

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, September 10, 2024
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School
6:30 p.m.**

The videoconferencing link was published several places including on the meeting agenda. The option to record the meeting was unavailable.

Present: *Dennis Golding, Brianne Lavallee, John Zavgren, Michelle Alley, Tiffany Cloutier-Cabral, Darlene Anzalone, Geoffrey Allen (online at 6:52pm), Diane Foss, Jonathan Lavoie, and school board student representative Hannah Hamilton*
Superintendent Peter Weaver (departed 7:41pm), Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principals Tom Ronning and Principal Bridgette Fuller, Assistant Principal Katie Gosselin, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, Curriculum Coordinator Samantha Dignan, 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. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent requested to move up the WLCTA report and the student board representative's report.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Cloutier-Cabral to move the student's report to number IV, a, ii and the WLCTA report to IV, a, iii.
Voting: all aye, motion carried.

IV. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent spoke of a good solution to support the Wilton elections. He spoke of how the process developed, the town clerk asked to use the gym for elections, it is a good space and easy to enter and exit. Part of the request is to have access at 2:30pm the day before to prepare the space and to have a room for the people working the election to have a place to take lunch and be away from the voting booth. He spoke with administration and there were some concerns. The gym floor was replaced in the spring and the athletic teams have not used it yet, the floor cost was over \$200,000. We have concerns, as we want to maintain it. There would be shoes, boots and furniture moving around plus food and drinks. We are trying to maintain the quality of the floor and it also a scheduled school day. Last year when we built the schedule, we built in a day for them to use for elections. They chose not to use our facility, we found out inadvertently, and this year there was no communication about using the gym so we went ahead and built the schedule. We would need to go remote for the MS and HS because part of their request about using the gym is not to have students in the building. Not having done that for several years requires our team to plan for this and what we did learn from going remote before is some kids do not have internet. There were concerns about safety brought up at the last meeting, which raised some concerns from our staff and we need to have precautions in place. The Superintendent met with the police chief and he is comfortable based on that discussion. If we empty the cafeteria, that space would be adequate, we would secure the 2 hallways, and any teachers in the middle classrooms would have to be moved to another location to work. That would allow the town to utilize the main hall and cafeteria and another space for a break area not the music room but another space likely the offices. We will secure the building, go remote and all those things we think of as a win, win and in return we hope the town of Wilton will accept the compromise. The cafeteria is available and it would address the needs and concerns. He asked for direction from the Board. He confirmed we might need to cancel some activities on the day before elections as they requested to set up at 2:30pm the day before; school ends at 2:45pm. He would open the back door so they have access to the café without going into the hallway. We can push that time back to 3pm but there would still be kids in the building. Discussion was had that pushing that back to 3pm would be better and parents would likely be more comfortable with that. He informed the group that one of the things we will have to do is rearrange how we clean the space; it will need to be sanitized the day before and day after and rework the afternoon. A question was raised if it would require overtime. He doesn't think so but defers to Mr. Erb. We have always assumed those costs before whether it is for the Planning Board or elections. It is a cost we have taken on as a district. It is more about finding someone who is available when they need it and finding the time to do that work plus their regular work. It may require a few hours of overtime and thinks we are OK with that, it is about trying to meet a community half way. Ms. Foss expressed she has heard from the townspeople and they say the cafeteria is not large enough. She asked what the difference in size is. Superintendent responded the gym is at least 2 times as big. In 2020, we had the national election here that was during COVID. We needed to create a space for those masking and

those not masking. We had 2 voting locations and 2 separate entrances, it was messy with a lot of rules we had to follow for health and safety, and it required a large venue. If all 2800 people come at the same time then the café or the gym will not be adequate. Ms. Foss noted she is not sure that it can't be done in the café but knows there were mistakes made and knows the town has given us a lot of money last year and many think the school is part of the town. Superintendent noted he has not heard from Wilton on how we will handle the maintenance of the floor if things are spilled and are scratched etc. He agrees with Ms. Foss and notes the only conversations we have had are about how to make it a win, win. It is important we find a way to make it work; the communities are supportive of the schools. No one is talking about how the community can help us address the concerns we have. We are having to problem solve that on our own. The partnership is the 2 of us together and how to collectively find solution that works for both of us. He was very clear there was a process here and the idea that the decision has been made is not the case. Ms. Foss notes she likes the idea of having cooperative problem solving. She expects we will have a big turnout. She thinks there could be a lot of bad feelings and whoever gets involved to cut a deal that is the best way to go. Superintendent thinks there is a solution here and it would be terrible if we could not solve this problem. Ms. Foss noted she thinks it will come back and cause more trouble if we don't. Superintendent asks the Board to post pone a vote, he will try to set up a meeting with the Town of Wilton and talk through our needs, and if there is a cost, we need to talk about how we will cover that cost. By the next school board meeting, we should be able to have a solution. Ms. Foss noted it is possible if you have some ideas on how much it costs to cover the floor, maybe people will be willing to absorb it on the town level and if not then maybe, they would be open to cafeteria. A question was raised if all the schools would be remote on that day. Superintendent answered only the MS and HS. It was asked why they couldn't use FRES. Superintendent answered we do not want them to go remote as it is hard to learn for them and we would consider it a lost learning day. If we kept students in their class at FRES we could not accommodate the traffic, parking would be an issue with kids being dropped off and picked up and plus they have asked for no students in the building. Discussion was had that it is hard to believe that there is such a hard time communicating with them. Superintendent noted he spoke to the town administrator when the issue emerged and apparently, he is not responsible for the process and is out of the loop. The town clerk and moderator are responsible. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral questioned why we can't get them. Superintendent responded we have not had a meeting and we have to solve it together and work through the issue face to face. It was noted if you are writing to them via email is it likely to get a response from them. He thinks so, it is an important election and we don't want the venue to be the problem. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral added working out these things is a priority. She is surprised that we have not had a conversation with them and suggests that maybe we need to send a certified letter. The Superintendent thinks we should be able to reach them before the weekend and have a meeting set up even if he has to go to the town offices, which is what he will likely do. Mr. Zavgren expressed that whether the space is big or small you can use the space more efficiently by regulating the space and even back it up to the parking lot. Superintendent notes we can talk through that in a meeting and see if we can come up with a good outcome. Mr. Zavgren noted that from a math point of view you might be able to make a small space more effective. Ms. LaPlante spoke that they know the assets they need for voting whether you are picking a location or not, you are always working with the space set up and larger space will not make it quicker as they will be pigeon holed by the number of ways they can vote. Discussion was had that you can move them quicker through a smaller space. Mr. Lavoie voiced that he does not approve of the remote learning day it is a big ask. He spoke of having the kids use the MS entrance and gating off the front and thinks it can be done with proper planning. He spoke of having the school pitch in to cover the cost to do the floor and everything means Lyndeborough would be pay for it in a way and if the town wants to do it, Wilton should foot the bill for it as Lyndeborough has their voting location. Ms. Lavallee noted whether voting in the gym or café there is no way to keep the kids completely separate from the public as the stage is in the middle of them and there is access through there. As a parent, she agrees with Mr. Lavoie that a remote learning day is difficult for kids. Some do well and some don't. It is a big ask but she also feels we can't have the kids in the building as she doesn't feel it is safe and wants to be on record that she doesn't want that to happen. Ms. Anzalone noted that when she was in a prior town the elections always took place in the school and they knew it would be closed she feels it was poor planning and why did this ask not come up before we could have built it in. Superintendent responded that he thinks there was some assumptions on both when we built it in our calendar, they didn't use it and we assumed they were going to use the town hall. The assumption on our part was there was no need for it and in the meantime, they didn't communicate with us that they needed it. When the time came to plan for November 5, it was an aha moment. We have kids in the building and now what are we going to do. As it was 7:03pm, the Chairman asked to put off the election discussion; it is on the agenda later and asked Chairman Jones if Ms. Hamilton could read her report prior to the joint session starting. No objection was heard. After the joint session, the scheduled resumed as written.

ii. Student Support Services Report

Mr. Pratt spoke of having some additions and subtractions to the ABA's and paraprofessionals this year. We still had 5 open paraprofessional positions and 1 ABA, which we are in the process of filling. We filled 3 of the paraprofessional positions with contracted services using the funds for 5 positions. If we have additional applications, we can evaluate them and hire if acceptable in the place of a contracted person. We had an amazing first day with the teachers. He asked the special education staff to stand up and they received thunderous applause, we have such a great crew across the board but special education is great and most have stayed with us. We had a good ESY program with a great turnout and still are evaluating that apex of where they started and where they are now to be sure we didn't have any regression. His department is problematic because he is the one giving you the least consistency. He has been working with Ms. LaPlante going over budget numbers and will present it in due time. He will come back with his fall report, which he gives annually. We are looking at about 19.9% special education students. It is the younger kids affected during the remote time and time away from classes. He is seeing an increase for speech

and language and falling behind a little bit. We are working hard to provide these services. He confirms we have had a couple more referrals come in and will provide an exact number but the number of special education students has increased.

iii. Student School Board Representative's Report

Ms. Hamilton reported the 2024-2025 school year has had many adjustments to students schedules, new W.I.N. block as an example and many expressed they enjoy the W.I.N. block as they can meet one on one with their teachers and study for SAT and PSAT testing. Upcoming events are a career and construction field trip and many soccer games and cross-country meets coming up. She asked for people to come out and support the athletes. Ms. Hamilton was welcomed back and thanked for her report.

iv. Principal's Report

Principal Fuller reported IMPACT meetings have started; we look at data and target instruction and plan for students in the classroom. The FRES staff meeting was today, LCS will have their staff meeting tomorrow. We started working on budgets. Curriculum night is next Thursday for FRES at 6pm and LCS is the following Thursday, September 26 at 6pm.

Principal Ronning reported they have a lead on a computer science teacher and hope to bring his name forward at the next meeting. They would be fully staffed at that point. Last year we didn't have a MS school board representative and this year we have 3 students interested. He will interview them and have one for the next board meeting. He notes it is the 10th day of school and already 57 Warrior Winner Cards, (way of promoting positive things students do) have been sent home. At the staff meeting today he and Assistant Principal Gosselin encouraged staff to reach out to parents, touch base at the start of the school year and ask if there is anything we can do to help their kids be successful let us know and we encourage parents to reach out to us if we can help. He spoke of encouraging new teachers to prepare for their future. He expressed that part of administrations role is to make sure our staff and students move forward in their careers. He spoke of our school doing very well, we are a school on the move and increasing rigor and he is happy to report we have a student tuitioning into our district. They looked at our school and liked what they saw and are now paying to come here. We should be proud of this. Tomorrow is September 11th and we will in fact make an announcement to the students so they know the significance of something that happened 23 years ago. Ms. Lavallee noted it is fabulous news about the computer science teacher. She asked if it was too late to have a robotics team. Principal Ronning confirms it is not. He informs them we are looking to have a club day where all our clubs are present and students can become aware of them to be more involved in their school. Ms. Lavallee suggested if they would like a school board representative there as well, we could have information on how to approach the school board on starting a new club, as there is a process and it is good when it is student led. She is willing to do it unless the Board has an objection. No objection heard. Chairman Golding volunteered Ms. Lavallee to represent the Board.

v. Curriculum Coordinator's Report

Ms. Dignan reported there was a lot going on over the summer. Ms. LaPlante had already spoken of all the PD that was given. Some teachers went to OGAP training for math, responsive classroom, and one HS teacher had AP Biology training and administration did some iReady training for reporting. We had new teacher orientation, had breakfast and lunch, introduced them to the curriculum, how to access iReady and the platform and took a tour through Wilton. We had last years new teachers (Ms. McGrath, Ms. Lanzlinger and Mr. Sullivan) come to speak with this year's new teacher and they had the opportunity to ask questions. We have a lot of mentors this year. Opening day for staff had the School Board Chairman and Vice Chair speak to staff, Ms. Diane Doran spoke of her heart being in Wilton, new teachers were introduced, the annual rock, paper, scissors game took place and we had some mandatory training. There were 59 students who participated in summer and tomorrow iReady starts at the MS and FRES. A question was raised if Ms. Dignan had heard if the minimum standards were approved. Ms. Dignan has not heard but there is more than one-step for that. It will not be a quick overnight process. She notes we talked about some mandates that require funding and there may be a window of time to mandate some of the policies in there. A question was raised if there is feedback on ParentSquare. Ms. Dignan gets weekly updates and many teachers are sending out posts; it seems a lot are using it. She has not heard of any issues. A question was raised if we should hang on to IXL. Ms. Dignan responds we used it strictly at the HS because Instructional Pathways only goes through grade 8. You can use it if you are not on grade level for example if you are in 10th grade but at an 8th grade level you can use it. She asks to keep Instructional Pathways in the budget, as it is a huge asset for students. The growth she has seen from last spring is huge. She can resend that around if needed. Students who used MyPath for the recommended time had scores 70% higher.

Principal Ronning shared a couple of additional items. The first is the Washington, DC trip. He would like the Board to approve the trip for juniors and seniors March 5th-8th. He asks the Board to approve it so they can begin the fund raising.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to approve the Washington, DC trip.

Principal Ronning confirms, he is not asking for funding but they do have money to defray the cost for those who need it.

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

Principal Ronning informed the Board they are planning for a student trip to Europe (UK and France) in 2 years, the cost would end up being about \$4,000, and it is a 10-day trip in April 2026. If we can get that approved, we can put it out to students. He confirms the cost of \$4,122 and adds it is a lot of money but with advanced planning, it would help.

185 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to approve a 10-day excursion to Europe.*

186
187 Ms. Foss added she thinks it is a great idea. Principal Ronning spoke of memories lasting a lifetime. A question was raised how
188 you could assure the cost won't increase by then. Principal Ronning answered that they give us a contract and assumes they
189 build in a little for inflation, if we can lock it in and move forward that would be fantastic.

190
191 *Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.*

192 193 **vi. WLCTA**

194 Ms. Morgan Kudlich, music teacher and Ms. Erin Rosana, social studies teacher both co-presidents of the WLCTA introduced
195 themselves for those who are new.

196
197 Ms. Kudlich, FRES & LCS:

- 198 • School has only been in session for 2 weeks and already we are hard at work. Teachers came in for a PD days, things
- 199 have been going smoothly and she knows from listening to the walkie-talkies support for behaviors has gone down.
- 200 • SPED teachers are working on creating their intervention schedule and seeing what has changed over the summer.
- 201 • LCS teachers were able to screen and sort students the first two days of school so that they could use the most up-to-
- 202 date data on their students. They think this will prove a better method moving forward.
- 203 • As teachers settle into the first few weeks of school they are already preparing to run the first round of benchmark
- 204 testing tomorrow. Once testing is done, teachers will spend a day with their grade level to develop plans for the year.
- 205 • The School Board and the community were thanked for supporting such a strong contract last spring. We think the
- 206 efficacy of that decision has been proven by the low level of turnover we saw and have even picked up a few
- 207 paraprofessionals and ABA's which is really wonderful.

208
209 Ms. Rosana, WLC:

- 210 • Thanked the school board and community for their support. The biggest thing this year has been the retention rate; it
- 211 makes a huge positive impact especially for the first few weeks of school. We met all the WLC teachers and talked
- 212 about expectation, rigor, grading and cell phone policy etc.
- 213 • iReady benchmark testing 9/9-9/12-will use data to implement targeted instruction during WIN
- 214 • The new schedule (6 periods + a WIN block) is working well so far- kids are generally appreciative of that time to get
- 215 extra help, etc.
- 216 • Some teachers asked that she relay concerns about temperatures in the classrooms. Hopefully we are at the last of it
- 217 and some classes do have A/C.
- 218 • International trip to the UK and France is in the works – interest / informational meeting will be in October (date TBD)

219 Ms. Rosana added, overall it has been a really good start to the year. Ms. Kudlich spoke of last year FRES struggling with the
220 heat and now she believes all teacher classrooms have A/C and only a few don't have windows and are without, including her
221 room but she is grateful that she can go next door where she can eat lunch in a cooler environment. Ms. Lavallee voiced that
222 she is happy with the report she is getting back from WLC about the increased rigor, although the kids are not as happy. She
223 also likes that we increased it last year and have continued that moving forward and that it's getting down to the details such as
224 spelling, grammar, counting and handwriting in all the classes. She thinks it will benefit everyone.

225 226 **V. 7PM JOINT BOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION**

227 Present: *Jeff Jones, Adam Lavallee, Bridget Mooney (online), Alex LoVerme, Jonathan Vanderhoof, and Jennifer Bernet*

228
229 The joint session started at 7:06pm.

230 231 **a. FY 2025-2026**

232 **i. Recap of FY24 Budget/Actual**

233 Ms. LaPlante reported including food services we have an unspent balance of approximately \$570,000 unaudited and there will
234 still be some adjustments to be made. She spoke of looking at the recap with some lines showing a concerning amount left in
235 wages and benefits and we have overspent in some areas. She explained some positions were not filled for part of the year and
236 some for all of the year. We still have some paraprofessional and RBT positions open. Our SPED non-wages is over by 17%,
237 which is offset in other areas where we filled some support positions with contracted service providers. We see an increase in
238 co-curricular, we invested more in the track and purchased bleachers, score board and pulleys. There is a maintenance overage
239 by \$58,000, she reminded the Board we invested \$45,000 to replace the fire panel and unanticipated costs such as replacing the
240 sewer line and some carry over that was not billed which came out of this year's funds. We replaced the curtain at FRES;
241 purchased A/C's and purchased a used scissor lift for WLC. If we didn't have those things, we would have had a balance
242 remaining. SPED transport is over; when we build the budget, we are making our best guess on out of district tuition. Food
243 services operations are over budget by \$13,825; there was a change in staff and benefits. We had a healthy savings in food; we
244 had inflated that cost when we built the budget. Overall, she is very, very pleased where we ended up. She reviewed the many
245 projects we did with facilities.

246 **ii. ESSER Update**

Ms. LaPlante reported working hard to make sure we use the totality of our funds and exceeded the funds (\$202,930) we were obligated to use for learning loss. We were able to invest in tutoring at FRES and WLC and the boiler is still underway and will be completed by September 30. We invested in summer learning loss and enrichment programs, WLC competency recovery and enrichment programs totaling \$26,673, LCS kindergarten extended year program totaling \$14,726 and FRES Summer Academy in grades 4 and 5 totaling \$15,140 (in the future that will not be split in grades). We provided interventionist support programs at FRES in grades 3 and 4 totaling \$30,878, and accelerated math learning program for 5th graders who are ahead of the game totaling \$21,589. We funded Instructional Pathways totaling \$38,600; we are seeing kids accessing the content to get them ahead. We provided significant curriculum support, offering a W.I.N. PD (professional development) day \$3,199, advanced math PD training software for grades K-5 including vertical alignment with MS math \$15,616, and Ms. Dignan will coordinate ELA and math curriculum review and alignment to determine if we need to make any changes \$4,682. We provided student behavioral support at FRES and were able to fund part of the expanded mental health program at FRES \$40,000 and funded a behavior specialist for the summer program to provide additional behavioral support \$8,855. We provided stipends for nurses who were reaching burnout during COVID \$3,107 and made funding allowable for long term substitutes \$53,207. We were able to purchase furniture including tables and chairs (replacing broken ones) in a couple of the buildings for students and 4 new lunch tables for LCS for a more collaborative setting and 10 tables for WLC. We will be able to repurpose the old tables at FRES. During COVID tons of money was invested in technology. We funded a \$58,000 for an IT position, which has evolved to overall support for this. We have been able to upgrade the boilers at WLC and indirect cost for managing the grants, which we were eligible for up to \$40,000 for materials, and managing it and only are accessing about 2% of that, \$15,000. She is proud of how we managed ESSER funds and that we didn't want to create financial burdens for the future. She applauded the Board for making sure the programs were realistic. We are looking to purchase computer chargers and more Chromebooks with the remaining balance. She confirms Instructional Pathways is about \$20,000 and has provided monumental returns and you will probably see that transition when we build the budget, also the technology support. Those are the only things that will remain or you might see again. She confirms if there is a need we may be able to use Title I funding for some of the programs and need to look at Summer Academy. It doesn't mean we will not offer it in the future but right now, we are not planning for it. Superintendent adds we had summer work and need to determine if it was helpful and if so we need to evaluate the programs directly linked to ESSER, which ones will be kept and what has had the most impact and in our Title I grants too. They have reduced the funding for Title I. It will take some work to look at it. We thought of this idea of using ESSER for it but what would we do when the money runs out and tried to make good decisions for kid's not rash decisions. Ms. LaPlante added the other program that stuck out is the accelerated program, which is about \$17,000-\$18,000, will be in our budget. Ms. Lavallee noted in reviewing ESSER funds she sees some programs she would like to see continue. Addressing learning loss over the summer is important. Ms. Anzalone suggested we continue some after school tutoring as well.

iii. Discuss Strategy for FY 26

Chairman Jones reported he met in the spring with the Superintendent, Ms. LaPlante and Chairman Golding to talk about how we can work more efficiently and the way the schedule will work. We are starting with strategy today and will get a full budget review on October 8 and then the Budget Committee will break off and have 3 separate meetings with the Superintendent, Ms. LaPlante and staff. We invite the school board to attend but we also recognize you also have a lot of work to do and the Budget Committee owns the budget and we don't want to burden the Board by going line by line. We value the input but think we can work more effectively. The budget liaison will help with communication between the 2 groups where we will not be together as frequently as in the past. We thank administration and the school board for the technology to record the meetings going forward and will post those on the website to review at your leisure. Ms. LaPlante expressed she really appreciated the opportunity and time to say what worked and what could work better for all of the budget players. If changes along the way are needed, she will let you know for example, the date for the curriculum coordinator will have to be moved. She also spoke of the deadline for the petition warrant articles; the law says it has to be a certain number of days before the budget hearing. Last year we ran into an issue that there is no clarity on the time deadline and it is very common for districts to establish one. Because theoretically someone could present one at 11:30pm at night, we didn't know what time we could accept one up until the budget hearing is that night. We consulted with legal counsel and the DRA and have placed a timeline that requires it to be handed to a school board member or the SAU staff by 3pm. This helps the administration staff with researching things. It was noted that it theoretically cuts off a few hours and the public has many more hours/days prior to that to submit it. Chairman Jones noted that last year we had one that was technically not allowable; do we want to add any more time for that? Ms. LaPlante responded no the state only allows a certain amount of time if someone wants to submit one, they should look into the requirements. Chairman Jones requested the materials for the budget be given to the committee the Friday before presentations, as the time spent will be more effective. Ms. LaPlante agreed to this. She confirmed that it is her intent to wrap the athletic director's budget into WLC's presentation vs. it being a standalone presentation. Chairman Jones noted that on the budget timeline it shows the committee meeting on October 15 instead of October 22, which is the date that the committee chose. Ms. LaPlante will confirm that date and republish it, no problem.

iv. Establish Guidelines for Administration to Build the Budget

Ms. LaPlante spoke that a dollar figure or percent is helpful, if there are areas you want us to hit that is helpful also, to make sure what we come back with what is realistic. Chairman Jones spoke that there are a couple of key things with facilities, any big-ticket items and make sure we are keeping up with things. We recognize the CBA is 1.9%, which will be significant. We are already coming in with a 2% increase with a flat budget. We would be comfortable with 2%-6% for some of us and it really needs to be based on need that is what the Budget Committee is comfortable with. Ms. LaPlante asked if the school board has any guidance for administration. Chairman Golding responded that the Board wants to be sure we are including the ESSER

programs as Mr. LoVerme said, if we used it and it was to our advantage we should keep it and would like to see less spending at the end of the year. We don't want to be spending at the end of the year because we didn't fix something. Ms. LaPlante is very comfortable with projects being brought to the school board if they are out of our budget it is a great suggestion. Ms. Lavallee spoke that for facilities, make sure we have line items for continued maintenance on some areas such as the track and tennis courts if we are fixing them and how much is it to maintain them. She wants to see that facilities has the money delineated so if a taxpayer asks how much we spent we can clearly show it. Ms. LaPlante agreed but wants to be able to contract out if needed. Ms. Lavallee spoke of the WLC Performance Tech Committee's work on sound and lighting and if that could be part of the discussion as well. If you need additional information on that reach out to Ms. LaPlante or a contact on the committee, we also have previous minutes you can review. Ms. LaPlante will work with Chairman Jones in one of the content areas whether it is in WLC or a standalone, she will make sure it is discussed. Mr. LoVerme asked for maintenance schedule (PM) for all things such as heating etc. There was a brief discussion regarding bussing and Mr. Lavallee noted his dissatisfaction. Ms. LaPlante confirms the contract is a 3-year contract. Mr. LoVerme suggested we look at busses down the road. Chairman Jones asked if there was anything, we need to think about so far in FY 25, any surprises or things we should have conversations about. Ms. LaPlante responded so far no. SPED is still evaluating students to see if they need anything different than budgeted otherwise nothing at this point. Ms. Anzalone asked about the SRO and if we are planning for that. Chairman Golding responded it is in committee and they are figuring it out. Any additional questions were asked for, none heard.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Mr. Adam Lavallee, Lyndeborough commented that he came in on the voting location discussion and he is confused, is the café not an option because it is not big enough. We have district meeting here with 2 towns all at once but it is not big enough for 1 town of voters, they are not coming all at once. Chairman Golding responded they have said it would not accommodate their needs.

Ms. Ariel Crotty, Wilton wanted to give an update on the WLC Performance Tech Committee's fund raising efforts for lights and sound. We raised nearly \$4,000 thanks to the support from the community it has been overwhelming. Classes of 1973 and 1974 collected during their reunion, LA Limo, Devine Flooring and Souhegan Woodworks all donated. The Wilton Alliance expressed willingness to help with grant writing. Our primary objective is to install sound by March at WLC. We obtained quotes ranging from \$22,000-\$26,000. We are incredibly grateful for the community support.

Ms. Brianne Lavallee, Lyndeborough commented that she was very pleased to see how many people in the community were really supportive of our schools not just toward the Performance Tech Committee but also through our PTO tent for classes. It is great to see our community come together and support our schools.

Ms. Kelly Gibson, Wilton voiced there was a lot of discussion about the summer science and math program. Her son participated in both, originally he didn't want to but she wanted him to utilize it and get out of the house as they are fostering her grandson and thought it would healthy for him. He had a great time, Mr. Chenette and Ms. Bujak are fantastic teachers and engaging. Her concern is that it was only available to the MS student and not to HS students. She knows there were HS students who wanted to participate and for one camp, there would have been availability for that to happen. When discussing it for next summer she asks that you keep the program even if it changes at some level. It breaks the monotony for some kids, gives them somewhere to go, and encourages you to make it more inclusive.

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

Ms. Mary Golding commented regarding voting, there are a lot of moving parts and lots you have to do to allow the town use your facility. If going remote you are inconveniencing the parents and students. She doesn't agree with them using the gym. Ms. Foss mentioned they did not get back to you before the calendar was finalized and now they are scrambling, she understands we want to keep them happy. Certainly not all 2800 will be voting at the same time. If the gym is used who will cover the cost for that, she doesn't want to pay for them to use it. Other towns do close for voting, ConVal does, she is sure they schedule it before the calendar is created. She gave a shout out to Ms. Hannah Hamilton who did a great job with her report. She will be at the soccer game tomorrow and hopes to see some familiar faces. The Performance Tech Committee, great job. Budget Committee, it is nice to see you back, Mr. LoVerme thanks for asking the hard questions. She hopes for more direction this season. We have money left over from last year, which is great. She added, Mr. LoVerme if we don't fix the tennis courts, maybe we can afford a bus!

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to adjourn the budget committee session at 7:55pm. Voting: all aye, motion carried.

VII. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION

Chairman Golding asked if there is anything members want to discuss. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral noted this meeting was really organized and it sounds like there is a clear map to have it ready; it is a lot clearer than it has ever been. Ms. LaPlante did a great job reporting on ESSER and the way the funds were used. She has done a huge service; we can't thank her enough for that. Chairman Golding added when he met with Chairman Jones, Ms. LaPlante and the Superintendent it was fruitful. We spoke that the prior meetings were not run very well we wanted to streamline it for this year. Ms. Alley questioned that it seems like last year and this year administration was asking for a budget cap. She asked what that does for you as it seems like you ask every year and sometimes the school board will try to agree on a cap. Ms. LaPlante responded we don't have a mandated cap but it gives us a direction on how tight we are with funds. We meet with 8 other people on how the budget looks. We need to look at things like what do you need to make your programs successful and at the end of the day we have contractual obligations so it helps us focus the areas of need. Last year we didn't have a cap and we came in at 6% and were told to go back and make changes.

VIII. ELECTION DAY

Discussion continued on this topic. A question was raised if anyone had called the moderator and spoken to him as it sounded like no one actually spoke to each other. Chairman Golding believes there was an email and he received a call from Jane Farrell, Town Clerk expressing her displeasure in the Superintendent trying to give them the cafeteria to use. He didn't have a lot of discussion with her, as he cannot make that decision. He told her he supported the Superintendent's decision but didn't have a lot of clarity. The Superintendent did reach out to Ms. Farrell but did not hear back from her. Discussion continued including, if the Board put a "cap" on how long this takes so that it is not drawn out. Chairman Golding voiced that the Board can give the Superintendent any direction we want accomplished by the next meeting, whether it is using the cafeteria as he suggested or use the gym and put down mats to cover the floor and provide police security etc. There is a lot of talking that needs to be done. Mr. Allen spoke that he agrees with everything said tonight. He has concerns with the public being in our school with unfettered access while school is in session. He doesn't know how fair it is to require parents, students and staff to go remote. If administration thinks the cafeteria is a suitable compromise then he would be open to that. A lengthy discussion continued including the election didn't just come up, in the Superintendent's report it shows that Monday is used for Parent/Teacher conferences in the afternoon will that be an issue? The school is in Wilton but is kind of our property; we are asking for the SRO maybe they can support us when we are asking for other things. The size of the room was discussed. It is believed the cafeteria is 2-3 times the size of the town hall. Ms. Foss spoke that she would like to see the Superintendent make a call, get a meeting with the people and see if they can make some compromise. When money is involved, they may decide they will live with the cafeteria. Regarding the calendar, she feels partially responsible as a board member; in the back of her mind, she knew it was a national election. She wishes she had said something. She knows they have been in our gym before but is sure she never wants to hear of a problem like this again. Chairman Golding spoke that the gym floor cost over \$228,000, that is 15% of last year's budget. Ms. Foss noted some who want to use the gym are fiscally responsible. Discussion was had that coming in with work boots, food and drink and all those things may require us to resurface it, if you want to use the gym you need a means to cover it and should be responsible to pay for it, if that doesn't work the café is an option. Chairman Golding commented that mistakes have been made on both sides and we will build the national election into the schedule in the future. Discussion was had that our responsibility is to the children and teachers and providing the best education possible and remote learning is a wasted day and you might as well make it up in June, which is another wasted day. We are here for the kids and this is not the best thing for the kids and need to make an adjustment somehow. We also need to have the WLCTA's approval. Chairman Golding asked if the Board wants to give the Superintendent direction. Ms. Lavallee feels at the next meeting we need a decision made there is limited time. Chairman Golding asked Ms. LaPlante if there is a time when they have to give the exact place. Ms. LaPlante responded that date has already passed and as she understands it, if she is wrong she apologizes, they already sent notice to the Secretary of the State and noticed the location here (WLC). When they told us they would have it here, they requested no kids be in the building because of parking. If we cut through the emotion of it, the Secretary of the State puts information out on what is required. You don't increase the number of voting booths they already have those. When she looks at the 2 facilities and the realistic concern, the café provides all of those things they are concerned about; one way in and out, we would provide space that more than fills the requirements from the Secretary of State. While she agrees the gym is a great space, our basketball teams could not use the gym until January. If there are significant scratches, we are spending more money to finish it that is not fair to the students. We are trying to meet their requests, no students, parking and doesn't think it is a disservice to use the café because it meets all the requirements. Chairman Golding suggested let's agree to authorize the Superintendent to contact Wilton and work this out and come forward with a secondary recommendation. A suggestion was made to have Mr. Keefe, Moderator come here. Mr. Zavgren noted it sounds like we are offering adequate space. If there is damage who pays for that and is there downtime if it occurs. Ms. LaPlante responded she doesn't anticipate they are going to rip up the floor. One thing that has been suggested is we put some type of barrier on the floor. Mr. Schultz came to the last meeting and spoke of it. The ability to cover the floor to protect the investment has a cost to it. If we purchase one, where is it stored, do we ask our facilities crew to do it, it doesn't benefit the district once every 3 or 4 years. Discussion continued including hypothetically we could say they can use it but we recommend certain things be done and the school should not have to pay for it. Ms. LaPlante added there is a difference in the spirit of cooperation but she hears Mr. Lavoie, the town of

Lyndeborough is contributing. Even if we say, we will help you with set up there is still a cost to the district. She lives in ConVal's district, it is the town's responsibility to set up, tear down, and any additional custodial time they are billed for it. It is not uncommon in other communities that the town requesting to use it bear the cost, set up, and tear down. It was noted they have already told the Secretary of State it will be here. Ms. LaPlante responded at the end of the day they filled their legal obligation by notifying the state. Ms. Anzalone commented, what are we asking them to do, they already said it will be here and we don't know if they can change it and they want to be here the day before when there are conferences, will we lose that day too? Ms. LaPlante responded they want the room; there is no expectation that they building is vacant that day while they set up. It was questioned what burden is on Mr. Erb and his staff, are they expected to clean up. Ms. LaPlante believes the expectation is they help tear down but doesn't speak with 100% certainty. It was noted it seems there is a lot of expectation on the staff. Mr. Erb confirms they did all the meetings here and at FRES and we are here until 1:30am-2:00am. Mr. Allen spoke wanting to be clear that he is opposed to a remote learning day and Lyndeborough students having to be remote for Wilton to vote and use the gym at all until we can decide as a school how to adequately protect it. If administration believes they can use the cafeteria safely and effectively, we use the cafeteria; other than that, he is in favor of them using the town hall. Chairman Golding notes we did offer the cafeteria and they have said it is not adequate. Chairman Golding comments as a resident we have not had an election here in some time. He assumed it would be at the town hall. Discussion was had including reviewing if we want to close the school, what do we want the Superintendent to talk to the town about, it is clear we want them to use the cafeteria and not the gym, they may decide they don't want to do voting here if there is not another option for them. Ms. Cloutier-Cabral spoke that if the Superintendent is able to have a meeting, we are not totally opposed to the gym floor if it is covered but we will not pay for it. If we provide clean up and do all those other things, we still have the challenge of the students. If he has the meeting, we would have more information for the next meeting. We should hold off until the next meeting and think about what we do with the students. She is not opposed to doing elections here but we have some stuff to deal with and it is unfair to Lyndeborough. Chairman Golding voiced the Superintendent would set up a meeting with the Town of Wilton to provide the café option or the gym if they cover it at their expense. He believes he had talked with the WLCTA and administration about the remote day and they are all onboard at this level and figure out where they will place everyone. Staff would be in their classrooms and a couple were not comfortable because Mr. Schultz had spoken about open carry, we would find another space for them. The Superintendent will need to meet with them this week or the latest next. Ms. Lavallee commented that she would like to know there is a plan for the children who do not have internet access. Discussion continued including setting up a remote classroom and the need to consider the cost of that. We want to build a relationship with the Wilton community but do not want to alienate the Lyndeborough community. We need to be sure any cost is not placed on the Lyndeborough taxpayers. A question was raised if the Town of Wilton owns 1 or 2 church buildings. Ms. LaPlante responded it has to meet ADA requirements. It was noted WLC is the easiest choice but there are other options that would not include removing students. Chairman Golding reminds the group we need to decide on a direction for the Superintendent. Ms. Lavallee commented that in the meeting he propose that they can use the café and the only way to use the gym is if they can take on the burden of protecting the floor. Before making the offer we need a plan for kids with no internet and any financial burden it accrues such as maintenance staff or a substitute that the Town of Wilton is responsible for covering those expenses. It was noted the Chief of Police would be there for the election process and other officers rotating. Wilton has submitted that they will have it here and no other option. Discussion was had that elections 2016 were in the town hall and they used WLC in 2020. They have been in town hall as long as Ms. Cloutier-Cabral has been here. They used the gym because it gave them the distance and for those who masked and those who didn't. Today is the Primary and they are at town hall. She thinks that last year we reached out to them to see if they wanted to use it, they said no, this came as a surprise. Ms. Anzalone added she doesn't think we made any incorrect assumptions, if elections were here all the time but they are not. It was noted that the hope is when the Superintendent meets with them it will be heavily considered that it is not up to Lyndeborough to pay for Wilton's voting and hope they all agree with that. Discussion continued including concern regarding how it ends up that Wilton is declaring where they will have elections it is not a Wilton building, it is a district building. Concern was raised with no SRO here and having children in the building while voting is happening but it is also less than 2 months before the date. The initial stages of remote learning were not entirely a success. Even though our educators and administration performed admirably, we are still dealing with learning loss and doesn't know that it benefits the students. There was some agreement that having a remote day is a wasted day. Mr. Allen thinks it should be subject to Board vote; we don't let people on the floor in boots for a reason. He thinks it is something we as a Board tonight should direct the Superintendent as to what is an acceptable floor cover and if we will keep students in the building and what burden do we put on Wilton to see that the building is secured, otherwise we are just giving them the day off. It is an increased burden to parents to do a remote day. Chairman Golding doesn't know if not having a remote day and having the day off is an option. We will give the Superintendent the direction we stated and hopefully he will update us before the meeting. Discussion was had one of the other reasons in 2020 we decided to do this was one of the Superintendent's initiatives was to improve school and community relations between the town offices and us. There was a lot of positive feedback about being able to vote here. It was looked at from the majority of the Board and Superintendent that it was a positive step in improving relations. Ms. Lavallee noted she is not happy how it came about with undue stress on administration and the Board, she is supportive of both towns using our schools, they are an asset to our communities and should be used as much as possible. A question was raised if we can verify whether we can close the school on that day. Chairman Golding responded we would have to find out from the Superintendent and WLCTA and figure out that all out with the state etc. He asked if everyone is good with this for now and pick it up at the next meeting.

IX. DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

Chairman Golding voiced that tonight we can decide who are our representative will be, Ms. Foss went last year and prefers not go again. We can vote on the resolutions October 8 and have time to review them. The representative will take our recommendations to the Delegate Assembly. He asked for volunteers. Chairman Golding confirms that our resolution is in there and they (NHSBA) determined the resolution is not a resolution they rejected it. Ms. Foss doesn't feel she could do it justice because she was one of the people who didn't want to do it. Unless someone else wants to do it, she will.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Anzalone and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to appoint Ms. Foss as the WLC School Board representative to attend the Delegate Assembly 2024.

Mr. Lavoie noted she has said she doesn't want to bring it up. Ms. Foss expressed that it would be her preference to not bring it up but if this group decides to do it she certainly will, maybe not with the zeal of the gym floor but she will.

Voting: via roll call vote, eight ayes, one abstention from Ms. Foss, motion carried.

X. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Ms. Anzalone and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to approve the minutes of August 27, 2024 as written.

Voting: via roll call vote, eight ayes, one abstention from Ms. Cloutier-Cabral, motion carried.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Mr. Lavoie to approve the nonpublic minutes of August 27, 2024 as written.

Voting: via roll call vote, seven ayes, two abstentions from Ms. Cloutier-Cabral and Ms. Anzalone, motion carried.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Budget Liaison

Chairman Golding voiced that Chairman Jones had talked about everything from the meeting; there is nothing else to report. He asked for any questions, none heard.

ii. Policy Committee

Ms. Lavallee reported that she met with Ms. Foss for a short meeting and will have policies coming forward for the next meeting from last year's legislative update. They went over some policy changes coming forward and had discussion around Title IX that we need to work on. She will attend the policy update webinar in October so that the committee will start working on those policies that need changes. She asked for questions, none heard.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Kelly Gibson commented being mindful of the school boards time; she will try to be short. She spoke of the election/voting discussion and there was question if remote should be an option. She has lived in Wilton, has been involved in the process, and has counted ballots. It has been held in the town hall, although it has been tight. She does not think the gym and remote are good options, not everyone has remote access and that should be on everyone's mind what happens to those students. The Washington, DC trip has been talked about for years and she has been in and out of this district for 20 years. She is glad you voted on that and curious as to why it is only for juniors and seniors and not open to sophomores or any other HS students. This comes from a place where the current sophomores missed a lot of things due to COVID. They keep losing and missing a lot of opportunities or offerings in the district. Why are they not being included in this trip? Principal Ronning responded that the Washington, DC trip is held every other year so those who don't have the opportunity to go this year have the opportunity to go another year. She asked if it is a guarantee. Principal Ronning cannot guarantee that. She is concerned it would not be and would like to have you consider opening it up to them. She spoke that when Mr. Pratt gave his report he spoke of SPED increasing over time. Not only is COVID a responsible factor in that increase but she believes the current situation we are having as a state with the heroin epidemic and children exposed to drugs leads to children having psychological and medical concerns and Wilton needs to think about the bigger picture. She has fostered many families in this community and there are a dozen children waiting for adoption in this town with children exposed to drugs. They will need an IEP at the age of 3. We need to think about this, Manchester is a bigger town and children are coming here from that town, you may need to see a child coming in and you may see a child coming in for that issue in time.

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

Ms. Mary Golding commented she thinks if you will have a day off for voting it should be district wide, you can't just give it to WLC it will not work on the calendar although she doesn't think they should use the gym floor either. She likes the idea of the Superintendent meeting with them to discuss alternatives and compromises. She doesn't think remote is a good idea either. The

(behavior) calls at FRES have gone down due to ABA and supports; there is a great administrative team to support them. Kudos to that and to tuitioning in a student! A student who likes the school. WLC you are doing a great job, Principal Ronning I think the school is the best it has ever been and as Ms. Lavallee said keeping those relationships with the town, it hurts her because they did wrong but we are talking about an SRO right, especially given what happened in Georgia recently. She understands that and we may need to give a little to get a little down the road. She loves hearing the banter and ideas and opinions it is great to hear you so active.

XIII. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Allen thanked the administration and staff and echoed Ms. Golding's comments. He tries especially in the beginning of the school year to walk the halls, it's great, one teacher was in a classroom with his wife, and she is explaining how to decorate his classroom. He is hearing nothing about good things from the community about the schools and about Principal Ronning and Principal Fuller, and nothing but good things as a rule from parents. He notes several years ago, we considered tuitioning his kids out for the 6th grade and it is almost a whole other district now. The staff, administration and teachers are going through the roof. Great job he hopes it continues, make sure you vocalize what we as a Board can do to support you.

Ms. Anzalone commented as far as the elections situation, she thinks we should just tell them to use the café and that is it. She doesn't think the remote day would work. She understands it is not fair to teachers, without it it's another day at the end of the year. She thanked Ms. Gibson for her comments, it was a good point she brought up and thanked her for sharing it. She thanked all the teachers.

Mr. Lavoie echoed a lot of things Mr. Allen said and gave a shout out to Mr. Erb and his crew, the school looked immaculate on step up day. It looks really nice in here and is proud to say WLC is up and coming and hopes more kids will tuition in, that was a goal of his last year and will continue this year.

Ms. Lavallee commented she forgot to mention this during the election discussion. In the spring we have 2 full PD days, is there a possibility to move one of those to the Election Day, it would solve the problem with remote learning and if the Union were agreeable to take it on another day.

Ms. Cloutier-Cabral comment that it was an excellent suggestion from Ms. Lavallee. She is looking forward to the next meeting to hear what was discussed. We know we should plan for it moving forward. She is very excited that we are tuitioning in a student; it is a reflection of all the hard work everyone has done. Everywhere we go, staff and students are cheerful, and the whole energy is changing. It is because of all of you, it is great to see Ms. Hamilton back and hear her report. She is glad there are MS students interested in participating in this process. We can always do more. Ms. Gibson your comments are important and valid and we are always striving to do better.

Ms. Foss is really pleased about the student tuitioning in too. She thinks for as long as she can remember, she always felt our school has not gotten a fair shake in terms of what it brings to the table. She thinks because of the work put in by administration and town's people who are willing to put money in, she thinks people are starting to notice. She thinks it is a good thing and we are in a good place. She thanked everyone.

Ms. Alley spoke that she had the opportunity to tour our schools they are amazing! FRES and LCS and to see everything in action and see the progress made at WLC. She thanked Ms. Hamilton for coming in and what a great idea to have a club day and to have Ms. Lavallee there to show them how to do clubs and give some an opportunity to share a talent they have. As far as voting, she doesn't like being put in a corner it seems we were and we will work it out, Ms. Lavallee, it is a great idea.

Chairman Golding voiced if you have not gone into the gym yet, check out the new windows and see how bright it is on a bright sunny day.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Alley and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:44pm.
Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.*

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*