

**Public Notice of Meeting**  
**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, September 9, 2025**  
**Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School**  
**6:30 p.m.**

Videoconferencing: [meet.google.com/ubw-xsyg-icb](https://meet.google.com/ubw-xsyg-icb)

Audio: [+1 347-378-6402](tel:+13473786402) PIN: 732 545 031#

All videoconferencing options may be subject to modifications. Please check [www.sau63.org](http://www.sau63.org) for the latest information.

- I. CALL TO ORDER-Dennis Golding-Chair**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. PERFORMANCE TECH COMMITTEE UPDATE**
- IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**
- V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** This is the public's opportunity to speak to items on the agenda. In the interest of preserving individual privacy and due process rights, the Board requests that comments (including complaints) regarding individual employees or students be directed to the Superintendent in accord with the processes set forth in School Board Policies KE, KEB and BEDH.
- VI. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**
  - a. Reports**
    - i. Principals' Reports**
    - ii. Curriculum Coordinator's Report**
- VII. POLICIES**
  - a. 3<sup>rd</sup> Read**
    - i. JICJ-Unauthorized Communication Devices**
- VIII. ACTION ITEMS**
  - a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting**
  - b. Housekeeping-Vote on Meal Price**
- IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  - i. Technology Committee**
- X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- XI. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**
- XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (B) (C)**
  - a. Personnel Matter**
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**INFORMATION: Next School Board Meeting-September 23, 6:30 PM at WLC**

## WLC School Board Report

September 9, 2025

By: Katie Gosselin and Tom Ronning

### GREAT start

- Staff spent first few days building effective student/staff relationships and laying a foundation for the year
- Athletics full swing
  - First Games: Boys Varsity won 5-1; Girls Varsity lost 0-2
    - Boys won 3-2; girls won 2-0
  - Golf - third place out of 4 teams
- Open Positions
  - Para, PE, Custodial (filled)
- Student Behavior over the first four days:
  - 1 office referral for the middle school
  - 1 office referral for the high school
  - Students are responding very well to the new electronic device rule and we continue to use our progression of consequences
- Enrollment
  - 11 new students
  - 11 exiting students
  - 3 of 4 Foreign Exchange students



### Warrior Winner Cards

- A way for WLC to focus on positives throughout the year
- As of September 2nd, 21 cards have been mailed

### Student Representatives

- Announcements made for Middle School and High School representatives
- Will have student(s) and report(s) for future meetings

**Overnight Request**

- Grade 8 trip to Boston, MA; May 26 - 27
  - Cost: \$750 w/fundraising opportunities
    - \$94 per month - non refundable deposit

**Expanding Social Media**

- wldramaclub
  - Host: Ms Anderson, additional post capabilities: T. Ronning and K. Gosselin

**Robotics Club**

- Mr. Scott hosted an informational meeting to revitalize our team / possibly two.

**FLORENCE RIDEOUT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**18 TREMONT STREET**  
**WILTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03086**  
(603) 732-9229  
www.sau63.org

---

Stacy Maghakian, Principal

Christina Gauthier, Admin. Assistant

**Principal Report**  
**FRES & LCS**  
**September 9, 2025**

---

### **Start of School**

The 2025–2026 school year is off to a strong start at both Florence Rideout Elementary School (FRES) and Lyndeborough Central School (LCS).

FRES students returned on Monday, August 25th, and it was wonderful to see our hallways and classrooms filled with excitement and energy as students and staff began the year together. At LCS, the week was devoted to kindergarten screenings and a Meet & Greet, helping our newest families feel comfortable and supported as they entered the school community. LCS officially welcomed students for their first full day on Tuesday, September 2nd. Our kindergarteners came in ready to learn, and they are already showing us they are eager and prepared to take on school with confidence!

We hosted our FRES Parent Information Night on Thursday, September 4th. The evening was well attended, and families appreciated the opportunity to meet with teachers, learn about classroom routines and expectations, and hear about ways to support their children's learning at home. LCS will hold its Parent Information Night this Thursday, September 11th, and we anticipate the same positive turnout. These events are a wonderful way to strengthen the home–school connection that is so vital to student success.

As we continue into the fall, we are actively seeking additional substitutes to help provide consistency in instruction and routines for our students when staff members are absent. Maintaining stability in classrooms is a priority, and additional substitute support will help us meet that goal.

Looking ahead, picture days are coming up at both schools, and the PTO has several exciting events planned, including a BINGO night later this month. We are grateful to our PTO for their continued partnership and support of our school communities.

### **Upcoming Dates:**

- **September 2, 2025** – First Full Day for Kindergarten (LCS dismissal at 2:15 PM)
- **September 4, 2025** – FRES Parent Information Night, 6:00–7:00 PM
- **September 11, 2025** – LCS Parent Information Night, 6:00–7:00 PM
- **September 22, 2025** – PTO Meeting, 6:00 PM
- **September 26, 2025** – PTO BINGO Night
- **October 2, 2025** - LCS Picture Day!

*The Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, handicap, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status in its administration of educational programs, activities or employment practice.*



## Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District School Administrative Unit #63

Ya Z" LCBPQ5 L>A"/VKAB?LCLRDE-1 + 'X [X ' Z"  
.....^X [ " [Z"aZZ

.....3 BQBO: B>SBC" .....1 BA'S O>QQ..... CFPQB"/>3 B-KQB .....  
6 RMBOKQBKABKQLC6 @ELLIP ..... KCB@QLOLC6 QRABKQ6 RMMLQ6 BCSBPP" .....% RPKBPP'S AJ KFPQ>QLO.....

### Curriculum Coordinator Report September 9, 2025

#### Professional Learning

Although the school year is just beginning, we have already held several opportunities for professional learning district-wide. Our new teachers attended New Teacher Orientation, we held three days full of learning for all teaching staff, and we have a professional development day coming up on September 19th. This summer, I attended a work session for implementing the new 306 rules. While there, it was clear that across the state, schools are at different points in their implementation of these new rules. Our district appears to be ahead of the curve in regards several of the new rulings to implement.

#### New Teacher Orientation

Our New Teacher Orientation was on August 18th and 19th. This provided a nice warm welcome for our newest teaching staff. Our days began with breakfast, provided by our wonderful kitchen staff. A special thank you to Megan Nantel for coordinating/preparing both breakfast and lunch on both days. Over the course of the two days, there was an introduction to curriculum resources, an overview of the iReady diagnostic, and an opportunity to learn about PowerSchool. We also had a little fun, including a tour of Wilton and Lyndeborough from the famous Linda Draper. New staff were shown several highlights from both towns, including the cemetery where the Blue Lady lives, Lyndeborough's Village Store, and many other sights. Teachers also spent valuable time with their building principals, ensuring they felt connected and supported within their schools. A highlight of the two days was the opportunity to meet with their mentors, Taryn Anderson, Alice Bartoldus, Olympia Clark, Becky McGrath, Melissa Norton, Sandy Reid, and Joe Sullivan, who will guide and support them throughout their first year at WLCSD. We are thrilled to have all of our new teachers paired with such wonderful mentors.



: EQLK"/VKAB?LCLRDE&LLMBO>QSB'6 @ELLI" PQRBMCLSA BP'P>CB'KA BAR@>QLK>TBKSKLKJ BKQCE>QMCLJ LQBPPQABKQBUMILO>QLK->QI>I  
QEFKHKD'5KA'CBPMLKPP' B@QWBKPEM+

7EB": EQLK"/VKAB?LCLRDE&LLMBO>QSB'6 @ELLI" PQRQALBP'KLQAP@QF K>Q'LK'QEB'?>PP'LCO>@B->LLO>CB'EDLK-K>QLK>ILQDK->DB-PBU-E>KAB>M-  
SBQBO>K'PQ-QRP-PBUR>ILQBKQ>QLK-DBKABO'ABKQEV'LOU >QD>TPO-QRP'K'Q'AJ KFPQ>QLK'LCBAR>QLK>'MCLDO>J P->@QSBP'LOBJ MLVJ BKQMO>@QBB'

## Teacher Workshop Days

Teachers kicked off the school year with three very productive days in preparation for students' return to the buildings. One day was dedicated to classroom setup, and teachers used this time to organize their classrooms and prepare their rooms for the arrival of students. Thursday was our all-staff day, where all staff in the district were invited to join us for our own opening ceremony. We started our morning with our traditional rock, paper, scissors tournament, with our winner being our new School Counselor at FRES, Patti Donaldson. We spent the morning reconnecting as a team and setting the tone for the year ahead. Superintendent Weaver even had matching T-shirts for the staff with an inspirational quote on the back. Our wonderful School Board Chair Golding and Vice Chair Lavallee came in again this year to welcome teachers. This is the second year they have joined us in kicking the school year off on a positive note. Our guest speaker this year was the Cloutier-Cabral/Phillips family. Tiffany, Dylan, Jacob, and Jeremy came to speak to the staff about the impact that WLCSD has had on their family. It was wonderful to hear what they had to say about our school and our teachers. Teachers also had time to complete their required trainings, including Suicide Prevention, FERPA, Child Abuse and Neglect, and Cyber Security, to name a few. To round off the week, staff engaged in a professional development session led by behavior expert Polly Bath, who shared practical strategies to support positive behavior and student success.



With all of that professional learning happening, it's easy to overlook that we have our first early release scheduled for September 19th. Staff will have several different types of professional development depending on their role. Some teachers will participate in CPR training, others will get further training in our ELA pilot, some teachers will be reviewing data, and several other options will take place depending on what different groups of staff need. I have worked closely with Katie Gosselin, Tom Ronning, and Stacy Maghakian to ensure we are meeting the needs of all staff members for our professional development.

## Curriculum

Linked [here](#), you'll find the list of standards we use as a district. This list is a requirement of the new 306 rules. As part of the requirements, the list of the standards we use needs to be approved by the school board. In our district, we use the state standards when available and relevant. In addition, I regularly attend meetings in both buildings to ensure consistency across our schools. At WLC, I attend leadership and joint middle school team to provide support and collaborate with staff. At FRES, I join leadership meetings and faculty meetings as

needed to offer input, stay informed. These meetings provide opportunities for communication, problem-solving, and alignment of goals to best support staff and students.

### **Instruction**

Within the first month of school, Katie Gosselin and I will (separately) observe all of the new teachers to ensure we are providing them early support and guidance. We walk through the observation process with these new teachers, including a pre-observation meeting where we discuss instructional practices and goals for the learning, the observation itself, and then the post-observation meeting where we discuss how the lesson went and provide constructive feedback. These initial observations are designed to be collaborative and constructive, giving teachers feedback that highlights their strengths while also offering strategies for growth. Starting the observation process early helps ensure that new teachers feel supported and confident as they establish routines and practices in their classrooms.

### **Assessment**

The assessment process is underway as students in grades K-9 began their iReady testing yesterday. This provides valuable data to guide our instruction and support learning goals. In addition, both LCS and FRES have started conducting their benchmark assessments, including the CORE phonics screener and Acadience (reading and math). Using these assessments in conjunction with one another helps to establish a clear picture of each student's growth opportunities and current skills. These assessments set the foundation for targeted support throughout the year.

### **Grants**

We have received our preliminary allocations for the 2025-2026 school year for both Title II and Title IV. These grant funds will run from August 2025 through September 2027. We have begun planning our use of these funds with the district goals/student data to drive our decisions. As a part of this process, I met with High Mowing for a meaningful consultation to ensure equitable services are provided. We are required to provide them with funding from both Title II and Title IV as part of a private school within our towns. We are being mindful of the types of activities we write for each grant because this year, there was a hold on these two funding sources from the federal government for a while. We are doing our best to ensure we are using our grant funding, while also being conscientious in using these funds for “ongoing or recurring” needs. These conversations help us align funding with identified needs and ensure that all students benefit from the opportunities these programs make possible. We are getting close to closing out our 2023-2024 Title II and Title IV grants.

The following is a list of some of the Title II activities from the 23-24 grant:

- Training our new teachers in our science program/pedagogy - a phenomenon-based approach.
- Sent two teachers from FRES to Responsive Classroom training
- Social studies teachers - training on the new 306 rulings
- Our new teacher program (including funding mentors)
- Musical Theater training for our high school music teacher

The following is a list of some of the Title IV activities from the 23-24 grant:

- Chaos and Kindness at FRES and WLC
- NHDI at FRES
- Summer Theater Camp for grades 1-12
- Summer “Chill Camp” for grades 6-12
- Competency Recovery for 9-12

## FRES

At FRES, I have continued to support with discipline one day a week. I also met with the case managers to build a yearlong calendar that includes evaluation timelines and IEP meetings for students who already have an IEP. We also established a weekly meeting. These meetings will provide time to review the calendar and timeline, discuss instructional practices, and address any questions that arise. These meetings are important to ensure students' needs are being met effectively and timelines are adhered to.

# JICJ - UNAUTHORIZED COMMUNICATION DEVICES

*Category: Required*

*Related Policies: EHAB, JIC, and JICL*

## A. Purpose

The District is committed to providing students with a learning environment free from disruptions. Use of personal communication devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops, other communication devices, smartwatches, etc.) for nonacademic means often leads to disruptions in the learning environment for both individual students and the classroom.

For the purposes of this policy, a personal communication device is defined as any non-district provided internet/ cellular-capable device that can support voice or video calls, texts, emails, or instant messages. Personal communication devices include, but are not limited to: cellphones, tablets, laptops, and smartwatches. For ease of reference, devices provided by the district for instructional use shall be referred to as "district-owned" or district-provided" devices.

## B. Restrictions

Student use of personal communication devices is **strictly prohibited** from when the first bell rings to start instructional time until the dismissal bell rings to end the academic school day (referred to as "the school day"). The school day includes lunch periods, passing time, and recesses.

Students participating in extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, field trips or other activities outside of the school day shall abide by the rules and consequences established for personal communication devices set by the coach, instructor, sponsor or other designated supervisor for the activity. However, **in no event** shall personal communication devices (or any other device with photographic or recording capabilities) be used in locker rooms, bathrooms, or any other location where such use could violate another person's reasonable expectation of privacy.

If digital devices are used to enhance learning in the classroom, the District is responsible for providing District-owned devices. In accordance with this policy, no personal communication device be used during the school day for personal communication.

While it is best practice that these devices are not brought to school, if these devices are brought to school, they shall be kept with the power turned off in a student's assigned locker, backpack, or handbag. The District will not be responsible for loss, damage or theft of any electronic communication device brought to the school.

## C. Exceptions

Students with medical needs, such as insulin pumps and glucose sensors, or disabilities that require a device to support their learning as identified by their individualized education program (IEP) or plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. section 794, or a multilingual student with appropriate language access programs and services pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 shall be exempt from this policy. Additionally, the superintendent or their designee may approve additional exceptions on a case-by-case basis or through an administrative decision recorded in the student handbook, with respect to student medical, disability, or language proficiency needs.

## JICJ - UNAUTHORIZED COMMUNICATION DEVICES

### D. Consequences and Violations

Students are not permitted to use any electronic device to record audio or video media or take pictures of any student or staff member without their permission. The distribution of any unauthorized media may result in disciplinary action. The school reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, and review a student's personal electronic device subject to the limitations of RSA 189:70, if there is reasonable suspicion to believe that a student has violated board policies, regulations, school rules, or has engaged in other misconduct while using their personal electronic device.

Consequences for violations of this policy will be pursuant to the Student Handbook. Additionally:

1. First Offense: Warning and confiscation of the device for the remainder of the school day.
2. Second and Subsequent Offenses: The electronic communication device will be confiscated. A disciplinary referral will be written. The student's parent/guardian must pick up the device from the principal or superintendent's office.

### E. Review

The Superintendent shall annually review policy in collaboration with parent(s) and teachers with a report and recommendations for policy changes to be delivered to the Board no later than April 1st of each school year.

### F. Dissemination

The Superintendent shall ensure that information regarding the prohibition against using personal communication devices during the school day is included in all student handbooks, and included in "beginning of school year" materials provided to parents/guardians.

---

### **District Policy History:**

*First reading: September 14, 2010, August 12, 2026*

*Second reading/adopted: October 12, 2010, August 26, 2025*

*Reviewed: August 27, 2019, September 10, 2019, September 24, 2019*

*District revision history: September 24, 2019*

### **Legal References:**

| NH Statutes | Description            |
|-------------|------------------------|
| RSA 189:68  | <u>Student Privacy</u> |

## JICJ - UNAUTHORIZED COMMUNICATION DEVICES

RSA 189:68-a

Student Online Personal  
Information

RSA 189:70

Educational Institution  
Policies on Social Media

RSA 644:21

Searches of Portable  
Electronic Devices

**Legal References Disclaimer:** These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, August 26, 2025  
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School  
6:30 p.m.**

The videoconferencing link was published several places including on the meeting agenda.

Present: *Dennis Golding, Brianne Lavallee, Michelle Alley, Erin Collins, Darlene Anzalone, Diane Foss, and Jonathan Lavoie*  
*Superintendent Peter Weaver, Principal Tom Ronning Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, Technology Director Nicholas Buroker, Food Service Director Megan Nantel, and Clerk Kristina Fowler*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Golding called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**III. SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION-Deb Mortvedt**

Ms. Deb Mortvedt, Chair of the Wilton Heritage Commission, and part of the newly formed Semiquicennennial not Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee spoke regarding the Pine Tree Riot and of the celebration for Wilton that will be held next May. She spoke of how they would like to get the students involved helping with projects such as art, woodworking, videography, sewing costumes, music, fundraising, and a special colonial flag photo at FRES. Downtown Wilton will be dressed up with banners and bunting. She is asking for the Board's blessing to involve students. The committee will work with the students and help them along. The committee will meet once a month and the next meeting is September 9, from 5:00 PM-6:00 PM at the Town Hall. She was asked if she had heard if Lyndeborough was planning a celebration. Ms. Mortvedt replied that Lyndeborough does not have a revolutionary war monument and that is their emphasis. She informed the group that this year's 4<sup>th</sup> grade history tour was one of the best. Superintendent expressed excitement to be part of it and anything we can do to get kids engaged is great. Ms. Mortvedt informed the group that the 18 flags in Mont Vernon that were hanging on September 11 will be borrowed and hanging for 3 days in Wilton. There are some rare flags including the Pine Tree Riot flag. Appreciation was voiced for her coming and it is great to see community members come and take steps to get the group involved, it is appreciated. She will work with the principals to get the students involved and updated.

**IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Superintendent requested to add 2 new "FYI" hires and 1 resignation.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Collins accept the adjustments to the agenda.*  
*Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public comment section of the agenda was read. Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment. There were no public comments.

**VI. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

**a. Reports**

**i. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent spoke of positive energy with the start up of school and felt this may have been the strongest start in his 5 years here. The trajectory we are on is good, professional development is great and have stable administration with a whole complement of teachers and the buildings look beautiful. He spoke of their being support for our School Board. It is a great start to this year! He met with the district attorney regarding the cell phone policy that we need to discuss and hopefully vote on. The law includes bell to bell without exception. The DOE is getting feedback because some of the language is so restrictive. He is on the same page as Principal Ronning, it is hard to teach kids responsibility when you take that away from them, finding a compromise like using them at lunch is a reasonable thing. The system of how we communicate with our kids is through cell phones and he has concerns about bell-to-bell restriction. The DOE is working on a technical advisory and one thing in the draft that is pointed out is kids have to store them somewhere they can't even carry them on their person. He can't imagine how that would be policed. He doesn't think administration is concerned with massive discipline issues and the kids were receptive to the discussion that Principal Ronning had with them. Regarding emergency operations, if students had to flee and all went in different directions, as a parent the 1<sup>st</sup> thing he would do is try to reach his child. He is concerned about parents and agrees with Ms. Anzalone wanting a compromise. He doesn't want students or administration to break the law. Principal Ronning was speaking to seniors about writing a letter to Concord asking for some flexibility and local control to meet the concerns of

families we have in the school setting. That is the massive thing on our radar now and hopes to find some middle ground. We want policies that fit us, the course and that fit our community. We have broad expectations at the state level, and this is the opposite of that, it is micromanaging local school districts. He thinks the push back will be intense from schools, parents, and community members. A discussion was had including not all students use or have lockers. It was noted our draft policy includes phones to be in locker, handbag, or backpack and that meets the law; they are not on their person. Superintendent noted we are not going to search students, if the phones come out that is when we would have the issue. ConVal bought a device for every student to lock them up in and the only way to unlock it is by a scanner which is in the office. They have them on them, but they can't get to them. We would be using our most expensive staff to police it. We have great kids and staff, and he doesn't see a battle over phones here but sees it as a process to be involved in. Ms. Anzalone asked if as a parent, there would be a conflict of interest to do a petition to the state. Response was it would not be, all board members have the capacity to act as personal citizens as long as we draw that line that we are acting as parents or citizens etc. and not as school board members. Superintendent added if there were an emergency, students would not be penalized for turning on their phones, no one would fault them for that. Discussion was had regarding bus routes, and a question was raised if a 2<sup>nd</sup> van was purchased. Superintendent responded we did not, the home to school provides a whole additional level of requirements. We did have 6-7 staff taking the classes and some will take the exam. They need the full license to do a pickup at home. He doesn't know if we are capable of doing it all. This just developed today, we finalized the CTE transport. Principal Ronning informed the group that parents were contacted and made aware that we do not have a driver and asked if parents could transport their child and/or others to the CTE classes and we will have a bus take them back. As of yesterday, we have kids and parents driving and we only need 1 van now to transport to CTE which leaves at 7:15 AM. He confirmed some students will be transported by van, parents or drive themselves.

## **ii. Facilities Director's Report**

Mr. Hofstetter reported on having an eventful summer. Everything was cleaned out and all the usual major work was done about a month ahead of schedule. All 3 schools had their own individual things they completed. Going forward we have some things developing including raising and cleaning out the pole barn out back at WLC to store the van so that we don't have to clean off the snow each time or shovel, it will be parked under that. One of the softball dugouts has a hole in the roof and we are planning to get that worked on. We had a facilities meeting last week and discussed multiple things and had a tour of WLC. We didn't get to the fields but discussed the locker room project and will reach out to the contractors to see what we can get for prices. We will try to back off a little and do some of the repairs in-house if we can meet the requirements. Ms. Collins thanked Mr. Hofstetter for all he has done, she has been in 2 buildings, and they look great. The decals on the floor at FRES look awesome. The new technology teacher's room is clean and organized, kudos to him. She missed the closet filled with clothes, shoes, and nonperishables at WLC. She didn't know it was there. She wanted to draw attention to this. It is a place where folks can bring their old dresses for prom for example and help each other out. If there is anything we can do to get it spruced up a bit in order for the kids to feel better about going in there. Ms. Lavalley spoke about the new ticketing system for facilities. Teachers can now put in a ticket for requests, and it can be tracked. She is happy this practice is now put into place and thinks you will see a significant difference. Mr. Hofstetter praised Mr. Buroker for setting it up. He does think the teachers will be receptive to it, he has received 20-30 tickets so far with anything from not having a plug, cabinets won't unlock to we don't have a flag. Ms. Lavalley noted she thinks it will help with morale too and make everyone feel part of the team. A question was raised where the funding would come from to raise the pole barn roof? Mr. Hofstetter was not 100% sure. From what he understood it was in the budget in prior years to get some things that were needed but had not been done and it was brought back up. Without Ms. LaPlante present he does not want to say for sure. If we have the money to do it, we will and if not, we won't. He confirms it would be done in-house vs. contracting it out. Chairman Golding noted Mr. Hofstetter and facilities team have done a spectacular job, the schools look great!

## **iii. Director of Student Support Services Report**

Mr. Pratt informed the group he has retired as of June 30 and is now working as a retiree. He spoke of the SPED team being terrific and working together to make sure all needs are covered. When he is in district, he is doing that, but he is also available when he is away from the district. We will continue to monitor how we are going to make sure everything gets done and then make adjustments as they become necessary. He is happy to be back. Like many departments we have been spending a lot of time on the FY 27 budget and looking forward to getting that budget to Ms. LaPlante, the Superintendent, the rest of the team and Budget Committee. We are looking at it very closely, we know we always have fiscal challenges. The process started realistically last June. Extended School Year was awesome; we had over 40 students in the program across the schools both RISE and general SPED program it was great attendance with some enjoyable activities for the kids and some good work to keep their skills going. Finally, as we have had the problem for the past few years, we are still looking for paraeducators and ABA therapists. We were down 2 ABA's but have 1 candidate so likely 1 now. We are down 4 paraeducators. With the assistance of the leadership team, we have scoured the universe for them and have 2 that are parents which is great. We have talked about this before. Hopefully, we will get additional applicants and if not, we will work with the leadership team to make sure that we can figure out a different way of dealing with this. It's just really difficult when we are short. The good news is that all of our teachers and related services have been retained, which is great. It is a little frustrating we don't have a full compliment but at the same time we will continue to try to find folks for the positions. He asks that you spread the word. Ms. Alley voiced that on Facebook there have been multiple times when people have tried to apply for jobs on the school website, but they say it is really hard. She is not clear on what specifically they were having trouble with, but it had something to do with the links. Superintendent responded this is the first time he has heard of this and hopes that is not the reason we are not getting applicants. We will apply for a job ourselves and see where the kinks are and keep Mr. Buroker in the loop and whatever we turn up he will

help us sort it out. The last thing we want is to create barriers for applicants; it doesn't make a whole lot of sense. If anyone is on the verge of giving up applying, contact the SAU office directly. We can help them fill out the application and if possible, do an interview on the spot. Mr. Pratt noted he thinks he knows the person Ms. Alley was talking about and we were able to reach out to that person. A question was raised whether we could use college students doing an internship or something like that and potentially look at the local schools to see if there is anyone that could fill it or just help out. Mr. Pratt responded we are willing to work with anybody, and we'll take each case individually. Discussion continued including it could be the issue with using Schoolspring which most districts use, and it can be cumbersome and difficult. A question was raised that last year using contracted staff played a significant role in our budget toward the end of the year and is Mr. Pratt feeling like we may need to take that route again. If so, do we have a number of different agencies in mind? Mr. Pratt responded, potentially, we don't have to sign entire year contracts. Conservatively at least once a day he gets a call from an outside agency saying we have paraprofessional, ABA therapists and tutors. The problem is we pay a lot of money for a job that really there's almost a sense of unfairness with our current staff. We also do not have the same control of those people as our own employees, he doesn't mean that in a negative way, but it just means we have more of the agency folks up and quit or walk out. The agency will send us another person, but it will take a while. Also, we are concerned about the money piece. He gave an example of paying \$50 an hour for a paraeducator and the agency takes most of that. We have not gone down that route yet. We are looking at some other solutions and certainly within the context of the budget proposal that he is preparing as a department. Maybe there are other ways to staff it better. He was asked to keep the Board in the loop if we do end up going in that direction because it did have such an impact on our budget last year and he agreed.

## **VII. POLICIES**

### **a. 2<sup>nd</sup> Read**

#### **i. AB-New Hampshire Parental Bill of Rights**

Ms. Lavallee reviewed there were no changes since the 1<sup>st</sup> read. This policy was discussed extensively at the last meeting. She did not receive any inquiries from board members, community or staff regarding it. No questions or comments were heard.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Lavoie to adopt policy AB-New Hampshire Parental Bill of Rights as required by law.*

*Voting: six ayes, one nay from Chairman Golding, motion carried.*

#### **ii. JICJ-Unauthorized Communication Devices**

Mr. Lavoie stepped in for Ms. Lavallee, questioning if there were any changes. Changes were made at the last meeting which are included in this draft. There were no questions or comments. This will return for a 3<sup>rd</sup> read.

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

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

An amendment was requested on line 228 that should read September 1 vs. September 21. Amendment will be made without objection.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone to approve the minutes of August 12, 2025, as amended.*

*Voting: five ayes, two abstentions from Mr. Lavoie and Ms. Collins, motion carried.*

### **b. Meal Price 2025-2026**

Ms. Nantel informed the group of a required price increase of 5 cents on meal prices. Food Service Directors are required to use the paid lunch equity tool when applying for the application due to the outstanding debt in the program. We discovered once again that due to the outstanding debt, we are operating in the red, and are required to raise the price. How that helps us overcome that she doesn't know but it is a required minimum of 5 cents going from \$3.05 per meal to \$3.10.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Collins to support the meal price increase from \$3.05 to the new price of \$3.10 for the 2025-2026 school year.*

A question was raised that even with the amount donated last year, how much did that still leave us in the red? Ms. Nantel responded the total debt including all inactive accounts which are students that either left the district or graduated and including staff that total debt is \$52,108.31 and it only continues to increase each year as parents do not fill out the free and reduced forms. The total inactive accounts including staff is \$11,410.17. The active debt is \$40,698.14 for kids and staff. She spoke of sending out biweekly emails on all balances. She has a number of them that do turn in their money. We instilled a new cap for staff which is \$20, that's a week of meals. We want to have some leniency for the folks that are here teaching our students but cannot go any further than that. She is having conversations with seniors letting them know where they are at and urges them to have their parents fill out the forms and relay the information. We will not be able to keep prices the same until the debt is cleared. The state won't let us. She doesn't know if we will get another generous donation. It is something the taxpayers and school district can choose to pay off and we can set ourselves at ground zero. It is something we can choose at the end of the year, each year, to pay off whatever debt does accrue so we don't have to see these meal prices increase except when we see the food costs

increase, which we will see anyway. We do a great job at keeping our food under that \$3 per meal mark on average. There is not much more they can do other than work to accomplish every little bit that we can to recover from this \$52,000 deficit. It was noted that the funding from the state is affected by parents filling out the free and reduced forms. By not filling it out, it costs us more than the debt. Parents are implored to fill them out. A request was made to put it out on the Facebook page and clearly explain why it is so important to fill these forms out. Ms. Nantel is not sure how much we get per student but believes it is over \$2,000 that meets the requirements. The more we get filled out the more money the district will receive and the less debt our kids will accrue in their lunch accounts. Ms. Anzalone asked if it could be done online and noted she had been on the Board for a few years and did not know the debt that risen to this level. She questioned if we could have voters vote on it to use unspent funds to wipe that out or is there something we can do with the budget to pay off some of it. Ms. Nantel responded we have had an online application for 2 years since she has been here. The online service provider has changed their policy and now it will require us to upgrade our system and once she has a meeting with the business office, she will have a better understanding of how much that will be but right now we don't have access. Superintendent asked how far back does the \$50,000 goes? Ms. Nantel does not know but can find out and thinks it is pre-COVID. When she started it was in the high 30's. She adds we will never tell kids they can't get a meal. A question was raised with the recent court decision made on the per student base adequate education funding would that affect the finances of anything and could some of that go toward meals and debt? Ms. Nantel does not know, some districts opt for a CPE (Community Eligibility Provision) which allows all kids to eat for free, so it is no longer an issue for them and money raised through ala carte sales or second meals or staff meals is purely profit. She was asked how they did that, and Ms. Nantel responded they have to vote for it. Superintendent noted that it would have to be budgeted, and it is a big ask. Ms. Nantel was asked to figure out what the average per year in debt we accrue, and the debt students leave behind each year and what is that average. Ms. Nantel will send that information out. A brief discussion was had regarding staff debt and not being aware that was happening. Ms. Nantel confirms most of them are under \$100 and has had several conversations with those staff members last year about it. Now the cap is \$20, each meal is \$4 so that gives them a week of meals. Ms. Lavallee informed the group that if the Board were to entertain using unspent funds it would be through a warrant article we would have to discuss and put forward and explain what the tax impact would be and what it would look like moving forward. Of course, the 1<sup>st</sup> year would be more expensive than other years, but we could also discuss having it be a one-time warrant article, which is all something the Board could discuss. Superintendent voiced the challenge is that in most districts every year this issue comes up, every food service program seems to carry debt every year and then it just builds on itself every year because we are not going to let kids go hungry. It is a dilemma, and he has been in districts where we pay it off but then the problem doesn't ever get solved. It just starts again next year. He knows Ms. Nantel tries to reduce it and is holding staff accountable and setting some expectations. He added, now that he has heard staff are leaving and not paying their debt maybe we can dock their last pay, he is not sure but that is on the low end of the debt the high end is kids in need, and it is perpetuating problem. The debt gets higher, and it doesn't change the parent's circumstances. He acknowledged that it is a challenge to be compassionate and be a community that supports each other while also having to manage a food budget. He thanked Ms. Nantel for the information, and we can continue picking away at it and mid-year maybe come up with a different number. Mr. Lavoie suggested if the intention is to try to get a warrant article to pay it down then try to figure out an average yearly number that will eat into the overall debt but also pay off the full year. As an example, let's say every year on average it increases it by \$5,000, maybe the warrant article is for \$8,000. We can chip away at the grand total but also cover this year's completely. That would be a smaller number than trying to get to \$52,000 or \$60,000 and then we figure out where to go from there. It may be a softer way to approach it if you want to go in that direction. Ms. Nantel will work on the numbers and send them to the group in the next couple of weeks. She now has almost a full staff for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 2 years. It was suggested to ask the PTO to help with support getting the forms filled out. Ms. Nantel agrees that it is a good idea and informs the group it is only 1 form for the family, not 1 per student. She confirms if a senior has debt, it does not stop them from graduating but they cannot walk across stage. A question was raised whether it can be made a requirement to fill out the form. Superintendent responds that we cannot require it of families. He noted most of the forms not filled out are from families who would not benefit, that is the challenge. Even if the family does not benefit the school district might. Our percentage is pretty high and has been stable in terms of families in need. We must be careful to respect family's privacy and dignity. He has seen students not eat lunch because they are embarrassed to get a free lunch. Ms. Nantel was asked if it is obvious that kids are getting a free lunch. Ms. Nantel responded no, it doesn't even show up on the computer, it shows a balance and that is what the cashier sees. Ms. Nantel notes she has had conversations with kids that their parents don't fill it out because they are proud. Ms. Collins wonders if the nonperishable food in the closet could help. Parents who wanted to contribute could send snack bags (example). Ms. Nantel informs the group it cannot be served during lunch as it becomes a competition with the National School Lunch Program and that is where a lot of these issues come into play. She informs the group we are starting a school store but does not know if there is a plan to have food there too and it would be sold outside of lunch hour. That may be something you could donate to or give to school counselors to hand out.

## **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **i. Facilities Committee**

Ms. Collins reported the schools look amazing, new sinks in the art room at WLC look good, the stucco looks fantastic and thank you to Ms. LaPlante with all the spreadsheets and she doesn't know how we would get by without her organizational skills. If any parent has not seen Ms. Clark's classroom it is inspiring. She thinks this school has so much potential. It was great to see some projects already finished and we talked about things that we could work on going forward and how to do that with a better budget and she has heard good things from parents. Great team, thank you for your efforts.

248 **X. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES**

- 249 a. **FYI-New Hire-Candace LaPierre-WLC Paraprofessional**  
250 b. **FYI-New Hire-Patience McKay-FRES-Paraprofessional**  
251 • **FYI-New Hire-Brenda McQuade-Food Services**  
252 • **Resignation-Eric Bouldin-FRES Custodian**

253 Superintendent reviewed the new hires and resignation.  
254

255 **XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

256 The public comment section of the agenda was read.  
257

258 Ms. Kelly Gibson voiced she originally was here to speak regarding the tennis club but also wanted to contribute to the  
259 discussions the Board had. Regarding facilities, she came in during the summer and this place is the cleanest and brightest she  
260 has ever seen and thinks the facilities crew deserve a lot of credit. It is really great they are doing a ticket system, it is long  
261 overdue, but her concern is it is only for staff and thinks coaches and people running clubs or programs and volunteers should be  
262 able to use it too. She has some concerns regarding the courts, grounds, and buildings. Regarding cell phones there is a time and  
263 place for everything, she is concerned that so many students are using Chat GPT for academics. In fact, it's reported so many  
264 times that this is how kids are getting their work done, which is not honest and has a lack of integrity which is concerning. She  
265 spoke of her children, one in particular not having use of their cell phone is completely catastrophic for her family. The lack of  
266 paraeducator's poses more of a question. If there is a student in the district who would require a 1-1 what does the district do for  
267 that child that needs a 1-1 paraeducator? Chairman Golding responded it can be asked of Mr. Pratt to address that at another  
268 meeting. We normally do not answer questions during public comments. Ms. Gibson voiced she is curious about that general  
269 statement and the last thing she wants to address is the food balance. She spoke of it being to hear Ms. Nantel's thoughts about  
270 what she would and wouldn't do. She thinks that it is respectful for the students who can't afford it. She thinks the problem the  
271 district is having getting the forms completed is sort of the current stigma that is out in the media with people accepting any sort  
272 of handout whether that be through HUD, food stamps, or whatever. She thinks that mentality is the reason why people are  
273 refraining from participating in that which kind of goes along with Ms. Nantel's comment about pride and how you solve that.  
274 The real reason she is here is for tennis. She is asking the School Board to assist her in facilitating the PTO at the HS to put up  
275 the tennis flyer which has the link for parents to be able to sign up their children and will begin the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September,  
276 Tuesday for the HS and Thursday for elementary. We did get to use the gymnasium at FRES for the elementary students and HS  
277 can use it in the event of rain. There will be 3 signups, fall, winter, and spring. Currently at the elementary level we have 8  
278 students signed up after the meet and greet. She thinks those numbers could increase with support on the district website. She did  
279 have it posted on the district calendar, but it is not really listed in a visible way like the 6<sup>th</sup> grade supply is and would like tennis  
280 to be listed like that. It would be nice to have it on FRES and WLC's website pages, the PTO and WLC Facebook pages. Maybe  
281 some support from everyone else could help. Fran will be coaching with her daughter assisting. They have 8 people for the  
282 elementary school and likely will max out at 12 due to age. The HS could be more. Mostly she wants support with social media.  
283 The times for HS practices are Tuesday, right after school at the tennis courts and FRES is Thursday after school and they will  
284 have a snack due to their age. For the HS in the fall, it will be at the courts. Elementary school is a little shorter than HS. She  
285 spoke of issues with the courts. Fran can go into it much better than she can but the cracks in the ground are a problem. She  
286 knows he has discussed it, and you were going to address it at the facilities meeting. It is a real big deal and if we don't fix it  
287 now, you will have a significant dollar value to restore it. She is getting the numbers up there and you can't make it a thing if the  
288 courts are not kept up. A list was provided to Ben regarding this which included Fran's email address. Fran has offered to do it if  
289 the materials are provided and everyone pretty much knows him, and he is more than competent to be able to do this. She is  
290 grateful that he is taking his time out to do this for her daughter and the school.  
291

292 Mr. John Lavoie, Lyndeborough, spoke as a member of the public regarding MS soccer needing players or they won't be able to  
293 have a team. The need to get to 11 players or the team may be cancelled. The AD has not sent an email or made a social media  
294 post or anything to all students as far as he is aware. He would like to make sure that it gets done. He is also wondering if the  
295 Superintendent could look into the possibility when the numbers are needed for sports teams in the MS in particular, we have 6-8  
296 grade and there are schools around here that have MS grades of 5-8 that we play and he is wondering within the rules of the  
297 sports programs if we are able to pull up from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, it would really help with these teams that are struggling. He was told  
298 we have an applicant for a basketball coach Rachel R., and he wants to be sure she is involved. He knows Principal Ronning was  
299 running that team last year and he is fine with him doing it again but if we have outside interest, he doesn't think we should turn  
300 that away. Give her a role, assistant coach, whatever you want and have her involved because one day Principal Ronning may  
301 not want to run that team anymore and it is better to have someone in the pipeline than not.  
302

303 Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment. There were  
304 no comments online.  
305

## 306 **XII. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

307 Ms. Collins thanked Ms. Mortvedt for her great presentation, it sounds like a lot of fun. Thanks to Mr. Hofstetter and his crew  
308 for all their hard work all summer and to Mr. Buroker as well because that ticket system is exactly the kind of accountability she  
309 thinks everyone appreciates. Thank you to everybody who is dealing with the whole cell phone thing because it is just her  
310 opinion but it feels a little silly that we are discussing a Parental Bill of Rights while we're losing the right to have our kids carry  
311 a phone and learn that level responsibility.  
312

313 Ms. Anzalone thanked Ms. Mortvedt for coming in; it sounds cool. She thinks it would be something interesting. A little plug for  
314 her son in the senior class, that it would be good to tell colleges you participated in it. She didn't know anything about the Pine  
315 Tree Riot but thought it was cool to learn. Also with the cell phone policy, she will be looking to reach out and make her voice  
316 heard as a parent because she doesn't think that the state should be telling her that she can't get in touch with her kids. The meal  
317 price thing, she wishes there was more we could do as a Board or just as a community. We can try to help other families that  
318 need help paying off the debt.  
319

320 Chairman Golding commented it was a great meeting and thanked everyone.  
321

## 322 **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

323 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to adjourn the Board meeting at 8:02pm.*  
324 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*  
325

326 *Respectfully submitted,*  
327 *Kristina Fowler*  
328