

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BUDGET COMMITTEE

1
2 **Location: Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School – Media Room: 7:00 P.M.**
3

4 **February 5, 2015**

5
6 **PUBLIC HEARING**
7 **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**
8

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

11
12 *School Board Members Present: Geoff Brock (Chair), Harry Dailey (Vice-Chair), Matt Ballou,*
13 *Francis Bujak, James Button, Joyce Fisk, Carol LeBlanc, Mary Guild and Alexander LoVerme*
14

15 *Administration Present: Dr. Tyrie, Superintendent, Lise Tucker, Business Administrator, Betty*
16 *Moore, Director of Student Support Services, Brian Bagley, Principle and Tim O’Connell,*
17 *Principle*
18

19 The Agenda was as follows:

- 20
21 1. Call Budget Committee Meeting to Order – in Media Center
22 2. Presentation of 2015/2016 Budget with Specified Warrant Articles
23 3. Public Comments/Input from Public
24 4. Recommended Changes to Budget
25 5. Other Business
26 6. Adjourn
27

28
29 **1. Call Budget Committee Meeting to Order – in Media Center**

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31 Chairman Davidson called the Budget Committee Public Hearing Meeting to order at
32 7:00 PM.

33 Chairman Brock called the School Board Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
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36 **2. Presentation of 2015/2016 Budget with Specified Warrant Articles**
37

38 **ARTICLE 4**
39

40 Chairman Davidson opened the meeting discussing Article 4 which contains the
41 operating budget for the school district. The amount is shown on the summary
42 expenditure sheet which comprises the budget. The total budget for the 2015/2016 is
43 12,062,617.
44

45 The projected savings from the consolidation was estimated last year at \$345,000 which
46 was comprised of 4.5 staff positions and SAU rental costs. The actual savings realized
47 was \$346,635 which consists of 4.64 staffing positions and the SAU rent. These have

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1 been realized within the operating budget. The new bond amount is \$331,680 so the
2 consolidation savings were realized.

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

9
10 The consolidation has also absorbed about half of the mandated increases. The bottom
11 line consolidation savings and the budget drivers have increased Reg. Ed. \$68,900 or
12 0.79%. The increase to SPED is \$87,641 or 3.79% increase. The total operating
13 budget increase is \$156,541 or 1.4%.

14
15 Dr. Tyrie explained the pie chart which indicates non-discretionary costs has the largest
16 piece of the pie. The percentage of the budget that is staff salaries and benefits which
17 comprise 71.4% of the budget or \$8,241,288 is considered non-discretionary meaning
18 that we are compelled to spend that money. Compared with other districts our size we
19 are about average to slightly below average. This discretionary costs which is about
20 8.3% of the entire budget were also part of the chart. These are items such as teachers
21 and student supplies. Typically this runs between 8 to 10% of the total budget.

22
23 In summary the consolidation savings has resulted in savings that will offset the bond
24 and help with many of the discretionary budget drivers.

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

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

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

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

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

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1 Mr. Torre of Wilton questioned how much of a salary increase this represents. Dr. Tyrie
2 stated that it is a 2% increase.
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5 **ARTICLE 6** – is to be voted on if Article 5 is defeated.
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8 **ARTICLE 7** – was recommended by the Budget Committee and the School Board. This
9 will allow the interest that has been accumulating on the FRES Bond to be used and to
10 put it into the fund balance. Ms. Currin asked why not use it to reduce the bond and that
11 is essentially what will happen putting it against the principle payment.
12

13 **ARTICLE 8** – was recommended by both the Budget Committee and the School Board.
14 This was to have an extended day kindergarten for \$40,000. Ashley Sarri and Ms.
15 Currin questioned if it would apply to both ½ kindergarten groups. This would extend the
16 day for either morning or afternoon classes by 3 to 3 ½ hours so they would be equal
17 length. Mr. Brock stated that they would then be allowed to ride the bus back and forth.
18 It they needed to go to FRES to be transported to the Boys and Girls Club along with
19 other siblings this would now be possible.
20

21 The District would pay for half the day and the parents would be paying for the other half
22 day. The question was asked what if the parents don't opt for the service. This is a
23 possibility since this is not a mandatory requirement. There is also the possibility that
24 people might have to be turned away as the space is too constrained to have every
25 student participate in the service. It will be on a first come first serve basis for this year.
26 Mr. Brock stated that it is known that the children do much better in the long run if they
27 are in a full day kindergarten. This would not be a full day kindergarten but would have
28 more instructional value than staying at home alone. The State of NH requires a Town
29 to provide for kindergarten but doesn't require a parent to send their child.
30

31 **ARTICLE 9** – was not recommended by the Budget Committee but was recommended
32 by the School Board. This article would provide \$31,500 to purchase as new pickup
33 truck and plow for the District to use. Mr. Brock stated that the District should have their
34 own vehicle for moving and running items around. They presently pay people to use
35 their own vehicles. This is more expensive for the District than owning their own
36 vehicle. This is a separate warrant article to purchase a vehicle and to put a plow on it
37 just makes sense for the District.
38

39 **ARTICLE 10** – has been recommended by the Budget Committee and the School
40 Board. The amount was changed during a joint meeting held earlier tonight. The
41 amount has dropped from \$190,000 to \$150,000. The monies will be placed into the
42 WLC building/equipment and roadway Capital Reserve Fund. The Facilities Committee
43 has been working on a Capital Improvement Plan to be able to keep up with the
44 infrastructure repairs in a timely manner before they become an expensive issue. They
45 have planned the Capital improvements so as to have a minimal impact to taxation.
46 Everything has been included within the plan.
47

48 Ms. Currin asked what the present balance in the account was. Mr. Bujack stated that
49 there is presently \$252,000 in there and \$150,000 is scheduled to go towards the WLC
50 roof repair in 5 years and the other \$100,000 would be set aside for miscellaneous

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1 repairs. There WLC roof will take over \$500,000 to repair therefore it was determined
2 that \$150,000 should be placed in the fund this year in order to keep up with the
3 schedule. The remaining \$200,000 will be on a warrant to be placed in the fund next
4 year.

5
6 Mr. Torre asked that the CIP be posted or printed for the taxpayers to be able to see. It
7 will be available at the District Meeting or in the Annual Report.
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10 **Article 11** – was recommended by the Budget Committee and the School Board. The
11 article will place \$50,000 in the Technology Advance Capital Reserve Fund. The
12 Budget Committee had requested that the administration try to reduce the operating
13 budget so they had cut \$65,000 out of the technology line. This was for the hardware
14 for the students but it was determined that the infrastructure of the school needs so
15 much improvement that it would be useless to have new hardware without the
16 infrastructure updates so they will be breaking the technology into 3 phases. The
17 infrastructure updates will cost more than anticipated. They made this warrant to be
18 able to pursue the technology advancements at WLC.
19

20 Mr. Brock explained that they are incorporating the technology into each of the
21 classrooms and the networking included is more of a new purchase. If it isn't part of the
22 operating budget than it can't be planned for and needs to be a warrant. The worst
23 thing to do would be to purchase the equipment and not be able to use it. They are also
24 in the process of training the teachers in the use of all of the new technology that is
25 available today. Today technology is being thought of just like books and desks. There
26 is presently about \$22,000 in the Technology Capital Reserve Account.
27
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29 **Article 12** – was recommended by the Budget Committee and the School Board. It will
30 allow the School Board to accept unexpected funds from any source even donations by
31 private individuals. Presently they can accept the funds but they can't expend any funds
32 over what is approved at District Meeting. This will allow them to spend the funds for
33 their intended purpose.
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35 Mr. Roemer stated that they accept money on a regular basis. They don't have the
36 legal authority to expend more than what is in the budget. This will allow them to do that
37 with a public hearing.
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40 **3. Public Comments/Input from Public**
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42 Mr. Dave Roemer questioned the decision to raise funds for capital items from taxation
43 verses the unexpended fund balances. In the past the unexpended funds have always been
44 used and he questioned if it was the intent to return the unused funds to the taxpayer or
45 were they going on a spending party. It was explained that it is harder to ask for the money
46 by taxation but it is a more transparent way to do it and it assures the money is there verses
47 waiting to see if there are any unexpended funds remaining that can be appropriated. They
48 want to be up front and maintain the trust by returning any unexpended funds. Mr. Button
49 stated with the CIP plan now in place they should fund it by taxation since they now have a
50 real number and real list so this is the best way to do it.

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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