

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BUDGET COMMITTEE

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

November 5, 2014 FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Vice Chair Mark Altner, Leslie Browne, Kelly Eshback, Cary Hughes, Secretary Dawn Tuomala.

Attendance:

School Board Member(s): Geoffrey Brock, Harry Dailey, Matt Ballou, Francis Bujak, James Button, Joyce Fisk, Mary Guild, Alex LoVerm, Carol LeBlanc

Superintendent Dr. Christine Tyrie, Director of Student Support Betty Moore, Principal Brian Bagley, Principal Tim O'Connell, Administrative Assistant Kristina Fowler

The Agenda was as follows:

1. Call Budget Committee Meeting to Order – in Media Center
2. Joint Session WLC Budget Committee & School Board Budget Presentations:
 - a. FY 16 Staffing and Undesignated
 - b. LCS
 - c. SAU
3. Set up Future Meeting Dates
4. Other Business
5. Adjourn of Budget Committee

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

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

2. Joint Session WLC Budget Committee & School Board Budget Presentations

a. FY 16 Staffing and Undesignated

Dr. Tyrie explained that there will be a reduction of staff positions due to the full consolidation of the elementary schools. Dr. Tyrie provided a summary sheet that describes the possible reductions including the benefits. This shows the total compensation at this point in time is estimated to be \$359,134. This reduction is an estimate based on the information known at this time. This is not carved in stone since the process of talking to those involved hasn't begun yet. These numbers are the least possible savings that we could have. There could be some additional savings. There may also be savings on some retirements. The SAU will not be moving into the LCS building until August. After August there will be a savings on the rent.

Dr Tyrie explained that the saving amounts have not been realized in this presentation of the budget. The budget was built including everyone who is presently employed by the

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District at this point. The savings can be reduced from the bottom line of the estimated budget.

They are anticipating 3 sessions of 1st to 3rd grades for next year due to the projected enrollment. The 4th grade they will be looking at 2 sessions. There will be a reduction of one nurse next year but LCS will still be covered as they are planning to hire an aide that can work under the RN. There will also be a reduction of hours for guidance, SPED, nurse, PE and music personnel.

Dr. Tyrie stated that the goal in building the budgets was to be the most economical considering the declining enrollments without impacting the quality of education and sacrificing anything. There are many contractual obligations that automatically cause increases in the budget from the teachers' contract last year. They will be in negotiations with Aide staffing salary contracts this year. There will also be an increase in CBA of \$70,000, the bussing of students will be increased. There will also be a reduction in adequacy revenues due to the decline in enrollment.

The enrollments haven't been going down as fast as the NASDEC predictions. The total enrollment is now at 594 which is 13 higher than estimated. WLC has experienced a little growth in the last month. There will also be a lower facilities budget due to the current bond updating FRES and LCS. The Facilities committee will address the technology infrastructure program going forward especially at WLC.

Once again the staffing shown in the budget includes all of the same people as there are right now. This doesn't take into account the consolidation reductions and will be taken out of the bottom line. The items have been zeroed out for LCS but have been added to FRES budget. There will be a bottom line budget at the December 9th Joint Meeting.

Insurance has been budgeted at a 10% increase. There is always a difference between the actual amount budgeted and what is actually paid due to the receipt of a premium holiday. The disability insurance is what it will actually be. The retirement contribution for teachers is going up 14.16% to 15.67%. The staff will be going up from \$10.77% to \$11.17%. FICA is not going up and will total 7.65% and is a real number. There will be a substantial increase on benefits going up \$150,000. There will be penalties for Cadillac plans under Obama Care and this will have to be reviewed. They offer insurance to anyone that works 30 or more hours in a week. When offering a single plan the cost of the plan to the employee cannot be more than 9.5% of their income. We use a 3 month look back period to determine the amount of hours worked on a regular basis. This will need to be reported on January 1, 2016 for the first time.

b. LCS Budget

Principal Tim O'Connell presented the LCS Budget. LCS will have an estimated 50 to 65 students based on the current enrollments. These students include the 3 to 5 year olds, Pre-K and Kindergarten. The repairs supply line includes the items that are expendable which is more for this age group.

They will also need a better playground for this age group. The present playground is for the older students and is not appropriate for this age group. They are estimating about

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\$15,000 for upgrading the playground for the next year. The current bond construction costs didn't include any outside work for the playground. They would like to maintain the existing playground since many of the Town children use it after hours and on the weekend. There is an area in the back of the building that will be a good place for the playground. In this location, the children will not be crossing traffic and providing a fence around the area will make it more safe and secure. They would prefer not moving elements from the existing playground. There is currently a small play area outside the front of the building but this is not large enough for all of the children that will be using it. These items could be moved to the rear. The \$15,000 will get 2 types of structures for the children to play on. There is a small contingency fund as part of the bond that if not needed could be used to purchase a fence. The area could be designed for a single class at a time and build it up over time.

There was also an outcry as part of the consolidation to be able to have a full day kindergarten including day care. There will be 3 sessions of Kindergarten, 2 in the morning and 1 in the afternoon. They will have 1.5 teachers and 1.5 total teacher aides. They are looking to add a person with an LPN certificate that will cover the need for someone with a medical background being in the school. The LPN will be working under the direct supervision of the RN. This way when they are not needed in the nurse's office they can go into the classroom to help the teachers. At 30 hours health care kicks in and at 35 hours retirement benefits are required.

The general supplies are heavier for the younger students but the book line has been reduced since the students can't read at this point. They will be setting up a second ABA position due to the amount of students requiring services. They will need 2 SPED Aides in the pre-school. The computer system will not need any new equipment but will just be moved over. They do need on-line system for the pre-school and the autism curriculum.

Principal O'Connell and Ms. Betty Moore explained that the Guidance salaries have been zeroed out for LCS but have been moved into FRES budget for right now. They will need a substitute nurse for a day. There will be a need for the hearing test equipment to be calibrated every year. There will also be a new bed for the nurse's office. PT services are down but the Occupational therapy is up slightly. There is no reading specialist, and the autism bridges line has been zeroed out.

All of the library items have been moved out of LCS and into the FRES budget. They will still need to have a full time secretary at LCS. They are requesting 2 assemblies per year for this age group and 2 offsite field trips.

They will also have custodial services and it will be split 75% for LCS and 25% for the SAU based upon the square footage that will actually be used. There are dumpster disposal service and the snow plowing is done by the Town for LCS. They will be asking for a new floor buffer and waxing machine. Things weren't always expensed where they were supposed to be. There is an increase due to the additional testing for the well.

They have not determined if there will be bus service for the students but there has been 20% of anticipated has been allocated. There will still be SPED transportation as this is a requirement. The bus system will have to be looked at, we are in year 3 of a 3 year contract. They are planning to take 6 out of the 10 computers in the LCS computer lab and

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put them into the classroom for the students. These computers have outlived their useful life as they are 7 to 8 years old and have come from the high school.

The SPED had budgeted 89 students but they actually have 97 students enrolled this year. The severity of the need has increased even though the enrollment has gone down. The bottom line for LCS is estimated at \$720,972 which is down \$531,508 or 42.4%. Most of the expense has been transferred to FRES. The costs were roughly divided out to obtain a cost per student of \$11,200 (based on 65 students). The average cost per student in the State is \$13,000.

c. SAU – Due to the time the SAU budget will be presented at the next meeting.

3. Set up Future Meeting Dates – November 18, 2014 @ 7 PM in the Media Center

4. Other Business – None at this time

5. Adjourn

The next meeting will be a joint meeting on November 18, 2014 at 7:00 PM; location Media Center. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Ms. Eshback; all in favor. The School Budget Committee was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Tuomala, Secretary