

Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District
Annual District Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2014

Present:

School Board Members: Mr. Matthew Ballou, Mr. Geoffrey Brock (Chair), Mr. Harry Dailey (Vice Chair), Mr. Francis Bujak, Mr. James Button, Ms. Joyce Fisk, Ms. Mary Guild, Ms. Carol LeBlanc, and Mr. Alexander LoVerme

Budget Committee Members: Mr. Don Davidson (Chair), Mr. Dave Roemer (Vice Chair), Ms. Kelly Eshback, Mr. Cary Hughes, Ms. Dawn Tuomala, Ms. Karen Grybko, Ms. Ellen Pomer, Ms. Leslie Brown, and Mr. John Giese member, not present

Other: Moderator – Walter Holland, Clerk Pro-Tempore-Lyn Jennings

Walter Holland, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

Moderator Holland led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator Holland welcomed attendees to the Annual District Meeting. Moderator Holland told meeting attendees at the end of the meeting they would have a special presentation for a long-term member of the school board and budget committee member.

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 eleventh day of March 2014 Wilton voters at the Wilton Town Hall at 8:00 o'clock in the forenoon and Lyndeborough voters at the Lyndeborough Old Town Hall (Center Hall) at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon.

To vote for District officers:

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

Article 2: To choose one (1) At Large Member of the School Board, by ballot, from the Town of Lyndeborough for the ensuing three years; one (1) Member of the School Board, by ballot, from the Town of Wilton for the ensuing three years; one (1) Member of the School Board, by ballot, from the Town of Lyndeborough 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; one (1) Member 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.

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

Moderator Holland read the School District Warrant for the Annual District Meeting of March 7, 2014 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 at the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative Middle-Senior High School Auditorium in said District on March 7, 2014 at Seven (7:00 p.m.) o'clock in the evening to act upon the following:

Moderator Holland proposed the rules of the meeting to which no one objected.

ARTICLE 4

Moderator Holland read Article 4:

To see if the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,250,000 (Gross Budget) for the construction of one combined project consisting of a new addition at Florence Rideout Elementary School, along with general building renovations to the Florence Rideout Elementary School and Lyndeborough Central School including furnishings, equipment, site development, architectural fees and for any other items incidental to or necessary for said construction for the purpose of housing PreK through Fifth grade and central office administrative space (the "Project"), \$8,250,000 of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes (the "Bonds") under and in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33:1 et seq., as amended); to authorize the School Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the School Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said Bonds and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the School Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto; and further raise and appropriate through general taxation the sum of up to \$260,907 for the payment of the first year's interest on the Bonds.

Adoption of this article is contingent on passage of Article 5 relative to amendments to the Articles of Agreement.

*(This article is **not** included in the operating budget warrant article). (2/3 ballot vote required).*

Recommended by the School Board –Recommended by the Budget Committee

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

Mr. Dailey spoke to Article 4.

Mr. Dailey told meeting attendees a considerable amount of effort to get the word out with regards to the passage of this Article has taken place over the past 3-4 months. Mr. Dailey said they have held Public Hearings, School Board meetings, and several other public meetings.

Mr. Dailey said this Bond is the culmination of work done over the past 3-4 years by several committees, individuals and sub-committees. This is the last of the major steps to be a fully cooperative school district.

Mr. Dailey said it is not fiscally responsible to put money into a building reaching its end of life. Mr. Dailey said with the passage of this Bond, they would be choosing the most fiscally responsible plan and choosing the plan that offers the best use of space.

Mr. Dailey said the children would be in a safe and secure building with the best technology we can possibly afford.

Superintendent Dr. Christine Tyrie referred meeting attendees to the slide entitled the Best Option Includes Flexibility. Dr. Tyrie told meeting attendees the current declining enrollments in both Wilton and Lyndeborough create the opportunity for consolidation savings that can be used to upgrade facilities. Dr. Tyrie told meeting attendees in 2003 they had 800 students in PK-12, in 2014 they have approximately 600 students and in 2023 they are projecting 500 students.

Elementary Principal, Mr. Tim O'Connell presented some Educational Benefits of a Co-op.

- Taxpayers: Instead of maintaining separate but equal programs in a time of declining enrollments, the savings of consolidation will improve the learning environment for students.
- Students – A larger peer group will increase learning with, and from, others. Effective class sizes will support the development of independent learners.
- Parents – There will be opportunities to match student-learning style to teacher teaching style. All resources for a grade level will be under one roof.
- Teachers – More effective collaboration will be possible with everyone at a grade level at one school.

Mr. O'Connell said he fully supports the plan for students and staff.

Superintendent Tyrie presented the Educational Benefits for the Reconfigured Space.

Mr. Dailey told meeting attendees in November 2013, they formed a sub-committee with four representatives from each district. The committee had three to four meetings to discuss potential options to determine the best way to fund the project going forward.

They wanted to determine the fairest way to make an equitable distribution of the costs between the two towns.

Mr. Dailey presented the Financials as follows:

- Guaranteed maximum price for construction is \$7 million. In addition there are site costs, construction management and architectural fees, and a contingency.
- The complete project is estimated to be \$8.25 million and will be financed through a 30-year bond.
- The bond bank has provided tables at 5.5% interest. If the project is approved, the bond would be purchased at the next bond sale in June.
- The current WLC MS bond ends in August 2019, which will decrease overall debt service in the co-op from two bonds to one.

Mr. Dailey said the impact of the proposed project on the tax rate would be minimal due to:

- Consolidation savings (\$315,000) and SAU rent savings (\$29,871).
- Cost avoidance of piecemeal repairs and renovations to FRES for Wilton = \$250,000 per year for approximately 10 years to otherwise address facilities deficiencies.
- End of the WLC MS bond. Bond payments on WLC MS will continually decrease over the next 6 years. The WLC MS bond will end in 2019.

Mr. Dailey said the anticipated savings they are projecting does not include savings from decreased operational costs due to improved energy efficiencies.

Mr. Dailey presented slides, which detailed the Financial Impact to the Taxpayers of Wilton and to the Taxpayer's of Lyndeborough.

Mr. Dailey explained should the bond pass, during the first three years, Wilton residents would see a decrease in their tax rate and in years 4-6 they would see an increase in their tax rate. Mr. Dailey explained Lyndeborough residents would pay a share of \$96,564 each year for the Co-op Bond however, Lyndeborough taxpayers, would not see a tax impact for the Co-op Bond.

Mr. Dailey provided the Benefits to the Wilton-Lyndeborough Taxpayers:

- Stop spending money on "end of life" FRES building.
- Solve the Elementary Schools facility issues for the foreseeable future.
- Reap the financial and educational benefits of consolidation.
- Both facilities remain available for community use.
- Addresses all problems identified in the engineering studies.
- Long-term space flexibility, whether enrollment increases or decreases.

Mr. Dailey highlighted the Benefits to the Wilton-Lyndeborough Students:

- Safe, comfortable, modern facility.
- Consistent educational experience in grades K-12.
- School principal primarily focused in one building rather than equally split between two.
- Teacher collaboration to support high quality instruction.
- Classes sized for effective learning.
- Potential for expanded after school and extra curricular opportunities.
- A safer and healthier learning environment.
- Improved access to resources such as reading support and special education related service.
- More opportunities for interactions with a larger number of peers in and out of the classroom.

Mr. Dailey spoke about the Benefits to Wilton-Lyndeborough Parents:

- Enhanced security and safety.
- All District resources under, one roof for each grade level.
- Options/choices with respect to multiple teachers and stakeholders to meet the needs of individual students.
- Opportunity to match student-learning style with teacher teaching style.
- Confidence that the space, programs, instruction and quality have been optimized for individual student achievement.

Mr. Dailey told meeting attendees to be aware that Articles 4 & Article 5 have to pass by a 2/3 majority vote or neither can proceed. Mr. Dailey said if Articles 4 & 5 pass; then they would table Article 9. Mr. Dailey reminded attendees Article 9 was for \$250,000 for Capital Improvements to FRES.

Mr. Dailey said all members of the School Board voted in favor of the project.

Mr. Dailey introduced Mr. Don Davidson, Chair of the Budget Committee.

Mr. Davidson told meeting attendees he thought it was important to know the members of the Budget Committee and members of the School Board. Mr. Davidson introduced members of the Budget Committee. Mr. Brock introduced members of the School Board.

Mr. Davidson presented a slide entitled School Operating Budget since consolidation.

Mr. Davidson said we cannot forget education costs money. Since the districts have consolidated this is the 4th budget that has been presented. The districts have learned how to work together. The Budget Committee worked hard to achieve savings, and they often times hold feet to the fire, but find savings.

Mr. Davidson said the Budget Committee unanimously supports the passage of Article 4. Mr. Davidson said Article 4 provides the best education for the kids of our towns.

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

Bob Prest of Lyndeborough said his kids went to school here years ago. He questioned the need for the Bond as all he heard as justification was for the students to have a better environment. He questioned whether structures improve student learning. Mr. Prest asked where were the curriculum changes. Mr. Prest said he was interested to see where some money would go to improve the education of the students, not necessarily just for architectural improvements.

Mr. Prest also asked how the work plan/construction would be managed as in the past; they had received poor construction work.

Mr. Prest also questioned if the consolidation would impact the amount of time students are on the buses.

Mr. Dailey said the district is currently going through a curriculum re-alignment and it will continue no matter what happens with this vote. They are working to align the curriculum between both schools.

Mr. Dailey said the heating system is inefficient and it is not a conducive learning environment for students. The bond also addresses the air quality.

Mr. Dailey said if students are on a bus for additional time, it should be minimal. The bus schedules will be reconfigured. Mr. Dailey said if this bond passes, it would be another 16-18 months before the consolidation will occur. Mr. Dailey said since they don't know what the population would look like in 16-18 months, they have spoken to the bus company and the bus company agreed to work with them should this bond pass. The bus company also agreed the students would be on the buses only minimal additional time if needed.

Mr. Dailey said they have hired a professional contractor, Hutter Construction, to manage the process should the bond pass. They feel confident they picked the right contractor.

Dan Nelson of Wilton spoke about the school system really needing some help. Mr. Nelson said his son has come to him saying he needs some warmth he is so cold in class he wears his winter coat. Mr. Nelson asked that people vote in favor of this bond.

Sarafin Anderson said she moved to the area 28 years ago and when she looked at the schools for her children, she saw no vision for education.

Ms. Anderson said she agreed with an earlier comment, you could teach anything if you have a great teacher!

Ms. Anderson said if you look at Amherst and Bedford, their enrollment figures are increasing. There is still no vision in Wilton-Lyndeborough. Ms. Anderson said this is a beautiful town however the tax rate is \$26.02 per \$1,000. She said they don't have taxable Wealth in Wilton. Ms. Anderson said she is in favor of the bond, but it doesn't address the issue of education.

Mr. Dailey said declining enrollment is not just a Wilton-Lyndeborough issue; it is a Southern New Hampshire issue.

Karina Ortiz, a Lyndeborough resident, said she is not opposed to making sure the school in Wilton is heated adequately and updated but the issue on the table is whether we should be combining Lyndeborough and Wilton Elementary.

Ms. Ortiz said she is reading between the lines, and she is struggling with what are the benefits – passage of the bond – larger class size, possible reductions in work force – if someone doesn't retire, then the student to teacher ratio would not be in favor of the student. A larger class size is of no benefit to the student.

Mr. Pierre Willems stated he has four kids of which, 3 currently attend FRES, 1 in 1st grade, 1 in 2nd grade and 1 in 3rd grade. Mr. Willems said he always attended private schools and when he moved to the area, he questioned the quality of the education his children would receive and was very concerned. He was surprised and thrilled at the education they receive. He said if there is ever an issue or a question, he always receives a response immediately by the staff. Mr. Willems said the quality of education does depend on the facilities, which is why they are talking about them. Mr. Willems said facilities do make a difference. He asked that attendees please vote the Bond in.

Jennifer Lowton, a Lyndeborough resident, said she had three children in the district however she pulled one of them out two years ago because she needed access to afterschool programs since both her and her husband work full time.

Ms. Lowton said by passing this Bond, they will be able to share resources between Wilton and Lyndeborough. She said kids are worth equal access to a better facility/environment, not a continuous band-aid solution. The temperature and climate in the building affects both teachers and students. She said all students of Lyndeborough and Wilton matter.

Mark Altner, a Budget Committee Member candidate in Lyndeborough said conceptually, the Bond is an excellent idea as some class sizes are too small however; he has a problem with the scope of the project.

Mr. Altner said he would like to propose an amendment to the article to reduce the amount of the bond

to \$7.25 million. Mr. Altner said they do not need a full-blown HVAC System at LCS. Mr. Altner said he agrees that Florence Rideout needs to be renovated, as he would not want anyone he cares about to be in the school.

A motion was made by Mr. Altner to reduce the bond to \$7,250,000 and appropriate through general taxation the sum of up to \$260,908 for the payment of the first year's interest on the Bond. A member of the audience seconded the motion.

Mr. Dailey said they would not be able to complete the project for \$1 million less. Mr. Dailey said a savings of \$20,000-\$40,000 will cause them to do the project incorrectly.

Mr. Bujak said he feels confident with the word of the engineer as they are updating and renovating buildings for decades to come, not just today. Mr. Bujak said it is worth spending the money for quality construction that will last for 30+ years rather than to spend less for \$2.00 of savings on a \$200,000 home.

Moderator Holland read the proposed Amendment to Article 4. Motion failed by voice vote.

Jim Provolt of Wilton acknowledged the work accomplished by the committee and he said he appreciated the openness of the process however he had some questions and concerns.

Mr. Provolt also believes the scope of the project is too great. He questioned the need for the addition at Florence Rideout. He commented that the capacity of the school looks pretty large and if the enrollment is declining, why is the extra space needed.

Architect Kyle Barker responded to Mr. Provolt. Mr. Barker said you don't build a building according to current needs you take into consideration potential spikes in future years.

Mr. Provolt questioned the need for the language "to authorize the school Board to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project."

Mr. Dailey said this language should be included in the Article because 20 years from now if funds become available from the federal government, they could apply for them. Right now, there is no known source of funds to apply for, but they are unsure of the possibilities in the future.

Mr. Provolt said he would like to propose they remove this language from the Article.

Mr. Dailey said they cannot expend any federal funds without the authorization from this body.

A motion was made by Jim Provolt to amend Article 4 to remove the words federal, state or other. A member of the audience seconded the motion.

Mr. Dailey said by removing these words, it may destroy the possibility of getting the funding for the bond.

Moderator Holland read the Article as amended and the motion failed by voice vote..

Dan Nelson said the space is not just for now; it is for the future as well.

Eric Parsons, a Wilton resident commented that they have a budget and are they sure it is going to be enough.

Mr. Dailey said the construction company has guaranteed us that the cost of the project is \$7 million. They have a contingency and they control the contingency.

Kevin Boette, Lyndeborough Selectman, said Lyndeborough didn't vote in opposition or in favor of this Article. He said they felt it should be decided in a forum such as this evenings.

Mr. Boette said financially both towns will save money with this proposal. However, he is a little torn with loosing the school in Lyndeborough. He said without the school, he feels they will loose site of their community so this is the part he is struggling with right now.

Moderator Holland read Article 4.

Ballot voting began at 9:10 p.m.
Ballot boxes closed at 10:13 p.m.

Article 5

Moderator Holland read Article 5 as follows:

To see if the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District will vote to amend the Articles of Agreement among the School Districts of Wilton and Lyndeborough as follows:

- *To amend Article 3 relative to authority of the school board to assign or reassign students to schools by deleting all but the first sentence thereof so that Article 3 reads as follows:*

3. The Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District shall be responsible for grades Pre-Kindergarten through twelve (Pre K-12).

- *To amend Article 5 by changing the apportionment formula so that all capital expenses and operating expenses shall be based 50% on the average daily membership of students and 50% on the equalized valuation of the towns within the school district by deleting subsection C. thereof so that Article 5 reads as follows:*

5. The capital expenses and the operating expenses of the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District payable in each fiscal year shall be apportioned as follows:

a. Fifty percent (50%) thereof on the average daily membership of the students residing in each town within the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District during the preceding fiscal year as determined by the State Department of Education; and

b. Fifty percent (50%) thereof on the equalized valuation of the Wilton- Lyndeborough Cooperative School District as most currently available as determined by the State Department of Revenue Administration.

- *To add a new Article 16 to provide a separate formula for apportionment of the capital expenses related to the amortization of a bond issue to fund renovations to the two elementary schools and an addition to one of the two elementary schools as follows:*

16. Notwithstanding the formula for apportioning capital expenses set forth in Article 5, if at the 2014 annual meeting of the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District a proposed bond issue to be amortized over 30 years is adopted to fund an appropriation of Eight Million Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$8,250,000.00) for the purpose of (a) renovations to the Lyndeborough Central School and the Florence Rideout Elementary School, (b) construction of an addition to the Florence Rideout Elementary School, and (c) the original equipping and furnishing of such alterations and additions; then the amount payable in each fiscal year on the bond shall be apportioned as follows:

- a. Town of Lyndeborough \$96,564*
- b. Town of Wilton the remaining balance thereof.*

Adoption of this Article is contingent upon the adoption of Article 4 relative to a proposed bond issue to fund renovations to the elementary schools and an addition to the Florence Rideout Elementary School. (2/3 ballot 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 5.

Mr. Brock said when they first consolidated the districts, Article 3 was written so each town maintained a separate elementary school.

Mr. Brock said by amending the Articles of Agreement the School Districts of Wilton and Lyndeborough will be able to utilize staff more efficiently. Mr. Brock said Grades 1-5 will be at Florence Rideout and Kindergarten, Pre-K and the SAU offices will be at LCS.

Mr. Brock said Article 5 changes the apportionment formula, which makes sense to get rid of the capital expense part. Mr. Brock explained if you vote yes, Wilton and Lyndeborough will share the burden for everything, there will be no separation.

Mr. Brock said Article 16 specifically deals with the Bond and it was the result of some pretty complicated discussions. It was agreed that construction at Wilton needs to be done however, Lyndeborough shouldn't have to fix Wilton's problems but if they are fixed in the end, Lyndeborough would save money.

Mark Altner said he would like to change the wording of Article 3 - #3 for grades K-12 and Special Ed Pre-K.

A motion was made by Mark Altner to change the wording of Article 3 #3 to say The Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District shall be responsible for grades K-12 and Special Ed Pre-K. The motion was seconded from floor.

Mr. Brock commented on the amendment. He said they are required by State law to provide Special Ed Pre-K.

Mr. Brock said in order to stay within the budget they currently tuition in regular education students into their program. Mr. Brock said this doesn't cost anything because they are required to have space and teachers.

There was no further discussion on amendment.

Moderator Holland read the proposed amendment and asked attendees to vote on it.

Motion failed by voice vote.

Moderator Holland read Article 5 and opened the ballot voting. Ballot voting began at 9:52 p.m. The meeting resumed at 10:05 p.m.

Moderator Holland read Article 6:

A MOTION was made by Mr. Button and SECONDED by Mr. Bujak to approve Article 6.

*To see if the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eleven million five hundred and fifty thousand one hundred and fourteen dollars (\$11,550,114) for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents, and for payment of statutory obligations of the district. This warrant article does **not** include appropriations voted in other warrant articles. (Majority vote required)*

Recommended by the School Board – Recommended by the Budget Committee

Mr. Jim Button spoke to the motion.

Mr. Button said the School Board and Budget Committee have the responsibility of developing the budget. Mr. Button said over time, the process is working much better.

Mr. Button said the majority of two boards have worked together and our record has shown we can come together and compromise. We have really improved our process.

Chair of the Budget Committee, Don Davidson spoke and welcomed meeting attendees.

Mr. Davidson spoke about the timeline. Mr. Davidson said the process takes a lot of time by a lot of people who put in a lot of work. Mr. Davidson said the Superintendent, Staff, Principals, School Board and Budget Committee also put in a lot of time. Ultimately, the goal is to present a number that is mutually acceptable to the School Board and Budget Committee. Mr. Davidson said they truly felt it was a zero based budget, they actually started from scratch and built the budget.

Mr. Davidson said it takes roughly six months to work through the process.

Mr. Davidson presented some highlights to the budget. (Key Regular Education Budget Drivers)

- Increase of 3.8%
- Operating Budget – Special Education Summary down over 17% this year.
- Decrease of 16.9%

Key contributors were presented:

- Reduced Out of District Placements
- Reduced Need for Support Related Services

- End of Partnership with Autism Bridges - we now have expertise in the district to provide those services

Mr. Davidson presented the Final Budget Summary.

A slide was shown detailing the FY15 Proposed Budget Breakdown. (Key areas of the operating budget)

Mr. Davidson said the budget process continues to improve each year. Everyone is talking to us, which is real evidence of zero-based budgeting.

Dr. Tyrie told meeting attendees the proposed budget adequately supports education – in a fiscally responsible manner and without compromising the students’ education.

Dr. Tyrie said the budget is all about the planning, delivery, etc., and we have the staff to do it, we just need to allow them to do it.

Dr. Tyrie said the budget supports professional development.

Moderator Holland asked if attendees had any questions with regards to Article 6 hearing none, he read Article 6.

Voting: Article 6 passed by voice vote.

Moderator Holland Read Article 7.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Ballou and SECONDED by Ms. Mary Guild to approve Article 7.

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 Teacher’s Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
<i>2014-2015</i>	<i>\$ 105,151</i>
<i>2015-2016</i>	<i>\$ 87,132</i>
<i>2016-2017</i>	<i>\$ 85,078</i>

*and further to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred and five thousand one hundred and fifty-one dollars (\$105,151) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year. This warrant article does **not** include appropriations voted in other warrant articles. (Majority vote required)*

Recommended by the School Board – Recommended by the Budget Committee

Mr. Ballou said there were changes to language in contract but he was speaking to actual cost items.

FY15 Contract includes teacher workshops and tuition and in FY16 & FY17 they will be in the operating budget.

Mr. Ballou provided the proposed salary increases as follows:

FY15 2.1%

FY16 2.0%

FY17 1.8%

Moderator Holland asked if there were any questions.

Ingrid Howard said she had a question on the salary scale on the website – she said there are 13 teachers making over the scale so she doesn't understand where anyone fits on this scale. Also see 2014-2015 steps stopping at 18 so there are a lot of people off the scale.

Ms. Howard asked if the proposed 2.1% increase includes the percentage between steps and Mr. Ballou said yes, it did.

Ms. Howard questioned if a teacher has more than 32 years experience and they are always off scale how do they calculate their salary increase. Mr. Ballou said they are negotiated at a fixed rate for people off scale. Mr. Ballou said he believes it is listed in the Annual Report, on the Salaries Page.

Ms. Howard commented on Health Care – We are asking them (tax payers) to pay 80% of staff health insurance, she is a little concerned they deserve it, as the economy is so bad.

Mr. Brock said the new Teacher Contract is a package, and it is one of the best we've ever gotten. Mr. Brock said the raises are the lowest ever and the contract before them is because times are tough.

Moderator Holland read Article 7 for voting.

Voting: Article 7 passed by voice vote.

Moderator Holland told meeting attendees Article 8 was to be passed over as Article 7 passed.

Moderator Holland provided the results of Article 4 as follows:

Yes – 232

No – 113

67.2% Article 4 passes by ballot vote.

Moderator Holland provided the results of Article 5 as follow:

Yes – 227

No – 101

69.2% Article 5 passes by ballot vote.

Moderator Holland told meeting attendees since Article 4 passed they do not need Article 9.

Article 10

Moderator Holland read Article 10 as follows:

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

A MOTION was made by Ms. Fisk and SECONDED by Ms. LeBlanc to approve Article 10.

Moderator Holland read Article 10.

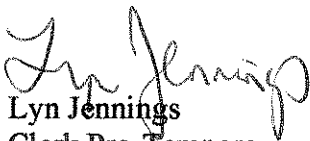
Voting: Article 10 passed by voice vote.

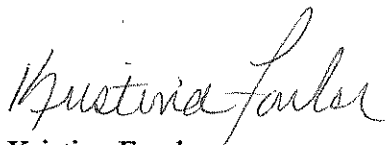
Moderator Holland thanked attendees for being here tonight and thanked the custodial staff for all their work.

A MOTION was made to adjourn the meeting and was SECONDED.

Voting: The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Lyn Jennings
Clerk Pro-Tempore


Kristina Fowler
School District Clerk