

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BUDGET COMMITTEE

**Location: Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School – Media Room: 7:00 P.M.
Tuesday August 18, 2015**

Members Present: Chair Don Davidson, Vice Chair Karen Grybko, Pam Altner, Leslie Browne, Kelly Eshback, Jim Kofalt, Ellen Pomer, Secretary Lisa Post, Harry Dailey (WLC School Board Rep.).

Attendance: Superintendent Dr. Christine Tyrie, Business Administrator Lise Tucker

The Agenda was as follows:

1. Call Budget Committee Meeting to Order – in Media Center
2. Minutes Review and Approval
 - a. February 5, 2015 – Joint Session
 - b. February 5, 2015 – Public Hearing
 - c. March 18, 2015 – Joint Session
 - d. March 18, 2015 – Budget Committee
 - e. May 5, 2015 – Budget Committee
3. Public Comments
4. Brief updates from the Subcommittees
 - a. Facilities Subcommittee – Leslie Browne & Pam Altner
 - b. School Board Reps. – Kelly Esback & Jim Kofalt
5. School Board Report
 - a. 2014-2015 Review
 - b. 2015-2016 Summary
 - c. 2015-2016 Schedule
6. Other Business
 - a. Future Meeting Dates
7. Adjourn

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

Chairman Davidson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Minutes Review and Approval

- a. February 5, 2015 – Joint Session
Motion was made by Leslie Browne to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Karen Grybko; all in favor; motion carried unanimously.
- b. February 5, 2015 – Public Hearing
Motion was made by Leslie Browne to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Kelly Eshback; all in favor; motion carried unanimously.
- c. March 18, 2015 – Joint Session
Motion was made by Ellen Pomer to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Karen Grybko; none opposed, three abstentions, motion carried.
- d. March 18, 2015 – Budget Committee
Motion was made by Ellen Pomer to approve the minutes with changes; seconded by Leslie Browne; none opposed, three abstentions, motion carried.
- e. May 5, 2015 – Budget Committee
Motion was made by Ellen Pomer to approve the minutes with changes; seconded by Karen Grybko; all in favor; motion carried unanimously.

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3. Public Comments – No public present

4. Brief Updates from the Subcommittees:

a. Facilities Subcommittee Representatives– Leslie Browne & Pam Altner

The next meeting of the Facilities Committee is September 22, 2015.

b. School Board Subcommittee Representatives- Kelly Eshback & Jim Kofalt

Jim Kofalt reported that a number of 5th grade parents were concerned over class size being too big (25 per class). The school board made a nearly unanimous decision to split the grade into three classes. Financial resources were moved from other areas to keep the budget unaffected. A teacher was hired with a one-year contract. There was concern to watch this issue for next year's budget to see how this impacts the area where financial resources were moved from. Dr. Tyrie stated that there were three late resignations of senior positions due to career changes and higher salary. The resignation letters were positive. However, stated that district salary levels at the prevented the hiring of top candidates. Leslie Brown questioned whether a nurse was hired for LCS. Dr. Tyrie stated they received an 11th hour call from the district for this. The costs will be absorbed in the budget. Harry Dailey said that overall there were six positions replaced with a cost savings of 20K per person on average.

c. School Board Rep. – Harry Dailey

Harry Dailey reported that the building committee has been meeting once or twice each week as they are dealing with occupying permits issues and nearing the completion of the project. WLC will start on September 1st, LCS will start on the September 1st and 2nd but FRES has been delayed and will start on September 8th. August 28 is the target date for equipment, desks etc. to be brought into the building. Open house for parents and student will be on September 1st. A date in late September will be announced for an open house for taxpayers. He has received positive comments on the renovation. Leslie Browne questions where they are on contingency funds. Mr. Dailey reported that the school district controls the funds; they are on budget with some funds remaining which will go back to the district. Improvements with LED lighting at two of the elementary schools and more efficient heating systems will save on operating costs. Contingency funds were used at LCS for two new bathrooms and a heat pump. Busing will bring Kindergarten students from Wilton to FRES, parents may drop off their students also and they will be bused to LCS. As of this date, 19 students are enrolled for afternoon kindergarten program. The Special Education transportation provider has been changed. Two new unanticipated tuition costs over \$150,000, the School Board has not made a decision whether the funds will come from the Capital Reserve Funds. School enrollment was down the end of the year. They will be watching what the numbers shake out to be this year.

5. Budget Discussion

a. 2014/15 Review: Presented by Lise Tucker

- 1. General Fund Revenue: an unanticipated revenue balance is projected to be \$100,237.16 as of June, 30 2015.*
- 2. General Fund Expenditures: An unexpended fund balance (including \$29,589.70 from prior year unused encumbrances) is projected to be a \$292,557.78 surplus as of June 30, 2015.*

b. 2015/2016

- 1. Dr. Tyrie concerned about changes in healthcare which is now 80% of the budget, however, overall costs are down.*
- 2. Current operating season will be stressed with Special Education needs. The Special Education Reserve Fund has to be fully funded and will need to work that into the budget for the unanticipated expenses for the upcoming budget year. Catastrophic Aid may be used to offset this. Kelly Eshback questioned whether there might be students graduating out of program for upcoming budget year.*
- 3. Leslie Browne said the Facilities Committee is working on a plan for maintenance, repairs and updates to the High School. This will be a warrant article.*

c. Budget Preparation 2016/2017 Draft Schedule presented by Dr. Tyrie:

- 1. October 27, 2015 - Joint*
- 2. November 17, 2015- Joint*
- 3. December 8, 2015 – Joint*
- 4. January 5, 2016 – Joint*
- 5. January 12, 2016 – Joint if needed*
- 6. January 19, 2016 – Joint*

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- 1 7. February 4, 2016 – Tentatively Public Hearing
2 8. There was a discussion regarding Budget Committee meetings being held on Tuesdays as this
3 conflicted with other committees. It was agreed that we would start off with the Tuesday meetings
4 and as the year progressed, we would readdress the issue. Additional Budget Committee
5 Meetings will be added. The Budget Committee will be meeting on September 29, 2015.
6 9. Dr. Tyrie asked what works for the presentations. Dan Davidson like breaking it up to absorb the
7 material and felt it worked well and provides a focus on that part of the budget. Leslie Browne
8 suggested that this be videotaped for the public. Ellen Pomer likes the break up but likes the
9 screen presentation. Jeff Kofalt likes a hard copy of the presentation to follow along with. Dr.
10 Tyrie wanted to know if line-by-line helped or was too much clutter. Jeff Kofalt felt it was an
11 opportunity to ask questions in this format. Karen Grybko liked the detail. Leslie Browne
12 suggested that the final budget be printed with a sort for the individual schools.
13

14 **6. Other Business**

- 15 a. The next meeting will be on September 29, 2015 at 7:00 PM location Media Center
16 b. Karen Grybko informed us the district received a 6K grant for a salad bar.
17 c. Leslie Browne indicated there is interest in forming a Sports Booster Club.
18

19 **7. Adjournment of Budget Committee**

20 A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ellen Pomer and seconded by Pam Altner; all in favor.
21 The School Budget Committee was adjourned at 8:20 PM.
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23 Respectfully Submitted,
24

25 Lisa C.M. Post Secretary
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