

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, June 23, 2015
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School-Media Room
6:30 p.m.**

Present: Geoff Brock, Harry Dailey, Jim Button, Mary Guild, Alex LoVerme, Matt Ballou and Fran Bujak via telephone and Carol LeBlanc arrived at 6:42pm.

Superintendent Christine Tyrie, Business Administrator Lise Tucker, Director of Student Support Services Betty Moore, Principals Brian Bagley, Tim O'Connell and Clerk Kristina Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brock called the meeting to order at 6:40pm.

II. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Agenda item "Elementary Item Class Size" was moved up in the agenda due to public attendance.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several parents were in attendance the only identified was Mary Golding, of FRES PTO to voice concern over the upcoming 5th grade classes being large. Mr. O'Connell reported to date there are two classes anticipated to reach 25 students per class (policy maximum) and this is with two pending enrollments. Parents are questioning what is going to be done if this increases.

Another parent questioned why the lower grades had a third teacher and not the higher grades. In response Mr. O'Connell and Superintendent Tyrie explained that it is based on literacy skills and there is more responsibility on the student at the higher grade levels. Learning is more facilitated by the teacher at the younger grades and as the student gets older they become more independent in their learning and the teacher is able to teach more students.

Mr. Brock noted that there were no funds allocated to support an additional 5th grade teacher when the budget passed although this doesn't mean it is impossible.

In response to a question from another parent, Ms. Moore explained that para assignments have not been done yet. The number of paras is driven by the IEP's and the consistency (if at all possible) of the paras is important.

The Board reviewed the class size policy and deliberated.

Mr. O'Connell noted in his experience the biggest changes in enrollment are at 1st grade and K which happens during the summer. Enrollment overall is never something you can predict, we get another surge right before school starts.

Each member shared their opinion whether they support the smaller class size and should we add a third class to the 5th grade or not. It was noted the Budget Committee needed to be informed if a third grade class was added.

Superintendent Tyrie reported that she had discussed this with members of her team and they had come up with options to help lessen the impact to the budget by going with less reading support, increase a reading specialist in the grant and less money for professional development. It does mean

moving some staff around and is obligated under the CBA to inform staff by June 30. This could be done for one year as this seems to be just a bubble in enrollment. She added we will take a hit in our budget; we cannot absorb this without it. It will be in curriculum or technology.

Mr. Dailey noted that when this policy was set up the purpose was to be lower than state standards and purposefully made to say “we will strive to”. Historically the classes get smaller over the year not larger. He is hesitant to jump right to adding another teacher just yet.

Mr. Brock added this is not a typical year otherwise he would be inclined to say we are ok with the 25 students per class but with the changes in the school it is possible we will have new enrollments.

A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Ms. LeBlanc to add a 5th grade class to 15-16 school year.

Voting: six ayes; one nay from Mr. Dailey, motion carried.

Board members expressed concern decreasing any reading support.

Mr. Bujak questioned if the staff line is lower as a whole than we originally budgeted. This was not known at the time. He suggested looking here to see if it was possible to affect either an internal or external solution within the salary line.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Button and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to give administration the authority to find the money where they determine most appropriate to support the addition of the 5th grade class without it affecting reading support if at all possible.

Voting: six ayes; one nay from Mr. Bujak, motion carried.

IV. WEBSITE DEMO

A brief demonstration was given of the new website which will be activated on July 1.

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

The reports have been reviewed by the Board.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Dailey and SECONDED by Mr. LoVerme to approve the consent agenda.

Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.

In response to a question from Mr. LoVerme, Superintendent Tyrie explained what the “Woods and Wheels” class is, and Mr. LoVerme brought up concerns with students in the woods during hunting season. Mr. Bagley will follow up with the Chief of Police. Mr. Bagley also noted he was given one of the best justifications for the class he has seen.

VII. ELEMENTARY CLASS SIZE

See first public comment.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

101 **a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting**

102 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Dailey and SECONDED by Ms. Guild to approve the minutes as*
103 *written.*

104 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

105
106 **b. Handbook Changes**

107 **• FRES**

108 In response to a question from Mr. Bujak about the elementary handbooks being combined,
109 Superintendent Tyrie responded that due to LCS becoming an early childhood center it would be a
110 separate handbook. The plan is to work on this during the Keene Summit in August.

111
112 Ms. LeBlanc had some suggestions for FRES changes on page 8.

113
114 Superintendent Tyrie confirmed the bus routes had changed slightly with Lyndeborough to tighten up
115 the previous gap that existed.

116 **• Athletic**

117 It was suggested to make the new section clearer to include “in an athletic event or while they are
118 participating”.

119
120 *A MOTION was made by Mr. LoVerme and SECONDED by Mr. Dailey to approve the handbook*
121 *changes as amended.*

122 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

123
124 **c. Working Trial Balance FY 14-15**

125 Ms. Tucker passed out General Fund Revenue and Expenditures as of 6/19/15. Superintendent Tyrie
126 reported Ms. Tucker believes we will reach our target; we are currently looking at an unexpended fund
127 balance of \$277,718.

128
129 Ms. Tucker noted the working trial balance sheet is grants. She added you have to spend the money
130 first before the state will reimburse you; you end up with a receivable, at the end of the year it will
131 balance.

132
133 **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

134 **i. Elementary Building Committee**

135 Mr. Dailey reported things are going well. There were almost 50 workers at FRES and 6 at LCS. The
136 meeting on July 3rd has been cancelled. The project continues to be on budget and on time. The
137 schedule continues to be very tight. More time has been spent looking at LCS and although projected
138 a 350,000 budget they believe it will be in excess of \$450,000 when all the upgrades are done that
139 need to be. When they put these plans together it was almost 2 years ago and had previously spent a
140 lot of time looking at FRES and not as much at LCS. At LCS some of the increase costs have been
141 bathrooms, a kitchen has been added in the event a full K program is added lunch can be served. Also,
142 the building will be used as an emergency shelter, a heat pump system and supplemental heat system.
143 Another reason the budget increase is the sewer has to be pumped up to the sewage system in back.

144
145 **X. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES**

146 **• Appointment-MS Social Studies-Erin Lhotsky**

147 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Dailey and SECONDED by Ms. Guild to appoint Erin Lhotsky, MS*
148 *Social Studies teacher at WLC.*

149 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

150

Superintendent Tyrie noted that Janice Longgood was hired as Student Support Services Coordinator for the District.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Parent Mary Golding thanked the Board.

XII. REVIEW DECISION MAKING PROCESS REGARDING BOARD INVOLVEMENT WITH RESPECT TO PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Mr. Brock reported Ms. LeBlanc met with Ms. Kovaliv of WLC Guidance and Sue Ballou, Assistant Principal with Mr. Brock and Mr. Bujak via phone. He reported the highlights of their discussion. They wish they could be here tonight. They said they did not have dedicated honors classes because they could not get large enough classes and couldn't get the students in the classes. They said the Scheduling Committee felt it would be better to have regular classes and differentiate. They did feel they were running honors courses. Ms. LeBlanc added she believes they do feel this is the right way to go.

Mr. Dailey questioned why the Board was not was not informed of a substantive change when you take an honors class and change it to an honors option.

Mr. Bujak pointed out policy IGD, Curriculum Adoption.

Mr. Brock noted that this level of adjustment should have come to the Board.

Mr. Bagley felt responsible for the situation and said he and Superintendent Tyrie had a discussion and if they were going to run new classes they come to the Board in the fall during budget season. He would love to come this fall with a presentation on honors options and any new courses to coincide with budget season. A date will be set in the future.

Ms. LeBlanc suggested highlighting changes in the Program of Studies when changes are made. She is also concerned about making changes in assignments now as the Superintendent noted in her Superintendents Report.

Superintendent Tyrie responded that she feels strongly the assignments should be changed and there is a place for honors sections.

Mr. Ballou suggested adding roles and responsibilities of the Board to the August agenda.

Ms. LeBlanc suggested adding a presentation on SEER for the Board to a future agenda.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Dailey and SECONDED by Ms. Guild to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:49pm.

Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*