

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BUDGET COMMITTEE

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

November 28, 2012 FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Vice-Chair Dave Roemer, Bill Ball, Leslie Browne, Karen Grybko, Ellen Pomer, Mark Whitehill, Fran Bujak (WLC School Board Rep.), Secretary Dawn Tuomala.

Attendance:

School Board Member(s): Geoffrey Brock, James Button, Joyce Fisk
Interim Superintendent Dr. Donald LaPlante

The Agenda was as follows:

1. Call Budget Committee Meeting to Order – in Media Center
2. October 10, 2012 Minutes Review and Approval
3. November 14, 2012 Minutes Review and Approval
4. Public Comments
5. Brief updates from the Subcommittees:
 - a. Facilities Subcommittee – Leslie Browne & Mark Whitehill
 - b. Negotiations Subcommittee – Cary Hughes & Ellen Pomer
 - c. School Board Rep.
 - d. Superintendent Search – Leslie Browne
6. Review of 2013/2014 Budget
7. Prepare Questions for Joint Meeting on December 5th
8. Other Business
9. Adjourn

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

Vice- Chairman Roemer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. October 10, 2012 Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Mark seconded by Bill, all in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

3. November 14, 2012 Minutes Review and Approval

Start on Page 2 line 43 and do a global search to change Roamer to Roemer. On Page 3 line 26 revise ream to REAP. On Page 5 line 16 change transporation to transportation. On Page 3 line 25 the District isn't going to ask for a waiver to use those funds the State has applied for the waiver.

Motion: To approve the minutes as amended was made by Mark seconded by Bill, all in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comments – none at this time

5. Brief updates from Subcommittees:

a. Facilities Subcommittee – Leslie Browne & Mark Whitehill

They met last Monday; most of the discussion was around the performance contract with Honeywell. The attorney has looked at the contract and has recommended changes in the

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL - BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES FOR November 28, 2012

language. It is anticipated that they will accept the revisions and the contract should be back into the office for signature shortly. Most of their proposal will be at WLC and a little bit at FRES. There will be a 15 year commitment at WLC and a 5 year commitment at FRES. Their first work will be to evaluate the buildings determining what needs to be done, then a plan will be prepared. If the School Board decides not to go ahead with the work then there will be a fee of around \$10,000. If they proceed with the work then it will be neutral and will be paid off over the 15 year contract.

They also discussed not proposing a warrant article this year for FRES until they have a solid long range plan. Presently they have not come to any agreement as far as what to do in the future.

b. **Negotiations Subcommittee** – None at this time.

c. **School Board Rep.**

Mr. Ball went to the meeting last night where there was discussion on the effect that the Affordable Health Care Act will have on the budget. Be prepared to understand that this will have a very big impact on the budget. There was also discussion on the Warrant and how to address the articles of agreement.

Dr. LaPlante stated that by next week at the joint meeting he is hoping to have some answers to be able to put numbers to the information that has been eluding us. What we do know now is that the District is considered to be a large employer. Therefore any employee who works 30 or more hours a week we are required to provide them with health insurance. The Affordable Health Care Act will begin in January 2014 which is part way through the 2013/2014 school year.

There are a number of ways to deal with it. The District can't afford to pay the lion's share of a high plan so they are looking for a low cost plan that the can be affordable. The affordable definition has changed and now states that healthcare costs can't be any greater than 9.5% of their income. If it exceeds this amount and they can get subsidized insurance through the exchange which we will then then be subject to a \$3,000 fine for each employee. This could become like a domino effect if many of them leave.

If health insurance is not provided to the employees then there will be a \$2,000 fine for every employee. The first 30 employees will be exempt but every employee after that will have the \$2,000 fine totaling up to \$180,000 for the group. It's a lot of money to spend and we don't get anything for that money spent.

The 3rd option is to reduce the number of hours down to 29.5 hours and we won't have to offer health insurance. But there would be a loss in continuity of teaching because most of them work 34 hours a week right now. Reducing hours would mean that we will have to provide for half a day coverage from another assistant. Right now there are 5 students that need a 1 on 1 aide so we would need to hire 2 people. But these kids would have to interact with 2 different people now but it is very difficult for them to work with just one. In addition it maybe impossible to recruited someone to work only 2 or 3 days. Plus they will have to work with all different kids and each one has very different requirements. There are too many down sides, so the amounts have been anticipated and already put in the budget.

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL - BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES FOR November 28, 2012

They are considering polling the employees to see who would take the insurance but at this point they don't know. In addition there is no guarantee that they will stay and there could be another that would change from single to family. They are considering providing for single plans only or having a high deductible plan. This will have to be done through bargaining.

Dr. LaPlante stated that the School Board wants to change the Articles of Agreement to be able to adopted language providing them with the flexibility to move students from one school or another. There was discussion about printing an explanation stating that changing the Articles will not have any impact on the financial arrangement and it will remain in force as it is for now. This will provide a record to go back to and for future boards looking back to check on the language to see why and how.

Mr. Ball also added that the expense report year to date shows a surplus so there is confidence that there won't be a deficit appropriation.

d. Superintendent Search Committee – Leslie Browne

Ms. Browne stated that they will meet again on December 6. The School Board Association will be posting by this weekend.

6. Review of proposed budget

Ms. Browne thought this budget was a good start, and we are in a much better place than last year. Ms. Grybko had a question about a slide bullet showing buying books for the middle school but they had to buy reading material at LCS. Buying 12 books for LSC can't possibly break the budget. It was determined that a couple of the items in the presentation had accidentally been combined on the same line. The intent was that the ms/hs bullet was due to the 6th grade moving from the elementary schools to the HS so the budget needed to change with them. LCS needed to have new books so that they are now matching up with the FRES classes.

Mr. Whitehill asked about the reduction of principal at LCS but questioned that there is now a full time secretary. Dr. LaPlante stated that 15 minutes was added to her day so that there is someone there all the time. She is full time anyway. There will probably be a head teacher appointed with a small stipend for next year.

Mr. Roemer stated that the number we usually present is the last number at 2.54% but it was only presented as 0.87%. If we get less money how does that decrease the %? Over the years, Dr. LaPlante has worked putting many budgets together. The budget is the total budget, not to break it apart, this piece and that piece. The warrant articles also have to be paid for by the taxpayers. A Zero based budget includes everything; there might be an increase in one part of the budget and a reduction in another part of the budget. They worked hard to get as close to zero as possible. The total is up 0.87% from last year but then they had a \$45,000 reduction in the insurance which when subtracted out is down to 0.47%. This budget includes everything except Obama and SPED, but in reflection they should have also requested New Hampshire Retirement Fund.

Healthcare will see a savings and SPED is down this year which offsets the other parts of the budget. A significant chunk of the increase in the budget is from the 3rd year of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The NH Retirement Fund has fallen totally upon the

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL - BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES FOR November 28, 2012

Districts to come up with the 35% funding since the State voted to eliminate their contribution at the last legislature. The employees pay for only 7% and the district comes up with the rest now.

Mr. Roemer state that the night of meeting we got another summary sheet unfortunately neither has a version date so it is difficult to determine which one is which. He requested that when the newest summary sheet and comparison by object code sheets come out that they have a date or identification. Ms. Browne asked to get a sheet identifying which code is for which school, ie 12 is LCS etc.

Mr. Roemer asked that other than the raises for non-collective bargaining agreement are there any other items potentially to be added to the budget or are there any other budget warrant articles. At this point the Support Staff Contract isn't going to be huge. At the School Board meeting the Library position was discussed but there are no other budget warrant articles at this time. Until there is a formal plan for FRES they won't be doing a warrant. The maintenance of effort will be accomplished without impact on us financially by using the Honeywell plan. There was a question about the potential of setting up a fund to capture some of the unexpended funds for help with the building grounds or renovation or a new building in the future. Right now there is \$230,000 in the SPED fund and that seems to be a good catastrophic number.

There was discussion about putting the Principle position on a warrant article for the voters to decide. To put funding attached to that would be a step backwards if put it on as a warrant.

7. Prepare Questions for Joint Meeting on December 5th

Check with Mr. Davidson to see if Mr. Roemer's question has been forwarded.

8. Other Business - None

9. Adjourn

The next meeting will be on December 5, 2012 at 6:30 PM location Media Center. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Whitehill and seconded by Ms. Browne; all in favor. The School Budget Committee was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Tuomala, Secretary