistrust what we are doing here, it is a lot of money. She asked for
108 questions. Mr. Allen asked what drove the Lyndeborough increase to be greater than the Wilton increase. Ms.
109 LaPlante responded property values and the way the tax apportions out; even a small percentage. When we break out
110 the tax rate it is based on ADM, average daily membership, the property assessed values; even one shift can offset
111 that a little bit more. Ms. Lavallee asked for clarification, if we take the funds that are "returned" to taxpayers and
112 the town uses that to pay off their portion of the tax rate, for taxpayers it appears that the schools tax rate didn't
113 change but the towns tax rate as gone down. Can they can use what we return to pay down the towns tax rate. Ms.

LaPlante responded no, our money, anything we don't spend or excess revenues gets returned as a credit off the total bill that is owed. Total amount approved, minus our hard revenues, minus what we didn't spend in the last year equals the amount we apportion between the 2 communities. Every dollar that we don't spend or any extra dollar for revenues goes right back to the taxpayers in that year. The communities can retain that and keep that, they can retain up to a certain percentage and they can have a healthy nest egg (not meaning that in a bad way). They can have a healthy fund balance to use in future years. Wilton, for example, is using theirs, a significant portion because of how the bridge was funded and they didn't end up paying all of it so rather than holding that for the future they gave that back this year. Lyndeborough typically goes anywhere from \$95,000 to \$140,000 and Wilton in some years have had in upwards of \$450,000-\$500,000 that they are reducing their portion of the tax rate by. The money we return we talk about heavily, on the town side it has to go through the Selectman and it is not, in her observation, is not as easily transparent and she has been on the municipal side, she can see the paperwork in her head. It is not that Wilton or Lyndeborough are doing anything nefarious, it is how it presents on documents, and it is digging through the behind the scenes tax rate documents that she can find that. Mr. Lavoie commented at every meeting we end up getting the question what does that equal per thousand on the average house in Lyndeborough and the average house in Wilton. He questioned if she has calculated that yet. Ms. LaPlante confirms she has not but will once we have a final budget number. He reminded her that last year the biggest obstacle was that Lyndeborough had their average cost per house but Wilton did not, and she may want to remind them that they need to get that number to her soon. She acknowledges this.

ii. Director of Student Support Services Report

Mr. Pratt reported he provided this document about 4-5 years ago and updated it. It talks about the BCBA, ABA/RBT role. He wanted to point out that he didn't include the paraeducators because they are well known, work in our schools and are the unsung heroes in our district; we have much to thank them for especially during this season. The BCBA is the chief analyst for behaviors in the district and works with the entire staff to integrate students who in our district are on the autism spectrum and more recently are having behavior issues. She is responsible for working with the ABA therapists who do a lot of direct service. RBT's are ABA's who take an exam and courses and get a deeper level of certification and we do encourage them to do that because the course and testing is very thorough. They don't work independently, always under the direction of SPED teachers, general education teachers or the BCBA and always it is a team approach with all our kids. He has never heard, "that is not my kid", "I am not assigned", that doesn't happen here but it does in other districts. He wanted to go over those definitions and talk a little about what they do for the Board and public. A question was raised when we talk about SPED services, are IEP's a part of that. Mr. Pratt responded it is part of the SPED process. A question was raised if we track how many people have IEP's this school year and going back 8 years. Mr. Pratt responded he could provide it for a moment in time. NHEIS, our SPED data system would have that. Mr. Allen questioned that in the last report or two you had said the number of SPED students was almost 23%, looking at numbers across the state it looks like it is growing every year, are we finding that here also, for example in 2018 would that be less at that time. Mr. Pratt responded it would be up and down he thinks, but he can look at the data. We have students graduating, moving in and out etc., it fluctuates. He will get the data. A question was raised what is the percentage of contracted therapists. Mr. Pratt responded we contracted with 2 ABA Therapists outside of our district employees and we did that due to specialized requirements that popped up and are on year-to-year contracts. As we go through the year, we will assess whether we will do that contract again. Ms. Lavallee spoke, looking at SPED through the years and some of the typical diagnosis that would trigger an IEP, in some literature she reads there seems to be an increase not necessarily in neurotypical disorders but also behavior disorders. Are we seeing an increase in the behavior disorders that may trigger an IEP or need for intervention, especially in the younger grades? She asks because there is the SPED process and the student, but there is also impact on the teachers and the general classroom. If we are seeing an increase in behavioral disorders in kids that would be otherwise be considered neurotypical, what is the impact we will see on the typical students in the classroom. Mr. Pratt responded that is a lot to talk about. She sees it in literature across the country and the state and it is a concern we all have in the back of our minds when we talk about special education. Mr. Pratt responds we are seeing kids who are not identified at all, no IEP, no 504 etc. kids just having behavior issues in the classroom. We see this kind of increase that is a bit unusual; we usually see it in the pathway. If you look this, it is happening all over. He is a little perplexed. We are lucky here and keep talking about the team approach; the guidance counselors do a lot of early radar stuff. You have that set of kids and then you have a set that have autism, behavior issues we are ready for those kids and then those in academics with behavior issues. Yes, we are seeing that increase, we have been able to intervene in the elementary school as we have the Student Support Center. Doing intervention ahead of time, bringing in families, and working with teachers. In the long run if you look at predictors the behaviors will continue. There is a lot of pressure on kids; it is not like we didn't have it before. We are always trying to stay ahead of it without using huge amounts of resources. Ms. Lavallee notes it worries her and all the strain it puts on teachers and other students and the kids who are having the behaviors. It is something we

should be aware of especially when talking about the elementary level. Mr. Pratt adds FAPE (Free And Public Education), we are always conscious about this but it doesn't mean it is gold star, we have to provide programming that allows students to have specialized instruction so they can keep up with their classmates and we have only so many resources to go around. Ms. Foss spoke, about in her field, Speech Language Pathologist (SLP), we have had to get several in to cover the increase of need for that service. If you look at the money, it is probably an increase. She gave Mr. Pratt a plug for getting the coverage, she has worked across the country and the fact that Wilton has a number of SLP's and kids are not going without services, there are a lot who are out 6-7 SLP's. If you think our money or contracted services is a lot try having a parent upset that their kid does not have services. Mr. Pratt thanked her and notes he believes in a past board report he spoke of the importance of contracted service staff, we want them to build deep relationships and they want to stay, it is a team approach. They like working here, sometimes they could make more money elsewhere and they choose to stay because here it is a team approach so we are happy.

iii. Director of Technology's Report/Technology Plan

Mr. Buroker reported business as usual, this is their slow season, and coding club has started. He spoke of the changes in the Technology Plan with the biggest failure being training. We tried a few popup professional learnings but there is never a good time for teachers to show up and it was poorly attended. He will look at other options. We need technology and risk training. He gave an example that one staff who didn't know that two fingers on the mousepad could be used to scroll up and down, training is important. He will look at doing micro lessons and emailing them out. H has some concern that people won't watch them. The other big change is the replacement cycle for hardware. The end life for Chromebooks went from 5 years to 10 years and as a result, he is recommending an 8-year cycle. We need to replace 12% of our hardware every year to stay current, which is a decrease from 20%. We will save a fair bit over the years. One of the big failings we have currently is when a teacher leaves for a meeting during the day they take their mobile device and that leaves the smartboard without a computer attached to it and in the case for a substitute, they are left adrift without the means of utilizing it. A question was raised are the Chromebooks are really lasting 10 years and what is he seeing on average. Mr. Buroker responded we get a sense of what goes bad first. We are offsetting hardware replacement with the supply budget for parts. He spoke of Chromebooks getting faster for no reason that he sees. At least from a technology perspective, they can keep up from a practical sense he believes but it depends on the student. Some that are returned look like new, and others less than that. An 8-year replacement cycle is what he is recommending and what we have changed it to.

iv. Curriculum Coordinator's Report

Ms. Dignan reported we have had a few new teacher meetings, we talked about parent teacher conferences and best teaching practices. As a staff, we talked about this in prior years but not with the new teachers. NH SAS (NH Statewide Assessment System) has new features for accessibility. Teachers have started already taking the assessments in order to proctor the test. We are planning to do some NH SAS modular this winter and early spring. Those are mini NH SAS's and students can see what the platform looks like, it is in one area of the test and she gave examples. It is not summative and doesn't count toward their assessment in the spring. Elementary grades 3-5 are piloting our new ELA program and we had some professional development for that. We are starting to do the NH SAS schedule for spring. We may have graduation early this year and want to do that before the spring escapes us. Mr. Allen about teacher observations and if they are ongoing and anything of note she is seeing. Mr. Allen spoke of being at the school, teachers ask him to stay for a bit in their classroom, and he observes. He noted that his kids seem to enjoy their classes and the challenge of their classes. Ms. Dignan responded that they are ongoing and has heard mostly from teachers, (we do a pre-observation, observation and post-observation meeting) that it is much more helpful than just the observation. Because we are having these conversations, teachers find they are doing things in a good way that they didn't know they were doing. They don't see their shining moments like the observer does. It is probably one of her favorite parts of her job. She gets to say these are all of the great things you are doing and these are some things that we can do to get even better. She has heard teachers appreciate those conversations.

VI. BOARD BUDGET & WARRANT DISCUSSION

Chairman Golding reviewed the budget has not been approved yet, we voted on the warrant article for the CIP at the last meeting and we are not putting forward a SPED warrant. The warrant for the SRO numbers are not finalized yet, he asked Ms. LaPlante to confirm. Ms. LaPlante confirms she intends to meet with Wilton to finalize and finesse it and hopes to have it for the first meeting in January. Chairman Golding asked Ms. Alley to speak about the budget committee's meeting. Ms. Alley reported there was a lot of public comments regarding concern for their taxes going up. The next meeting is on January 14 where they said they would vote. They didn't ask her to bring back anything to the Board specifically. When asked what the information they were waiting on she did not know. Ms. LaPlante voiced they heard the communities feedback and asked us to go back and do another look to see if we can make further reductions. Superintendent added the number was \$10,000-\$25,000 additional even though it is not a significant percentage; it is to continue the process of looking for potential cuts. It was noted there was a comment

228 regarding reducing the \$48,000 in toilet paper and maybe the teachers chipping in. Ms. LaPlante confirms those
229 things are not calculated per student. Those lines are across the district and can be for toilet paper, paper towels, new
230 keys etc. The classrooms supply costs are per student. Mr. Erb has reported a significant increase in the amount of
231 toilet paper used especially at FRES over the years plus there is an increase in cost of materials. Superintendent
232 confirms the Budget Committee wanted us to look to see if we could find another \$10,000-\$25,000 (he believes that
233 is the number) in reductions and he is working with Ms. LaPlante and staff on that. We are at a place where we have
234 really trimmed what we believe we can trim and it is right number for students and staff, if we have to make
235 additional cuts, we will make the adjustments. He wanted to remind people that even though we are working on this
236 year's budget, this is another exercise that we are looking at for years out also because it doesn't necessarily get any
237 easier. While we are trying to meet the needs of the Budget Committee now we are also thinking of the next budget
238 season. We have a strong CBA, which has had a positive outcome on recruiting and retaining staff where prior years
239 we had to settle on staff and teach them how to become a teacher and work on their certifications etc. it is not like
240 that this year. He wants to keep working with the Budget Committee they have been really supportive, it has been a
241 win, win so far and wants to see if we can get to a place where they can take a vote on January 14. He confirms in 1st
242 grade we are looking at enrollment in low 30's. We started the year with 534 overall and currently are at the same.
243 The numbers are tricky, some days there are more needs identified in the 4th grade vs. 2nd grade. There may be
244 multiple needs and higher percentages may require a smaller ratio. It may create in the long run a need for more
245 resources for them to make progress. We are looking at numbers, trends and the dynamics of the grades and
246 classrooms and that is where we are with elementary. At the MS/HS, we look at the numbers and course offerings. A
247 brief discussion was had regarding if we can't add classrooms are we looking at support staff in a classes due to
248 behaviors and making sure identified students have paras and there are other kids who may not have a 504 or IEP but
249 are having behavior problems. Superintendent responded we are having those conversations, all the time and an all
250 hands on deck approach is how to handle that. He gave examples. Kids are developing and growing and changing, it
251 is important for us to stay focused, listen to our teachers and direct resources where they are needed. Part of the
252 budget process is looking at that to meet the needs of the students and district. Chairman Golding voiced that we
253 cannot do anything until the January 21 meeting regarding the budget or SRO warrant. Discussion was had if more
254 specifics will be provided before it goes to vote. Superintendent responded that we presented it before with the police
255 chiefs to the Board. Different schools have different needs and some for example would have them teach health class
256 or law classes in the HS. There is a basic job description around safety, good communication and good relationships
257 with kids, those details will be worked out in an MOU with the police department because the SRO is an employee
258 of theirs but we want to have a common understanding of what it looks like. We want the communities to understand
259 what the person would be doing and we want to give clarity around it and would need to be done before the vote. He
260 confirms there will be some information we will not work out before the vote or share with the public such as details
261 around what times they are in certain buildings, those we will never discuss. He spoke of talking to Mr. Boland,
262 Lyndeborough's Town Manager, regarding the need for a police vehicle. There had been some comment previously
263 about the need for one and it was an insightful conversation today with him. Do we really need \$85,000 for that (he
264 thinks that was the number), but realistically if they got a new one would it really come to the SRO, those details we
265 still have to work out with the Wilton Police Department before we can get a true cost and need to follow up on it.
266 After his discussion with the town manager this afternoon, who oversees a police department, he was able to see it
267 through a different lens. It was enlightening.

268 269 **VII. POLICIES**

270 **a. 1st Read**

271 **i. BDF-Facilities Committee Goals and Preparation of Capital Improvement Plan**

272 Ms. Lavallee reviewed this is the 1st reading. The Facilities Committee created the policy. We had NHSBA look at it,
273 provided feedback and streamlined some of the language. She asked for questions or comments, none heard. She
274 adds this is a new policy we do not currently have one. A question was raised what was the purpose of creating it.
275 Mr. Allen responded the Facilities Committee at the time, one of the things we were concerned about was historically
276 the CIP. What should be on it, why were things removed and no one knew about it. It was hard to manage. It can be a
277 historical document now, a living document; we wanted a policy with those things on it, dollar thresholds and
278 maintenance items coming up. We wanted it to be transparent to the public and useful for the Business
279 Administrator. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral added when you are on the Facilities Committee especially as a newer group we
280 were learning and trying to look at older documents and trying to find a roadmap of what we were doing. Not all the
281 pieces of the puzzle were there. This document is important to drive that. The CIP maps out things for the future.
282 Things were coming on and off willy-nilly, without any bad intentions. This keeps track of it and the public can look
283 at it anytime and see how it is broken out. Mr. Allen gave examples such as planning for a large project and splitting
284 the cost over years so that we have the funds when the project comes due. It also helps keep the tax rate flat. If you

determine you are not doing the project in a certain year there is now a record of why it was not done and not just taken off. Ms. Lavallee added she thinks it is good idea from the Board's perspective too because members change and we all have different experiences in different areas and for a long time we had board members on the board for 20 plus years and we lost that piece of history, this helps with that.

ii. BDFR-CIP Project Worksheet

Ms. Lavallee reviewed this is the 1st reading. She notes at the top of the form where it has \$10,000, it needs to be changed to \$20,000 to coincide with the policy. She asked for questions or comments, none heard. This will move forward for a 2nd reading.

iii. EH-Public Access to School District Records

Ms. Lavallee reviewed this is the 1st reading. The revisions are the result of an extensive update to EH-R, which is up next. They are a result of HB 286, and extensive because they now require written statements identifying specific exemptions plus caveats of when a record is withheld from disclosure and updates for electronic communications. We took information in BEDG-R and added it to EH-R and after these are accepted, she will bring BEDG-R for withdrawal, as it will not be needed. She asked for questions or comments, none heard. This will move forward for a 2nd reading.

iv. EH-R-Public Access to School District Records-Procedures for Public Access to District Records "Right to Know Requests"

Ms. Lavallee reviewed this is the 1st reading. She explained the changes in the previous policy. She asked for any questions or comments, none heard. This will move forward for a 2nd reading.

v. IGA-Curriculum Development

Ms. Lavallee reviewed this is the 1st reading. This policy has not been updated since 2010. We added the curriculum coordinator language and legislative updates and DOE updates. She met with the curriculum coordinator to put this together. Content was taken from policy IGD and added to this because we had 2 short policies that were related and it made sense to add them into one. She will withdraw IGD after this is approved. She asked for questions or comments, none heard. This will move forward for a 2nd read.

vi. IMGB-Therapy Animals

Ms. Lavallee reviewed this is the 1st reading. This was a new policy developed as requested by administration to have it in place in case we have therapy animals. She knows one of the Wilton police officers will bring his dog in and the kids love it, it's a great icebreaker. We wanted this in place in case it is needed in the future. She asked for questions or comments, none heard. This will be moved forward for a 2nd reading.

vii. EH-F (1)-Request for Waiver of Electronic Communication Record Charge

Ms. Lavallee reviewed this is the 1st reading. This is a waiver for fees for electronic communications and is related to EH-R. There is also EH-F 2, which is an affidavit of indigency so they do not have to pay for it. She asked for questions or comments none heard. This will move forward for a 2nd reading.

viii. EH-F (2)-Affidavit of Indigency for Waiver of Electronic Communication Charge

See EH-F. No questions or comments, this will move forward for a 2nd reading.

b. 2nd Read

i. EBCA-Crisis Prevention and Emergency Response Plans

Ms. Lavallee reviewed this is the 2nd reading; no new changes were made since the last reading. She asked for any questions or comments, none heard.

ii. EBB-School Safety

Ms. Lavallee reviewed this is the 2nd reading; no new changes were made since the last reading. She asked for any questions or comments, none heard.

iii. EBCG-Communicable and Infectious Diseases

Ms. Lavallee reviewed this is the 2nd reading; no new changes were made since the last reading. She asked for any questions or comments, none heard.

iv. EBCD-Emergency School and District Closings

Ms. Lavallee reviewed this is the 2nd reading; no significant changes were made since the last reading. No questions or comments heard.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to accept policies EBCA-Prevention and Emergency Response Plans, EBB-School Safety and EBCG-Communicable and Infectious Diseases and EBCD-Emergency School and District Closings, all as written.

339 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

340 **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

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

342 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to approve the minutes of December 3, 2024 as*
343 *written.*

344 *Voting: seven ayes; one abstention from Ms. Alley, motion carried.*

345 **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

346 **i. Budget Liaison**

347 Ms. Alley did not have anything additional to add, she reported out during the budget discussion.

348 **X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

349 The public comment section of the agenda was read. Online audio was only going one way. There was no public
350 comment.

351 **XI. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

352 Ms. Alley thanked Ms. LaPlante for being capable of answering literally every question thrown at her. Ms. LaPlante
353 mentioned in her report that she cared greatly about the process and Ms. Alley voiced that she appreciates her being
354 open, clear, and able to answer their questions. Ms. Alley thanked Mr. Buroker for all his work on technology and
355 making the Chromebooks a science when it comes to being able to figure out when it needs to be replaced. She likes
356 the idea of an SRO but wants to see more details about what they will do in the district. It is a big deal and having all
357 the towns do warrants for it and wants it as clear as possible.

358 Ms. Cloutier-Cabral commented the tax bill coming during the holidays is difficult for everyone. It puts a lot of stuff
359 into question but it is important to remember how hard administration and teachers work and having a fully staffed
360 district comes with a price. This has been the smoothest year that she has seen before. Thanks for all your hard work
361 and remember how special you are.

362 Mr. Allen echoes what Ms. Cloutier-Cabral said. He feels this has been for the time he has lived here one of the best
363 years we have seen. It is incredible the quality and dedication of the teachers we have been able to maintain. The
364 legitimate questions or complaints we hear are fewer and more direct as opposed to in the past blanket complaints.
365 There are very inquisitive questions to understand things. He loves it when people show up to a Budget Committee
366 meeting because when you see how the budget is put together and you go line by line, see what is in there and see
367 what it costs to run the district. You can look at those lines and recognize any single line you decide to pull out has a
368 direct impact on students. He appreciates administration for taking it seriously and looking at it from a total
369 perspective, how we can provide the best quality education for our students and still be mindful of our neighbors who
370 pay for it.

371 Mr. Zavgren seconds Mr. Allen's comments.

372 Mr. Lavoie voiced that basketball has started! Mr. and Mrs. Lavoie saw a need or an opportunity to start and open
373 gym for kids in 5th grade through 8th grade. The first one was Sunday and we had 20 plus kids turn out. He thanked
374 Ms. Nantel for being the staff volunteer they needed and Ms. LaPlante for doing the legwork on the insurance issues
375 they had to work out. It is 2:30pm on Sundays after the men's league. Both the boys and girls varsity had wins last
376 night vs. Sunapee. He would like to see our sports program pushed and include assistant coaches for all sports.
377 Hopefully with a little more help from some assistant coaches and the coaches they have now we will see some
378 dividends at the HS level in a few years. He spoke of being at another school in another district and expressed that
379 we should be really proud of our school building conditions, it is a testament to Mr. Erb and his crew. At this other
380 school not that far from here our gym puts theirs to shame from the rugs you walk in on to the paint peeling on the
381 walls. We really have a nice school. Look at the room we are in tonight, it is beautiful. We should be proud and
382 spread that. As people who represent our school, we are representatives of school and should be proud of that and
383 spread the word, the negatives and stereotypes of this school are just not true. Ms. Lavalley commented she loves to
384 hear that as someone who went here. We would hear that in other communities and she never quite understood it or
385 felt it was true. She feels like we have a great school and not just the athletic fields. We have a great teaching staff
386 too. She has been working with the Chairman on our yearly report letter, did some numbers with the curriculum
387 coordinator and we should celebrate our NH SAS scores for science. We were at 49% from 29% and the state
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average is 36% that is amazing. This report is based on last year and shows we are moving in the right direction. We had 100% graduation rate, that's above the national and state average. We have a lot to celebrate and the more we get that out there the better. She thinks that demonstrates what we are doing with our budget. People can see where the money is going but also see some of the positive results that are coming out of it. She thinks it is great that the Superintendent and WLC are working to increase the opportunities we have for kids like the swim team this year and hope to have a tennis team this year; the courts are done and have unified basketball. By us building relationships with other schools, we can maintain what is special about our district, these partnerships can provide more opportunities, and she is trying to celebrate our accomplishments.

Superintendent asked to speak. He informed the group that a student of ours has been accepted to Dartmouth College that is pretty impressive to be accepted by an Ivy League School. It is not necessarily public knowledge yet. What it tells him is if a student has their mind made up and they driven and motivated the quality of education is here for them to achieve anything they want including being accepted into a good school that is incredibly selective. The wait list is insane. People don't apply because they know they can't get in and we are talking about class valedictorians, 4.0's, and captains of their sports teams and everything else. We are really proud of that and the other thing is our SAT scores are higher than 5 schools in our region. He doesn't want to name them but they are schools that have always been identified as better schools and he proud to say that our SAT scores in both math and reading together and separately are higher. These schools have a pretty significant presence in our region and there's a lot of other good data too.

Mr. Allen voiced that Ms. Hall and Mr. Scalisi at the Art Festival did a bang up job. Talk about teachers who take time out of their day to add value. Our kids sold art for a decent amount of money and don't forget the Nutcracker is Friday.

Chairman Golding added our teachers work extremely hard and don't seem to get enough public recognition for what they do. All we have been hearing since the tax bills have come out is that our teachers forced our hand to give them a giant raise and that is the furthest thing from the truth. They hadn't had a raise in 5 plus years and deserve every penny they got and the improvement we see in the test scores and the amount of time they stay to catch up and tutor to make sure our kids learn is phenomenal on their part. He appreciates everything they do for our district.

XII. 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 review the non-public minutes RSA 91-A: 3 II (C) at 7:53pm.

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

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 7:57pm.

Nonpublic minutes of December 3, 2024 were approved and made public.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to adjourn the Board meeting at 7:58pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Fowler