

# **WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**Location: Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School – Media Room: 7:00 P.M.**

**February 5, 2015**

## **PUBLIC HEARING -MEETING MINUTES**

*Budget Committee Members Present: Don Davidson (Chair), Leslie Browne, Karen Grybko, Cary Hughes, Ellen Pomer, Lisa Post, Secretary Dawn Tuomala.*

*School Board Members Present: Geoff Brock (Chair), Harry Dailey (Vice-Chair), Matt Ballou, Francis Bujak, James Button, Joyce Fisk, Carol LeBlanc, Mary Guild and Alexander LoVerme*

*Administration Present: Dr. Tyrie, Superintendent, Lise Tucker, Business Administrator, Betty Moore, Director of Student Support Services, Brian Bagley, Principle and Tim O'Connell, Principle*

The Agenda was as follows:

1. Call Budget Committee Meeting to Order – in Media Center
2. Presentation of 2015/2016 Budget with Specified Warrant Articles
3. Public Comments/Input from Public
4. Recommended Changes to Budget
5. Other Business
6. Adjourn

### **1. Call Budget Committee Meeting to Order – in Media Center**

Chairman Davidson called the Budget Committee Public Hearing Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Chairman Brock called the School Board Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### **2. Presentation of 2015/2016 Budget with Specified Warrant Articles**

#### **ARTICLE 4**

Chairman Davidson opened the meeting discussing Article 4 which contains the operating budget for the school district. The amount is shown on the summary expenditure sheet which comprises the budget. The total budget for the 2015/2016 is 12,062,617.

The projected savings from the consolidation was estimated last year at \$345,000 which was comprised of 4.5 staff positions and SAU rental costs. The actual savings realized was \$346,635 which consists of 4.64 staffing positions and the SAU rent. These have been realized within the operating budget. The new bond amount is \$331,680 so the consolidation savings were realized.

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL - BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES FOR** February 5, 2015

1 The budget drivers that were uncontrolled expenses in the budget include \$145,000 in  
2 NH Retirement, increases in Health insurance and workmen's compensation. This will  
3 be year 2 of a 3 year teacher contract which will have another \$75,000 or 2% increase  
4 in salaries. There will also be a \$100,000 increase in SPED with a new placement in  
5 the District.

6  
7 The consolidation has also absorbed about half of the mandated increases. The bottom  
8 line consolidation savings and the budget drivers have increased Reg. Ed. \$68,900 or  
9 0.79%. The increase to SPED is \$87,641 or 3.79% increase. The total operating  
10 budget increase is \$156,541 or 1.4%.

11  
12 Dr. Tyrie explained the pie chart which indicates non-discretionary costs has the largest  
13 piece of the pie. The percentage of the budget that is staff salaries and benefits which  
14 comprise 71.4% of the budget or \$8,241,288 is considered non-discretionary meaning  
15 that we are compelled to spend that money. Compared with other districts our size we  
16 are about average to slightly below average. This discretionary costs which is about  
17 8.3% of the entire budget were also part of the chart. These are items such as teachers  
18 and student supplies. Typically this runs between 8 to 10% of the total budget.

19  
20 In summary the consolidation savings has resulted in savings that will offset the bond  
21 and help with many of the discretionary budget drivers.

22  
23 Sally Currin of Lyndeborough asked about the increase of 163% for XX. This is due to  
24 the fact we now have students that English is not their first language and we are  
25 required to have a certified teacher for them.

26  
27 Mr. Dave Roemer of Lyndeborough asked about the CIA coordinator being added. He  
28 stated that in the past if a position were added this would be on a standalone warrant  
29 article and not just put in the operating budget. Question was the justification not strong  
30 enough or was it essential position and didn't want to risk the public turning it down?

31  
32 Dr. Tyrie explained that this person is presently functioning as a teacher and is doing the  
33 role part time. In order to get caught up with the competency based curriculum, which  
34 wasn't done in the past 5 years, it was decided to expand the position for now. This  
35 position might not be necessary after another year, so they didn't want to institutionalize  
36 the position for the future, to go from good to great which is the goal. This position may  
37 go away in the future.

38  
39 Mr. Roemer also asked about the October 1, 2014 enrollment figures which were at 594  
40 down from the previous year of 601. Dr. Tyrie explained that we are still above the  
41 NASDEC predictions.

42  
43  
44 **ARTICLE 5** – was recommended by both the Budget Committee and the School Board.  
45 This Article will increase the budget by \$12,604 in the current fiscal year for collective  
46 bargaining agreement with the support staff. This includes their salaries and benefits.

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48 Mr. Torre of Wilton questioned how much of a salary increase this represents. Dr. Tyrie  
49 stated that it is a 2% increase.  
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**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL - BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES FOR** February 5, 2015

**ARTICLE 6** – is to be voted on if Article 5 is defeated.

**ARTICLE 7** – was recommended by the Budget Committee and the School Board. This will allow the interest that has been accumulating on the FRES Bond to be used and to put it into the fund balance. Ms. Currin asked why not use it to reduce the bond and that is essentially what will happen putting it against the principle payment.

**ARTICLE 8** – was recommended by both the Budget Committee and the School Board. This was to have an extended day kindergarten for \$40,000. Ashley Sarri and Ms. Currin questioned if it would apply to both ½ kindergarten groups. This would extend the day for either morning or afternoon classes by 3 to 3 ½ hours so they would be equal length. Mr. Brock stated that they would then be allowed to ride the bus back and forth. If they needed to go to FRES to be transported to the Boys and Girls Club along with other siblings this would now be possible.

The District would pay for half the day and the parents would be paying for the other half day. The question was asked what if the parents don't opt for the service. This is a possibility since this is not a mandatory requirement. There is also the possibility that people might have to be turned away as the space is too constrained to have every student participate in the service. It will be on a first come first serve basis for this year. Mr. Brock stated that it is known that the children do much better in the long run if they are in a full day kindergarten. This would not be a full day kindergarten but would have more instructional value than staying at home alone. The State of NH requires a Town to provide for kindergarten but doesn't require a parent to send their child.

**ARTICLE 9** – was not recommended by the Budget Committee but was recommended by the School Board. This article would provide \$31,500 to purchase a new pickup truck and plow for the District to use. Mr. Brock stated that the District should have their own vehicle for moving and running items around. They presently pay people to use their own vehicles. This is more expensive for the District than owning their own vehicle. This is a separate warrant article to purchase a vehicle and to put a plow on it just makes sense for the District.

**ARTICLE 10** – has been recommended by the Budget Committee and the School Board. The amount was changed during a joint meeting held earlier tonight. The amount has dropped from \$190,000 to \$150,000. The monies will be placed into the WLC building/equipment and roadway Capital Reserve Fund. The Facilities Committee has been working on a Capital Improvement Plan to be able to keep up with the infrastructure repairs in a timely manner before they become an expensive issue. They have planned the Capital improvements so as to have a minimal impact to taxation. Everything has been included within the plan.

Ms. Currin asked what the present balance in the account was. Mr. Bujack stated that there is presently \$252,000 in there and \$150,000 is scheduled to go towards the WLC roof repair in 5 years and the other \$100,000 would be set aside for miscellaneous repairs. The WLC roof will take over \$500,000 to repair therefore it was determined that \$150,000 should be placed in the fund this year in order to keep up with the

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL - BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES FOR** February 5, 2015

1 schedule. The remaining \$200,000 will be on a warrant to be placed in the fund next  
2 year.

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4 Mr. Torre asked that the CIP be posted or printed for the taxpayers to be able to see. It  
5 will be available at the District Meeting or in the Annual Report.  
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8 **Article 11** – was recommended by the Budget Committee and the School Board. The  
9 article will place \$50,000 in the Technology Advance Capital Reserve Fund. The  
10 Budget Committee had requested that the administration try to reduce the operating  
11 budget so they had cut \$65,000 out of the technology line. This was for the hardware  
12 for the students but it was determined that the infrastructure of the school needs so  
13 much improvement that it would be useless to have new hardware without the  
14 infrastructure updates so they will be breaking the technology into 3 phases. The  
15 infrastructure updates will cost more than anticipated. They made this warrant to be  
16 able to pursue the technology advancements at WLC.  
17

18 Mr. Brock explained that they are incorporating the technology into each of the  
19 classrooms and the networking included is more of a new purchase. If it isn't part of the  
20 operating budget than it can't be planned for and needs to be a warrant. The worst  
21 thing to do would be to purchase the equipment and not be able to use it. They are also  
22 in the process of training the teachers in the use of all of the new technology that is  
23 available today. Today technology is being thought of just like books and desks. There  
24 is presently about \$22,000 in the Technology Capital Reserve Account.  
25

26  
27 **Article 12** – was recommended by the Budget Committee and the School Board. It will  
28 allow the School Board to accept unexpected funds from any source even donations by  
29 private individuals. Presently they can accept the funds but they can't expend any funds  
30 over what is approved at District Meeting. This will allow them to spend the funds for  
31 their intended purpose.  
32

33 Mr. Roemer stated that they accept money on a regular basis. They don't have the  
34 legal authority to expend more than what is in the budget. This will allow them to do that  
35 with a public hearing.  
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37  
38 **3. Public Comments/Input from Public**  
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40 Mr. Dave Roemer questioned the decision to raise funds for capital items from taxation  
41 verses the unexpended fund balances. In the past the unexpended funds have always been  
42 used and he questioned if it was the intent to return the unused funds to the taxpayer or  
43 were they going on a spending party. It was explained that it is harder to ask for the money  
44 by taxation but it is a more transparent way to do it and it assures the money is there verses  
45 waiting to see if there are any unexpended funds remaining that can be appropriated. They  
46 want to be up front and maintain the trust by returning any unexpended funds. Mr. Button  
47 stated with the CIP plan now in place they should fund it by taxation since they now have a  
48 real number and real list so this is the best way to do it.  
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**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL - BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES FOR February 5, 2015**

**4. Recommended Changes to Budget - none**

**5. Other Business**

Chairman Davidson stated that just before the last joint meeting a member and vice chairman of the budget committee passed away unexpectedly that day. He asked for a moment of silence.

**6. Adjournment**

**Budget Committee motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Ms. Pomer; All in favor. The WLC School Budget Committee was adjourned at 7:45 PM.**

**School Board Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Dailey seconded by Mr. Bujack; All in Favor. The WLC School Board was adjourned at 7:45 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Tuomala, Secretary  
Lisa Post, Secretary