

1 WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL
2 BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING - DRAFT MINUTES
3 Tuesday September 23, 2025, WLC-Admin Conference Room.
4 Joint Session starts at 7PM in the WLC Library
5

6 Committee Membership: Bill Ryan (Chair), Alyssa Lavoie (Vice Chair), Bridget Mooney
7 (Secretary), Craig Alley, Jennifer Bernet, Phil Brooks, Harold Melcher III,
8 Jonathan Vanderhoof, Paul White (SB liaison). (one Wilton seat vacant)
9

10 Present: Alley, Bernet (arrived at 6:40), Brooks, Lavoie, Melcher, Mooney, Ryan, Vanderhoof
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12 Absent: White
13

14 The meeting began at 6:10
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16 There were no adjustments to the agenda
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18 A revised copy of the previous minutes was submitted by Alyssa Lavoie via email to the committee.
19

20 A motion to approve the revised minutes was made by Johnathan Vanderhoof, seconded by Craig Alley.
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22 The revised Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
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24 There was briefly one member of the public in attendance, but they did not wish to comment. The
25 meeting was not accessible via the Internet.
26

27 The bulk of the meeting centered on a discussion of whether salaries and benefits of the employees of
28 and contractors to the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School system should appear in the published
29 school budget.
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31 Bill Ryan and Alyssa Lavoie explained that they, along with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the School
32 Board had met with Peter Weaver and Kristi LaPlante. During their discussion they brought up the
33 desire to include the salaries and benefits in the published budget. The Administration was not in favor
34 of publishing this information publicly.
35

36 Alyssa Lavoie suggested the current budget include the salary and benefit information for the
37 administration in this year's budget and then possibly including all employee information in subsequent
38 budgets.
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40 Jonathan Vanderhoof disagreed with this suggestion stating that all employee information should be
41 published in the current budget. He explained that next year there will be a re-negotiation of contracts,
42 and it is impossible to know if our teachers are being adequately paid, or underpaid, if we are not aware
43 of what they are being paid.
44

45 Craig Alley stated that knowing this information allows for benchmarks.
46

47 Alyssa Lavoie said that we need transparency.
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49 Jonathan Vanderhoof stated that anyone can request the salary information using the right to know law,
stating that the money paid to school employees is taxpayer money and all citizens have the right to
know how the money is being allocated. It should be in the published budget.

50 A suggestion was made to publish the salary and benefits information by job titles and not including
51 names. The concern with this approach was that, in such a small district, it is easily decipherable as to
52 the salary of a one-person department, while keeping hidden the salaries of individuals in a department
53 with multiple employees, which was deemed unfair.

54
55 Phil Brooks suggested that the salary and benefit information be provided to the budget committee, but
56 not to the public.

57
58 Bill Ryan said that it is unclear whether some office workers are drawing a full salary, plus a partial
59 salary for a second office position.

60
61 Alyssa Lavoie has comparisons from other districts in NH and nationally, that publicly publish this
62 information, which indicates that publicly publishing this data does not negatively impact the school
63 environment nor lead to low moral issues. (note: this information was not provided at the meeting).

64
65 There was a request that athletic information be broken out more thoroughly.

66
67 Alyssa Lavoie proposes we take up the issue of requesting the employee salary and benefits be
68 included in the budget at our next budget meeting as the main topic.

69
70 Craig Alley asks if it's possible to take a vote on this tonight and not wait until the next meeting.

71
72 It is agreed there is no need to wait.

73
74 Craig Alley made the motion for full disclosure in the budget of all salaries and benefits, by name, of
75 all employees and contractors in the SAU63 school district.

76 Jonathan Vanderhoof seconded the motion.

77
78 Bill Ryan called for discussion

79
80 Jennifer Bernet joined the meeting at this time and asked for clarification of the motion.

81
82 Craig Alley said that the budget committee needs full insight into the actual costs and to know who is
83 getting partial FTE or if one person is filling multiple roles.

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85 Bill Ryan, Alyssa Lavoie and Jonathan Vanderhoof all stated that the public publishing of this
86 information was routinely provided until 2021. It has not been unearthed, to date, as to why this
87 practice was stopped. Speculated reasons were fallout from COVID causing confusion, and multiple
88 superintendents instilling different and inconsistent practices. Apparently, the changes were made
89 without traceable votes.

90
91 Craig Alley said the knowledge of salary and benefits information helps with employee recruitment and
92 retention, and for potential bonuses. It is not good practice to base budget decisions on information
93 given to us from the people who we are giving the money to. We need clarity to analyze the budget.

94
95 Alyssa Lavoie said none of this is personal; Kristi LaPlante is unimpeachable, and Peter Weaver has a
96 big heart, and neither are seen as harmfully retaining information. It's just that taxpayers have the right
97 to know where their money is going.

99 Multiple times during the conversation the recent Claremont NH school district budget shortfall was
100 mentioned by various members as a necessary reason for publishing as much information as possible
101 for full transparency. We need to know the numbers add up.
102

103 Alyssa Lavoie mentioned that there is a schedule, 1-20, for which pay scale an employee will be
104 placed. It is the superintendent who decides which level a new employee starts on the scale.
105

106 A member of the school board let us know that it was time for the Budget Committee to join the school
107 board meeting.
108

109 Bridget Mooney re-read Craig Alley's motion.
110

111 A vote was taken. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. The motion passes.
112

113 Allyssa Lavoie asked that we all be more diligent in sending budget questions to Kristi LaPlante before
114 any budget meetings, so that she could assemble the requested information.
115

116 The meeting moved to the WLC library to join the school board meeting.
117 Minutes from that portion of the meeting can be found in the school board minutes.
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119 Jonathan Vanderhoof made the motion to adjourn.

120 Jennifer Bernet seconded the motion.

121 The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

122 The Budget Committee adjourned at 7:43 pm.
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