

Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District
Annual District Meeting Minutes
March 6 2015

Present:

School Board Members: Mr. Geoffrey Brock (Chair), Mr. Mathew Ballou, Mr. Harry Dailey, Mr. Francis Bujak, Mr. James Button, Ms. Mary Guild, Mr. Alexander LoVerme.

Absent:

Ms. Joyce Fisk, Ms. Carol LeBlanc.

Budget Committee Members: Mr. Don Davidson (Chair).Ms. Leslie Browne, Ms.Kelly Eshback, Ms.Karen Grybko, Mr. Cary Hughs, Ms. Ellen Pomer, Ms.Dawn Tuomala,Ms. Lisa Post.

Other: Moderator Mr. Walter Holland, School District Clerk Ms. Mary-Jane Ryan.

Prior to the opening of the meeting Budget committee chair Don Davidson asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mark Altner (Vice Chair of the Budget Committee) who passed away January 28, 2015

Moderator Walter Holland called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Moderator Holland led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Holland welcomed attendees to the Annual School District Meeting, informed attendees of the rules of the meeting, procedure being there will be voice vote, it may be moved for a hand count, to move for ballot vote there will need to be five signatures.

Approved by voice vote

Moderator Holland read the voting announcement as follows:

To the inhabitants of the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District in the towns of Wilton and lyndeborough, in the county of Hillsborough, State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote upon Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet on the tenth day of March 2015 at the following places in the town of your residence:

Wilton Town Hall 8:00 o'clock in the forenoon

Lyndeborough Citizens Hall, (due to frozen pipe issues at the Old Town Hall) 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon.

Polls will not close before 7:00 P.M.

To vote for District officers:

Article 1: To choose one (1) Moderator, by ballot for the ensuing year.

Article 2: To choose one (1) Member of the school board, by ballot, from the town of Lyndeborough for the ensuing three years; two (2) members of the school Board, by ballot from the town of Wilton for the ensuing three years.

Article 3: To choose one (1) at large member of the budget committee, by ballot from the town of Lyndeborough for the ensuing three years; two (2) Members of the Budget Committee, by ballot, from the Town of Wilton for the ensuing three years; one (1) Member of the Budget Committee, by ballot, from the town of Lyndeborough for the ensuing three years.

Moderator Holland spoke on write- ins on the ballots, he did not file for office of Moderator but will accept the position through write in vote.

Moderator Holland read the School District Warrant for the annual District Meeting March 6, 2015 as follows:

To the inhabitants of the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District in the Towns of Wilton and Lyndeborough, in the county of Hillsborough, State of New Hampshire qualified to meet in school district affairs. You are hereby notified and warned of the annual district meeting which will be held as follows:

Date: March 6 2015, Time: 7:00 p.m. Location: WLC Middle School/High School, 57 School Street, Wilton NH 03086, Details: Wilton-Lyndeborough, Cooperative Middle-Senior High School Auditorium

ARTICLE 4

Moderator Holland read article 4:

To see if the Wilton-Lyndeborough School District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committees recommended amount of \$12,062,617 for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents, and for the payment of the statutory obligations for the district. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles separately. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the school board-----Recommended by the budget committee

A MOTION was made by Mr. Geoff Brock and SECONDED by Mr. Harry Dailey to approve article 4.

Mr. Davidson spoke to Article 4.

Mr. Davidson thanked the SAU and school board and read through the attached 2015-2016 Operating Budget presentation.

- There is an increase in the regular education budget of \$68,900 (0.79%)
- There is an increase in the special education budget of \$87,641 (3.79%)
- Overall, the operating Budget increase is 1.41% (\$156,541)

The Elementary consolidation was successful, projected savings was \$345,000 from a reduction of 4.5 staff positions and SAU rent savings. The actual savings in the proposed budget is \$346,635, the new bond payment in the proposed budget is \$331,690.

Mr. Davidson explained the \$145,000 benefit increase was due to changes made by the NH State retirement and Health insurance.

Mr. Geoff Brock spoke that the consolidation was a success due to careful consideration and improving LCS for a kindergarten and FRES addition. He stated he is very proud of the work done.

Moderator Holland asked if there were any questions from the floor

Bob Howe from Lyndeborough asked what the cost per pupil was for LCS, FRES and WLC and what would all warrants passing do to the budget.

Superintendent Dr. Christine Tyrie stated the average cost in 2013-2014 was an average of \$17,000 per pupil; the warrants would add \$459,000 to the budget.

Jim Kofalt of Wilton stated his figures are \$19,000 per student.

Dr. Tyrie explained, out of district tuition and food service are not included by the Department of Education.

Voting: Article 4 passed by voice vote.

Harry Dailey gave an update on the building project stating it is on time and on budget. Mr. Dailey thanked all for their trust. Mr. Dailey stated they had moved the old building into the new building last Monday, he commended all involved, he thanked Principal Tim O'Connell and his staff for patience, cooperation and hard work, and he also thanked parents and students. Mr. Dailey mentioned the excitement seen in the children's faces when entering the new building. He informed the attendees that on March 19, 2015 there will be a walkthrough of the new building they will be meeting in the gym at 7:00 pm, and by September all work should be finished.

ARTICLE 5

Moderator Holland read article 5:

To see if the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative school board and the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative Support Staff Association NEA-NH which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
2015-16	\$12,604
2016-17	\$10,892
2017-18	\$11,110

*And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,604 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. This warrant article is an individual warrant article and is not included in the operating budget warrant article.
(Majority vote required).*

Recommended by the school board-----Recommended by the budget committee

A MOTION was made by Mr. Matt Ballou and SECONDED by Mr. James Button to approve article 5.

Mr. Matt Ballou spoke on the support staff collective bargaining agreement

Frank Edelblut of Wilton questioned if the support staff opts out of the health insurance does that money go into the retirement system.

Mr. Ballou explained the support staff is not in the NH retirement system.

Voting: Article 5 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6

Moderator Holland read article 6:

Shall the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District , if WARRANT ARTICLE 5 is defeated , authorize the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School Board to call one special meeting, at its option to address WARRANT ARTICLE 5 cost items only? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the school board

Mr. Jim Button MOVED to pass on article 6 SECONDED by Ms. Mary Guild

Mr. Dailey stated Article 6 was only if Article 5 had failed.

Voting: Motion to pass on Article 6 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7

Moderator Holland read Article 7:

*To see if the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500 for the purpose of appropriating interest earned on the bond and to authorize the use of that amount of the June 30 fund balance for this purpose. This amount represents the interest earned on the bond proceeds that was transferred to the general fund on or before June 30. This warrant article is an individual warrant article and is not included in the operating budget warrant article.
(Majority vote required).*

Recommended by the school board-----Recommended by the budget committee

A MOTION was made by Ms. Mary Guild and SECONDED by Mr. Alex LoVerme to approve article 7.

Ms.Guild spoke to article 7 stating a vote is needed to use the interest to pay down the bond.

Moderator Holland asked if there were any questions from the floor, hearing none.

Voting: Article 7 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8

Moderator Holland read Article 8:

*To see if the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for the purpose of implementing an extended day kindergarten program. This amount would be offset by program revenues. This warrant article is an individual warrant article and is not included in the operating budget warrant article.
(Majority vote required).*

Recommended by the school board-----Recommended by the budget committee

A MOTION was made by Mr. Geoff Brock and SECONDED by Mr. James Button to approve article 8.

Mr.Brock spoke to article 8 stating the state of NH does not have mandatory kindergarten, he spoke on the educational benefits of kindergarten.

This is not a full day kindergarten, there will be an aide. Enrollment would be between 15 to 20 children. The cost for parents for the extended kindergarten will be \$225. If there are less than 15 children enrolled, this program will not be run. The program will be on a first come, first serve basis.

Moderator Holland asked if there were any questions from the floor.

Sarah Vanderhoof of Lyndeborough asked the estimated enrollment.

Mr. Brock said class average expected is 15-16 less than 20.

Lori Dick from Wilton asked if we raise \$40,000 for the aid and no children enroll what we will do with the money.

Mr. Brock answered that if we have less than 15 children we will not run the program.

Kevin Boette from Lyndeborough asked how will payment be made, and how will it be handled if they are unable to pay?

Mr. Brock answered monthly payments, this is a fee per service and payment issues will be handled accordingly and appropriately.

Mr. Boette asked if there would be a low income option

Mr. Brock answered no.

Mr. Boette moved for an amendment to have written that if less than 15 students enroll, program will not run. There would be no staff, no \$40,000 and to discontinue the program if enrollment dropped below 15 children during the year.

SECONDED by Frank Edelblut

Don Davidson recommended not changing the Article.

Lori Dick stated she would like it written

Voting: Amending Article 8 failed by voice vote.

Mr. Boette requested a hand vote

Voting: 23 yes/50 no Amendment failed by hand vote.

Ginny Day of Wilton asked if the extended day being run by a paraprofessional would have structure or be more of a day care.

Mr. Brock explained it would be better than a day care in line with the kindergarten program, but will not serve hot lunch.

Mr. Jim Kofalt of Wilton asked if the \$40,000 includes all cost.

Mr. Brock replied yes.

Mr. Button spoke on the educational importance of kindergarten as a head start in education. He asked the attendees to support this.

Ms. Sally Curran of Lyndeborough expressed her concern of it being a limited program and not being available to all.

Neal Faiman of Wilton moved for an amendment to state that if successful it will be seen as a pilot program to be extended in future years.

Mr. Brock **SECONDED** for discussion

Mr. Brock spoke on trying to make it more affordable.

Ms. Sarah Vanderhoof of Lyndeborough asked if there was any research done on the hours of the extended kindergarten.

Mr. Brock stated the thought is this would be helpful for parents with more than one child.

Ms. Celeste Oberg of Tumbleweeds day care in Wilton stated her day care is open until 5:30 she asked what happens after 3:30 for these children, would it be considered to offer busing to the child care center and is it necessary to have the extended kindergarten in Lyndeborough.

Mr. Brock responded they will provide buses in the afternoon to home or to FRES.

Mr. John Thanier of Lyndeborough asked if this does not pass will they offer a midday day bus

Mr. Brock responded no

Voting: Amending Article failed by voice vote.

Ms. Ginny Day of Wilton asked if the program would be open to special needs.

Mr. Brock responded special needs are provided for through their IEP.

Ms. Sheila Harwood of Lyndeborough spoke on a lottery system for enrollment.

Voting: Article 8 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 9

Moderator Holland read Article 9:

To see if the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$31,500 for the purpose of purchasing a district multi-purpose new truck with plow . This warrant article is an individual warrant article and is not included in the operating budget warrant article. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the school board-----Not Recommended by the budget committee

A MOTION was made by Mr. Alex LoVerme and SECONDED by Mr. Geoff Brock to approve article 9.

Alex LoVerme stated the truck would be used for moving school equipment, materials, tools and food.

Frank Edelblut asked why a snow plow?

Mr. LoVerme responded to clean up after the town has plowed and it will be used at all three schools. The truck will be for school use only, no personal use.

Jennifer Howe of Lyndeborough inquired how food will be transported in a truck that is used for plowing and moving dirt.

Mr. LoVerme replied food is transported at specific times during the day.

Mr. Kevin Boette of Lyndeborough asked if cooked food would be transported or just commodities.

Mr. LoVerme replied just commodities

Lori Dick asked what kind of truck.

Mr. Loverme explained a Ford F-350 purchased from Hillsboro Ford.

Mr. Bill Ryan of Lyndeborough stated he had worked for the school as the Buildings and Grounds Supervisor and Director of Facilities and during that time used his personal vehicle putting an excess of 40,000 miles on his truck. During that time he was asked to bring his truck to work as it would be needed, he told of how he was in an accident on school time using his truck, he was injured and his truck was totaled, the school district did not pay the damages or medical bills, his own insurance did. He expressed the concern of the liability the district is under having employees use their own vehicles.

Nowhere in their contracts does it say they need a vehicle or even a driver's license. Mr. Ryan stated other departments in town have vehicles; for example the water department.

Mr. Tom Schultz of Wilton agreed with Mr. Ryan on the liability stating the water Dept. does have a vehicle. Mr. Shultz asked why plowing for the high school was cut.

Mr. Brock explained the district paying the towns to plow the school it makes sense to have a truck with a plow.

Peter Oburn of Wilton stated he is a former Food Service director and does not recommend transporting food in a truck.

Mr. Kevin Boette asked the budget committee to explain why they didn't recommend the truck.

Mr. Davidson explained the budget committee felt there was enough public vehicles between both towns to do the job.

Ms. Haley Dick of Wilton asked why an F-350 and why a plow.

Mr. Brock explained they had to put together a number and they would let the people using it determine what type of vehicle is needed.

Mr. Jim Cutler of Wilton asked if gas and maintenance has been considered.

Mr. Brock explained now they pay a per diem and they would not have to pay that and in the future there would be an operating budget.

Mr. Cutler asked if they had an actual bid.

Mr. Brock responded yes Hillsboro Ford.

Sue Carita of Lyndeborough asked what the per diem is

Mr. Brock replied \$3,800

Voting: Article 9 failed by voice vote.

Mr. Brock requested hand vote, Article 9 failed by majority hand vote.

ARTICLE 10

Moderator Holland read Article 10:

To see if the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 to be added to the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative Building/Equipment and roadway capital reserve fund previously established. This sum is to come from general taxation. This warrant article is an individual warrant article and is not included in the operating budget warrant article. (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the school board-----Recommended by the budget committee

A MOTION was made by Mr. Fran Bujak and SECONDED by Mr. Harry Dailey to approve article 10.

Ms. Stephanie Roper of Lyndeborough made point of order the slide displayed for the capital reserve shows \$190,000 under the 1999 WLC roof and the annual report book handed out shows \$150,000.

Dr. Tyrie stated that slide should have been corrected and made the correction.

Mr. Fran Bujak asked the attendees to refer to page 43 in the annual report book and explained the half a million figure for the 1999 WLC roof is a rough estimate from the McCormick report.

Mr. Bujak stated the goal is to stay ahead of things and to have a capital reserve fund that can be adjusted to hit our targets, if we do not raise and appropriate the monies now there will be a much bigger tax impact.

Kevin Boette asked if the school board will have to come back to ask to use the money.

Ms. Betsey Castro, Trustee of the trust fund, stated the school board is able to vote to use the money.

Tom Schultz asked if there was a capital reserve last year, if not why

Mr. Bujak explained this is an initial document and we cannot change what was not done last year and the focus last year was on FRES.

Mr. Davidson agreed the best approach is to have a plan, and now we do; this is the beginning.

Ms. Julie Thompson of Lyndeborough inquired about the line for 2015-2016 staff reductions

Mr. Bujak explained it was a point of reference.

Voting: Article 10 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 11

Moderator Holland read Article 11:

*To see if the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Wilton-Lyndeborough Technology Advancement Capital reserve Fund previously established. This sum is to come from general taxation. This warrant article is an individual warrant article and is not included in the operating budget warrant article.
(Majority vote required).*

Recommended by the school board-----Recommended by the budget committee

A MOTION was made by Mr. Matt Ballou and SECONDED by Ms. Mary Guild to approve article 11.

Mr. Ballou spoke to Article 11 stating an upgrade is necessary .FRES and LCS are better than WLC, which is 12-16 years old and the life expectancy is 8-10 years.

Mr. Bob Howe of Lyndeborough asked why the money is to come from general taxation and not from unreserved funds.

Mr. Davidson explained it is more transparent when the money comes from general taxation any unreserved fund balance will be returned.

Ms. Jennifer Howe asked what will happen with any extra money

Mr. Brock explained what's left in unexpended funds goes back to the town in the sense that it lowers taxes.

Mr. Jim Kofalt of Wilton asked what the approximate cost of the upgrade is.

Mr. Ballou stated they are still getting quotes.

Dr. Tyrie stated this is being done in two pieces. It will be started first during April vacation and second after July 1. Estimate is \$30-40,000; there is some money in the budget to get started.

Mr.Kofalt asked what is planned for the remainder of the money.

Mr. Brock explained besides the network, there will be hardware and software to bring up to date to fix the network.

Voting: Article 11 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 12

Moderator Holland read Article 12:

Shall the Wilton-Lyndeborough School District accept the provisions of RSA 198:20-b providing that any school district at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the school board to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the school district, unanticipated money from a state, federal, or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year? (Majority vote required).

Recommended by the school board-----Recommended by the budget committee

A MOTION was made by Mr. Harry Daily and SECONDED by Ms. Mary Guild to approve article 12.

Mr. Harry Daily explained this is to give the school board authority to receive and spend grant money and unanticipated funds, we have never voted on this and other school districts have.

Frank Edelblut from Wilton Moved to amend the motion to state that if the unanticipated funds encumber the district more than \$2,500, requires the district to share nonpublic student information, or limits teaching methods the school board will have to come back for a vote, if the money has no incumbents it is ok to accept.

Seconded by Kevin Boette

Mr. Dailey explained the board would not release nonpublic information and stated there is already a policy in place regarding student privacy and the amendment would be too restrictive.

Mr. Button stated there are elected officials who have open meetings and he feels the amendment is an unnecessary restriction.

Voting: Amendment failed by voice vote.

Voting: Article 12 passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 13

Moderator Holland read Article 13:

To hear reports of agents, auditors, committees, or officers chosen, and to pass any vote relating thereto.

A MOTION was made to pass Article 13 and was SECONDED

Voting: Article 13 passed by voice vote.

Mr. Davidson thanked retiring budget committee member Dawn Tuomala and presented her with a gift.

Moderator Holland thanked the tech staff and custodians.

A MOTION was made to adjourn the meeting and was SECONDED

The motion passed by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:25

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary-Jane Ryan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Mary-Jane Ryan
School District Clerk