

Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District  
Annual District Meeting Minutes  
March 11 2017

**Present:**

**School Board Members:** Mr. Geoffrey Brock (Chair), Mr. Mathew Ballou, Mr. Harry Dailey, Mr. Charlie Post, Ms. Joyce Fisk, Ms. Carol LeBlanc, Mr. Mark Legere, Mr. Alexander LoVerme.

**Budget Committee Members:** Ms. Karen Grybko (Chair).Ms. Leslie Browne, Ms. Edwina Hastings, Ms. Ellen Pomer, Ms. Lisa Post, Ms. Christine Tiedemann, Ms. Mary Guild.

**Absent:** Ms. Pamela Altner, Mr. Jim kofalt

**Other:** Moderator Mr. Walter Holland, School District Clerk Ms. Mary-Jane Ryan.

Moderator Holland called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM

Moderator Holland led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Holland informed the attendees of a table set up by the National Honor Society with refreshments and child care.

School Board Chairman Geoff Brock and Budget Committee Chairman Karen Grybko introduced the members of the School Board and the Budget Committee.

Moderator Holland welcomed attendees to the Annual School District Meeting, informing attendees of a request for paper ballots for the school district budget.

Moderator Holland read the voting announcement as follows:

*To the inhabitants of the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District in the towns of Wilton and Lyndeborough, in the county of Hillsborough, State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote upon Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District affairs:*

*You are hereby notified to meet on the fourteenth day of March 2017 at the following places in the town of your residence:*

*Wilton Town Hall 8:00 o'clock in the forenoon*

*Lyndeborough Old Town Hall (Citizens Hall) 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon.*

*Polls will not close before 7:00 P.M.*

To vote for District officers:

**Article 1:** To choose one (1) Moderator, by ballot for the ensuing year.

**Article 2:** To choose one (1) At Large Member of the School Board by ballot, from the town of Lyndeborough for the ensuing three years; one(1) Member of the School Board, by ballot from the town of Lyndeborough for the ensuing three years. (1) Member of the School Board, by ballot from the town of Wilton for the ensuing three years.

**Article 3:** To choose one (1) At Large Member of the Budget Committee, by ballot from the town of Lyndeborough for the ensuing three years; one (1) Member of the Budget Committee, by ballot, from the Town of Lyndeborough for the ensuing three years; one (1) Member of the Budget Committee, by ballot, from the town of Wilton for the ensuing three years; two (2) Members of the Budget Committee, by ballot, from the town of Wilton for the ensuing two years.

Moderator Holland read the School District Warrant for the Annual District Meeting March 11, 2017 as follows:

*To the inhabitants of the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District in the Towns of Wilton and Lyndeborough, in the county of Hillsborough, State of New Hampshire qualified to meet in school district affairs. You are hereby notified and warned of the annual district meeting which will be held as follows:*

Date: **March 11, 2017**, Time: **9:00 a.m.** Location: **WLC Middle School/High School, 57 School Street, Wilton NH 03086**, Details: **Wilton-Lyndeborough, Cooperative Middle-Senior High School Auditorium**

#### **ARTICLE 4**

Moderator Holland read article 4:

*To see if the Wilton-Lyndeborough School District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committees recommended amount of \$12,514,604 for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents, and for the payment of the statutory obligations for the district. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles separately. (Majority vote required)*

*Recommended by the School Board-----Recommended by the Budget Committee*

Tax Impact Lyndeborough a reduction of 7.8 cents

Tax Impact Wilton an increase of 67.6 cents

**A MOTION was made by Mr. Geoff Brock and SECONDED by Mr. Harry Dailey to approve article 4.**

Mr. Brock spoke to Article 4

The proposed budget for the coming school year is \$12,514,604.

\$280,000 of the budget is the result of the bond coming due in Wilton only.

Excluding the bond payment, the operating budget has a reduction of \$44,032.

The tax rate for each town starts with the “apportionment” which is the percentage of students in the district from each town.

Lyndeborough accounts for 26.93% of the students in the district.

Wilton accounts for 73.07% of the students in the district.

The apportionment formula makes Wilton responsible for 70.7% of the budget and Lyndeborough responsible for 29.3% of the budget.

Lyndeborough residents will realize a decrease in their budget responsibility of 29.3%.

In Lyndeborough, property taxes increase or decrease \$1.00 for every \$165,000.

To calculate the tax decrease  $\$12,870/\$165,000 = 7.8$  cents.

For a home valued at \$235,270 this would be a decrease of \$18.35 in taxes for the coming year.

Wilton residents will realize a decrease in their budget responsibility of 70.07%.

The added responsibility of the bond would mean an increase to the budget responsibility of \$280,000.

In Wilton, property taxes increase or decrease \$1.00 for every \$368,050.

To calculate the tax increase  $\$248,870/\$368,050 = 67$  cents.

For a home valued at \$208,700 this would be an increase of taxes for the coming year \$141.08.

The proposed budget includes staffing changes which include the reduction of one English teacher at the high school and one third grade teacher.

The budget also includes the addition of two new positions. At FRES we are proposing an RTI Coordinator/ Intervention Teacher and a district wide Curriculum Coordinator.

The RTI Coordinator/Intervention teacher will have the responsibility to work with teams of teachers in identifying student deficits in specific skills and developing strategies for remediation. Once those strategies are developed teachers will implement those strategies. IN addition, this person will create and deliver individualized or group instruction to the students in need.

The District Curriculum Coordinator will be responsible for creating an articulated curriculum for grades K-12, professional development programs for all staff, work with teachers to create targeted instruction, coordinate the analyzation of data and coordinate all standardized testing.

Our student’s performance on standardized testing is around the average for the state. This is not an acceptable result in the eyes of the School Board or the district’s administration.

With the addition of these two positions the goals for our district is to bring at least half of the students who are identified as approaching proficient on SBAC to proficient status. This will create a proficiency rate of 71% in reading and 67% in math. The eventual goal will be to have at least 80 % of our student to proficient in both reading and math.

Increased levels of student achievement have positive effects beyond the actual testing.

- Have a better self-image of themselves
- Be able to set long term goals for themselves to be successful as they exit our schools
- Decreased behavioral issues
- Teachers having a less diverse student array that will allow for more advanced skills to be taught
- A school district that will attract residents

The features of the budget for Florence Rideout and the Lyndeborough Central School include:

- A new reading curriculum for grades K-5. This new curriculum will create a new structure and set of articulated achievable goals for students
- Chromebooks for 2 more grades giving grades 3-5 access to this technology
- New furniture for the art room
- New classroom rugs
- New science equipment
- New software for classrooms at Lyndeborough Central School

The features for the budget for the middle/high school include:

- Additional Chromebooks giving all students direct access to this technology
- An increase in the district's contribution to the seventh and eighth grade trip to mitigate cost to parents in need
- Replacement of equipment for family and consumer science and physical education
- Replacement furniture for the art room
- Math and social studies textbooks
- Replacement security cameras
- New software for business, social studies, music, math and science classes

District wide features of the budget include:

- Increased infrastructure for wireless devices
- Software to manage staff development and certification
- Funding for 504 programs
- Increased data communication
- Replacement of file servers
- Increase in transportation costs per contract
- Increase cost in snow plowing
- Enhanced COPSUNC
- Out of district tuition increases

Moderator Holland asked; are there any questions regarding the operating budget?

Ms. Ingrid Howard of Wilton asked about the Title One Program; stating that Title One help used take care of reading and math.

Superintendent Bryan Lane replied we still do have title one at Florence Ride out Elementary but not at the High School. We are looking to the individual needs of our students.

Ms. Howard asked if the RTI and Curriculum Coordinator are full time positions.

Superintendent Lane replied, yes they are full time positions.

Dan Nelson of Wilton expressed concern over larger class sizes and asked how much would need to be added to the budget to keep the third grade teacher.

Superintendent Lane replied 65 – 70.000

**A MOTION was made by Adam Lavallo of Lyndeborough and SECONDED by Dan Nelson of Wilton**

To add 70,000 to the budget to keep the third grade teacher

Discussion:

Mr. Lavallo expressed concern over fewer teachers.

Susan Chiatto of Wilton inquired; what are the solutions with behavioral problems that will occur in larger classrooms?

Superintendent Lane replied: we do have resources to handle that scenario and stated he is confident they will be addressed.

Jeff Jones of Lyndeborough asked about our district having the highest cost per student.

Superintendent Lane replied that 7 school districts of similar size create an equal comparison; we are right in the middle, they are 5,000 per student more than us; the only districts increasing are Dover, Windham, and Bedford because they have built a new High School and a lot of new houses.

Moderator Holland read the amendment and asked if there is anymore more discussion, hearing none the Moderator moved to vote.

***Voting: Amendment to Article 4***

**Amendment to add 70,000 to the budget to keep the third grade teacher failed by voice vote.**

Francis Bujak of Lyndeborough spoke on student achievement and how many days a year we test students, Mr. Bujak cautioned using testing as the sole driver.

Bill Keefe of Wilton inquired; adding a full time coordinator seems like another administrative position, how will this improve student achievement?

Superintendent Lane replied, the building coordinator will work with the building Principals and be in charge of staff development, we will have our own workshops. This will create support to help the teacher do their job. Also helping with using the technology we have.

Moderator Holland called for any more questions, hearing none, he moved to vote; informing the attendees of a request for paper ballot (see attached paper).

There was confusion as the request was written for paper ballot on vote for school district budget. The attendees requesting paper ballot had made an error and are actually requesting a paper ballot for the collective bargaining agreement.

**Voting on Article 4**

#### **Article 4 Passed by Voice Vote**

Moderator Holland read Article 5:

The Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School Board and the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative Teachers Association.

To see if the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School Board and the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative Teachers' Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year, 2017-18 \$36,891, 2018-19 \$134,253, 2019-20 \$140,020 and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,891 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)

- Recommended by the School Board
- Recommended by the Budget Committee
- Tax impact Lyndeborough of 6 cents
- Tax impact Wilton of 7.3 cents

**A MOTION was made by Mr. Matt Ballou and SECONDED by Ms. Carol Leblanc to approve article 5.**

Mr. Ballou spoke to Article 5:

With the salary increases offset by the savings in health insurance, the total cost of the teacher contract in year one is \$36,891.

Lyndeborough's portion of the \$36,891 is \$10,809.

This increase combined with the tax decrease of the budget of \$12,870, is a resultant tax decrease for Lyndeborough of \$2,061.

The budget combined with the CBA creates a decrease in taxes of \$2.94 for a home valued at \$235,720 in Lyndeborough.

With the salary increases offset by the savings in health insurance, the total cost of the teacher contract in year one is \$36,891.

Wilton's portion of the \$36,891 is \$26,082.

This will create a tax impact of 7 cents creating a tax increase of \$14.79 for the average home in Wilton valued at \$208,700.

The total cost in year one of the contract along with budget will be an increase of \$259,846. This creates a tax increase of \$154.44 for a home valued at \$208,700 in Wilton.

The teachers have agreed to a change in health insurance coverage that will create a long term savings of 12.5% annually for the district compared to the current HMO plan in the contract. If we consider the cost of the CBA with health insurance savings compared to keeping the current plan in each year of the contract calculating a 5% increase in annual premium, the cost to the tax payer will be:

Year 1	\$36,891	an increase of 0.9%
Year 2	\$39,655	an increase of 0.94%
Year 3	\$40,219	an increase of 0.92%

The features of the contract include:

This is a 3 year agreement with a new salary schedule making the district competitive with other districts so we retain and recruit quality staff.

Teachers have agreed that step placement on the salary schedule does not reflect years of experience.

Moderator Holland asked for any questions

Marcus Valier of Wilton asked why can't it be yearly not for three years?

Superintendent Lane explained the advantages to give long term planning, consistency and loyalty with teaching staff, value with teachers.

Mr. Brock explained for negotiations administrators have to meet with teachers and this is a lot of time to do once a year.

Ingrid Howard of Wilton asked is there any guarantee on cost staying.

Superintendent Lane explained: the rates are only increased by usage.

Ms. Howard asked we don't know about the three year economy, can we afford this raise?

Superintendent Lane stated it does create a tax decrease this year but we do not know further.

Moderator Holland asked for any further questions, hearing none he moved to the paper ballot vote on Article 5

### **Voting on Article 5**

**Passed by paper ballot vote**

**94 Yays/ 10 Nays**

Moderator Holland explained the process for voice vote, hand vote and paper ballot vote.

Moderator Holland read Article 6

Shall the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District, if WARRANT ARTICLE 5 is defeated, authorize the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School Board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address WARRANT ARTICLE 5 cost items only? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the School Board

This warrant article has no tax impact.

**A MOTION was made by Mr. Harry Dailey and SECONDED by Mr. Alex Loverme to table Article 6.**

Moderator Holland called for discussion, hearing none he moved to vote

### **Voting on Article 6**

#### **Motion to table Article 6 passed by voice vote**

Moderator Holland read Article 7

To see if the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 to be added to the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative Building/Equipment & Roadway Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum is to come from general taxation. This article is a special warrant article and is not included in the operating budget warrant article. (Majority vote required)

- Recommended by the School Board
- Recommended by the Budget Committee
  
- Tax impact Lyndeborough of 9 cents
- Tax impact Wilton of 11 cents

**A MOTION was made by Mr. Charlie Post and SECONDED by Mr. Mark Legere to pass Article 7**

Mr. Post spoke to Article 7

This capital reserve fund was established to create a funding plan to complete a planned set of repairs and upgrades to the facilities within the district.

The \$55,000 is a reduction in the planned amount of \$75,000 for this year. The recommendation of the Budget Committee will be to create warrant articles in the next two years to add \$60,000 annually to this fund. This will fulfill the financial requirements to continue the Capital Improvement Plan.

The current balance in the Trust Fund is \$241,998.65.

Lyndeborough's portion of the \$55,000 is \$16,115 creating an annual tax increase of \$23.02 for a home valued at \$235,720.

Wilton's portion of the \$55,000 is \$38,885 resulting in an annual tax increase of \$22.96 for a home valued at \$208,700.

Moderator Holland called for any discussion.

Bill Keefe of Wilton stated we can safely vote this down and we will have the money to pay with the bond being gone. We can vote it down to minimize taxes without threatening maintenance of the building.



**VOTING ARTICLE 7**

**Article 7 passed by voice vote**

Moderator Holland read Article 8

**Article 8: Transact Any Other Business**

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Moderator Holland thanked the building custodians, technology staff, Librarian Amy White and the NHS.

Budget Committee Chair Karen Grybko recognized retiring budget committee member Ellen Pomer for her time serving on the budget committee.

**A MOTION was made to adjourn the meeting and was SECONDED**

The motion passed by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary-Jane Ryan".

Mary-Jane Ryan  
School District Clerk

