

# **WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL BUDGET COMMITTEE**

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

## **January 13, 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. Teacher Information Presentation – Technology Update
  - b. Budget FY 16 Q & A
  - c. Warrant Articles
3. Adjourn Joint Meeting
4. Call Budget Committee Meeting to Order
5. Review and Approval of Minutes
  - a. January 6, 2015
6. Budget Discussion
7. Warrant Article Discussion
8. Other Business
9. 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. Teacher Information Presentation – Technology Update**

Principal O'Connell, Wanda Meagher and Amy White made the technology presentation. Principal O'Connell began by explaining that our generation are known as digital immigrants but the children coming into school are digital natives. They are the first generation that has grown up with digital technology; they interact quickly with new equipment and know the language. The language we have used is outdated. Growing up with instantaneous access to information has taught them to think about problems differently. Today the teachers are teaching in the same style the children have grown up with. We need to provide the teachers with the training and tools to accomplish this. The children are now great multi-taskers and use graphics over text; many learn by playing games. Effective technology integration deepens and enhances the learning process for the children. Various clips were shown with the children playing games and how interactive and focused they become.

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They will be able to increase staff collaboration by collecting and sharing feedback using google docs. They can collaborate in real time and work together even though they may not be in the same room or even the same school. The trial that was performed has shown a great improvement in testing scores. They described what is needed to successfully integrate technology in the classroom. Using 50% to 60% of technology during the day keeps the students more interested. In order to do this they need to have accessibility to high speed internet. Both the teachers and the students are ready and need the new technology.

Amy White described the Professional Development day that they are going to have on January 30<sup>th</sup> in the Media Center at WLC. The staff are teaching others how they integrate technology into the classrooms. Ms. White explained the different phases to the plan. There are benefits to being plugged in all day where they can join 10 million other students for a coding club, creating digital art through computers, robotics and transitions into coding etc.

Bottom line is that they can't work with what they have today since they spend most of their time just watching the spinning wheel. They can't do anything until the band width is fixed and they can get the speed and connections needed. Most importantly the children are embracing this new and exciting technology and they think it is fun in school now.

**b. Budget FY 16 Q & A**

Dr. Tyrie was asked about the CIA position. This position will be created so that someone can oversee the entire curriculum. They are so far behind the eight ball in education and this will be a way to get current. This used to be done by the Assistant Superintendent; that position was eliminated when we downsized to just the Wilton and Lyndeborough schools system in the District.

The ESL is a half time position; they currently have 3 students in the program. Under the guidelines they are supposed to have 3 to 5 hours per day until they are tested and reach level 5. As they go up in levels they get less time.

There are 7 more white boards and projectors in the budget for the high school. These are part of a plan to have one in every classroom. Last year they added eight; they will have achieved their goal by next year.

Adjustments for the substitutes were made and the adjusted numbers are in the final budget that we have. These changes were done prior to December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Due to the consolidation there have been many increases in instructional and SPED changes in some areas with reductions in others.

Chairman Brock explained that when they got the bond passed they stated to the people that the bond won't cost anything because there will be savings due to the reductions made when the schools are consolidated. The bond was set up so that the Town of Wilton will have to pay \$200,000 extra every year due to the lack of maintenance done on FRES. The \$200,000 was established since there was about \$2.3 million in repairs that needed to be done on FRES but LCS was up to date and Lyndeborough residents have a level payment for the entire 20 year bond life.

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Other increases in the budget included the \$100,000 in teacher collective bargaining last year. There is another \$96,000 due to the state for teacher Retirement Fund. The state is forcing unfunded mandates, looking to the Towns to provide more of the costs so the State doesn't have to. There are two drivers in the retirement calculation; one is the five year rolling average; secondly it is based on the number of employees paying in and those that have now been eliminated.

We need to move from good to great while not hurting the kids any more. They have put a uniform replacement schedule into the budget, something they have not had in recent years. They are also putting championship jackets in the budget instead of having the kids go out and raise the money themselves.

**c. Warrant Articles**

The School Board has decided to put both of the warrant articles regarding kindergarten before the voters and let them make the choice. The 2015 truck has been added; the truck will be used to service the districts needs from plowing, to clean up to moving stuff between the buildings. They need a truck to transport the larger items; they had an issue again last week during the snow storm where the town trucks were too busy to come up and there were cars sliding off of it. There was discussion on whether a van would be cheaper to run than a large truck. There was discussion about where it would be parked and who would be allowed to drive it and if someone were going to take it home. The Primix insurance on the truck would be \$500 per year. Buddy and other staff would drive the truck and a smaller truck would not take the wear and tear on it like the larger one will. There was discussion whether we can share resources with the Town such as using one of their trucks for large moves. Is it fair to ask an employee to use their vehicle for the District use?

A deal needs to be worked out with the Towns to come up with a realistic amount to get the schools plowed in a more timely fashion. There will be discussions with the Town Selectmen.

There was discussion on the capital improvement plan to put \$95,000 in reserve to pay for roof repairs in the next ten years. Should the money come directly out of the surplus or should an article be created to come out of taxation. The money all comes from taxation it is just which year does it come from. Taking it out of taxation will make sure that the money is there since there is a specific need for the money. This isn't something they want to do but they need to do it. Putting money into a reserve account will even out the funding of large expenditures over time.

There was discussion about the fund balance retention and what the 2.5% retention would mean. They can't exceed the 2.5% on the whole budget and this money could only be used for an emergency catastrophic expenditures.

The School Board would also like to be able to accept any unanticipated sources of funds. Those donating funds will more than likely have restrictions on what that is to be spent for. They school can't go on a spending spree; nor should they do something with it that will burden the taxpayers forever in the future. They should have a public hearing to discuss how to spend the money verses having a public hearing to accept it.

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**3. Adjournment of Joint Meeting – Budget Committee**

The next meeting will be a joint meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 7:00 PM; location Media Center. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Ms. Browne; all in favor. The School Budget Committee was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

**4. Call Budget Committee Meeting to Order – WLC Conference Room**

Chairman Davidson called the meeting to order at 8:27 PM.

**5. Review and Approval of Minutes**

**a. Minutes of January 6, 2015**

***Motion: To approve the minutes as written was made by Mr. Hughes seconded by Mr. Altner; 8 yes; 1 abstained; Motion carried unanimously.***

**6. Budget Discussion**

Chairman Davidson explained that they agreed several years ago to give a target final number a couple of weeks in advance so that we have a chance to meet with the School Board and review our requests on changes. The goal for this year was to be able to pay for the bond out of the consolidation savings. They have done that but there is still an increase of \$120,000. It is hoped that it can be found in the budget to make the budget entirely flat for this year. There was discussion about the CIA position and whether it was ever brought before the public or was it just created as a new position. It seems to be more of an assistant director which was eliminated when the SAU down sized to just Wilton and Lyndeborough. The School Board does have the authority to hire and create positions as they feel necessary.

**7. Warrant Article Discussion**

Warrant Article 5 regarding the Collective Bargaining Agreement will add \$12,604 to the budget. This agreement is for the aides, part time custodians etc.

**Motion was made by Ms. Browne to recommend the Warrant Article; seconded by Mr. Hughes; discussion this is for over 36 people and contains a 2% straight across the board; the raise is worth about a quarter per hour; 6 in favor; 3 abstained; motion passes.**

Warrant Article 6 regarding the interest on the bond up to the amount of \$7,500 may be spent. The bond money was put into the bank and has been earning interest as it is sitting there. In order to use the money there needs to be a warrant article to release the funds. These funds weren't voted upon when they voted on the bond last year. The School Board

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can use it to pay off the principle amount of the bond. Presently they still have 6.7 million down from the 8.2 million originally.

**Motion was made by Mr. Hughes to recommend Article 6 and seconded Ms. Browne; 7 in favor; 2 abstentions; motion passes.**

Warrant Article 7 to provide \$40,500 for an extended day kindergarten program.

**Motion was made by Mr. Hughes to recommend Article 7; seconded by Ms. Eshback:**

Discussion: There will be some cost to the taxpayers but there will be a charge to the parents for the service. If the parents of the children are working then it is more difficult for them to get to Lyndeborough to get their child. There will not be any bus service in the middle of the day for these children. They are still working out the details of providing a bus in the AM and PM. In the PM they could bring the children to FRES so they can be picked up there or they could get on the bus that will take them to the Boys and Girls Club in Milford after school. If this service isn't added it is feared that more of the parents will put their children in private kindergartens. The children will also need to have lunch provided to them. A positive is that the children will be exposed to more educational opportunities than if they were at home. There was also discussion about this being a solution to a problem that doesn't exist yet.

**Motion to move the question was made by Ms. Browne and seconded by Mr. Altner; all in favor; Question was moved.**

**Motion to recommend Article 7; 4 in favor; 3 opposed; 2 abstained; motion passes.**

Article 8 to provide \$172,978 for implementing a Full Day Kindergarten Program.

**Motion was made by Mr. Hughes to recommend the full day kindergarten program; seconded by Ms. Pomer; 0 in favor; 7 opposed; 2 abstained; motion fails; Article 8 was not recommended.**

## **8. Other Business**

At the next meeting we will finish voting on the warrant articles and then vote on the final budget number.

## **9. Adjournment of Budget Committee**

The next meeting will be a joint meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup> 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 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Tuomala, Secretary