

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BUDGET COMMITTEE

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

January 6, 2015 FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Chairman Don Davidson, Vice Chair Mark Altner, Leslie Browne, Kelly Eshback, Karen Grybko, Cary Hughes, Ellen Pomer, Lisa Post, Secretary Dawn Tuomala.

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

Administration: Superintendent Dr. Christine Tyrie, Administrator Lise Tucker, 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. Declaration of Candidacy – Board and Budget Committee
 - b. Discretionary Spending Pie Chart
 - c. Budget Pie Chart by Object
 - d. Follow Up Tech Salary Savings
3. Determine Location of Budget Hearing
4. FY 16 Budget
 - a. Revenue/Expenditures
5. Warrant Articles
 - a. Update on Cap. Reserves
6. Adjourn Joint Meeting
7. Call Budget Committee Meeting to Order
8. Review and Approval of Minutes
 - a. September 16, 2014
 - b. November 5, 2014
 - c. November 18, 2014
 - d. December 9, 2014
9. Budget Discussion
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment of Budget Committee

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

Chairman Davidson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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

a. Declaration of Candidacy – Board and Budget Committee

Members of the Budget Committee that are up for election are Karen Grybko, Cary Hughes and Dawn Tuomala. Lisa Post position will be up for a 2 year renewal since she was appointed to fill the vacated posted from John Giese.

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School Board members up for election are Geoffrey Brock, Carol Leblanc and Alexander LoVerme. Applications can be filed at the SAU office from January 21st to January 30th with the school clerk Kristina Fowler.

b. Discretionary Spending Pie Chart

Chart was shown; no discussion.

c. Budget Pie Chart by Object

Chart was shown; no discussion,

d. Follow Up Tech. Salary Savings

There were 2 options for a technology plan shown. They are going with option 2. Option 1 had a candidate that would fulfill all of the requirements but they wanted \$90,000 plus all of the benefits.

3. Determine Location of Budget Hearing

The Public Hearing on the Budget will be on February 5, 2015 at 7 PM in the Library.

4. FY 16 Budget

a. Revenue/Expenditures

Dr. Tyrie stated that the information is on the gold sheets and she used a different software in preparing the form. The only thing that wasn't included was the reduction due to the anticipated unreserved fund balance. This won't be determined until all of the encumbrances are logged in. Mr. Davidson would like at least an estimate by Public Hearing just to let the public know what to expect for a tax rate.

5. Warrant Articles

a. Update on Capital Reserves

There was discussion about each of the Capital Reserve accounts and where they stand.

The building equipment and roadway is at \$

The second one for Disabled Children is at \$ It is felt that this should be enough for one out of state placement and it is at the correct amount.

The third one for Technology Advancement is at \$21,592. They keep this even though there is money in the budget so if they have a catastrophic event that the item can be replaced. It is felt that \$20,000 is the right number.

b. Warrant Articles

The first item is the operating budget at \$11,503,208 which the Budget Committee will have to vote on. Not included in the budget amount is the collective bargaining agreement for the Support Staff that the School Board just approved. That will be the

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second warrant article. It involves 27 people and will have a \$12,000 impact on the budget.

Article 6 will allow the School District to use the interest accumulating from the bond that they couldn't use otherwise. This might be as high as \$7,500 and can be used to pay down the principle of the bond.

The next 2 proposed articles will be an either or situation; the first calls for an extended day kindergarten where the parents will pay for the service after the regular kindergarten day so that they won't have to come pick up their child while they are working. The anticipated cost is \$40,500 to hire 1.5 paraprofessionals to run the service. The second option is to have a full day kindergarten paid for by the taxpayers and this estimated cost is \$172,978. The School Board will take everything into account and are asking for the Budget Committees opinion. This would be good for those children who need the extra services and they could be done at another time than while they are in the classroom.

They are still in preliminary discussions about transportation for the kindergarten children. They can do transportation in the morning and the afternoon but the middle of the day would be cost prohibitive. There was discussion about bussing the children down to FRES where they can take the bus to the boys and girls club for their activities.

The next article is to put \$95,000 into a capital reserve fund for the building and equipment; monies coming from the fund balance. They will be looking at half a million dollar roof repair on parts of WLC that have come to the end of their life. This will be used to help offset the costs. By putting money into the capital reserve account they hope to have a more level budget each year so there aren't any huge spikes. Right now the buildings are in good shape and they are creating a plan to keep them up so they don't fall apart. They will look at other sections of the middle school roof and come up with a time table for them being done. They are looking at 25 to 30 different items to be put on a scheduled maintenance plan.

Another article deals with a 2.5% fund balance retention that can be saved out in case of an emergency. This would be coming out of the fund balance instead of being returned to the town. The next article deals with allowing the district to accept unanticipated sources of funding such as donations. There is also a warrant article to see how the voters feel about the name of FRES and whether they want to change it.

The last article that the School Board voted on was to lease a truck for 3 years (this includes maintenance but no insurance). This is to allow the district to have a truck to move items around between the buildings so that the employees don't have to use their own vehicles.

There was discussion about the time table. There will be another joint meeting on January 13, 2015 and the budget committee will meet after to have a discussion on the budget figure; Then to take a vote on the final figure on January 20th. If a common number can't be reached than there will be another joint meeting on January 27th to see if we can come to a common number. The Public Hearing is scheduled for February 5th at 7 PM in the Media Center.

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6. Adjournment of Joint Meeting – Budget Committee

The next meeting will be a joint meeting on January 13th 2015 at 7:00 PM; location Media Center. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Altner and seconded by Ms. Browne; all in favor. The School Budget Committee was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

7. Call Budget Committee Meeting to Order – WLC Conference Room

Chairman Davidson called the meeting to order at 8:11 PM.

8. Review and Approval of Minutes

a. Minutes of September 16, 2014

Motion: To approve the minutes as written was made by Mr. Altner seconded by Ms. Grybko; 8 yes; Motion carried unanimously.

b. Minutes of November 5, 2014

Motion: To approve the minutes as written/ was made by Mr. Altner seconded by Ms. Pomer; 8 yes; Motion carried unanimously.

c. Minutes of November 18, 2014

Motion: To approve the minutes as written was made by Mr. Altner seconded by Ms. Browne; 8 yes; Motion carried unanimously.

d. Minutes of December 9, 2014

Motion: To approve the minutes as written/ was made by Mr. altner seconded by Mr. Browne; 7 yes; 1 abstention (Mr. Hughes); Motion carried.

9. Budget Discussion

Chairman Davidson began by explaining that the meeting next week will be a technology presentation and that all of the numbers have been presented to us. Questions can be sent to Chairman Davidson so that he might get them to Dr. Tyrie before the meeting so that she will be able to answer them. Reviewing the high level sheet the proposed budget is up 1% from last year even with the consolidation.

Mr. Altner questioned the increase in the social security amounts for LCS on page 8. There could be many reasons for this since many of the items have been moved around due to the consolidation.

Dr. Tyrie was brought in to answer the question regarding whether the consolidation figures that were originally presented have now been incorporated into the budget. They are cutting 4.64 positions and this has been taken out in the white sheets. The substitute teacher

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amounts since that had seemed very high have been re-evaluated and reduced. The Budget Committee needs to get the new numbers.

Chairman Davidson stated that the bond figure of \$11,503 should be added to the bottom line and then add the new approved appropriations for the aids at \$12,000 on top of the budget. The food service and the warrants will be additional items added. The Budget Committee is in control of the budget and that is what is presented at the Public Hearing. The bond payment has been offset by the consolidation savings which is what the goal was. It is very difficult to review all of the changes in the budget due to the consolidation. If we are going to challenge the bottom line than we will need to come up with a reason that has substance behind it and not just give a reduction amount or percentage. The amount of the bond payment has been offset by the reduction in the cost of total consolidation. We vote on the expenditures and not on the appropriations.

The only warrant articles we can vote on are those with money involved and we can only recommend or not recommend them. There was discussion about SPED being cut so much it is now hurting the children who are borderline, can't get the help they need and are falling through the cracks. It is good to save money but is it at the expense of the children?

Mr. Dailey arrived at 8:40. There was discussion about the reduction in the substitute teacher line that was very high and questioned whether the budget committee has seen that final number or do we have the original numbers. This should be verified to make sure that we have the most up to date budget before we begin the discussions next week.

10. Other Business

a. Budget Meeting Dates

Joint Meeting on January 13, 2015 at 7 PM; Budget Meeting until 9:00 PM deadline

Meet on the January 20, 2015 at 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Meet Jointly with the School Board on the January 27, 2015 if a common budget number hasn't been reached.

Budget Public Hearing February 5, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Media Center.

11. Adjournment of Budget Committee

The next meeting will be a joint meeting on January 13th 2015 at 7:00 PM; location Media Center. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Altner; all in favor. The School Budget Committee was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Tuomala, Secretary