

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING AND JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION
Tuesday, January 24, 2017
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School-Media Room
6:30 p.m.**

Present: *Geoff Brock, Matt Ballou, Mark Legere, Carol LeBlanc, Alex LoVerme and Harry Dailey*
after the Budget Committee meeting

Superintendent Bryan Lane, Business Administrator Lise Tucker, Principal Tim O'Connell and Clerk Kristina Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brock called the meeting to order at 6:28pm.

II. ELEMENTARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Mr. O'Connell and one of the two 2nd graders from FRES were present and honored as student of the month.

III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent Lane provided a budget comparison which is going into the annual report and passed out a history of standardized test scores and a comparative on cost per pupil of school districts of similar size.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment to report.

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lane reported a part of the heating system at WLC, a "JSON, JAVA- application control", one of them has failed and we have been limping along. It's expected in tomorrow. The middle school hallway in particular is cool. Last Tuesday he attended the Budget Committee's meeting which was a good discussion. Resident, Dave Roemer was in attendance and voiced some concerns. He spoke in particular around long term cost to the district and what it has been over time. The committee voted to approve the CBA, budget and capital reserve at \$55,000 with \$60,000 for the coming years. There was another snow day today. He has had good conversations with the road agents and all has been productive, he calls them the night before if he can as well. He attended the Southwestern Superintendents meeting where they talked about "Project Lead the Way", a great K-12 program which originally focused on engineering programs at the high schools and now has branched out and is something we will look at. February 6 he will attend the Legislative Forum. He receives a print out of all the bills that are coming out and he will bring them to the Board. Governor Sununu will attend the forum. There is a new potential Commissioner of Education, Frank Edelblut. He will bring information back from the meeting.

ii. Director of Technology's Report

The reports have been reviewed by the Board.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

There was no consent agenda

52 **VII. ACTION ITEMS**

53 **a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting**

54 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Legere and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to approve the minutes as*
55 *written.*

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

57
58 *Mr. Dailey arrived at 7:00pm.*

59
60 **VIII. 7:00 P.M. JOINT BOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION**

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

63
64 The committee was already in session as they met prior at 6:30pm.

65
66 **a. Final draft Preparation for Public Hearing**

67 Chairman Brock spoke of his tax rate being higher than it has been since he has been here and the
68 Lyndeborough people being frustrated and he understands this. He explained we had to fix the
69 buildings and although we spent, we have the big problems solved. Looking at test scores and student
70 achievement, this is the next place to go. Superintendent Lane's recommendations he believes, will
71 make the improvements he wants to see. He is recommending reducing the budget by \$16,461 this
72 would mean the budget would be one dollar less than last year, minus the bond which Lyndeborough
73 won't be paying. He suggests leaving where to reduce this up to administration. Chairperson Grybko
74 reported a motion to reconsider the budget was made and they have not decided what to do until after
75 the Public Hearing. The concern is, increase in the budget without any advancement in test scores.
76 We have one of the highest costs in the state and the return on investment is low she said. She asked
77 Superintendent Lane if he had any suggestions on where to cut the budget further which no specifics
78 where offered. He explained for anything to be significant, to create any real difference from that
79 apportionment change, he doesn't see he can bring forth anything. There is a pendulum that just
80 swung back and unfortunately it was a big chunk, he doesn't know where that would go in the future,
81 it could go the other way. He provided a document showing the history of standardized test scores
82 going back to 2009. Over time you will see when in NECAP assessment, pretty much we were at a
83 reasonable average. A 2% change here is one child. The goals I have for the RTI and Curriculum
84 Coordinator positions are to target those students who are on the cusp and can be brought back; they
85 are the missing pieces of the puzzle but not everything. Another issue was the Smarter Balanced;
86 some of the students were not as familiar with the technology. Five or six kids per grade is that swing.
87 His goal is 80% for reading and eventually for math as well which will take longer. Currently with the
88 change in government and a new commissioner in education, they are talking about changing the exam
89 again. His goal is to use an internal assessment so parents know where their children are and see
90 progress. He also spoke to Mr. O'Connell about screening Kindergarten kids before they get here
91 which will get them ready to start. Mr. Ballou spoke of his experience with some of the state testing
92 and sometimes the results are received months later and the difficulty of effecting change when you
93 receive results such a long time after the test was taken. He is in favor of the testing Superintendent
94 Lane is talking about and feels that is proper testing.

95
96 Chairman Brock noted that had we not done consolidation, the Lyndeborough tax rate would have
97 been worse. Mr. Dailey added it may be too late for this season but maybe some type of rolling
98 average that levels out some of these issues we will be having, at least to get the funding formula right,
99 although we may be restricted a couple more years with the current funding formula. Superintendent
100 Lane will look into this. Mr. Dailey noted any changes to the Articles of Agreement will require a
101 Public Hearing.

103 **b. Warrants**

104 Chairman Brock asked for confirmation on Warrant Article #7, it was confirmed by Chairperson
105 Grybko that they have recommended \$55,000 be added to the Building/Equipment & Roadway
106 Capital Reserve Fund and then \$60,000 and \$60,00 for the subsequent years. Mr. Dailey added they
107 would like the Facilities Committee to get harder numbers for example on the roof as he wasn't sure if
108 that was still a good number.

109
110 *A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Mr. Dailey to agree with adding \$55,000*
111 *to Warrant Article #7, (Building/Equipment & Roadway Capital Reserve Fund).*

112 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*
113

114 It was asked for the Budget Committee to confirm if they agreed with (recommended) the CBA,
115 Warrant Article #5 in which Chairperson Grybko replied yes, we did.

116
117 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Dailey and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to reduce \$16,461 from the*
118 *budget resulting in a new budget number of \$12,514, 604.*

119 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*
120

121 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Dailey and SECONDED by Ms. LeBlanc to recommend Warrant Article*
122 *#5, (Collective Bargaining Agreement).*

123 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*
124

125 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Browne and SECONDED by Ms. Pomer in support of the new budget*
126 *number of \$12,514,604 as the School Board presented.*

127 *Voting: six ayes; one nay from Ms. Post, Mr. Dailey abstained, motion carried.*
128

129 Ms. Browne noted there has been a lot of discussion about the tax rate of Lyndeborough residents.
130 She stated they would like a breakdown of how many students of Wilton and Lyndeborough and basic
131 discussion of how we see the tax rate, ADM and equalized valuation so everyone understands.
132

133 Mr. Roemer was present and asked if he remembered a "swing" like this before and he acknowledged
134 a no.
135

136 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Tiedemann and SECONDED by Ms. Browne to recess the Budget*
137 *Committee session at 7:41pm.*

138 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*
139

140 Mr. Dailey excused himself to attend the Budget Committee meeting that is reconvening.
141

142 **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

143 **i. Budget Liaison**

144 There was no committee report given.
145

146 **X. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES**

147 There were none to report.
148

149 **XI. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION**

150 This discussion was held prior to the joint session as time allowed.

151 Chairman Brock reviewed the current situation with Lyndeborough taxes, school growth and spending
152 being small and the budget being proposed as reasonable. He is in support of the two positions (RTI
153 and Curriculum Coordinator) and when we switched to Smarter Balanced two years ago test scores

154 went down all over the state. He proposed a reduction of \$16,461 to the budget this would mean the
155 budget would be one dollar less than last year, minus the bond which Lyndeborough won't be paying.
156 He suggests leaving where to reduce this up to administration. It was noted, (regarding the increase in
157 Lyndeborough taxes) the percentage changed by 2%, 7 more students in Wilton and 7 less in
158 Lyndeborough. Ms. LeBlanc questioned if we got another 7 students, wouldn't we be in the same
159 place? She added that we have improved the school and people are enticed to come, it seems
160 shortsighted. Superintendent Lane had done a "backwards study" and looked at the "ebb and flow" of
161 tax rate since the consolidation. Through the ebb and flow there were two years where Lyndeborough
162 had a \$90,000 tax benefit and \$90,000 the other way and \$40,000 the other way, the pendulum can
163 keep swinging. Ms. LeBlanc added people should know this is the way the pendulum swings.
164 Superintendent Lane further added if you take out SPED (and transportation) and utilities the increase
165 in the budget is less than the rate of inflation.

166 **XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

167 There was no public comment to report.
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169

170 **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

171 *A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Mr. Legere to adjourn the Board meeting*
172 *at 7:46pm.*

173 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*
174

175 *Respectfully submitted,*
176 *Kristina Fowler*
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