

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
AND JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION**

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School-Media Room

6:30 p.m.

Present: Geoff Brock, Matt Ballou, Mark Legere, Charlie Post, Carol LeBlanc, Alex LoVerme arrived at 6:38pm and Harry Dailey joined after the Budget Co. mtg.

Superintendent Bryan Lane, Director of Student Support Services Betty Moore, Principals Brian Bagley, Tim O'Connell and Clerk Kristina Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brock called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

II. ELEMENTARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH

This will be presented at the January 24, 2017 meeting instead.

III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent Lane reported there is no need for a non-public session and student of the month has been moved to the next meeting. Chairman Brock will give an update on the Elementary History Committee.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment to report.

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lane reviewed his report indicating it was brief as it fell during a school vacation week although he was present for most of it. The CBA was ratified and he has finalized the budget. Prior to break, there was a heating issue with the loop pump at WLC, there are supposed to be two. This has been taken care of and did not shut down the building for a full day. It is the same loop pump as used at FRES therefore the one that was nonfunctioning has been sent for refurbishing to be kept on hand as a backup. There had been some heating issues at LCS, and the system had been bled out during break to ensure its working effectively. Mr. Verratti performed a diagnostic of the computer backup system at the SAU and found it was extremely lacking. It has been replaced and information is now going through and functional. Superintendent Lane is on the EDDIE Selection Committee which takes place one day in February and then two days in March and will be attending the Southwesterners meeting next week.

ii. Business Administrator's Report

iii. Principals' Reports

The reports have been reviewed by the Board.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

There was no consent agenda to report.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

51 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Legere and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to approve the minutes of*
52 *December 20, 2016 as written.*

53 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

54
55 **b. Recommendation for Changes to Facilities Use**

56 Superintendent Lane reviewed his recommendation for WJAA based on the organization serving our
57 students and history of work within the community. He is recommending the district fund the
58 custodian to be present at a cost of about \$1,200 as there is a need to clean up hallways and bathrooms
59 with the number of people involved and we have the personnel available to do this.

60
61 *A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Mr. Ballou to authorize district funding*
62 *for custodian presence for WJAA as Superintendent Lane recommended.*

63 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

64
65 Superintendent Lane reviewed the circumstances with the softball pitching clinic. This is run on a
66 volunteer basis, it could be possible to schedule the activity during basketball practices on Saturday
67 using the cafeteria which may solve the issue of having someone in the building; however there
68 remains the issue of no insurance rider. Primex, our insurance carrier indicates that since the
69 individual involved is a volunteer and not a district employee, if a claim were to be made the district
70 would be liable. The solution is to have the volunteer purchase insurance (over \$1,000) or we hire the
71 person at a dollar per contract and they become an employee. Primex was very specific; the only way
72 to not be at risk is to have the person not be a volunteer. This clinic has been running a long time
73 without incident however that doesn't mean there couldn't be one. Mr. Bill Balam is the volunteer and
74 is present. He offered another solution from Coach, Denny Claire, to move it to when he (Denny) was
75 present which has just been brought to light. Mr. Balam is also open to continue to do the clinic for a
76 nominal fee. Superintendent Lane asked if the Board as a consensus would be willing to approve a
77 nominal fee paid to the person who runs the Softball Pitching Clinic. Board agrees to approve by
78 consensus, Superintendent Lanes recommendation to pay a nominal fee.

79
80 Superintendent Lane reviewed the circumstances with the Men's Basketball League. They have an
81 insurance rider and have for quite a long time, someone in the league has a key to the building and
82 there is no district staff present when they are here. There could be 50-80 people here, they are not
83 meaning to be messy and try to clean up after themselves; but we could still have an issue and not
84 know about it until we open school Monday morning. The majority of members are not from our
85 community. They do provide scholarship money to WLC students. They fall under the "adult service
86 organization" section of the policy. Mr. Mark Kennedy from the Men's Basketball League was present
87 and reiterated it is open to Wilton residents and they provide scholarship money. From 8am-10am
88 they offer open gym and they don't open the gym if it snows. It is always open to Wilton graduates
89 and if a fee were to be put in place it would "kill the league". Mr. Mitchell Holt is a graduate of WLC
90 who is present and reported he has been part of this league for 20 years. He states it does involve
91 generations of Wilton kids and shows a team atmosphere and current students are in the stands. He
92 reports they take great effort to sweep the court prior to play and would sweep after play if that will
93 help keep the league without a fee. Mr. Post noted these are community resources and they pay for the
94 buildings, it's important to have a connection with them. Mr. Ballou added the spirit of the policy at
95 the time it was created was that there were some inequities of what was being charged. There were a
96 lot of outside towns using the buildings for tournaments yet residents were paying for the lights, floors
97 and custodians. He is in agreement that this is more of a community organization. Ms. LeBlanc added
98 many of these people are paying for the upkeep of the buildings in their taxes already. Superintendent
99 Lane noted the Board is the only one with the authority to maintain the policy as it exists or adjust it
100 for this organization. Chairman Brock prefers not to waive a policy but to make it work and this one is

much more complicated. He further added that it has been stated in Board goals that we want the community to have use of the schools.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Ballou and SECONDED by Mr. Post to reclassify the Men's Basketball League to an appropriate category that supports students.

Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.

- **SNOWPLOWING**

Mr. Post reported he met with the selectmen and both town managers and they have an agreeable number. Estimated by square footage, the cost will be \$120 per storm for LCS, \$355 per storm for WLC and \$285 per storm for FRES.

Mr. Dailey joined the meeting at 7:06pm.

VIII. 7:00 P.M. JOINT BOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION

a. FY 2017-2018 Budget

Present: Karen Grybko, Ellen Pomer, Edwin Hastings, Lisa Post, Leslie Browne, Mary Guild, and Christine Tiedemann

The committee was already in session as they had met prior at 6:30pm.

i. Budget Review Session

Superintendent Lane reviewed the budget summary. The final budget amount proposed is \$12,251,065 excluding the bond coming up for Wilton. This is a reduction of \$27,571 compared to the approved budget from this year of \$12, 278,636 which is a reduction of 23%. The addition of the bond increases the budget in Wilton by \$280,000 resulting in a tax increase for Wilton as voted on, of \$.76. Mr. Post requested to see more structure around the positions of RTI and Curriculum Coordinator. Superintendent Lane responded they are very specific and this information can be shared. Superintendent Lane gave an overview of a letter received from a Lyndeborough resident whose taxes increased and she asked that they be mindful to not put undue burden on tax payers. Mr. Dailey noted this is the first time he remembers seeing this much fluctuation. Chairman Brock added for a larger school district to have a shift like this it would have less likely been affected but one of our size, 10 students makes a shift. It was discussed communication is key. Superintendent Lane will communicate with parents and newspapers once final numbers are settled but until then he cannot move forward. Ms. Post requested data from 2010-present on how much the budget had been kept down over the years. Superintendent Lane responded we can do that but need to separate what can be controlled and what cannot. He believes academic control had gone up minimal and over the past four years health benefits increased at an average of 4% and retirement has gone up 10% and utilities is unknown. These are the driving issues and we have no control over them. He will look at the numbers with these things in mind knowing that it does affect the tax payers. He doesn't think you will find the areas that can be controlled have gone up much. Chairman Brock added that the state has added taxes to the district. The per pupil cost we get back has decreased, the CAT aid has decreased; the funds we had have disappeared. Superintendent Lane will get the comparison and what offsets exist. Going back to 2001, taking out SPED and utilities the rate of increase for the district is less than inflation. The cost for one SPED student for tuition is around \$80,000 and transportation is \$45,000 and Ms. Moore indicated we have five, not just one. Chairman Brock noted we have kept the budget reasonable and this one is very reasonable. Superintendent Lane added that "if the goal were to create a certain reduction for Lyndeborough to see a lessening of the burden, because of the apportionment scenario, 27% of the budget, you would need to reduce the budget by four times that much, no matter

what that is, that (apportionment) is always going to be there. If it was an even split, that would be different but this is how it was set up as a cooperative scenario”.

Ms. LeBlanc reviewed two positions are being eliminated, two new positions are being suggested. Realizing these students (we are targeting with the new positions) would stay in school for several years, if we don’t bring them up to the level of their classmates there will be problems. She doesn’t believe it is all data that needs to be addressed; it’s our job, she notes, to meet these student’s needs. In the grand scheme of things these students would be successful.

b. CBA

Superintendent Lane gave an overview of the 3 year Collective Bargaining Agreement between the WLCTA and School Board as negotiations are now completed. The School Board had some objectives including restructuring the salary schedule to attract and retain quality teachers. The salary schedule has been restructured, the WLCTA agreed to change their health insurance options to go to a deductible insurance plan that will bring significant savings to the district in health insurance premiums. Prior to the salary schedule being restructured, we had 33 steps on the scale, we now have 18, and we can be competitive with most school districts where we couldn’t come close before. Through accountability, staff development and internal measurers we will take kids where they need to be. Some minor language changes were made, teachers have agreed to be placed on new steps so that years of experience do not necessarily reflect placement on step. For most they were placed a step lower. Each person will move up a step annually. For those who are off scale after step 18 the increase is 2.5% and it goes no higher. The first year of the contract proposes an increase of \$36,891 this is an increase of .9% over the salary and benefit cost compared to the current year’s budget taking into account a 2.4% increase in health insurance premiums. Superintendent Lane thanked the WLCTA team. There was give and take amongst both teams but a solid agreement was reached and that makes the difference for staff and students.

c. Warrants

Superintendent Lane reviewed the articles. He explained the changes in language for Article 7 and 8 by taking it out of funds at the end of the school year there is not a tax impact, there is a tax effect. If there is no money left for fund balance there is no effect or impact, at all and nothing is put into the cap reserve. The thought was this was a more conservative approach. Both groups discussed Article 7. Mr. Dailey recommends deciding on a figure and taking it from taxation and not from a fund balance. This was the consensus from both groups that the language for Warrant Article 7 should be ‘to raise and appropriate’. Ms. Browne confirmed that last year there was zero put in the cap reserve and this year they planned to put in \$75,000. Superintendent Lane noted that there are no other funds available if a costly need were to arise such as the boiler. Chairperson Grybko questioned if a different capital reserve was needed for that.

Article 8 was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Dailey thought it had been discussed to fund technology through the budget and keep a particular number in the technology capital reserve such as \$25,000 for catastrophic issues. Mr. Ballou added he would agree as long as there was some infrastructure and it was planned out. The consensus of the Board is to remove Warrant Article 8.

The Budget Committee will meet on January 17, 2017 at 7pm at WLC. The next joint meeting is January 24, 2017 at WLC with joint session to start at 7pm.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Browne and SECONDED by Ms. Pomer to adjourn the Budget Committee session at 8:49pm.

Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.

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201 **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

202 **i. Budget Liaison**

203 Mr. Dailey reported he answered questions the committee had and another meeting has been scheduled
204 at WLC for January 17, at 7pm.

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206 **ii. Facilities**

207 Refer to Ms. Tucker's written report for a Facilities update.

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209 **iii. Elementary History Committee**

210 Chairman Brock reported they are moving along with the book and are in final stages.

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212 **X. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES**

213 There were no resignations, appointments or leaves to report.

214
215 **XI. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION**

216 Questions were answered for newer members on process and the next scheduled meeting is January 24
217 which is a joint meeting. The Public Hearing is scheduled for February 9 which is presented by the
218 Budget Committee.

219
220 **XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

221 Ms. Moore thanked Superintendent Lane for his guidance through the budget process, all was very
222 transparent.

223
224 **XIII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C)**

225 There was no non-public session held.

226
227 **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

228 *A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Mr. Dailey to adjourn the Board meeting*
229 *at 9:03pm.*

230 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

231
232 *Respectfully submitted,*
233 *Kristina Fowler*
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