

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
Strategic Planning Committee
Wednesday, July 30, 2018
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School-Media Room
7:00 p.m.

Present: *Jonathan Vanderhoof, Harry Dailey, Carol LeBlanc, Lisa Post, Jennifer Bernet and Superintendent Bryan Lane*

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment

III. ACTION ITEMS

- **Approve Minutes**

A MOTION was made by Ms. Post and SECONDED by Mr. Dailey to approve the minutes from July 11, 2018 as written.

Voting: 5-0 motion passes unanimously.

IV. DISCUSSION OF STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE TOPICS

- **Calendar**

Through the discussion the committee agreed that focusing on quality of instruction was more important than quantity and that whatever decisions were made should be to find ways to increase student achievement.

Mr. Dailey provided historical background of why and when the district reduced from 180 days after the ice storm in 2009.

Committee discussed concerns raised by teachers as to the quality of instruction on early release days. Superintendent agrees that the current schedule for early release days is not effective and provides an outline and schedule for those days which changes focus of the days to create time for instruction for all students and allow teachers to have contractual guaranteed prep time.

Committee discussed the possibility of adding additional days to the calendar that would not only be instructional but allow for collaboration of staff for half of the day. The emphasis for the collaboration time would be to deal with internal concerns and not bring in outside speakers.

Committee will bring forward a proposal to the School Board directing the Superintendent to form a committee of administration and teachers to discuss possible changes to the calendar that will ensure quality instruction time, collaboration time and keep within the spirit of the contract with the goal of increasing student achievement.

- **MS Configuration**

Superintendent explains original proposal made to the Board in December of 2017. Explains that the only option proposed was to reduce staff resulting in some increase in class size. Not presenting an option to maintain staff would have been more appropriate.

Mr. Dailey describes the advantages to the change in creating options for students as they progress through high school.

It was pointed out by Mr. Vanderhoof that the timing of the original proposal with no time to discuss it due to the budget process made it difficult to accept at that time.

Ms. LeBlanc commented that if we can increase options and rigor for students in middle school we would retain some that may seek an option to go to a charter school.

The committee has charged the Superintendent with coming to them with a model that would create flexibility within the MS/HS schedule for the next meeting.

- **Administrative/Staffing Structure**

Committee discussed the idea of having department heads with more responsibility in order to enhance student achievement.

Ms. Post, speaking as a budget committee member, was in favor of reductions in staff to create cost savings if the result was an increase in student achievement.

Mr. Vanderhoof commented that if there were too many changes in a short amount of time it would be difficult to determine which, if any, were the cause for positive change.

Mr. Dailey indicated that a lack of change was not consequential for the School Board but could be for students at a given grade level.

Agreement by all that whatever is done, whether it results in cost reduction or not, change should only be made for the purpose of increasing student outcomes.

Committee did not come to any conclusions on the issue.

V. DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEP AND WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED

- **Timeline for proposing options to bring to WLC School Board**

See above

VI. SET MEETING DATES

Next meeting is scheduled for August 23, 2018 and a subsequent meeting was scheduled for September 6, 2018, both 7pm at WLC.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Dailey and SECONDED by Ms. Post to adjourn the meeting at 9:04pm. Voting: 5-0 motion passes unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler for Bryan Lane*