

Public Notice of Meeting
WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, December 2, 2025
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School
6:30 p.m.

Videoconferencing: meet.google.com/jvy-ejeu-arf

Audio: +1 443-671-8739 PIN: 554 330 452#

All videoconferencing options may be subject to modifications. Please check www.sau63.org for the latest information.

- I. CALL TO ORDER-Dennis Golding-Chair**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
- 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. Student School Board Report
 - ii. WLCTA Report
 - iii. Principals' Reports
 - iv. Curriculum Coordinator's Report
- VII. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION**
 - a. Budget FY 2026-2027**
 - b. Warrant Articles**
- VIII. ACTION ITEMS**
 - a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting**
- IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - i. Budget Liaison
 - ii. Negotiations
- X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- XI. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**
- XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C)**
 - i. Review the nonpublic Minutes
 - ii. Negotiations
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

INFORMATION: Next School Board Meeting & Workshop-December 16, 6:30 PM at LCS

DECEMBER 2025

School Board Report:
High School
Representative: Hannah
Hamilton

December 2, 2025

Arts and Athletics Achievements

- **Musical Success:** The production of "Finding Nemo Jr." was a truly massive success! The students showed incredible talent and dedication, and the performances were well-attended and greatly enjoyed by the community.
- **Dance Team Victory:** Congratulations to our talented Dance Team for securing first place at their most recent competition! They are now preparing to advance to the next level of competition in February. A huge thank you and shout-out to Coach Mel for her dedication and coaching that made this victory possible.
- **Fall Sports Update:** Fall sports are currently in full swing, with our student-athletes showing great spirit and commitment on the court.

Academic and Community Engagement

- **CTE Program Exploration:** Our students in grades 8 through 11 had a valuable opportunity to visit Milford and explore the various Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs offered there. This trip provided crucial insight into potential future pathways for the students.
- **Veterans Day Assembly:** We held a moving and successful Veterans Day Assembly to honor our veterans. Many student volunteers worked diligently to help put the event together. A special thank you is due to Ms. Clark for her leadership and guidance in organizing this important community event.

Looking Ahead

As we wrap up a very busy and successful few months, students are enthusiastically looking forward to the upcoming winter break and returning energized for the start of the new year

WLCTA School Board Report

November 2025

Lyndeborough Central School

- Kindergarten is preparing for “**Fruitsgiving**” on Tuesday, November 25th. Students will each bring a piece of fruit and work together to wash, cut, and prepare a shared fruit salad.
- Students have continued walking to the **J.A. Tarbell Library** for story time and book borrowing, strengthening their connection with the local library community.

Florence Rideout Elementary School

- **Third grade** is currently learning about Native Americans and will be visiting the **Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum** as part of their unit.
- The annual **Holiday Concert** will be held on **December 11th at 6 PM** in the FRES gym, featuring singers from 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade.
- **Grades 3–5** have completed the **NHSAS Modular assessments**, which are being used to help guide instruction and familiarize students with the testing format.
- In **5th grade**, Mrs. Radloff’s class began a **math fact “boot camp”**, using fun and engaging activities to strengthen and build automaticity with multiplication facts in preparation for middle school.

WLC Middle School

- **7th Grade Math** students completed a hands-on restaurant mini-project applying ratios and percentages—calculating subtotals, the 8.5% NH meals tax, and a 20% tip.
- **8th Grade Art students Bring Local History to Life for the Semiquincentennial Celebration**
 - Following the November 13 visit from Wilton Heritage Committee members Deb Mortvedt and Donna Crane, WLC’s quarter two 8th grade art students have begun leading the creation of visual artwork for the upcoming **May 9, 2026 Semiquincentennial Celebration**.
 - Students are transforming their research on Wilton and Lyndeborough history into a wide range of artistic pieces, including **ceramic sculptures, oil paintings, pen-and-ink illustrations, T-shirt designs**, and even the possibility of **live pancake art**. Their work is guided by inquiry-based questions such as:
Why was the clock tower built, and how is it used today? How has the Souhegan River

influenced the community? How did farmers work at Curtis View Farm over the years? How did local Native Americans influence Wilton and Lyndeborough culture?

- At the November 18 meeting at Wilton Town Hall—attended by town administration and other community leaders—**two 8th graders**, a parent, FACS teacher **Olympia Clark**, and art teacher **Emily Hall** contributed ideas and shared project updates.
- The Heritage Committee invites students, families, and all residents to participate in the planning process. **Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday from 5–6 p.m., with upcoming meetings scheduled for January 13 and January 27.**

WLC High School

English & Humanities

- **9th grade World Literature** students began their unit on *Romeo and Juliet* and have shown great enthusiasm, taking active roles in reading the play.
- The **Yearbook staff** is hard at work on this year's Warrior Yearbook, which is progressing well and still available for purchase.
- Students will again participate in the **Holiday Cards for Our Military Challenge**, sending holiday greetings to service members.

Social Studies & Enrichment

- **11th Grade Government & Economics** students visited Keene State on November 6th to preview an upcoming Ken Burns docu-series on the American Revolution.
- Students traveling to the **UK/France trip in April** are participating in the annual **Double Good popcorn fundraiser** (Nov. 28–Dec. 2), with 50% of sales going toward trip costs. If anyone is interested in supporting the trip, reach out to Erin Rosana.

Science

- **10th grade students** are working on their semester-long greenhouse project. Students are growing a variety of plants, tracking growth and soil pH, analyzing leaf pigments through chromatography, and studying stomata and gas exchange. They will present their findings in a **January poster session** in the WLC library.
- WLC science teacher, Stephanie Erickson, recently completed the **Project Ice program** through COLDEX and the American Meteorological Society and has now been accepted into the **2026 Polar STEAM cohort**. She will collaborate with a polar climate researcher working with Arctic sediment cores and will help develop STEAM lessons using real climate data. She also hopes to share polar science lessons with elementary classrooms.

Mathematics

- High school math students are busy learning about **Geometry, Algebra I, Consumer Math, and Stock Market**.
- The Math Department is currently exploring options to plan a **spring field trip for Geometry**, aiming to give students meaningful real-world math experiences.

Library & Literacy

- The WLC Library hosted its **first Scholastic Book Fair in ten years**, which was met with strong excitement and participation from both students and staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Radloff, WLCTA President

WLC School Board Report

December 3, 2025

Academics

- The Administrative Team is doing a book study and implementing strategies to improve the subject area assessments to better demonstrate the application of skills and knowledge vs. regurgitating information taught.
 - This will enhance the work WLC has already begun and make our assessments more in line with the application of skills and knowledge.

Athletics

Fall season complete

- NHIAA - Soccer All State recognition
 - Vito Anzalone: All State - Second Team - defense
 - Tommaso Alborghetti: All State Honorable Mention
- Coaches evaluations are completed
- End of season surveys were shared with our student-athletes and parents.

Winter season

- MS started November 12th (Girls and Boys basketball)
- HS started November 17th (AT WLC: Varsity Girls Basketball; Varsity Boys Basketball; ; Coed Varsity Unified Basketball; Middle School Girls Basketball; Middle School Boys Basketball; WLC at Milford Swimming
 - First home games: Middle School Girls and Boys - December 4th; Varsity Girls and Boys - December 12th

CoCurricular

- Theater play: Finding Nemo Jr. took place on November 20 and 21 and was a huge hit
 - We are very appreciative of the PTO and Wilton Alliance for the upgrades to our sound system.
- Dance Team: [first place photo](#)



- Tennis Club - Supported by Advantage Kids - hosted end of Fall season awards November 18th. Special thank you to Miss Jodi Gibson for volunteering to help with this program.



WLC's Future

- Specific to Open Enrollment - information was shared with the staff meeting and a survey with students
 - Discussion is taking place specific to how we might modify our What I Need (WIN) block of time during the school day.

Behavior (for the months of October and November)

High School Behavioral Referrals:

- For the month of October there were 10 log entries that required administration's attention.
 - These log entries represent 4 students out of 153 students, which makes up 2.6% of the student population.
- For the month of November, there were 9 log entries that required administration's attention.
 - These log entries represent 8 students out of 153 students, which makes up 5.2% of the student population.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Aug/ Sept 2025</u>	<u>October 2025</u>	<u>October 2024</u>	<u>November 2025</u>	<u>November 2024</u>
Total Log Entries	10	7	9	9	4
Detentions	0	2	0	1	2
In School Suspension	3	1	0	1	0
Out of	1	0	1	2	0

School Suspension					
Restorative Practice	1	0	0	0	1
Other (ie-suspension from athletics, bus suspension, etc)	5	4	8	5	1

Middle School Behavioral Referrals:

- For the month of October, there were 7 log entries that required administration's attention.
 - These log entries represent 7 students out of 127 students, which makes up 5.5% of the student population.
- For the month of November there were 8 log entries that required administration's attention.
 - These log entries represent 8 students out of 127 students, which makes up 6.2% of the student population.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Aug/ Sept 2025</u>	<u>October 2025</u>	<u>October 2024</u>	<u>November 2025 (15 school days)</u>	<u>November 2024</u>
Total Log Entries	9	7	16	8	13
Detentions	0	2	6	0	4
In School Suspension	2	0	5	1	3
Out of School Suspension	0	2	1	1	0
Restorative Practice	3	1	1	4	6
Other (ie-suspension from athletics, bus suspension, etc)	4	1	3	2	0

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
December 2, 2025

A great deal has happened since our last update in October, and our students and staff have been busy with learning, teamwork, and community spirit!

October Highlights

We kicked off the month with LCS Emergency Service Days - thank you to all our first responders for visiting and supporting our schools. Throughout the month, we conducted emergency response drills, including successful off-site evacuation drills at both LCS and FRES. Our teams in Wilton and Lyndeborough provided tremendous support, and both staff and students did an outstanding job.

FRES also welcomed the Fire Department for a Fire Safety assembly, and Chief Skantze led engaging workshops for our 4th and 5th graders.

Of course, October also brought some fun! First graders enjoyed a spirited "Pie in the Face" event, and we wrapped up the month with our much-loved Halloween parades. LCS had a delayed celebration due to a power outage - thank you to our families for their patience and flexibility!

November News

November flew by, and it was filled with learning, community service, and celebration. We enjoyed another wonderful visit from NHDI - an energetic week of dance, teamwork, and creativity. We are grateful to NHDI for such a memorable experience.

In recognition of Veterans Day, students created cards that, with the help of Mrs. Ryan at the SAU, were delivered to local veterans at the Manchester VA Medical Center, the Community Care Home for Veterans, and the NH State Veterans Home. The recipients were incredibly appreciative of the students' thoughtful work.

The week of November 17th was perhaps our busiest yet! Students participated in SAS modular assessments, donated food items for the pantry, shopped at the Book Fair, and families attended Parent-Teacher Conferences. Our emergency service personnel also joined us to serve a special holiday meal. We ended the week with both the annual Turkey Trot and a fantastic PTO-sponsored Animal Encounters evening. It was a busy, educational, and fun-filled week!

We closed the month with a short week and a well-deserved holiday break.

December and Ahead

December brings excitement and anticipation as we head toward winter recess. We are looking forward to welcoming TIGER on December 5th - thank you to the PTO for sponsoring this important student program.

Fourth-grade teachers are also engaging in professional development with i-Ready and our new Magnetics program.

Our staff will be enjoying some holiday cheer of their own, including a cookie swap, gingerbread house contest, Secret Santa, and more!

We hope to see everyone at our Holiday Concert on December 11th, and families can look forward to Seven Days of Spirit Week leading into the break.

FRES Discipline Log Summary – 2025

August/September 2025

- 35 discipline log entries required administrative attention.
- 14 of these were bus referrals.
- These incidents involved 19 students out of 198, representing **9.6%** of the student body.

October 2025

- 19 discipline log entries required administrative attention.
- None of these were bus referrals.
- These incidents involved 15 students out of 198, representing **7.6%** of the student body.

November 2025

- 8 discipline log entries required administrative attention.
- 1 of these was a bus referral.
- These incidents involved 7 students out of 198, representing **3.5%** of the student body.

FRES	August/ September	October	November
Total Log Entries	35	19	8
Total Bus Referrals	14	0	1
ISS	0	2	1
OSS	0	0	0
Loss of Privilege	3	0	0
Other	18	17	7

Upcoming Dates

- **Friday, December 5** – TIGER Assembly
- **Thursday, December 11** – Holiday Concert, 6:00 PM @ FRES
- **December 15–23** – Spirit Week!
- **Friday, December 19** – Movie Day @ FRES
- **Friday, December 19** – PTO Game Night
- **Monday, December 22** – PTO Meeting, 6:00 PM
- **December 24 – January 2** – Holiday Recess (No School) – Happy Holidays!



Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District
School Administrative Unit #63

192 Forest Road Lyndeborough, NH 03082
603-732-9227

Peter Weaver
Superintendent of Schools

Samantha Dignan
Curriculum Coordinator

Kristie LaPlante
Business Administrator

Curriculum Coordinator Report December 2, 2025

Professional Learning

The New Hampshire Bar Association held the School Law in New Hampshire 2025 Conference in November. At this conference, several key topics were discussed, including, but not limited to, Open Enrollment in New Hampshire, updates to Special Education Law, and student discipline.

I have continued to share professional development opportunities, information regarding curriculum updates, and assessment information. These emails have information regarding professional development opportunities, including webinars after school, conferences. Other information in these emails includes updates on the curriculum committee and, professional development committee.

Certification and professional development are two areas I get a lot of questions from teachers about. Some of the questions are about the logistics of navigating our software, Vector, and some of the questions are related to how many hours a teacher needs in order to recertify, or what they should spend their hours doing. In an effort to support teachers, the Technology Director, Nick Buroker, and I are going to offer a drop-in style professional development after school to support teachers with the big questions and help on an individual basis.

I know it may seem early, but I have started the initial phases of planning the professional development half-day in February. Last year, we ran a "Choose Your Own Adventure" half-day, which received overwhelmingly positive feedback from teachers. This year, we would like to offer this style of professional development again. I have been working with outside professional development vendors as well as in-house experts to compile a variety of opportunities for staff. So far, the list includes CPR, CPI (Crisis Prevention Intervention), Data Studio training, iReady training, and Discovery Education Training.

With the implementation of the new English Language Arts program (Magnetics Reading) in grades 3-5, we have coaching opportunities for teachers with the program developers. Staff from Magnetics came in to observe our third-grade teachers using the program and gave them personalized feedback on their implementation. In addition, they met with the administration (Stacy Maghakian and Sam Dignan) to support their growth as leaders.

In addition to all of this, I am also facilitating a book study with the building-level administrators, as well as Superintendent Weaver. We are reading a book by Karin Hess, A Local Assessment Toolkit to Promote Deeper Learning.

New Teacher Meetings

Our new teachers met at FRES in November. We had two main agenda topics for this meeting. The first was a general overview of professional responsibilities in terms of certification and professional development. The second was the parent/student handbook, specifically around progressive discipline. Teachers located the parent/student handbooks for their respective schools and reviewed what the discipline protocols look like at each building. In addition, Katie Gosselin and I reviewed the laws around student discipline.

Curriculum

The same group of teachers has continued their dedication to finding a math program that meets the needs of our kindergarten through eighth-grade students. We have met several times to discuss the pros and cons of several different math programs. I have met with representatives from two different companies to get more information and samples of their programs for us to review. All of the programs we are reviewing are evidence-based and have been reviewed by [edreports](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring high-quality instructional materials are available to students.

Magnetic reading in conjunction with Ready Writing, are the English Language Arts programs we are using in grades 3-5. Starting in January, the fourth-grade team will pilot the newly developed Magnetic Literacy, the all-encompassing English Language Arts program. This program is aligned to the Science of Reading and the Science of Writing. They will have a professional learning day to learn more about the new and improved program.

Instruction

I have completed all (barring one) of the new teacher observations. This includes the pre-observation meeting, where we discuss the learning outcomes, instructional strategies, as well as areas in which teachers are hoping for specific feedback. After the observation, I write up the observation, including recommendations for each teacher, and meet with the teacher to discuss the observations and provide feedback. The final step is making any necessary changes to the observation based on this meeting. For example, if a teacher brings their formative assessment to the meeting, that data can then be entered into the observation. Or if the observation yielded questions, those questions can then be answered in the observation write-up. These observations become part of the summative assessment for teachers and go to their personnel file at the end of each school year.

Assessment

The students in grades 3-8 have completed their first New Hampshire Statewide Assessment System Modular in math. These modular assessments are “mini” versions of the larger assessment students take in the spring. This is the second year students have completed these Modulares. They serve multiple purposes, one, to allow students to see what the platform looks like. There are a lot of different types of technological skills required to access the material in general. For example, a dual screen, something that many adults are accustomed to, but to an 8-year-old seeing this for the first time, it can be quite challenging. Another reason is for us to use this as a gauge for our instruction. Are students able to show what they have learned so far this year? Last year we started by taking these Modulares, and teachers reviewed the Modulares in PLCs/IMPACT meetings. This year, we will continue to take the Modular Assessments and will walk through the data with administrators and teachers together. We will also use these Modular assessments to make changes to our instruction.

Grants

I have continued to meet with the Dean of Pedagogy at High Mowing to discuss grant funding to ensure they are allocated the appropriate amount from both Title II and Title IV. We have discussed their equitable shares and different ideas for how the funding can be utilized.

FRES

I continue to spend a day at FRES to support with behavior. The types of calls I have responded to in October and November include disruptive behavior, where students typically required a break from the classroom and a conversation around classroom expectations, as well as recess behavior. In addition, I continue to meet bi-weekly with the Special Education Case Managers at FRES to support them in a variety of ways. We also met as a Special Education team from PreK-12 to discuss our practices around behavior management and academics, and how we are supporting students in their transition from one building to another throughout the year.

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, November 18, 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 Lavalley, John Zavgren, Michelle Alley, Paul White, Erin Collins, Darlene Anzalone, Diane Foss, and Jonathan Lavoie*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principals Tom Ronning and Principal Stacy Maghakian, Assistant Principal Katie Gosselin, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, 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. STUDENT/STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Principal Ronning and Assistant Principal Gosselin honored students from the dance team. The New England Cheer and Dance Competition was held on November 8; this was the 35th year with the competition held at Emmanuel College in Boston. There were 137 teams at the event with 6 sections starting at 10:30AM and ending at about 10:00PM. We received 86.2 points and were awarded 1st place in the Junior High Hip Hop competition. WLC moves on to the Regionals on Sunday February 15 at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts. To prepare for the competition the team has been practicing 3 times a week totaling around 80 hours from the start of school. Team members were present and congratulated, students Cassie Emmons (6 seasons), Raelyn Morrissey (2 seasons), Isabel McKown (2 seasons), Ashley Mitchell (1st season), Harper Perrier (1 season), and coach Mel Jones was recognized for her endless work with the dance team.

Assistant Principal Gosselin spoke of the September Starfish Award winner, Principal Tom Ronning. His impact on WLC is felt in every classroom, and every person is fortunate enough to know him. He embodies the spirit of the Starfish story, making one meaningful change at a time, never losing sight of how each individual moment of care can transform our school. Through steady, intentional acts of service, he has helped shape WLC into an amazing place to learn, work and belong. His devotion to students is unmatched. He shows up for them not only as an educator, but as a champion of their growth, their potential and well-being. He also stands as a mentor to the staff of WLC and district colleagues, guiding with wisdom, compassion, and an unwavering belief in the power of education. His dedication to student learning is not just part of his work, it is who he is through his core. In the face of recent news of his medical journey, he has shown nothing but grace. His strength is quiet, humble, and inspiring. Even through this his thoughts are with WLC where they always have been, on the students he serves every single day. Thank you for your service to WLC, your leadership, your kindness, and your incredible spirit and with sincere appreciation, the staff honors you tonight with our September Starfish Award.

IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent requested to add a student matter to nonpublic.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavalley and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to add a student matter to nonpublic session.
Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Business Administrator's Report

• Legal Opinion-Health Information

Ms. LaPlante reported paperwork on the tax rates have been submitted for the towns of Wilton and Lyndeborough. Right now, towns are working to set their tax rates. She intends to do a presentation in December, a historical kind of marker of what our per pupil costs are for the Board and public. Currently she is working on the RFP for transportation, our contract ends on June 30 but there is an option for 2, 1-year extensions. We have partnered with Milford School District to hopefully get access to the rates that they get as a larger district. There is a pre-bid meeting coming up this Thursday to discuss it and then bids are due in December. Within the last few weeks, we've had 2 power outages that affected LCS. There is a backup generator owned by the

Town of Lyndeborough, it is their emergency shelter. Unbeknownst to the Town Administrator, Geoffrey Allen, and the selectman, that generator went down and was in need of repair. It was not until the first instance of no power that they became aware of it. Mr. Allen was phenomenal, we talked about options and after the second outage, talked again and they put in the work needed to get it up and running. They are looking at what their long-term options would be for repairing it. She believes it is a substantial repair. She acknowledges that it was a one-off that has never happened where the generator didn't automatically kick on. There is a generator at FRES, which is Wilton's emergency shelter. There is none at WLC. She spoke with Mr. Buroker, IT Director and he is researching just to get numbers if we could move the access point for internet, phones and fiber which currently all come out of WLC, could we move that to FRES. If we have a power outage at WLC currently, we don't have phones or internet throughout the district. It is something that will probably be discussed through the Technology Committee, but she wanted to plant that seed that we are looking at the long-term implications. A question was raised whether the new walkie talkies have the ability to communicate with emergency services with the absence of the phone system to contact police and fire. Ms. LaPlante will look into that; the backup battery is only 15 minutes. A question was raised whether there is a plan for periodic testing of the generators. Ms. LaPlante does not know because they are owned by the individual towns, but she will follow up on it. At her prior employment they did weekly tests. She is not sure if the one at LCS can be done because of its age. It may be something we want to add to the district emergency management plan. She spoke of health insurance. At a prior meeting they discussed the \$231,000 SchoolCare assessment. We have received our rates for next year and they have increased significantly. The driving cost is increase in the cost of care, utilization, specialty drugs, and muscular skeletal issues as well as national trends that are driving the increased costs. The rate has gone up 34.6%, we are one of the highest and that is based on our claims. Dental went up 6% and she budgeted 8% so that is a slight savings there. She is working with Cross Insurance to research our claim data to go out to get other costs. It is not going to be a quick answer, and we won't have that before the December meeting, maybe and estimate in January but it is a long-term investment that we're looking at. There are 2 risk pools within the State of NH, Health Trust, and SchoolCare. Health Trust currently has sanctions by the Secretary of State's Office currently because there is a disagreement with how they run their reserves, there is no easy solution. She spoke of reaching out to council regarding a Budget Committee request for a detailed list of specific benefit costs for health and dental. We were reluctant to provide that information and council agreed that we can provide an aggregate of what makes up the total health care costs and not by specific employees and cannot give out personal identifiable information. She provided a document regarding the electricity contact with rates. We buy our electricity and lock in our rates with energy providers. Standard Power is our consultant. We didn't send out an RFP. They took our information and sent it out to their businesses, and we received 3 prices for electricity for 12, 24, 36-month contracts which are on the document. Constellation is slightly higher than First Point Power and slightly in the end a little higher than Engie but asks the Board to consider renewing the contract with Constellation since this would be our 2nd 3-year contract and would like to think at the end of this 3-year contract we may have longevity to get some better rates looking more toward the future. If the Board is in a position to take action, she can work with Standard Power to get the contracts drawn up. Mr. Lavoie does this for work and says there is no benefit staying with any of them. He recommends choosing the lowest rate and going with a 36-month contract. It is a good time as the energy rates are lower due to gas dropping. If they were higher, he would recommend doing less months.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to contract with First Point or Engie at a rate of .1128 for 36 months.

Chairman Golding suggested choosing one.

Mr. Lavoie AMMENDS his MOTION to contract First Point Power for 36 months (at .1128) and Ms. Alley SECONED.

Responding to a request to explain in a nutshell what that means, Mr. Lavoie explained that Eversource, our provider, and most can pick where the energy comes from. Ms. LaPlante went through a broker, and they give their best rates usually for 12, 24, or 36 months. That price stays locked in for the amount of the contract, (this case 3-years) so if it goes up, we pay the rate we locked in at, if it goes down, we pay the rate we locked in at.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Ms. LaPlante was thanked for working with the Lyndeborough and DPW to get the lights fixed at LCS. Ms. LaPlante said it was all Mr. Hofstetter; he did a great job with that.

There was a brief discussion of the soccer lights regarding one not working, Ms. LaPlante will look into this. She confirmed that she is working to meet compliance of RSA 325D which requires school districts and municipalities to report any money they received from the state and federal government and have that as a running report on their website or posted in 2 public places and available to the public. She notes it was not advertised through the Business Administrators; the Budget Committee brought it to them.

VI. 7:00 PM JOINT BOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION

Present: Bill Ryan, Alyssa Lavoie, Bridget Mooney, Craig Alley, Phil Brooks, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Jennifer Bernet, Harold Melcher, and Robert Silva

The Budget Committee is already in session as they were meeting prior. The joint session started at 6:53PM.

a. FY 2026-2027

Ms. Lavoie asked if there were any specific goals from the School Board to the Budget Committee, (she knows the Strategic Planning Committee is working on it) as they build the budget. Ms. Lavallee responded that the Board has not voted collectively but can weigh in regarding that. The Strategic Planning Committee's last meeting was in October and does not have specific goals affecting the budget process. She spoke of her personal goal, to take a look at what we need, provide the most opportunity and the best education for students, keeping in mind the difficulties of funding that at the local level. In NH we are the last in all 50 states in getting funding from the state. We need to be cognizant of that when we're forming the budget. That being said, it is important we take a look and have all our needs met and then after the needs are met we should be looking at our wants and what we can do to enhance the district as a whole with those wants. This is her opinion on where we should go with the budget. Ms. Foss spoke of since being on the Board, we have always tried to put kids 1st and then after that if there is something we need to shave off because there are towns people who are concerned, we do that but we always look at what is needed first and then we go into what can we do to make it as palatable as possible. Chairman Ryan asked Mr. Vanderhoof if he wanted to bring something up, he did not but was given the opportunity again by Chairman Golding. Ms. Lavoie expressed that one of the things that was brought up at their last meeting was the request to look at additional things. WLC has chosen to not increase their budget, one of the things the Budget Committee will be looking at and is interested to hear the School Board's opinion about, is funding the golf team and adding support for robotics and the dance team and a number of other co-curriculars. There have been a number of other curricular statements made at various meetings. Nothing has been changed on the budget by the Budget Committee or administration at this time. She would like to hear what the School Board has to say in terms of some direction for that or their opinion. Ms. Lavallee recused herself from the discussion regarding the golf team because her son plays and her husband is the coach. Regarding the larger idea of the wants of the district she thinks it is important to keep in mind the feedback we get from the community. She has heard a lot from the community that they would like to see growth with some of our programs. They would like to see the programs we currently have to be supported financially and that includes dance, athletics etc. and some parents would like more opportunities. She understands it is a hard balance because of the price tag that comes with that. Everybody is facing increases including us and SchoolCare's increase is concerning, personally she supports having some of those wants added to the budget within reason. It was suggested that it would be more helpful to have the Budget Committee come up with questions and then they can be discussed as a group rather than getting individual answers from every Board member here, it probably would be more efficient. It was noted that the bid was won for the donation from the casino that was discussed by the Performance Tech Committee and the equipment they need will be a fraction of that. It was suggested the Budget Committee work with Ms. LaPlante on what to do with the extra money, maybe it could be used for some of the ideas like the golf team or tennis, etc. Discussion was had including if we offer these programs, not just athletics, we need to support them. It was suggested to find out what the teams need and what could be supported in the budget. It was noted it is a matter of pride for the students and the community wants them supported. Ms. Foss spoke about one thing people don't consider is how it helps people's overall health, mind, and body now and in the future. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke of every time, to their credit, someone comes up with a new program and you draw 5 students out and maybe one of those was a soccer player and one was a cross country runner and then you drop those teams down by adding but the benefit of adding a program also detracts from other programs due to the number of students. At some point we will get spread too thin and we should pick and choose the most popular and beneficial ones. In the past we have sent students to other places, but we seem to be trying to bring a lot of stuff in, and he is not sure we have the population to adequately fill those things. Even with the teams we have, we need 6 people to score at a meet for cross country, maybe it is down to 5, the kids are getting the benefit of running, which is great, but they are not really getting a chance to compete as a team. It is only an individual sport at that point. He suggests it be thought about. Ms. Lavallee spoke of varsity soccer having more players than they needed, kudos to the coach who kept kids on the team so they could experience it and the same with the golf players, and they were not kids who played soccer. Part of the rationale for adding these programs is there has been discussion in the state around education in general and around potential open enrollment in the state. If we want to be a viable district and keep ourselves going, we need to attract people. She does not feel the solution is to decrease programs we have if the kids are showing up and participating. Years ago, we did decrease programming, we eliminated French because there 2 students taking it and that was not viable. It was suggested to do a survey with the students, if they could have 1 new club or sport added what would it be. She is just using golf as an example with numbers, her opinion is in regard to soccer and programming as a whole, not individual. Principal Ronning was asked to speak with the student board representatives and see if we can develop something like that. Principal Ronning responded that they had that discussion at 3pm today. A question was raised if our current sports and offerings are funded correctly and do they have everything they need? Ms. Lavoie responded and indicated we are where we need to be with the established sports. She spoke of the School Board possibly discussing and considering having activity fees. A lot of districts do and as we start wanting to provide more opportunities that might be part of the solution with the understanding that there would also be help if there is a financial need for a family in order to participate so that a child is never not able to be on a team for financial reasons. She is sure other districts have policies related to this. There was a brief discussion of how joint meetings have been run historically. Chairman Golding reviewed that for the last 3 years Mr. Jones ran the joint session, he asked the Budget Committee what questions you wanted to go over, the Board hears from administration, and we've all formulated our questions. The intent is for everyone to get the information. The Budget Committee gets the bulk of the budget presentations and then comes here if there are other questions. It was asked whether joint meetings are needed. Ms. LaPlante explained that we have always done joint sessions, the Budget Committee would meet prior,

and presentations were done with both Boards. With this being a shift, the intent of tonight is that we are more than halfway through the budget process, and it is opportunity to say are we comfortable with what we are looking at, is there anything we want to collectively change. Having said that there are some things that were discussed at the Budget Committee meetings that can be discussed here, the warrant articles. Ms. Lavoie noted this meeting next year may not be necessary because the Budget Committee still has a lot of bulk information coming to them for the December 3 meeting. They don't have a full picture of the budget yet. Until they see all the pieces presented, ask questions, and get clarification. Chairman Golding spoke that is why we have a budget liaison too, that is why we cut it back last year it seemed a little unnecessary. Maybe we will cut it back further next year. Ms. Lavallee rerecommended the Budget Committee, when forming their budget, are looking at it financially and the Board, has our role and we are looking at what we're required to do under policy, setting class sizes, making sure that all the requirements for the state are met etc. She envisions it to be a more effective way of dealing with this through the budget process as questions come up regarding changes in staff ratios or changing courses for the information to be sent to the Board, a straw poll or vote can be taken and bring that information back to the Budget Committee. That seems, according to her, to be the most effective way to deal with it. Ms. Lavallee volunteered to be the Board's Budget Committee Liaison for the remainder of the process.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to nominate Ms. Lavallee as the Budget Committee Liaison. Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Chairman Ryan was asked to add her to the roster.

b. Warrant Articles

Ms. LaPlante reported that the Budget Committee asked her to do research into whether it is feasible to add 2 capital reserve accounts. We have capital reserve accounts for SPED, technology and Building and Roadways. The question was, is it feasible to add one for unspent funds in case of a spike in health insurance like this year, perhaps rather than funding it at the full 34.6%, we fund it at 20% and we withdraw 14% from that as an example. It is an allowable capital reserve fund under the RSA. We have Buildings and Roadways which doesn't speak to fields, or any of our other athletic curricular programs. Would there be any interest in developing curricular capital reserve? Ms. Lavoie spoke of the \$75,000 line item for salaries and benefits. Ms. LaPlante confirms this is an allowance in case the plan estimates have excessive changes. A discussion was had including adding the allowance in a capital reserve vs. keeping it in the budget to allow for a more stable budget. There were examples also given such as if the lights in the soccer field all stopped working at the same time. It was asked why the lights could not be built into the CIP. Ms. LaPlante confirms based on counsel's advice it is not a liable use by definition for the Building and Roadways Capital Reserve. We could create a new one or change the definition of the existing. It was confirmed that all the money spent from the CIP is funding coming from the Building and Roadways Capital Reserve and confirms you could not just add the lights to the CIP because of this. Ms. Lavoie expressed her concern and is against changing the language of the Building and Roadways Capital Reserve due to the history of decreasing the amount asked for on the warrant to offset the operating budget article. Discussion was had including could we create a CIP for co-curriculars etc. and if it would be presented to the town the projects it would be used for would need to be discussed otherwise it becomes a "slush fund." Discussions continued on this matter including concern about having too many warrant articles. It was suggested to look at other towns as they have many capital improvements or trust funds. Chairman Golding expressed we will look into these. Ms. LaPlante spoke of RSA 198:4b, a contingency fund, and read the language. This would allow the district to retain any unused portion of the year-end unassigned general funds from the preceding fiscal year in subsequent fiscal years, providing that the total amount of the year-end unassigned general fund does not exceed in any fiscal year 5% of the current fiscal year's net assessment. It is allowing the district to retain some portion of unassigned fund balance year end rather than returning 100% of it. If the voters approve it, prior to expending any funds retained, the School Board will have to hold a public hearing on the action and a detailed report of all expenditures from the contingency fund shall be made annually by the School Board and published in the annual report. It is something most districts do, if not probably 90% of the ones she looked at. Ms. Lavoie noted, it is a lot of new funds, but we are catching up. How can we improve now that we have a stabilized budget for the last few years? She spoke of the Budget Committee being urged to try to minimize the unexpended fund balance as well so that we are not having \$500,000-\$600,000 at the end of the year. With the intent of bringing that down and getting a slimmer budget, if you will, something like this would be more important. In response to a question, Ms. LaPlante explained it is capped at 5%, in year 1. The cap is no more than 5% of the net assessment. There are some towns where their policy is 2.5%, that is how they wrote their warrant article and then they have policies behind it. Discussion continued, including that there are policies and processes in place for getting more money from the community if needed, for example the boilers needed to be replaced. It is very transparent vs. a new warrant. Mr. Vanderhoof thinks it is easier to spend and harder to govern. He understands the intent but envisions it allowing more spending on things we may not have spent on. He gave the example of when the pipe froze, they worked through the budget and made it happen with still money left over. He is not in support of a new warrant. Ms. Lavoie thinks putting it in front of the taxpayers is better to see which scenario they prefer. Her concern is that we have not gone to taxpayers to ask for additional funding instead we do budget freezes and cut things out of the budget. Chairman Ryan informed the group this was voted on at district meeting not that long ago and was voted down, they didn't want what they called was a "slush fund," it was overwhelmingly voted down. Discussion continued including there are times when things come up where we can cover it and other times we cannot. Ms. Lavallee spoke of concern when we use statements like it is "more transparent." She struggles with that because she thinks that the process we have in place is very transparent and the process described by Ms. Lavoie is very transparent. If we have a fund

that is set up and specifically defined under the warrant article to be used for emergencies, it is not a “slush fund” at all. It is planning for a bad event fund, and she feels it is important for us to plan ahead for things. She also feels the Board has demonstrated and the Budget Committee has demonstrated that when we have a fund that is fully funded like the SPED fund we don’t go back to the taxpayers and ask for any more money. The taxpayers have a chance in March to vote on warrants and a chance in March to vote for board members that sit up here and decide on what those warrant articles are going to be. She thinks it is both fiscally and educationally responsible for us to have a contingency fund for us to fund by having a warrant article every year asking taxpayers if we can use unspent funds. Responding to a question, Ms. LaPlante confirms to spend from it, the Board votes at a public hearing. A question was raised whether Ms. LaPlante could provide an example of something that it would be spent on. Ms. LaPlante was not prepared to discuss that, only present the topic. Ms. Lavalley noted her understanding is it would be used for things that are a safety issue or problem with communication system or something that had to be fixed so that school could function safely. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke of his concerns, and he does not support it. Discussion continued including it is not a “slush fund,” it is to be spent on certain things, it has been said twice the goal is to have a more balanced budget and you still need a meeting to vote on spending. There was disagreement voiced. The process for noticing a public hearing was reviewed. Ms. Lavoie noted the difference is how it affects taxpayers, you already collected taxes on one and there are no additional taxes needing to be appropriated. The other option is that new expense creates additional taxes on top of last year’s taxes. Responding to a question, Ms. LaPlante confirms she would need to check with council to see if we could put guardrails in the language. Superintendent expressed we will ask about putting some parameters and guardrails around this and research it. Some districts have used it for other things, and he would be supportive for us to see if we can put guardrails, certainly it would be better to have it and not close school but would like direction on how to spend it given the changes we have annually in administration and elections. We would like to do that if the Board agrees. No objection heard, it will be researched. A question was raised if we didn’t have an emergency fund and an emergency happened and we had to go to the town and say we need another \$50,000 and they voted on it, how does that work? Ms. LaPlante responded we have to petition the DRA as well as the courts under specific guidelines about why we need to have another meeting and ask for more money and it has to be something significant.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Kelly Gibson, Wilton spoke about this evening’s discussion and wanted to give a lot of credit to the LaVoie’s, they have a lot of points. She disagrees with Mr. Vanderhoof, she thinks when we are talking about it in a sense of taking it players to play other sports, having 5 children they do not all want to play the same sport, they are all different. She does not believe you would lose players going elsewhere. She spoke of her experience running the tennis program at no cost to taxpayers, all her children would not be playing other sports, and this gives them a home for all abilities. Her kids who have special needs are all together with all the players and unified as a family. When you talk about funding programs and how will it be allocated. They have been at it since January and had great enrollment and are consistent. She invited board members to come to practice, and no one came. She invited them to the WLC tennis page, and no one has done it, not even a secretary, or principal. She has been very transparent. She wants to have all come and see. They gave out awards tonight to 12 students and her daughter gave the opening speech. The majority of this has been created by her daughter, this program and what we are going to say no because we have no funding or something else is more important. Does it come to seniority, how does the Board decide which program will be funded and it is important. If seniority, then tennis came before golf. She spoke of having some amazing players, gave shout-out to Sydney. She spoke of her son being told he could not play because he is not at a competitive level. Her daughter can’t get a scholarship even though NHIAA would allow her to play, hence she is creating the program. Some point Mr. Vanderhoof brought up, she has a comeback for every one of them. When she brought up people paying for sports, she would need some help being able to pay for it but in Massachusetts any sports or co-curricular, there is a fee associated with it so there is not a cost to the taxpayer only to those who want it. It is a good point brought up. She hopes more learn about tennis. She spoke of water on the court which had to be removed for the kids to play on it for the 1st time. It is only 1 more year and then it will go away because there is no line item for it. She thinks it is important for Advantage Kids and supporters who have supported it and they have a student signing certificate for each award. Fran Bujak helped coach, please do not dismiss something even if it is not the numbers you were hoping for. Twelve children playing consistently and 6 children on wait list is pretty good and you will need to put money aside for the court and the shed is dilapidated. Good job guys.

Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

Ms. Crystal Gill thanked the Board for all they do and the time they put in. She spoke regarding an earlier conversation that the casino funds were received and could be used for co-curriculars. The money is not guaranteed, it is fluid and the group has not been given a secure date. She is not saying that the funding can’t be donated but the expectation should not be set that they will just there and funded. Like Ms. Gibson said, whether it’s a large number of students, options should be offered. Regarding the funds we don’t even have yet, it would be unfair to students and feel these things should be built into the budget whether it is our

big varsity sports or extracurricular. Remember nothing is guaranteed with those funds and we want to be sure we can provide that for our students.

Ms. Mel Jones, Wilton resident, and dance team coach since 1997, spoke that she has always asked for a small amount from every dance member since the very beginning and that goes into a bucket held in the office. Ms. Draper controls that or whoever the person was back then. It is spent on the team only and doesn't come to her, she doesn't see it as it goes right there from the beginning. She has tried to keep that expense very low with the little we get in we are able to do all the stuff we have, shoes, uniforms and she does a little sewing to alter when needed. She is thankful for all the donations received in the past years. This team enjoys seeing other performances too, it gets them excited. We go to the dance camps and would love to go to Orlando next year and are trying to do something every 2-3 years if we qualify. It takes a lot to do these extra curriculums, it is not fair to any of our students that it may not be here next year.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Ms. Lavoie to adjourn the Budget Committee meeting and joint session at 8:17pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

VIII. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ms. Anzalone spoke of an athletic advisory committee and thinks there should be a curricular advisory committee. One of the things they are looking at in the strategic planning committee is looking at curriculums. She suggests getting a group together to look at every activity, not just the soccer team and baseball team, all the teams and really find out what teams we have and what they need. We can't cover the cost of everything but should try to come up with a plan. Maybe we budget \$100 a student for example or something to put in the budget. Determine to cover a certain amount of what the clubs and teams need. She thinks it is important, if we are going to offer them to the kids we need to put the money into it as a matter of pride for the kids. She is not sure why the tennis team is not considered a sports team and why are they not part of sports night. She would consider the dance team an athletic team. She thinks we just need to look at all the different things we offer and make sure there is money in the budget to fund those. There was a brief discussion of how much we are budgeting for athletics and \$50,000 was mentioned. Ms. Alley noted that there may be some confusion because we keep talking about a "slush fund" using that to fund athletics. She thinks Ms. Lavoie was asking us if we want to add things to the budget now and what our interest is in doing that. She suggests we first have the survey before we talk about what we would want in the budget. Superintendent spoke of being in the heart of the budget process and not in a place where we think we need to add anything back in, but we can if the Board wishes. Ms. LaPlante confirms we spend about \$192,000 on athletics throughout the budget and includes field maintenance or any of our asset maintenance, coaching staff, transportation, uniforms and all those kinds of things. Superintendent explained we have less than 5% of the discretionary funds he believes. Most of the budget is locked in with contracts etc., about \$50,000 is the amount we have to make decisions over. We are meeting with Milford tomorrow and looking at a RFP to keep that price down and are looking at SPED costs increasing significantly, looking at a CBA for support staff and he thinks we are in a good place with that. We have a lot of costs up ahead and have not even talked about open enrollment yet. There is a lot of movement at the state level. He has spoken with 3 different attorneys and got 3 different answers regarding open enrollment. It's a big deal and could significantly cost us. We are trying to be very careful with the budget and feel we are in a good place with the 2.44% increase where we started. He spoke of being pretty committed to trying to keep this budget in a place where it can get support from the community at district meeting. The worst-case scenario is that they don't support any of our warrant articles and we're kind of scrambling at that point to fund somethings that we've asked for. He spoke of coming here the year after the \$400,000 was cut from the budget and he remembers dealing with a halftime school counselor etc. and it took us 5 years to get some of those programs and resources back into the system. The community has been supportive, but he feels like the way society is changing right now and the conditions we are in, we just have to be careful how much we put back in and how much we ask our community members to support at district meeting. He also spoke about knowing how important athletics is as a longtime coach and well aware. He suggested looking at a booster club that supports athletics and maybe we could reallocate some of the athletic money to the curricular programs that we want to grow. Conversations like that and workarounds where we could fund that even charging \$2 at the basketball game might only raise a \$1,000 in revenue for us but we could earmark that for example to buy sandwiches for away games in Colebrook for the kids so they have something to eat on the way back because they are not getting home until 11 at night. Ms. Lavallee spoke about the budget as a whole noting we really can't forget that right now in NH, school funding as a whole is very complex. It is moving very quickly, and changes are being made. She thinks sometimes the frustration we hear that is directed at the Board is really frustrations with the fact that our state is not funding public education. There are people actively in legislation who do not support public education and support choice which for some people works great but it doesn't work for everybody. She feels her job as board member is to build a good community not just the kids but the towns and community too. It is important for us to have a valuable school that people have good experiences in so that when students go off as adults they don't move to Massachusetts, Maine or Vermont, that they stay in our towns because we are going to rely on them when we are all older. We're going to need nurses, police officers etc. We need people in our community to stay here. The best way to do that is build a great foundation when they are young. She spoke of school funding being complex right now. She spoke of seeing costs shifted down to us multiple times where taxpayer money has shifted to fund things with no accountability regarding education and the need to educate people. She thinks a booster club is a great idea, there

is a need to find that perfect balance. Mr. Lavoie spoke regarding the casino funds; he meant that maybe helping to fund the dance team with a small amount of money would be possible. He understands they decide whatever they want to do with that money. He spoke of having line items for sports and extracurriculars, maybe the booster club could help with some of that so that it doesn't actually have to come out of the budget. He pointed out that sometimes it is said that the sports team has a small percentage of participants, but we have a small school. He believes there are roughly 60 kids per class in each of the MS grades, if you have that in grades, 6, 7, and 8 that comes out to about 195 kids, some quick math says we had 13% of the MS soccer kids and then add in baseball, volley ball and unified sports programs, we are probably talking 40%-50% of the kids that go to school are involved in some type of extracurricular or sports. Add in all these other things like robotics teams etc. that percentage just keeps growing. He thinks it is important that we don't act like these sports and these extracurriculars are small potatoes when we have 50%-70% participating in something. There was discussion about having a subcommittee to talk about these things. It was noted the athletic advisory committee has basically disbanded. Superintendent spoke of being leery adding another subcommittee, it is getting harder to get home late at night, but the Board can direct administration to make a presentation. They can be as involved as you want to be able to make good decision but certainly if you're on a committee you want to have Principal Ronning and some others, he would like to involve elementary as well they are missed quite a bit and it's a feeder program. Discussion was had, does it have to be a school board committee and not wanting it to be just about athletics. Some want to see line items in the budget and not looking at it as a waste of money if it is something that gets the shy student involved we need to invest in it more and sounds like there is more happening than we are aware. It was suggested to have people come in and talk about the different sports and give more recognition to kids. It was suggested that it may have more weight if it is a school board committee. It was noted the scope and sequence would need to be determined and if we are starting to get into the nitty gritty that would go outside the purview of the school board. It needs to be clearly defined to be sure we are not in waters we shouldn't be and ask employees to come in at night. Superintendent asks if it would help if he worked with the principals and do an overall look at athletics and curriculum and do a presentation. He spoke of knowing the importance of athletics in school and community. We can do the survey. He thinks they have collected all the numbers of kids participating in curriculums and can give those. You may find that the need we have is very small and maybe doesn't need a committee, maybe it just needs some direction from the Board in this current operating budget or may be you find that we do need a subcommittee you see too many gaps in the program. He thinks a real issue is how to hold on to coaches. If we can find inspiring, highly qualified coaches that stay with our program which has been an issue since he has been here. That is how we grow the program and how do we do that. He asks the Board to allow a presentation at the next meeting. He believes the Budget Committee would support any changes that we made if there were direction. Chairman Golding suggests before we add another committee, allow the Superintendent to gather the information before we put too much time into it. A question was raised whether there was a way to add a discussion of athletics and programs to the board meetings. Ms. Lavallee spoke of wanting to know what programs and clubs are done by volunteers. There is a student in 9th grade starting an origami club. She spoke that if someone feels passionate about a program it usually takes more than the suggestion, sometimes you need to volunteer your time to get it going.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie for administration to bring to our next meeting a list of every single sport, extracurricular and club we have to offer.

Mr. Lavoie added we don't need the cost or expense just what we have. Chairman Golding expressed that a motion is not needed to provide direction. He asks if all members agree, and all agreed and no objection was heard. Ms. Anzalone asked that as you are bringing that forward could you bring any applicable curriculum around any of that. She would be interested in what our curriculum is for gym class, are we teaching the kids how to play these different sports or origami, is there something in the art curriculum and try to see how we weave some of this in all if possible. Superintendent responds, we can fold that in. A presentation will be created. Regarding warrant articles, there is not a recommendation for the amount to put on the buildings and roadways article at this time. Ms. LaPlante and the Superintendent will look into the other articles that were discussed. Chairman Golding asked for any additional discussion on warrants, none heard.

IX. POLICIES

a. 2nd Reading

i. JLF-Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

ii. JLF-R-Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Form

iii. IHBAE-Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities

Ms. Lavallee reported this is the 2nd reading of these policies, the only change we made to the policies at the first read was to JLF-R, adding a recommendation to the top of the 1st page for the form to be filled out prior to calling DCYF. No other changes were made.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to approve policy JLF-Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect, JLF-R-Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Form, IHBAE-Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

X. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to approve the minutes of October 28, 2025, as written. Voting: eight ayes; one abstention from Ms. Anzalone, motion carried.

b. Superintendent Search

Ms. Lavallee reviewed that the position was posted in September and we did receive a couple of applications. Chairman Golding spoke regarding the search for a Superintendent and there has been a development regarding this and asked if the Superintendent would like to speak to this. Superintendent spoke of being grateful regarding the confidence that the Board has in him and the administration team. He enjoys working with them. It has been a good Board, and he was asked if he would stay one more year and he agreed. The biggest reason is because he believes in this district. He is personally concerned about the landscape in education and one of the things he spoke to the administrators about today is how we create a school where kids and parents want to come here and what we can bring here that they don't have in Milford, Jaffrey-Rindge and Hollis-Brookline. We have a lot of things going on like negotiations. He is really excited to stay and is grateful. Chairman Golding confirms we have a Superintendent for next year. He asks for a motion to disband the search committee, direct Ms. Fowler to email anyone who has applied, give thanks and we will keep them on file for the future.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone to disband the Superintendent Search Committee.

Mr. Lavoie noted that he would like the last candidate to look at us down the road. He spoke of the district making strides under Superintendent Weavers direction and the stigma around it is really changing.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Chairman Golding asked Ms. Fowler to craft a thoughtful note with the Board's gratitude for apply and ask the last candidate to look at us down the road. The post for volunteers for the committee will need to be removed as well.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Anzalone and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to take down the ad and communicate with the candidates.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Budget Liaison

Ms. Lavallee reported we went over everything except for one thing we didn't discuss tonight and that was discussed at the Budget Committee meeting was a very long discussion of grant funding and being transparent with where that money is going. Ms. LaPlante did some education regarding how grant funding works because it is on a different fiscal schedule than our schedule runs. For example, under certain grants we have the 24-25 year to spend it and the 25-26 year to spend it. It is complicated sometimes to capture that into our budget because that money can be carried over. There also seems to be a lot of confusion over how the decisions were made over where the grant money gets spent, and where the priorities are. It is highly regulated by the government, whether it's a state grant or a federal grant. The way grants are funded is you find out usually around July what you may get and are given parameters over what you can spend it on and then we have a grant committee that has to discuss potential projects. The money cannot be spent until those projects are laid out in a form submitted to the federal or state government. They read the form, get all the details of what's going to be funded and give a thumbs up or down, maybe they need more information and will ask for that. It is a highly regulated process and kept tabs on through whatever state or federal funding it is. Ms. LaPlante voiced that was the bulk of what was discussed. We talked about ways that we can better represent what we've historically used the funding for because that's ideally an indicator of what we could use it for in the future. It is not always guaranteed that at this point we know what money we're going to get and what our priorities are. Having said that, you spoke extensively about our grants being highly regulated and she wanted to address a comment that was made in the meeting. She reviewed what the Budget Committee member said, "I see \$350,000 going in a generic expense and \$350,000 coming out, as general funding and I have no idea where that's going. That's fine, maybe it's going in somebody's pocket, maybe it is going to lunches. I don't know what it's going to. There's no information." Ms. LaPlante spoke of taking offense to that, she has done her job diligently since the day she stepped foot in this district. She is transparent to a fault. She doesn't have anything to hide. Given the state of the finances of several districts in this state, she doesn't appreciate the insinuation, whether it's the Superintendent or herself, making nefarious choices with the district's money, whether we get that money directly from taxpayers or through federal grants. It is really upsetting that it was put out in the budget committee meeting and could be put out to our constituents who will be voting on the budget. Superintendent spoke for the record, the manifests, the monthly expenditures that the Board reviews twice a month, 2 board members check it, looking at it and asking questions about it. Ms. LaPlante is also responsible for filing a monthly financial statement, so the state is a pass-through for the federal grants, but she has to file a financial statement every month. They've withheld money because they didn't approve of the activities that we asked for as they felt the activity wasn't aligned with the intent or purpose of that goal. He has struggled with that especially with High Mowing because they're not used to really working with federal grants. He and Ms. LaPlante thought about that and to one extent it may have been a lighthearted comment. On another point, he doesn't think it necessarily represents the entire Budget Committee. He thinks the people that may have been listening or are watching the video afterwards and seeing a

comment like that may make some conclusions. We have tried to work hard to move away from that perspective that we're not transparent. Any kind of loose comments like that can be a poor reflection on that. He spoke of wanting their comments on record. Ms. Lavallee spoke of attempting to provide clarification in the meeting regarding this. She wants from the Board to review what her scope is at the budget committee meetings. Her vision is to provide them with information. During the grant discussion she provided them with information that we didn't necessarily discuss here but it was information she had from being at the grant meetings. She views her role as providing information, making sure that information is being reviewed is correct and to also bring them anything the Board's wants her to back, but she is looking for feedback from the Board what they see is her role. If they have questions, she will bring that to the Board, have discussions, and then bring that back to the budget committee. Chairman Golding asked if that was alright with the members, no objection heard. Ms. Foss adds sometimes casual comments come out of people whether on the budget committee or any other committee and is troubled by that too. Chairman Golding expressed as far as grant funding, it has been thoroughly explained over multiple meetings last year and the same questions asked and answered multiple times.

ii. Negotiations

Chairman Golding reviewed they had 2 meetings since the last board meeting. The 1st was our offer to the WLCSSA, and the 2nd was earlier today where we received their counter. We will meet tomorrow as well and will discuss this in nonpublic.

XII. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES

a. FYI-New Hire-Vincent White-Custodian

Superintendent reviewed the new hire who will work primarily at FRES but will cross train for all buildings.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Lavoie spoke regarding the athletic advisory committee saying that an email was received yesterday that they are no longer needed at that level and there has been a general sense of frustration with the way that those meetings have turned out. Granted it's not a formal committee and Principal Ronning had made that clear from the beginning we have no vote; there's no authority there. There was not any intent that what we said had to be done. The way we worked with Principal Ronning, and the Athletic Director was looking at what our programs look like and a couple of conversations that came up had to do with charging at home varsity games and what we thought about that. Asking about our awards ceremonies and how they are going, are there any suggestions for how we could do them differently to improve them. She spoke of part of the reason she wanted to get involved and piqued her interest was last year's dilemma with waivers for below 9th grade related to the soccer team and we lost middle schoolers to the high school when it was just a matter of poor timing, all things didn't align properly. It was not anyone's fault but just trying to be more proactive in how we can get more students involved earlier so that we are not in that position. We wanted to make sure we were helping with keeping an eye on all athletic programs. One of the other key things that came up during that, she personally brought up was the fact that we should be creating a policy of at least 1 assistant coach on every single team, literally within a week, she thinks 48 hours after, we had that conversation, we had an actual incident that surrounded specifically around 1 coach very far away and an injured player. She thought that was a great example of why we needed it. The conversation when brought up was an initial thought it's an unpaid position. We can't really ask anyone to do this for free. All the members said you can. There's a lot of people in the community that absolutely will volunteer to help. Since then, we have done a much better job with. She thinks there's been only 4 meetings in the last 2 years, it hasn't been a lot. One of the things we had hoped to do was kind of define more so what it was that we could help with. We just never got to that point of being able to define that. She doesn't know what the right balance of parents and community are who want to help provide insight on how the programs develop vs. managers/administrators. There is obviously a fine line we need to be cautious of.

Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

Ms. Mel Jones, WLC Kitchen Coordinator, informed the group that Thursday is the holiday meal if members want to stop in and help out. LCS lunch pick up is at 10:15AM and WLC serves at 10:15AM and FRES is 10:45AM. Any help is appreciated. Ms. Lavallee volunteered to help.

Mr. Bill Crouse wanted to second everything that Ms. Lavoie said. He has been part of the advisory committee and was hoping to have attempted and followed with more influence over athletic things. It seems to certainly take up a large portion of the discussion tonight. He thinks that only speaks to its value. The historical nature of it and its importance in the community. He thinks a key to its success is buy in from the community and the easiest way to get that is with community input.

Ms. Crystal Gill wanted to let you all know that the booster club has been part of the PTO budget. It was handed over to her at the same time as the PTO was and she could not get enough volunteers to get it going. There is a line for it and the banners are solicited and sold and Lynn Crouse helps them out with that. They have funds up to \$1,200 for athletics as of last night. They do use it for sports nights and banners. They have some funds if there is a booster group and you can pull parents together for it, we

will help get them started. Ms. Brewster knows the funds are there. There was a booster program, and they kept the banners going to help raise funds, it is part of the PTO agenda and do discuss it at every meeting. She agrees with Mr. Crouse, it is wonderful to have parents input on sports and helpful to have parents for all sports to make sure we cover all of the areas to make sure all their voices are heard. She thinks that is important.

XIV. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Alley congratulated the dance team, loved their spirit and is glad they were here tonight, and we got to see them.

Mr. White congratulated the dance team, and the drama club is putting their show on this Thursday and Friday. He is excited for them and is excited that this is the 1st of his kids who got to go to woodshop class. It is really nice to see that coming back and nice that we have someone that can do that again.

Mr. Zavgren thanked the Superintendent for staying one more year. He thinks he has been a great asset to our school.

Mr. Lavoie complimented administration on the academic portion of what they have been able to provide to the school and where we've come because obviously, we feel very confident with that portion of the SAU and our attentions can now really turn to improving things like athletics and extracurricular activities. He feels like the school board has and the community have really focused their attention on academics and we've seen improvements. We've focused funds on those areas. When people approach him and say, how come we are spending so much money on the school. He is able to give them an answer that it's working in the academic department and now can move our attention as a school board to try to focus on areas we feel we can make even more improvements and that's a good thing overall.

Ms. Lavallee congratulated the dance team and a senior soccer player for getting an award and recognized at the state level. She thanked administration for meeting tonight; it is very long but is good. She echoed what Mr. Lavoie said about academics and is feeling more confident in that. She thanked all the educators, assistants, and paraprofessionals that are helping us move in the right direction.

Ms. Foss commented that she agrees with everything that has been said so far.

Ms. Collins congratulated the dance team and thanked them for attending. She thanked everyone who has been working on this budget and knows it is not an easy process. She is very grateful.

Ms. Anzalone congratulated the dance team and the Superintendent on staying another year. It sounds like there is a lot of interest in talking more about athletics and talking more about extracurricular activities and she volunteered to get more involved and try to get more parents involved. She was interested in the athletics advisory committee and then just never heard anything else about it. She is sure there are more parents who would like to get involved as well.

Chairman Golding welcomed Vincent White, it will be a pleasure to see him in the halls and Superintendent Weaver staying another year. He the Superintendent sees the vision that we are moving toward. That speaks volumes about our district even after he tendered his resignation, he didn't want to leave the district right now. He is enjoying this very much. Thank you for sticking around.

XV. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C)

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to enter Non-Public Session to review the non-public minutes, negotiations and a student matter, RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C) at 9:25pm.

Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 10:38pm.

A MOTION was made to seal the non-public session minutes RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C) by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. White to adjourn the Board meeting at 10:38pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, November 18, 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 Lavalley, John Zavgren, Michelle Alley, Paul White, Erin Collins, Darlene Anzalone, Diane Foss, and Jonathan Lavoie*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principals Tom Ronning and Principal Stacy Maghakian, Assistant Principal Katie Gosselin, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, 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. STUDENT/STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Principal Ronning and Assistant Principal Gosselin honored students from the dance team. The New England Cheer and Dance Competition was held on November 8; this was the 35th year with the competition held at Emmanuel College in Boston. There were 137 teams at the event with 6 sections starting at 10:30AM and ending at about 10:00PM. We received 86.2 points and were awarded 1st place in the Junior High Hip Hop competition. WLC moves on to the Regionals on Sunday February 15 at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts. To prepare for the competition the team has been practicing 3 times a week totaling around 80 hours from the start of school. Team members were present and congratulated, students Cassie Emmons (6 seasons), Raelyn Morrissey (2 seasons), Isabel McKown (2 seasons), Ashley Mitchell (1st season), Harper Perrier (1 season), and coach Mel Jones was recognized for her endless work with the dance team.

Assistant Principal Gosselin spoke of the September Starfish Award winner, Principal Tom Ronning. His impact on WLC is felt in every classroom, and every person is fortunate enough to know him. He embodies the spirit of the Starfish story, making one meaningful change at a time, never losing sight of how each individual moment of care can transform our school. Through steady, intentional acts of service, he has helped shape WLC into an amazing place to learn, work and belong. His devotion to students is unmatched. He shows up for them not only as an educator, but as a champion of their growth, their potential and well-being. He also stands as a mentor to the staff of WLC and district colleagues, guiding with wisdom, compassion, and an unwavering belief in the power of education. His dedication to student learning is not just part of his work, it is who he is through his core. In the face of recent news of his medical journey, he has shown nothing but grace. His strength is quiet, humble, and inspiring. Even through this his thoughts are with WLC where they always have been, on the students he serves every single day. Thank you for your service to WLC, your leadership, your kindness, and your incredible spirit and with sincere appreciation, the staff honors you tonight with our September Starfish Award.

IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent requested to add a student matter to nonpublic.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavalley and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to add a student matter to nonpublic session.
Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Business Administrator's Report

• Legal Opinion-Health Information

Ms. LaPlante reported paperwork on the tax rates have been submitted for the towns of Wilton and Lyndeborough. Right now, towns are working to set their tax rates. She intends to do a presentation in December, a historical kind of marker of what our per pupil costs are for the Board and public. Currently she is working on the RFP for transportation, our contract ends on June 30 but there is an option for 2, 1-year extensions. We have partnered with Milford School District to hopefully get access to the rates that they get as a larger district. There is a pre-bid meeting coming up this Thursday to discuss it and then bids are due in December. Within the last few weeks, we've had 2 power outages that affected LCS. There is a backup generator owned by the

Town of Lyndeborough, it is their emergency shelter. Unbeknownst to the Town Administrator, Geoffrey Allen, and the selectman, that generator went down and was in need of repair. It was not until the first instance of no power that they became aware of it. Mr. Allen was phenomenal, we talked about options and after the second outage, talked again and they put in the work needed to get it up and running. They are looking at what their long-term options would be for repairing it. She believes it is a substantial repair. She acknowledges that it was a one-off that has never happened where the generator didn't automatically kick on. There is a generator at FRES, which is Wilton's emergency shelter. There is none at WLC. She spoke with Mr. Buroker, IT Director and he is researching just to get numbers if we could move the access point for internet, phones and fiber which currently all come out of WLC, could we move that to FRES. If we have a power outage at WLC currently, we don't have phones or internet throughout the district. It is something that will probably be discussed through the Technology Committee, but she wanted to plant that seed that we are looking at the long-term implications. A question was raised whether the new walkie talkies have the ability to communicate with emergency services with the absence of the phone system to contact police and fire. Ms. LaPlante will look into that; the backup battery is only 15 minutes. A question was raised whether there is a plan for periodic testing of the generators. Ms. LaPlante does not know because they are owned by the individual towns, but she will follow up on it. At her prior employment they did weekly tests. She is not sure if the one at LCS can be done because of its age. It may be something we want to add to the district emergency management plan. She spoke of health insurance. At a prior meeting they discussed the \$231,000 SchoolCare assessment. We have received our rates for next year and they have increased significantly. The driving cost is increase in the cost of care, utilization, specialty drugs, and muscular skeletal issues as well as national trends that are driving the increased costs. The rate has gone up 34.6%, we are one of the highest and that is based on our claims. Dental went up 6% and she budgeted 8% so that is a slight savings there. She is working with Cross Insurance to research our claim data to go out to get other costs. It is not going to be a quick answer, and we won't have that before the December meeting, maybe and estimate in January but it is a long-term investment that we're looking at. There are 2 risk pools within the State of NH, Health Trust, and SchoolCare. Health Trust currently has sanctions by the Secretary of State's Office currently because there is a disagreement with how they run their reserves, there is no easy solution. She spoke of reaching out to council regarding a Budget Committee request for a detailed list of specific benefit costs for health and dental. We were reluctant to provide that information and council agreed that we can provide an aggregate of what makes up the total health care costs and not by specific employees and cannot give out personal identifiable information. She provided a document regarding the electricity contact with rates. We buy our electricity and lock in our rates with energy providers. Standard Power is our consultant. We didn't send out an RFP. They took our information and sent it out to their businesses, and we received 3 prices for electricity for 12, 24, 36-month contracts which are on the document. Constellation is slightly higher than First Point Power and slightly in the end a little higher than Engie but asks the Board to consider renewing the contract with Constellation since this would be our 2nd 3-year contract and would like to think at the end of this 3-year contract we may have longevity to get some better rates looking more toward the future. If the Board is in a position to take action, she can work with Standard Power to get the contracts drawn up. Mr. Lavoie does this for work and says there is no benefit staying with any of them. He recommends choosing the lowest rate and going with a 36-month contract. It is a good time as the energy rates are lower due to gas dropping. If they were higher, he would recommend doing less months.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to contract with First Point or Engie at a rate of .1128 for 36 months.

Chairman Golding suggested choosing one.

Mr. Lavoie AMMENDS his MOTION to contract First Point Power for 36 months (at .1128) and Ms. Alley SECONED.

Responding to a request to explain in a nutshell what that means, Mr. Lavoie explained that Eversource, our provider, and most can pick where the energy comes from. Ms. LaPlante went through a broker, and they give their best rates usually for 12, 24, or 36 months. That price stays locked in for the amount of the contract, (this case 3-years) so if it goes up, we pay the rate we locked in at, if it goes down, we pay the rate we locked in at.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Ms. LaPlante was thanked for working with the Lyndeborough and DPW to get the lights fixed at LCS. Ms. LaPlante said it was all Mr. Hofstetter; he did a great job with that.

There was a brief discussion of the soccer lights regarding one not working, Ms. LaPlante will look into this. She confirmed that she is working to meet compliance of RSA 325D which requires school districts and municipalities to report any money they received from the state and federal government and have that as a running report on their website or posted in 2 public places and available to the public. She notes it was not advertised through the Business Administrators; the Budget Committee brought it to them.

VI. 7:00 PM JOINT BOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION

Present: Bill Ryan, Alyssa Lavoie, Bridget Mooney, Craig Alley, Phil Brooks, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Jennifer Bernet, Harold Melcher, and Robert Silva

The Budget Committee is already in session as they were meeting prior. The joint session started at 6:53PM.

a. FY 2026-2027

Ms. Lavoie asked if there were any specific goals from the School Board to the Budget Committee, (she knows the Strategic Planning Committee is working on it) as they build the budget. Ms. Lavallee responded that the Board has not voted collectively but can weigh in regarding that. The Strategic Planning Committee's last meeting was in October and does not have specific goals affecting the budget process. She spoke of her personal goal, to take a look at what we need, provide the most opportunity and the best education for students, keeping in mind the difficulties of funding that at the local level. In NH we are the last in all 50 states in getting funding from the state. We need to be cognizant of that when we're forming the budget. That being said, it is important we take a look and have all our needs met and then after the needs are met we should be looking at our wants and what we can do to enhance the district as a whole with those wants. This is her opinion on where we should go with the budget. Ms. Foss spoke of since being on the Board, we have always tried to put kids 1st and then after that if there is something we need to shave off because there are towns people who are concerned, we do that but we always look at what is needed first and then we go into what can we do to make it as palatable as possible. Chairman Ryan asked Mr. Vanderhoof if he wanted to bring something up, he did not but was given the opportunity again by Chairman Golding. Ms. Lavoie expressed that one of the things that was brought up at their last meeting was the request to look at additional things. WLC has chosen to not increase their budget, one of the things the Budget Committee will be looking at and is interested to hear the School Board's opinion about, is funding the golf team and adding support for robotics and the dance team and a number of other co-curriculars. There have been a number of other curricular statements made at various meetings. Nothing has been changed on the budget by the Budget Committee or administration at this time. She would like to hear what the School Board has to say in terms of some direction for that or their opinion. Ms. Lavallee recused herself from the discussion regarding the golf team because her son plays and her husband is the coach. Regarding the larger idea of the wants of the district she thinks it is important to keep in mind the feedback we get from the community. She has heard a lot from the community that they would like to see growth with some of our programs. They would like to see the programs we currently have to be supported financially and that includes dance, athletics etc. and some parents would like more opportunities. She understands it is a hard balance because of the price tag that comes with that. Everybody is facing increases including us and SchoolCare's increase is concerning, personally she supports having some of those wants added to the budget within reason. It was suggested that it would be more helpful to have the Budget Committee come up with questions and then they can be discussed as a group rather than getting individual answers from every Board member here, it probably would be more efficient. It was noted that the bid was won for the donation from the casino that was discussed by the Performance Tech Committee and the equipment they need will be a fraction of that. It was suggested the Budget Committee work with Ms. LaPlante on what to do with the extra money, maybe it could be used for some of the ideas like the golf team or tennis, etc. Discussion was had including if we offer these programs, not just athletics, we need to support them. It was suggested to find out what the teams need and what could be supported in the budget. It was noted it is a matter of pride for the students and the community wants them supported. Ms. Foss spoke about one thing people don't consider is how it helps people's overall health, mind, and body now and in the future. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke of every time, to their credit, someone comes up with a new program and you draw 5 students out and maybe one of those was a soccer player and one was a cross country runner and then you drop those teams down by adding but the benefit of adding a program also detracts from other programs due to the number of students. At some point we will get spread too thin and we should pick and choose the most popular and beneficial ones. In the past we have sent students to other places, but we seem to be trying to bring a lot of stuff in, and he is not sure we have the population to adequately fill those things. Even with the teams we have, we need 6 people to score at a meet for cross country, maybe it is down to 5, the kids are getting the benefit of running, which is great, but they are not really getting a chance to compete as a team. It is only an individual sport at that point. He suggests it be thought about. Ms. Lavallee spoke of varsity soccer having more players than they needed, kudos to the coach who kept kids on the team so they could experience it and the same with the golf players, and they were not kids who played soccer. Part of the rationale for adding these programs is there has been discussion in the state around education in general and around potential open enrollment in the state. If we want to be a viable district and keep ourselves going, we need to attract people. She does not feel the solution is to decrease programs we have if the kids are showing up and participating. Years ago, we did decrease programming, we eliminated French because there 2 students taking it and that was not viable. It was suggested to do a survey with the students, if they could have 1 new club or sport added what would it be. She is just using golf as an example with numbers, her opinion is in regard to soccer and programming as a whole, not individual. Principal Ronning was asked to speak with the student board representatives and see if we can develop something like that. Principal Ronning responded that they had that discussion at 3pm today. A question was raised if our current sports and offerings are funded correctly and do they have everything they need? Ms. Lavoie responded and indicated we are where we need to be with the established sports. She spoke of the School Board possibly discussing and considering having activity fees. A lot of districts do and as we start wanting to provide more opportunities that might be part of the solution with the understanding that there would also be help if there is a financial need for a family in order to participate so that a child is never not able to be on a team for financial reasons. She is sure other districts have policies related to this. There was a brief discussion of how joint meetings have been run historically. Chairman Golding reviewed that for the last 3 years Mr. Jones ran the joint session, he asked the Budget Committee what questions you wanted to go over, the Board hears from administration, and we've all formulated our questions. The intent is for everyone to get the information. The Budget Committee gets the bulk of the budget presentations and then comes here if there are other questions. It was asked whether joint meetings are needed. Ms. LaPlante explained that we have always done joint sessions, the Budget Committee would meet prior,

and presentations were done with both Boards. With this being a shift, the intent of tonight is that we are more than halfway through the budget process, and it is opportunity to say are we comfortable with what we are looking at, is there anything we want to collectively change. Having said that there are some things that were discussed at the Budget Committee meetings that can be discussed here, the warrant articles. Ms. Lavoie noted this meeting next year may not be necessary because the Budget Committee still has a lot of bulk information coming to them for the December 3 meeting. They don't have a full picture of the budget yet. Until they see all the pieces presented, ask questions, and get clarification. Chairman Golding spoke that is why we have a budget liaison too, that is why we cut it back last year it seemed a little unnecessary. Maybe we will cut it back further next year. Ms. Lavallee rerecommended the Budget Committee, when forming their budget, are looking at it financially and the Board, has our role and we are looking at what we're required to do under policy, setting class sizes, making sure that all the requirements for the state are met etc. She envisions it to be a more effective way of dealing with this through the budget process as questions come up regarding changes in staff ratios or changing courses for the information to be sent to the Board, a straw poll or vote can be taken and bring that information back to the Budget Committee. That seems, according to her, to be the most effective way to deal with it. Ms. Lavallee volunteered to be the Board's Budget Committee Liaison for the remainder of the process.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to nominate Ms. Lavallee as the Budget Committee Liaison. Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Chairman Ryan was asked to add her to the roster.

b. Warrant Articles

Ms. LaPlante reported that the Budget Committee asked her to do research into whether it is feasible to add 2 capital reserve accounts. We have capital reserve accounts for SPED, technology and Building and Roadways. The question was, is it feasible to add one for unspent funds in case of a spike in health insurance like this year, perhaps rather than funding it at the full 34.6%, we fund it at 20% and we withdraw 14% from that as an example. It is an allowable capital reserve fund under the RSA. We have Buildings and Roadways which doesn't speak to fields, or any of our other athletic curricular programs. Would there be any interest in developing curricular capital reserve? Ms. Lavoie spoke of the \$75,000 line item for salaries and benefits. Ms. LaPlante confirms this is an allowance in case the plan estimates have excessive changes. A discussion was had including adding the allowance in a capital reserve vs. keeping it in the budget to allow for a more stable budget. There were examples also given such as if the lights in the soccer field all stopped working at the same time. It was asked why the lights could not be built into the CIP. Ms. LaPlante confirms based on counsel's advice it is not a liable use by definition for the Building and Roadways Capital Reserve. We could create a new one or change the definition of the existing. It was confirmed that all the money spent from the CIP is funding coming from the Building and Roadways Capital Reserve and confirms you could not just add the lights to the CIP because of this. Ms. Lavoie expressed her concern and is against changing the language of the Building and Roadways Capital Reserve due to the history of decreasing the amount asked for on the warrant to offset the operating budget article. Discussion was had including could we create a CIP for co-curriculars etc. and if it would be presented to the town the projects it would be used for would need to be discussed otherwise it becomes a "slush fund." Discussions continued on this matter including concern about having too many warrant articles. It was suggested to look at other towns as they have many capital improvements or trust funds. Chairman Golding expressed we will look into these. Ms. LaPlante spoke of RSA 198:4b, a contingency fund, and read the language. This would allow the district to retain any unused portion of the year-end unassigned general funds from the preceding fiscal year in subsequent fiscal years, providing that the total amount of the year-end unassigned general fund does not exceed in any fiscal year 5% of the current fiscal year's net assessment. It is allowing the district to retain some portion of unassigned fund balance year end rather than returning 100% of it. If the voters approve it, prior to expending any funds retained, the School Board will have to hold a public hearing on the action and a detailed report of all expenditures from the contingency fund shall be made annually by the School Board and published in the annual report. It is something most districts do, if not probably 90% of the ones she looked at. Ms. Lavoie noted, it is a lot of new funds, but we are catching up. How can we improve now that we have a stabilized budget for the last few years? She spoke of the Budget Committee being urged to try to minimize the unexpended fund balance as well so that we are not having \$500,000-\$600,000 at the end of the year. With the intent of bringing that down and getting a slimmer budget, if you will, something like this would be more important. In response to a question, Ms. LaPlante explained it is capped at 5%, in year 1. The cap is no more than 5% of the net assessment. There are some towns where their policy is 2.5%, that is how they wrote their warrant article and then they have policies behind it. Discussion continued, including that there are policies and processes in place for getting more money from the community if needed, for example the boilers needed to be replaced. It is very transparent vs. a new warrant. Mr. Vanderhoof thinks it is easier to spend and harder to govern. He understands the intent but envisions it allowing more spending on things we may not have spent on. He gave the example of when the pipe froze, they worked through the budget and made it happen with still money left over. He is not in support of a new warrant. Ms. Lavoie thinks putting it in front of the taxpayers is better to see which scenario they prefer. Her concern is that we have not gone to taxpayers to ask for additional funding instead we do budget freezes and cut things out of the budget. Chairman Ryan informed the group this was voted on at district meeting not that long ago and was voted down, they didn't want what they called was a "slush fund," it was overwhelmingly voted down. Discussion continued including there are times when things come up where we can cover it and other times we cannot. Ms. Lavallee spoke of concern when we use statements like it is "more transparent." She struggles with that because she thinks that the process we have in place is very transparent and the process described by Ms. Lavoie is very transparent. If we have a fund

that is set up and specifically defined under the warrant article to be used for emergencies, it is not a “slush fund” at all. It is planning for a bad event fund, and she feels it is important for us to plan ahead for things. She also feels the Board has demonstrated and the Budget Committee has demonstrated that when we have a fund that is fully funded like the SPED fund we don’t go back to the taxpayers and ask for any more money. The taxpayers have a chance in March to vote on warrants and a chance in March to vote for board members that sit up here and decide on what those warrant articles are going to be. She thinks it is both fiscally and educationally responsible for us to have a contingency fund for us to fund by having a warrant article every year asking taxpayers if we can use unspent funds. Responding to a question, Ms. LaPlante confirms to spend from it, the Board votes at a public hearing. A question was raised whether Ms. LaPlante could provide an example of something that it would be spent on. Ms. LaPlante was not prepared to discuss that, only present the topic. Ms. Lavalley noted her understanding is it would be used for things that are a safety issue or problem with communication system or something that had to be fixed so that school could function safely. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke of his concerns, and he does not support it. Discussion continued including it is not a “slush fund,” it is to be spent on certain things, it has been said twice the goal is to have a more balanced budget and you still need a meeting to vote on spending. There was disagreement voiced. The process for noticing a public hearing was reviewed. Ms. Lavoie noted the difference is how it affects taxpayers, you already collected taxes on one and there are no additional taxes needing to be appropriated. The other option is that new expense creates additional taxes on top of last year’s taxes. Responding to a question, Ms. LaPlante confirms she would need to check with council to see if we could put guardrails in the language. Superintendent expressed we will ask about putting some parameters and guardrails around this and research it. Some districts have used it for other things, and he would be supportive for us to see if we can put guardrails, certainly it would be better to have it and not close school but would like direction on how to spend it given the changes we have annually in administration and elections. We would like to do that if the Board agrees. No objection heard, it will be researched. A question was raised if we didn’t have an emergency fund and an emergency happened and we had to go to the town and say we need another \$50,000 and they voted on it, how does that work? Ms. LaPlante responded we have to petition the DRA as well as the courts under specific guidelines about why we need to have another meeting and ask for more money and it has to be something significant.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Kelly Gibson, Wilton spoke about this evening’s discussion and wanted to give a lot of credit to the LaVoie’s, they have a lot of points. She disagrees with Mr. Vanderhoof, she thinks when we are talking about it in a sense of taking it players to play other sports, having 5 children they do not all want to play the same sport, they are all different. She does not believe you would lose players going elsewhere. She spoke of her experience running the tennis program at no cost to taxpayers, all her children would not be playing other sports, and this gives them a home for all abilities. Her kids who have special needs are all together with all the players and unified as a family. When you talk about funding programs and how will it be allocated. They have been at it since January and had great enrollment and are consistent. She invited board members to come to practice, and no one came. She invited them to the WLC tennis page, and no one has done it, not even a secretary, or principal. She has been very transparent. She wants to have all come and see. They gave out awards tonight to 12 students and her daughter gave the opening speech. The majority of this has been created by her daughter, this program and what we are going to say no because we have no funding or something else is more important. Does it come to seniority, how does the Board decide which program will be funded and it is important. If seniority, then tennis came before golf. She spoke of having some amazing players, gave shout-out to Sydney. She spoke of her son being told he could not play because he is not at a competitive level. Her daughter can’t get a scholarship even though NHIAA would allow her to play, hence she is creating the program. Some point Mr. Vanderhoof brought up, she has a comeback for every one of them. When she brought up people paying for sports, she would need some help being able to pay for it but in Massachusetts any sports or co-curricular, there is a fee associated with it so there is not a cost to the taxpayer only to those who want it. It is a good point brought up. She hopes more learn about tennis. She spoke of water on the court which had to be removed for the kids to play on it for the 1st time. It is only 1 more year and then it will go away because there is no line item for it. She thinks it is important for Advantage Kids and supporters who have supported it and they have a student signing certificate for each award. Fran Bujak helped coach, please do not dismiss something even if it is not the numbers you were hoping for. Twelve children playing consistently and 6 children on wait list is pretty good and you will need to put money aside for the court and the shed is dilapidated. Good job guys.

Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

Ms. Crystal Gill thanked the Board for all they do and the time they put in. She spoke regarding an earlier conversation that the casino funds were received and could be used for co-curriculars. The money is not guaranteed, it is fluid and the group has not been given a secure date. She is not saying that the funding can’t be donated but the expectation should not be set that they will just there and funded. Like Ms. Gibson said, whether it’s a large number of students, options should be offered. Regarding the funds we don’t even have yet, it would be unfair to students and feel these things should be built into the budget whether it is our

big varsity sports or extracurricular. Remember nothing is guaranteed with those funds and we want to be sure we can provide that for our students.

Ms. Mel Jones, Wilton resident, and dance team coach since 1997, spoke that she has always asked for a small amount from every dance member since the very beginning and that goes into a bucket held in the office. Ms. Draper controls that or whoever the person was back then. It is spent on the team only and doesn't come to her, she doesn't see it as it goes right there from the beginning. She has tried to keep that expense very low with the little we get in we are able to do all the stuff we have, shoes, uniforms and she does a little sewing to alter when needed. She is thankful for all the donations received in the past years. This team enjoys seeing other performances too, it gets them excited. We go to the dance camps and would love to go to Orlando next year and are trying to do something every 2-3 years if we qualify. It takes a lot to do these extra curriculums, it is not fair to any of our students that it may not be here next year.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Ms. Lavoie to adjourn the Budget Committee meeting and joint session at 8:17pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

VIII. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ms. Anzalone spoke of an athletic advisory committee and thinks there should be a curricular advisory committee. One of the things they are looking at in the strategic planning committee is looking at curriculums. She suggests getting a group together to look at every activity, not just the soccer team and baseball team, all the teams and really find out what teams we have and what they need. We can't cover the cost of everything but should try to come up with a plan. Maybe we budget \$100 a student for example or something to put in the budget. Determine to cover a certain amount of what the clubs and teams need. She thinks it is important, if we are going to offer them to the kids we need to put the money into it as a matter of pride for the kids. She is not sure why the tennis team is not considered a sports team and why are they not part of sports night. She would consider the dance team an athletic team. She thinks we just need to look at all the different things we offer and make sure there is money in the budget to fund those. There was a brief discussion of how much we are budgeting for athletics and \$50,000 was mentioned. Ms. Alley noted that there may be some confusion because we keep talking about a "slush fund" using that to fund athletics. She thinks Ms. Lavoie was asking us if we want to add things to the budget now and what our interest is in doing that. She suggests we first have the survey before we talk about what we would want in the budget. Superintendent spoke of being in the heart of the budget process and not in a place where we think we need to add anything back in, but we can if the Board wishes. Ms. LaPlante confirms we spend about \$192,000 on athletics throughout the budget and includes field maintenance or any of our asset maintenance, coaching staff, transportation, uniforms and all those kinds of things. Superintendent explained we have less than 5% of the discretionary funds he believes. Most of the budget is locked in with contracts etc., about \$50,000 is the amount we have to make decisions over. We are meeting with Milford tomorrow and looking at a RFP to keep that price down and are looking at SPED costs increasing significantly, looking at a CBA for support staff and he thinks we are in a good place with that. We have a lot of costs up ahead and have not even talked about open enrollment yet. There is a lot of movement at the state level. He has spoken with 3 different attorneys and got 3 different answers regarding open enrollment. It's a big deal and could significantly cost us. We are trying to be very careful with the budget and feel we are in a good place with the 2.44% increase where we started. He spoke of being pretty committed to trying to keep this budget in a place where it can get support from the community at district meeting. The worst-case scenario is that they don't support any of our warrant articles and we're kind of scrambling at that point to fund somethings that we've asked for. He spoke of coming here the year after the \$400,000 was cut from the budget and he remembers dealing with a halftime school counselor etc. and it took us 5 years to get some of those programs and resources back into the system. The community has been supportive, but he feels like the way society is changing right now and the conditions we are in, we just have to be careful how much we put back in and how much we ask our community members to support at district meeting. He also spoke about knowing how important athletics is as a longtime coach and well aware. He suggested looking at a booster club that supports athletics and maybe we could reallocate some of the athletic money to the curricular programs that we want to grow. Conversations like that and workarounds where we could fund that even charging \$2 at the basketball game might only raise a \$1,000 in revenue for us but we could earmark that for example to buy sandwiches for away games in Colebrook for the kids so they have something to eat on the way back because they are not getting home until 11 at night. Ms. Lavallee spoke about the budget as a whole noting we really can't forget that right now in NH, school funding as a whole is very complex. It is moving very quickly, and changes are being made. She thinks sometimes the frustration we hear that is directed at the Board is really frustrations with the fact that our state is not funding public education. There are people actively in legislation who do not support public education and support choice which for some people works great but it doesn't work for everybody. She feels her job as board member is to build a good community not just the kids but the towns and community too. It is important for us to have a valuable school that people have good experiences in so that when students go off as adults they don't move to Massachusetts, Maine or Vermont, that they stay in our towns because we are going to rely on them when we are all older. We're going to need nurses, police officers etc. We need people in our community to stay here. The best way to do that is build a great foundation when they are young. She spoke of school funding being complex right now. She spoke of seeing costs shifted down to us multiple times where taxpayer money has shifted to fund things with no accountability regarding education and the need to educate people. She thinks a booster club is a great idea, there

is a need to find that perfect balance. Mr. Lavoie spoke regarding the casino funds; he meant that maybe helping to fund the dance team with a small amount of money would be possible. He understands they decide whatever they want to do with that money. He spoke of having line items for sports and extracurriculars, maybe the booster club could help with some of that so that it doesn't actually have to come out of the budget. He pointed out that sometimes it is said that the sports team has a small percentage of participants, but we have a small school. He believes there are roughly 60 kids per class in each of the MS grades, if you have that in grades, 6, 7, and 8 that comes out to about 195 kids, some quick math says we had 13% of the MS soccer kids and then add in baseball, volley ball and unified sports programs, we are probably talking 40%-50% of the kids that go to school are involved in some type of extracurricular or sports. Add in all these other things like robotics teams etc. that percentage just keeps growing. He thinks it is important that we don't act like these sports and these extracurriculars are small potatoes when we have 50%-70% participating in something. There was discussion about having a subcommittee to talk about these things. It was noted the athletic advisory committee has basically disbanded. Superintendent spoke of being leery adding another subcommittee, it is getting harder to get home late at night, but the Board can direct administration to make a presentation. They can be as involved as you want to be able to make good decision but certainly if you're on a committee you want to have Principal Ronning and some others, he would like to involve elementary as well they are missed quite a bit and it's a feeder program. Discussion was had, does it have to be a school board committee and not wanting it to be just about athletics. Some want to see line items in the budget and not looking at it as a waste of money if it is something that gets the shy student involved we need to invest in it more and sounds like there is more happening than we are aware. It was suggested to have people come in and talk about the different sports and give more recognition to kids. It was suggested that it may have more weight if it is a school board committee. It was noted the scope and sequence would need to be determined and if we are starting to get into the nitty gritty that would go outside the purview of the school board. It needs to be clearly defined to be sure we are not in waters we shouldn't be and ask employees to come in at night. Superintendent asks if it would help if he worked with the principals and do an overall look at athletics and curriculum and do a presentation. He spoke of knowing the importance of athletics in school and community. We can do the survey. He thinks they have collected all the numbers of kids participating in curriculums and can give those. You may find that the need we have is very small and maybe doesn't need a committee, maybe it just needs some direction from the Board in this current operating budget or may be you find that we do need a subcommittee you see too many gaps in the program. He thinks a real issue is how to hold on to coaches. If we can find inspiring, highly qualified coaches that stay with our program which has been an issue since he has been here. That is how we grow the program and how do we do that. He asks the Board to allow a presentation at the next meeting. He believes the Budget Committee would support any changes that we made if there were direction. Chairman Golding suggests before we add another committee, allow the Superintendent to gather the information before we put too much time into it. A question was raised whether there was a way to add a discussion of athletics and programs to the board meetings. Ms. Lavallee spoke of wanting to know what programs and clubs are done by volunteers. There is a student in 9th grade starting an origami club. She spoke that if someone feels passionate about a program it usually takes more than the suggestion, sometimes you need to volunteer your time to get it going.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie for administration to bring to our next meeting a list of every single sport, extracurricular and club we have to offer.

Mr. Lavoie added we don't need the cost or expense just what we have. Chairman Golding expressed that a motion is not needed to provide direction. He asks if all members agree, and all agreed and no objection was heard. Ms. Anzalone asked that as you are bringing that forward could you bring any applicable curriculum around any of that. She would be interested in what our curriculum is for gym class, are we teaching the kids how to play these different sports or origami, is there something in the art curriculum and try to see how we weave some of this in all if possible. Superintendent responds, we can fold that in. A presentation will be created. Regarding warrant articles, there is not a recommendation for the amount to put on the buildings and roadways article at this time. Ms. LaPlante and the Superintendent will look into the other articles that were discussed. Chairman Golding asked for any additional discussion on warrants, none heard.

IX. POLICIES

a. 2nd Reading

i. JLF-Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

ii. JLF-R-Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Form

iii. IHBAE-Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities

Ms. Lavallee reported this is the 2nd reading of these policies, the only change we made to the policies at the first read was to JLF-R, adding a recommendation to the top of the 1st page for the form to be filled out prior to calling DCYF. No other changes were made.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to approve policy JLF-Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect, JLF-R-Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Form, IHBAE-Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

X. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

424 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to approve the minutes of October 28, 2025, as written.*
425 *Voting: eight ayes; one abstention from Ms. Anzalone, motion carried.*
426

427 **b. Superintendent Search**

428 Ms. Lavallee reviewed that the position was posted in September and we did receive a couple of applications. Chairman Golding
429 spoke regarding the search for a Superintendent and there has been a development regarding this and asked if the Superintendent
430 would like to speak to this. Superintendent spoke of being grateful regarding the confidence that the Board has in him and the
431 administration team. He enjoys working with them. It has been a good Board, and he was asked if he would stay one more year
432 and he agreed. The biggest reason is because he believes in this district. He is personally concerned about the landscape in
433 education and one of the things he spoke to the administrators about today is how we create a school where kids and parents
434 want to come here and what we can bring here that they don't have in Milford, Jaffrey-Rindge and Hollis-Brookline. We have a
435 lot of things going on like negotiations. He is really excited to stay and is grateful. Chairman Golding confirms we have a
436 Superintendent for next year. He asks for a motion to disband the search committee, direct Ms. Fowler to email anyone who has
437 applied, give thanks and we will keep them on file for the future.

438
439 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone to disband the Superintendent Search Committee.*
440

441 Mr. Lavoie noted that he would like the last candidate to look at us down the road. He spoke of the district making strides under
442 Superintendent Weavers direction and the stigma around it is really changing.

443
444 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*
445

446 Chairman Golding asked Ms. Fowler to craft a thoughtful note with the Board's gratitude for apply and ask the last candidate to
447 look at us down the road. The post for volunteers for the committee will need to be removed as well.

448
449 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Anzalone and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to take down the ad and communicate with the*
450 *candidates.*

451 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*
452

453 **XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

454 **i. Budget Liaison**

455 Ms. Lavallee reported we went over everything except for one thing we didn't discuss tonight and that was discussed at the
456 Budget Committee meeting was a very long discussion of grant funding and being transparent with where that money is going.
457 Ms. LaPlante did some education regarding how grant funding works because it is on a different fiscal schedule than our
458 schedule runs. For example, under certain grants we have the 24-25 year to spend it and the 25-26 year to spend it. It is
459 complicated sometimes to capture that into our budget because that money can be carried over. There also seems to be a lot of
460 confusion over how the decisions were made over where the grant money gets spent, and where the priorities are. It is highly
461 regulated by the government, whether it's a state grant or a federal grant. The way grants are funded is you find out usually
462 around July what you may get and are given parameters over what you can spend it on and then we have a grant committee that
463 has to discuss potential projects. The money cannot be spent until those projects are laid out in a form submitted to the federal or
464 state government. They read the form, get all the details of what's going to be funded and give a thumbs up or down, maybe they
465 need more information and will ask for that. It is a highly regulated process and kept tabs on through whatever state or federal
466 funding it is. Ms. LaPlante voiced that was the bulk of what was discussed. We talked about ways that we can better represent
467 what we've historically used the funding for because that's ideally an indicator of what we could use it for in the future. It is not
468 always guaranteed that at this point we know what money we're going to get and what our priorities are. Having said that, you
469 spoke extensively about our grants being highly regulated and she wanted to address a comment that was made in the meeting.
470 She reviewed what the Budget Committee member said, "I see \$350,000 going in a generic expense and \$350,000 coming out,
471 as general funding and I have no idea where that's going. That's fine, maybe it's going in somebody's pocket, maybe it is going
472 to lunches. I don't know what it's going to. There's no information." Ms. LaPlante spoke of taking offense to that, she has done
473 her job diligently since the day she stepped foot in this district. She is transparent to a fault. She doesn't have anything to hide.
474 Given the state of the finances of several districts in this state, she doesn't appreciate the insinuation, whether it's the
475 Superintendent or herself, making nefarious choices with the district's money, whether we get that money directly from
476 taxpayers or through federal grants. It is really upsetting that it was put out in the budget committee meeting and could be put out
477 to our constituents who will be voting on the budget. Superintendent spoke for the record, the manifests, the monthly
478 expenditures that the Board reviews twice a month, 2 board members check it, looking at it and asking questions about it. Ms.
479 LaPlante is also responsible for filing a monthly financial statement, so the state is a pass-through for the federal grants, but she
480 has to file a financial statement every month. They've withheld money because they didn't approve of the activities that we
481 asked for as they felt the activity wasn't aligned with the intent or purpose of that goal. He has struggled with that especially
482 with High Mowing because they're not used to really working with federal grants. He and Ms. LaPlante thought about that and
483 to one extent it may have been a lighthearted comment. On another point, he doesn't think it necessarily represents the entire
484 Budget Committee. He thinks the people that may have been listening or are watching the video afterwards and seeing a

comment like that may make some conclusions. We have tried to work hard to move away from that perspective that we're not transparent. Any kind of loose comments like that can be a poor reflection on that. He spoke of wanting their comments on record. Ms. Lavallee spoke of attempting to provide clarification in the meeting regarding this. She wants from the Board to review what her scope is at the budget committee meetings. Her vision is to provide them with information. During the grant discussion she provided them with information that we didn't necessarily discuss here but it was information she had from being at the grant meetings. She views her role as providing information, making sure that information is being reviewed is correct and to also bring them anything the Board's wants her to back, but she is looking for feedback from the Board what they see is her role. If they have questions, she will bring that to the Board, have discussions, and then bring that back to the budget committee. Chairman Golding asked if that was alright with the members, no objection heard. Ms. Foss adds sometimes casual comments come out of people whether on the budget committee or any other committee and is troubled by that too. Chairman Golding expressed as far as grant funding, it has been thoroughly explained over multiple meetings last year and the same questions asked and answered multiple times.

ii. Negotiations

Chairman Golding reviewed they had 2 meetings since the last board meeting. The 1st was our offer to the WLCSSA, and the 2nd was earlier today where we received their counter. We will meet tomorrow as well and will discuss this in nonpublic.

XII. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES

a. FYI-New Hire-Vincent White-Custodian

Superintendent reviewed the new hire who will work primarily at FRES but will cross train for all buildings.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Lavoie spoke regarding the athletic advisory committee saying that an email was received yesterday that they are no longer needed at that level and there has been a general sense of frustration with the way that those meetings have turned out. Granted it's not a formal committee and Principal Ronning had made that clear from the beginning we have no vote; there's no authority there. There was not any intent that what we said had to be done. The way we worked with Principal Ronning, and the Athletic Director was looking at what our programs look like and a couple of conversations that came up had to do with charging at home varsity games and what we thought about that. Asking about our awards ceremonies and how they are going, are there any suggestions for how we could do them differently to improve them. She spoke of part of the reason she wanted to get involved and piqued her interest was last year's dilemma with waivers for below 9th grade related to the soccer team and we lost middle schoolers to the high school when it was just a matter of poor timing, all things didn't align properly. It was not anyone's fault but just trying to be more proactive in how we can get more students involved earlier so that we are not in that position. We wanted to make sure we were helping with keeping an eye on all athletic programs. One of the other key things that came up during that, she personally brought up was the fact that we should be creating a policy of at least 1 assistant coach on every single team, literally within a week, she thinks 48 hours after, we had that conversation, we had an actual incident that surrounded specifically around 1 coach very far away and an injured player. She thought that was a great example of why we needed it. The conversation when brought up was an initial thought it's an unpaid position. We can't really ask anyone to do this for free. All the members said you can. There's a lot of people in the community that absolutely will volunteer to help. Since then, we have done a much better job with. She thinks there's been only 4 meetings in the last 2 years, it hasn't been a lot. One of the things we had hoped to do was kind of define more so what it was that we could help with. We just never got to that point of being able to define that. She doesn't know what the right balance of parents and community are who want to help provide insight on how the programs develop vs. managers/administrators. There is obviously a fine line we need to be cautious of.

Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

Ms. Mel Jones, WLC Kitchen Coordinator, informed the group that Thursday is the holiday meal if members want to stop in and help out. LCS lunch pick up is at 10:15AM and WLC serves at 10:15AM and FRES is 10:45AM. Any help is appreciated. Ms. Lavallee volunteered to help.

Mr. Bill Crouse wanted to second everything that Ms. Lavoie said. He has been part of the advisory committee and was hoping to have attempted and followed with more influence over athletic things. It seems to certainly take up a large portion of the discussion tonight. He thinks that only speaks to its value. The historical nature of it and its importance in the community. He thinks a key to its success is buy in from the community and the easiest way to get that is with community input.

Ms. Crystal Gill wanted to let you all know that the booster club has been part of the PTO budget. It was handed over to her at the same time as the PTO was and she could not get enough volunteers to get it going. There is a line for it and the banners are solicited and sold and Lynn Crouse helps them out with that. They have funds up to \$1,200 for athletics as of last night. They do use it for sports nights and banners. They have some funds if there is a booster group and you can pull parents together for it, we

will help get them started. Ms. Brewster knows the funds are there. There was a booster program, and they kept the banners going to help raise funds, it is part of the PTO agenda and do discuss it at every meeting. She agrees with Mr. Crouse, it is wonderful to have parents input on sports and helpful to have parents for all sports to make sure we cover all of the areas to make sure all their voices are heard. She thinks that is important.

XIV. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Alley congratulated the dance team, loved their spirit and is glad they were here tonight, and we got to see them.

Mr. White congratulated the dance team, and the drama club is putting their show on this Thursday and Friday. He is excited for them and is excited that this is the 1st of his kids who got to go to woodshop class. It is really nice to see that coming back and nice that we have someone that can do that again.

Mr. Zavgren thanked the Superintendent for staying one more year. He thinks he has been a great asset to our school.

Mr. Lavoie complimented administration on the academic portion of what they have been able to provide to the school and where we've come because obviously, we feel very confident with that portion of the SAU and our attentions can now really turn to improving things like athletics and extracurricular activities. He feels like the school board has and the community have really focused their attention on academics and we've seen improvements. We've focused funds on those areas. When people approach him and say, how come we are spending so much money on the school. He is able to give them an answer that it's working in the academic department and now can move our attention as a school board to try to focus on areas we feel we can make even more improvements and that's a good thing overall.

Ms. Lavallee congratulated the dance team and a senior soccer player for getting an award and recognized at the state level. She thanked administration for meeting tonight; it is very long but is good. She echoed what Mr. Lavoie said about academics and is feeling more confident in that. She thanked all the educators, assistants, and paraprofessionals that are helping us move in the right direction.

Ms. Foss commented that she agrees with everything that has been said so far.

Ms. Collins congratulated the dance team and thanked them for attending. She thanked everyone who has been working on this budget and knows it is not an easy process. She is very grateful.

Ms. Anzalone congratulated the dance team and the Superintendent on staying another year. It sounds like there is a lot of interest in talking more about athletics and talking more about extracurricular activities and she volunteered to get more involved and try to get more parents involved. She was interested in the athletics advisory committee and then just never heard anything else about it. She is sure there are more parents who would like to get involved as well.

Chairman Golding welcomed Vincent White, it will be a pleasure to see him in the halls and Superintendent Weaver staying another year. He the Superintendent sees the vision that we are moving toward. That speaks volumes about our district even after he tendered his resignation, he didn't want to leave the district right now. He is enjoying this very much. Thank you for sticking around.

XV. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C)

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to enter Non-Public Session to review the non-public minutes, negotiations and a student matter, RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C) at 9:25pm.

Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 10:38pm.

A MOTION was made to seal the non-public session minutes RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C) by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. White to adjourn the Board meeting at 10:38pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, November 18, 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, John Zavgren, Michelle Alley, Paul White, Erin Collins, Darlene Anzalone, Diane Foss, and Jonathan Lavoie*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principals Tom Ronning and Principal Stacy Maghakian, Assistant Principal Katie Gosselin, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, 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. STUDENT/STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Principal Ronning and Assistant Principal Gosselin honored students from the dance team. The New England Cheer and Dance Competition was held on November 8; this was the 35th year with the competition held at Emmanuel College in Boston. There were 137 teams at the event with 6 sections starting at 10:30AM and ending at about 10:00PM. We received 86.2 points and were awarded 1st place in the Junior High Hip Hop competition. WLC moves on to the Regionals on Sunday February 15 at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts. To prepare for the competition the team has been practicing 3 times a week totaling around 80 hours from the start of school. Team members were present and congratulated, students Cassie Emmons (6 seasons), Raelyn Morrisey (2 seasons), Isabel McKown (2 seasons), Ashley Mitchell (1st season), Harper Perrier (1 season), and coach Mel Jones was recognized for her endless work with the dance team.

Assistant Principal Gosselin spoke of the September Starfish Award winner, Principal Tom Ronning. His impact on WLC is felt in every classroom, and every person is fortunate enough to know him. He embodies the spirit of the Starfish story, making one meaningful change at a time, never losing sight of how each individual moment of care can transform our school. Through steady, intentional acts of service, he has helped shape WLC into an amazing place to learn, work and belong. His devotion to students is unmatched. He shows up for them not only as an educator, but as a champion of their growth, their potential and well-being. He also stands as a mentor to the staff of WLC and district colleagues, guiding with wisdom, compassion, and an unwavering belief in the power of education. His dedication to student learning is not just part of his work, it is who he is through his core. In the face of recent news of his medical journey, he has shown nothing but grace. His strength is quiet, humble, and inspiring. Even through this his thoughts are with WLC where they always have been, on the students he serves every single day. Thank you for your service to WLC, your leadership, your kindness, and your incredible spirit and with sincere appreciation, the staff honors you tonight with our September Starfish Award.

IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent requested to add a student matter to nonpublic.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to add a student matter to nonpublic session.
Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Business Administrator's Report

• Legal Opinion-Health Information

Ms. LaPlante reported paperwork on the tax rates have been submitted for the towns of Wilton and Lyndeborough. Right now, towns are working to set their tax rates. She intends to do a presentation in December, a historical kind of marker of what our per pupil costs are for the Board and public. Currently she is working on the RFP for transportation, our contract ends on June 30 but there is an option for 2, 1-year extensions. We have partnered with Milford School District to hopefully get access to the rates that they get as a larger district. There is a pre-bid meeting coming up this Thursday to discuss it and then bids are due in December. Within the last few weeks, we've had 2 power outages that affected LCS. There is a backup generator owned by the

Town of Lyndeborough, it is their emergency shelter. Unbeknownst to the Town Administrator, Geoffrey Allen, and the selectman, that generator went down and was in need of repair. It was not until the first instance of no power that they became aware of it. Mr. Allen was phenomenal, we talked about options and after the second outage, talked again and they put in the work needed to get it up and running. They are looking at what their long-term options would be for repairing it. She believes it is a substantial repair. She acknowledges that it was a one-off that has never happened where the generator didn't automatically kick on. There is a generator at FRES, which is Wilton's emergency shelter. There is none at WLC. She spoke with Mr. Buroker, IT Director and he is researching just to get numbers if we could move the access point for internet, phones and fiber which currently all come out of WLC, could we move that to FRES. If we have a power outage at WLC currently, we don't have phones or internet throughout the district. It is something that will probably be discussed through the Technology Committee, but she wanted to plant that seed that we are looking at the long-term implications. A question was raised whether the new walkie talkies have the ability to communicate with emergency services with the absence of the phone system to contact police and fire. Ms. LaPlante will look into that; the backup battery is only 15 minutes. A question was raised whether there is a plan for periodic testing of the generators. Ms. LaPlante does not know because they are owned by the individual towns, but she will follow up on it. At her prior employment they did weekly tests. She is not sure if the one at LCS can be done because of its age. It may be something we want to add to the district emergency management plan. She spoke of health insurance. At a prior meeting they discussed the \$231,000 SchoolCare assessment. We have received our rates for next year and they have increased significantly. The driving cost is increase in the cost of care, utilization, specialty drugs, and muscular skeletal issues as well as national trends that are driving the increased costs. The rate has gone up 34.6%, we are one of the highest and that is based on our claims. Dental went up 6% and she budgeted 8% so that is a slight savings there. She is working with Cross Insurance to research our claim data to go out to get other costs. It is not going to be a quick answer, and we won't have that before the December meeting, maybe and estimate in January but it is a long-term investment that we're looking at. There are 2 risk pools within the State of NH, Health Trust, and SchoolCare. Health Trust currently has sanctions by the Secretary of State's Office currently because there is a disagreement with how they run their reserves, there is no easy solution. She spoke of reaching out to council regarding a Budget Committee request for a detailed list of specific benefit costs for health and dental. We were reluctant to provide that information and council agreed that we can provide an aggregate of what makes up the total health care costs and not by specific employees and cannot give out personal identifiable information. She provided a document regarding the electricity contact with rates. We buy our electricity and lock in our rates with energy providers. Standard Power is our consultant. We didn't send out an RFP. They took our information and sent it out to their businesses, and we received 3 prices for electricity for 12, 24, 36-month contracts which are on the document. Constellation is slightly higher than First Point Power and slightly in the end a little higher than Engie but asks the Board to consider renewing the contract with Constellation since this would be our 2nd 3-year contract and would like to think at the end of this 3-year contract we may have longevity to get some better rates looking more toward the future. If the Board is in a position to take action, she can work with Standard Power to get the contracts drawn up. Mr. Lavoie does this for work and says there is no benefit staying with any of them. He recommends choosing the lowest rate and going with a 36-month contract. It is a good time as the energy rates are lower due to gas dropping. If they were higher, he would recommend doing less months.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to contract with First Point or Engie at a rate of .1128 for 36 months.

Chairman Golding suggested choosing one.

Mr. Lavoie AMMENDS his MOTION to contract First Point Power for 36 months (at .1128) and Ms. Alley SECONED.

Responding to a request to explain in a nutshell what that means, Mr. Lavoie explained that Eversource, our provider, and most can pick where the energy comes from. Ms. LaPlante went through a broker, and they give their best rates usually for 12, 24, or 36 months. That price stays locked in for the amount of the contract, (this case 3-years) so if it goes up, we pay the rate we locked in at, if it goes down, we pay the rate we locked in at.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Ms. LaPlante was thanked for working with the Lyndeborough and DPW to get the lights fixed at LCS. Ms. LaPlante said it was all Mr. Hofstetter; he did a great job with that.

There was a brief discussion of the soccer lights regarding one not working, Ms. LaPlante will look into this. She confirmed that she is working to meet compliance of RSA 325D which requires school districts and municipalities to report any money they received from the state and federal government and have that as a running report on their website or posted in 2 public places and available to the public. She notes it was not advertised through the Business Administrators; the Budget Committee brought it to them.

VI. 7:00 PM JOINT BOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION

Present: Bill Ryan, Alyssa Lavoie, Bridget Mooney, Craig Alley, Phil Brooks, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Jennifer Bernet, Harold Melcher, and Robert Silva

The Budget Committee is already in session as they were meeting prior. The joint session started at 6:53PM.

a. FY 2026-2027

Ms. Lavoie asked if there were any specific goals from the School Board to the Budget Committee, (she knows the Strategic Planning Committee is working on it) as they build the budget. Ms. Lavallee responded that the Board has not voted collectively but can weigh in regarding that. The Strategic Planning Committee's last meeting was in October and does not have specific goals affecting the budget process. She spoke of her personal goal, to take a look at what we need, provide the most opportunity and the best education for students, keeping in mind the difficulties of funding that at the local level. In NH we are the last in all 50 states in getting funding from the state. We need to be cognizant of that when we're forming the budget. That being said, it is important we take a look and have all our needs met and then after the needs are met we should be looking at our wants and what we can do to enhance the district as a whole with those wants. This is her opinion on where we should go with the budget. Ms. Foss spoke of since being on the Board, we have always tried to put kids 1st and then after that if there is something we need to shave off because there are towns people who are concerned, we do that but we always look at what is needed first and then we go into what can we do to make it as palatable as possible. Chairman Ryan asked Mr. Vanderhoof if he wanted to bring something up, he did not but was given the opportunity again by Chairman Golding. Ms. Lavoie expressed that one of the things that was brought up at their last meeting was the request to look at additional things. WLC has chosen to not increase their budget, one of the things the Budget Committee will be looking at and is interested to hear the School Board's opinion about, is funding the golf team and adding support for robotics and the dance team and a number of other co-curriculars. There have been a number of other curricular statements made at various meetings. Nothing has been changed on the budget by the Budget Committee or administration at this time. She would like to hear what the School Board has to say in terms of some direction for that or their opinion. Ms. Lavallee recused herself from the discussion regarding the golf team because her son plays and her husband is the coach. Regarding the larger idea of the wants of the district she thinks it is important to keep in mind the feedback we get from the community. She has heard a lot from the community that they would like to see growth with some of our programs. They would like to see the programs we currently have to be supported financially and that includes dance, athletics etc. and some parents would like more opportunities. She understands it is a hard balance because of the price tag that comes with that. Everybody is facing increases including us and SchoolCare's increase is concerning, personally she supports having some of those wants added to the budget within reason. It was suggested that it would be more helpful to have the Budget Committee come up with questions and then they can be discussed as a group rather than getting individual answers from every Board member here, it probably would be more efficient. It was noted that the bid was won for the donation from the casino that was discussed by the Performance Tech Committee and the equipment they need will be a fraction of that. It was suggested the Budget Committee work with Ms. LaPlante on what to do with the extra money, maybe it could be used for some of the ideas like the golf team or tennis, etc. Discussion was had including if we offer these programs, not just athletics, we need to support them. It was suggested to find out what the teams need and what could be supported in the budget. It was noted it is a matter of pride for the students and the community wants them supported. Ms. Foss spoke about one thing people don't consider is how it helps people's overall health, mind, and body now and in the future. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke of every time, to their credit, someone comes up with a new program and you draw 5 students out and maybe one of those was a soccer player and one was a cross country runner and then you drop those teams down by adding but the benefit of adding a program also detracts from other programs due to the number of students. At some point we will get spread too thin and we should pick and choose the most popular and beneficial ones. In the past we have sent students to other places, but we seem to be trying to bring a lot of stuff in, and he is not sure we have the population to adequately fill those things. Even with the teams we have, we need 6 people to score at a meet for cross country, maybe it is down to 5, the kids are getting the benefit of running, which is great, but they are not really getting a chance to compete as a team. It is only an individual sport at that point. He suggests it be thought about. Ms. Lavallee spoke of varsity soccer having more players than they needed, kudos to the coach who kept kids on the team so they could experience it and the same with the golf players, and they were not kids who played soccer. Part of the rationale for adding these programs is there has been discussion in the state around education in general and around potential open enrollment in the state. If we want to be a viable district and keep ourselves going, we need to attract people. She does not feel the solution is to decrease programs we have if the kids are showing up and participating. Years ago, we did decrease programming, we eliminated French because there 2 students taking it and that was not viable. It was suggested to do a survey with the students, if they could have 1 new club or sport added what would it be. She is just using golf as an example with numbers, her opinion is in regard to soccer and programming as a whole, not individual. Principal Ronning was asked to speak with the student board representatives and see if we can develop something like that. Principal Ronning responded that they had that discussion at 3pm today. A question was raised if our current sports and offerings are funded correctly and do they have everything they need? Ms. Lavoie responded and indicated we are where we need to be with the established sports. She spoke of the School Board possibly discussing and considering having activity fees. A lot of districts do and as we start wanting to provide more opportunities that might be part of the solution with the understanding that there would also be help if there is a financial need for a family in order to participate so that a child is never not able to be on a team for financial reasons. She is sure other districts have policies related to this. There was a brief discussion of how joint meetings have been run historically. Chairman Golding reviewed that for the last 3 years Mr. Jones ran the joint session, he asked the Budget Committee what questions you wanted to go over, the Board hears from administration, and we've all formulated our questions. The intent is for everyone to get the information. The Budget Committee gets the bulk of the budget presentations and then comes here if there are other questions. It was asked whether joint meetings are needed. Ms. LaPlante explained that we have always done joint sessions, the Budget Committee would meet prior,

and presentations were done with both Boards. With this being a shift, the intent of tonight is that we are more than halfway through the budget process, and it is opportunity to say are we comfortable with what we are looking at, is there anything we want to collectively change. Having said that there are some things that were discussed at the Budget Committee meetings that can be discussed here, the warrant articles. Ms. Lavoie noted this meeting next year may not be necessary because the Budget Committee still has a lot of bulk information coming to them for the December 3 meeting. They don't have a full picture of the budget yet. Until they see all the pieces presented, ask questions, and get clarification. Chairman Golding spoke that is why we have a budget liaison too, that is why we cut it back last year it seemed a little unnecessary. Maybe we will cut it back further next year. Ms. Lavallee rerecommended the Budget Committee, when forming their budget, are looking at it financially and the Board, has our role and we are looking at what we're required to do under policy, setting class sizes, making sure that all the requirements for the state are met etc. She envisions it to be a more effective way of dealing with this through the budget process as questions come up regarding changes in staff ratios or changing courses for the information to be sent to the Board, a straw poll or vote can be taken and bring that information back to the Budget Committee. That seems, according to her, to be the most effective way to deal with it. Ms. Lavallee volunteered to be the Board's Budget Committee Liaison for the remainder of the process.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to nominate Ms. Lavallee as the Budget Committee Liaison. Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Chairman Ryan was asked to add her to the roster.

b. Warrant Articles

Ms. LaPlante reported that the Budget Committee asked her to do research into whether it is feasible to add 2 capital reserve accounts. We have capital reserve accounts for SPED, technology and Building and Roadways. The question was, is it feasible to add one for unspent funds in case of a spike in health insurance like this year, perhaps rather than funding it at the full 34.6%, we fund it at 20% and we withdraw 14% from that as an example. It is an allowable capital reserve fund under the RSA. We have Buildings and Roadways which doesn't speak to fields, or any of our other athletic curricular programs. Would there be any interest in developing curricular capital reserve? Ms. Lavoie spoke of the \$75,000 line item for salaries and benefits. Ms. LaPlante confirms this is an allowance in case the plan estimates have excessive changes. A discussion was had including adding the allowance in a capital reserve vs. keeping it in the budget to allow for a more stable budget. There were examples also given such as if the lights in the soccer field all stopped working at the same time. It was asked why the lights could not be built into the CIP. Ms. LaPlante confirms based on counsel's advice it is not a liable use by definition for the Building and Roadways Capital Reserve. We could create a new one or change the definition of the existing. It was confirmed that all the money spent from the CIP is funding coming from the Building and Roadways Capital Reserve and confirms you could not just add the lights to the CIP because of this. Ms. Lavoie expressed her concern and is against changing the language of the Building and Roadways Capital Reserve due to the history of decreasing the amount asked for on the warrant to offset the operating budget article. Discussion was had including could we create a CIP for co-curriculars etc. and if it would be presented to the town the projects it would be used for would need to be discussed otherwise it becomes a "slush fund." Discussions continued on this matter including concern about having too many warrant articles. It was suggested to look at other towns as they have many capital improvements or trust funds. Chairman Golding expressed we will look into these. Ms. LaPlante spoke of RSA 198:4b, a contingency fund, and read the language. This would allow the district to retain any unused portion of the year-end unassigned general funds from the preceding fiscal year in subsequent fiscal years, providing that the total amount of the year-end unassigned general fund does not exceed in any fiscal year 5% of the current fiscal year's net assessment. It is allowing the district to retain some portion of unassigned fund balance year end rather than returning 100% of it. If the voters approve it, prior to expending any funds retained, the School Board will have to hold a public hearing on the action and a detailed report of all expenditures from the contingency fund shall be made annually by the School Board and published in the annual report. It is something most districts do, if not probably 90% of the ones she looked at. Ms. Lavoie noted, it is a lot of new funds, but we are catching up. How can we improve now that we have a stabilized budget for the last few years? She spoke of the Budget Committee being urged to try to minimize the unexpended fund balance as well so that we are not having \$500,000-\$600,000 at the end of the year. With the intent of bringing that down and getting a slimmer budget, if you will, something like this would be more important. In response to a question, Ms. LaPlante explained it is capped at 5%, in year 1. The cap is no more than 5% of the net assessment. There are some towns where their policy is 2.5%, that is how they wrote their warrant article and then they have policies behind it. Discussion continued, including that there are policies and processes in place for getting more money from the community if needed, for example the boilers needed to be replaced. It is very transparent vs. a new warrant. Mr. Vanderhoof thinks it is easier to spend and harder to govern. He understands the intent but envisions it allowing more spending on things we may not have spent on. He gave the example of when the pipe froze, they worked through the budget and made it happen with still money left over. He is not in support of a new warrant. Ms. Lavoie thinks putting it in front of the taxpayers is better to see which scenario they prefer. Her concern is that we have not gone to taxpayers to ask for additional funding instead we do budget freezes and cut things out of the budget. Chairman Ryan informed the group this was voted on at district meeting not that long ago and was voted down, they didn't want what they called was a "slush fund," it was overwhelmingly voted down. Discussion continued including there are times when things come up where we can cover it and other times we cannot. Ms. Lavallee spoke of concern when we use statements like it is "more transparent." She struggles with that because she thinks that the process we have in place is very transparent and the process described by Ms. Lavoie is very transparent. If we have a fund

that is set up and specifically defined under the warrant article to be used for emergencies, it is not a “slush fund” at all. It is planning for a bad event fund, and she feels it is important for us to plan ahead for things. She also feels the Board has demonstrated and the Budget Committee has demonstrated that when we have a fund that is fully funded like the SPED fund we don’t go back to the taxpayers and ask for any more money. The taxpayers have a chance in March to vote on warrants and a chance in March to vote for board members that sit up here and decide on what those warrant articles are going to be. She thinks it is both fiscally and educationally responsible for us to have a contingency fund for us to fund by having a warrant article every year asking taxpayers if we can use unspent funds. Responding to a question, Ms. LaPlante confirms to spend from it, the Board votes at a public hearing. A question was raised whether Ms. LaPlante could provide an example of something that it would be spent on. Ms. LaPlante was not prepared to discuss that, only present the topic. Ms. Lavalley noted her understanding is it would be used for things that are a safety issue or problem with communication system or something that had to be fixed so that school could function safely. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke of his concerns, and he does not support it. Discussion continued including it is not a “slush fund,” it is to be spent on certain things, it has been said twice the goal is to have a more balanced budget and you still need a meeting to vote on spending. There was disagreement voiced. The process for noticing a public hearing was reviewed. Ms. Lavoie noted the difference is how it affects taxpayers, you already collected taxes on one and there are no additional taxes needing to be appropriated. The other option is that new expense creates additional taxes on top of last year’s taxes. Responding to a question, Ms. LaPlante confirms she would need to check with council to see if we could put guardrails in the language. Superintendent expressed we will ask about putting some parameters and guardrails around this and research it. Some districts have used it for other things, and he would be supportive for us to see if we can put guardrails, certainly it would be better to have it and not close school but would like direction on how to spend it given the changes we have annually in administration and elections. We would like to do that if the Board agrees. No objection heard, it will be researched. A question was raised if we didn’t have an emergency fund and an emergency happened and we had to go to the town and say we need another \$50,000 and they voted on it, how does that work? Ms. LaPlante responded we have to petition the DRA as well as the courts under specific guidelines about why we need to have another meeting and ask for more money and it has to be something significant.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Kelly Gibson, Wilton spoke about this evening’s discussion and wanted to give a lot of credit to the LaVoie’s, they have a lot of points. She disagrees with Mr. Vanderhoof, she thinks when we are talking about it in a sense of taking it players to play other sports, having 5 children they do not all want to play the same sport, they are all different. She does not believe you would lose players going elsewhere. She spoke of her experience running the tennis program at no cost to taxpayers, all her children would not be playing other sports, and this gives them a home for all abilities. Her kids who have special needs are all together with all the players and unified as a family. When you talk about funding programs and how will it be allocated. They have been at it since January and had great enrollment and are consistent. She invited board members to come to practice, and no one came. She invited them to the WLC tennis page, and no one has done it, not even a secretary, or principal. She has been very transparent. She wants to have all come and see. They gave out awards tonight to 12 students and her daughter gave the opening speech. The majority of this has been created by her daughter, this program and what we are going to say no because we have no funding or something else is more important. Does it come to seniority, how does the Board decide which program will be funded and it is important. If seniority, then tennis came before golf. She spoke of having some amazing players, gave shout-out to Sydney. She spoke of her son being told he could not play because he is not at a competitive level. Her daughter can’t get a scholarship even though NHIAA would allow her to play, hence she is creating the program. Some point Mr. Vanderhoof brought up, she has a comeback for every one of them. When she brought up people paying for sports, she would need some help being able to pay for it but in Massachusetts any sports or co-curricular, there is a fee associated with it so there is not a cost to the taxpayer only to those who want it. It is a good point brought up. She hopes more learn about tennis. She spoke of water on the court which had to be removed for the kids to play on it for the 1st time. It is only 1 more year and then it will go away because there is no line item for it. She thinks it is important for Advantage Kids and supporters who have supported it and they have a student signing certificate for each award. Fran Bujak helped coach, please do not dismiss something even if it is not the numbers you were hoping for. Twelve children playing consistently and 6 children on wait list is pretty good and you will need to put money aside for the court and the shed is dilapidated. Good job guys.

Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

Ms. Crystal Gill thanked the Board for all they do and the time they put in. She spoke regarding an earlier conversation that the casino funds were received and could be used for co-curriculars. The money is not guaranteed, it is fluid and the group has not been given a secure date. She is not saying that the funding can’t be donated but the expectation should not be set that they will just there and funded. Like Ms. Gibson said, whether it’s a large number of students, options should be offered. Regarding the funds we don’t even have yet, it would be unfair to students and feel these things should be built into the budget whether it is our

big varsity sports or extracurricular. Remember nothing is guaranteed with those funds and we want to be sure we can provide that for our students.

Ms. Mel Jones, Wilton resident, and dance team coach since 1997, spoke that she has always asked for a small amount from every dance member since the very beginning and that goes into a bucket held in the office. Ms. Draper controls that or whoever the person was back then. It is spent on the team only and doesn't come to her, she doesn't see it as it goes right there from the beginning. She has tried to keep that expense very low with the little we get in we are able to do all the stuff we have, shoes, uniforms and she does a little sewing to alter when needed. She is thankful for all the donations received in the past years. This team enjoys seeing other performances too, it gets them excited. We go to the dance camps and would love to go to Orlando next year and are trying to do something every 2-3 years if we qualify. It takes a lot to do these extra curriculums, it is not fair to any of our students that it may not be here next year.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Ms. Lavoie to adjourn the Budget Committee meeting and joint session at 8:17pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

VIII. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ms. Anzalone spoke of an athletic advisory committee and thinks there should be a curricular advisory committee. One of the things they are looking at in the strategic planning committee is looking at curriculums. She suggests getting a group together to look at every activity, not just the soccer team and baseball team, all the teams and really find out what teams we have and what they need. We can't cover the cost of everything but should try to come up with a plan. Maybe we budget \$100 a student for example or something to put in the budget. Determine to cover a certain amount of what the clubs and teams need. She thinks it is important, if we are going to offer them to the kids we need to put the money into it as a matter of pride for the kids. She is not sure why the tennis team is not considered a sports team and why are they not part of sports night. She would consider the dance team an athletic team. She thinks we just need to look at all the different things we offer and make sure there is money in the budget to fund those. There was a brief discussion of how much we are budgeting for athletics and \$50,000 was mentioned. Ms. Alley noted that there may be some confusion because we keep talking about a "slush fund" using that to fund athletics. She thinks Ms. Lavoie was asking us if we want to add things to the budget now and what our interest is in doing that. She suggests we first have the survey before we talk about what we would want in the budget. Superintendent spoke of being in the heart of the budget process and not in a place where we think we need to add anything back in, but we can if the Board wishes. Ms. LaPlante confirms we spend about \$192,000 on athletics throughout the budget and includes field maintenance or any of our asset maintenance, coaching staff, transportation, uniforms and all those kinds of things. Superintendent explained we have less than 5% of the discretionary funds he believes. Most of the budget is locked in with contracts etc., about \$50,000 is the amount we have to make decisions over. We are meeting with Milford tomorrow and looking at a RFP to keep that price down and are looking at SPED costs increasing significantly, looking at a CBA for support staff and he thinks we are in a good place with that. We have a lot of costs up ahead and have not even talked about open enrollment yet. There is a lot of movement at the state level. He has spoken with 3 different attorneys and got 3 different answers regarding open enrollment. It's a big deal and could significantly cost us. We are trying to be very careful with the budget and feel we are in a good place with the 2.44% increase where we started. He spoke of being pretty committed to trying to keep this budget in a place where it can get support from the community at district meeting. The worst-case scenario is that they don't support any of our warrant articles and we're kind of scrambling at that point to fund somethings that we've asked for. He spoke of coming here the year after the \$400,000 was cut from the budget and he remembers dealing with a halftime school counselor etc. and it took us 5 years to get some of those programs and resources back into the system. The community has been supportive, but he feels like the way society is changing right now and the conditions we are in, we just have to be careful how much we put back in and how much we ask our community members to support at district meeting. He also spoke about knowing how important athletics is as a longtime coach and well aware. He suggested looking at a booster club that supports athletics and maybe we could reallocate some of the athletic money to the curricular programs that we want to grow. Conversations like that and workarounds where we could fund that even charging \$2 at the basketball game might only raise a \$1,000 in revenue for us but we could earmark that for example to buy sandwiches for away games in Colebrook for the kids so they have something to eat on the way back because they are not getting home until 11 at night. Ms. Lavallee spoke about the budget as a whole noting we really can't forget that right now in NH, school funding as a whole is very complex. It is moving very quickly, and changes are being made. She thinks sometimes the frustration we hear that is directed at the Board is really frustrations with the fact that our state is not funding public education. There are people actively in legislation who do not support public education and support choice which for some people works great but it doesn't work for everybody. She feels her job as board member is to build a good community not just the kids but the towns and community too. It is important for us to have a valuable school that people have good experiences in so that when students go off as adults they don't move to Massachusetts, Maine or Vermont, that they stay in our towns because we are going to rely on them when we are all older. We're going to need nurses, police officers etc. We need people in our community to stay here. The best way to do that is build a great foundation when they are young. She spoke of school funding being complex right now. She spoke of seeing costs shifted down to us multiple times where taxpayer money has shifted to fund things with no accountability regarding education and the need to educate people. She thinks a booster club is a great idea, there

is a need to find that perfect balance. Mr. Lavoie spoke regarding the casino funds; he meant that maybe helping to fund the dance team with a small amount of money would be possible. He understands they decide whatever they want to do with that money. He spoke of having line items for sports and extracurriculars, maybe the booster club could help with some of that so that it doesn't actually have to come out of the budget. He pointed out that sometimes it is said that the sports team has a small percentage of participants, but we have a small school. He believes there are roughly 60 kids per class in each of the MS grades, if you have that in grades, 6, 7, and 8 that comes out to about 195 kids, some quick math says we had 13% of the MS soccer kids and then add in baseball, volley ball and unified sports programs, we are probably talking 40%-50% of the kids that go to school are involved in some type of extracurricular or sports. Add in all these other things like robotics teams etc. that percentage just keeps growing. He thinks it is important that we don't act like these sports and these extracurriculars are small potatoes when we have 50%-70% participating in something. There was discussion about having a subcommittee to talk about these things. It was noted the athletic advisory committee has basically disbanded. Superintendent spoke of being leery adding another subcommittee, it is getting harder to get home late at night, but the Board can direct administration to make a presentation. They can be as involved as you want to be able to make good decision but certainly if you're on a committee you want to have Principal Ronning and some others, he would like to involve elementary as well they are missed quite a bit and it's a feeder program. Discussion was had, does it have to be a school board committee and not wanting it to be just about athletics. Some want to see line items in the budget and not looking at it as a waste of money if it is something that gets the shy student involved we need to invest in it more and sounds like there is more happening than we are aware. It was suggested to have people come in and talk about the different sports and give more recognition to kids. It was suggested that it may have more weight if it is a school board committee. It was noted the scope and sequence would need to be determined and if we are starting to get into the nitty gritty that would go outside the purview of the school board. It needs to be clearly defined to be sure we are not in waters we shouldn't be and ask employees to come in at night. Superintendent asks if it would help if he worked with the principals and do an overall look at athletics and curriculum and do a presentation. He spoke of knowing the importance of athletics in school and community. We can do the survey. He thinks they have collected all the numbers of kids participating in curriculums and can give those. You may find that the need we have is very small and maybe doesn't need a committee, maybe it just needs some direction from the Board in this current operating budget or may be you find that we do need a subcommittee you see too many gaps in the program. He thinks a real issue is how to hold on to coaches. If we can find inspiring, highly qualified coaches that stay with our program which has been an issue since he has been here. That is how we grow the program and how do we do that. He asks the Board to allow a presentation at the next meeting. He believes the Budget Committee would support any changes that we made if there were direction. Chairman Golding suggests before we add another committee, allow the Superintendent to gather the information before we put too much time into it. A question was raised whether there was a way to add a discussion of athletics and programs to the board meetings. Ms. Lavallee spoke of wanting to know what programs and clubs are done by volunteers. There is a student in 9th grade starting an origami club. She spoke that if someone feels passionate about a program it usually takes more than the suggestion, sometimes you need to volunteer your time to get it going.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie for administration to bring to our next meeting a list of every single sport, extracurricular and club we have to offer.

Mr. Lavoie added we don't need the cost or expense just what we have. Chairman Golding expressed that a motion is not needed to provide direction. He asks if all members agree, and all agreed and no objection was heard. Ms. Anzalone asked that as you are bringing that forward could you bring any applicable curriculum around any of that. She would be interested in what our curriculum is for gym class, are we teaching the kids how to play these different sports or origami, is there something in the art curriculum and try to see how we weave some of this in all if possible. Superintendent responds, we can fold that in. A presentation will be created. Regarding warrant articles, there is not a recommendation for the amount to put on the buildings and roadways article at this time. Ms. LaPlante and the Superintendent will look into the other articles that were discussed. Chairman Golding asked for any additional discussion on warrants, none heard.

IX. POLICIES

a. 2nd Reading

i. JLF-Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

ii. JLF-R-Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Form

iii. IHBAE-Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities

Ms. Lavallee reported this is the 2nd reading of these policies, the only change we made to the policies at the first read was to JLF-R, adding a recommendation to the top of the 1st page for the form to be filled out prior to calling DCYF. No other changes were made.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to approve policy JLF-Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect, JLF-R-Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Form, IHBAE-Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

X. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

424 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to approve the minutes of October 28, 2025, as written.*
425 *Voting: eight ayes; one abstention from Ms. Anzalone, motion carried.*
426

427 **b. Superintendent Search**

428 Ms. Lavallee reviewed that the position was posted in September and we did receive a couple of applications. Chairman Golding
429 spoke regarding the search for a Superintendent and there has been a development regarding this and asked if the Superintendent
430 would like to speak to this. Superintendent spoke of being grateful regarding the confidence that the Board has in him and the
431 administration team. He enjoys working with them. It has been a good Board, and he was asked if he would stay one more year
432 and he agreed. The biggest reason is because he believes in this district. He is personally concerned about the landscape in
433 education and one of the things he spoke to the administrators about today is how we create a school where kids and parents
434 want to come here and what we can bring here that they don't have in Milford, Jaffrey-Rindge and Hollis-Brookline. We have a
435 lot of things going on like negotiations. He is really excited to stay and is grateful. Chairman Golding confirms we have a
436 Superintendent for next year. He asks for a motion to disband the search committee, direct Ms. Fowler to email anyone who has
437 applied, give thanks and we will keep them on file for the future.

438
439 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone to disband the Superintendent Search Committee.*
440

441 Mr. Lavoie noted that he would like the last candidate to look at us down the road. He spoke of the district making strides under
442 Superintendent Weavers direction and the stigma around it is really changing.

443
444 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*
445

446 Chairman Golding asked Ms. Fowler to craft a thoughtful note with the Board's gratitude for apply and ask the last candidate to
447 look at us down the road. The post for volunteers for the committee will need to be removed as well.

448
449 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Anzalone and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to take down the ad and communicate with the*
450 *candidates.*

451 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*
452

453 **XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

454 **i. Budget Liaison**

455 Ms. Lavallee reported we went over everything except for one thing we didn't discuss tonight and that was discussed at the
456 Budget Committee meeting was a very long discussion of grant funding and being transparent with where that money is going.
457 Ms. LaPlante did some education regarding how grant funding works because it is on a different fiscal schedule than our
458 schedule runs. For example, under certain grants we have the 24-25 year to spend it and the 25-26 year to spend it. It is
459 complicated sometimes to capture that into our budget because that money can be carried over. There also seems to be a lot of
460 confusion over how the decisions were made over where the grant money gets spent, and where the priorities are. It is highly
461 regulated by the government, whether it's a state grant or a federal grant. The way grants are funded is you find out usually
462 around July what you may get and are given parameters over what you can spend it on and then we have a grant committee that
463 has to discuss potential projects. The money cannot be spent until those projects are laid out in a form submitted to the federal or
464 state government. They read the form, get all the details of what's going to be funded and give a thumbs up or down, maybe they
465 need more information and will ask for that. It is a highly regulated process and kept tabs on through whatever state or federal
466 funding it is. Ms. LaPlante voiced that was the bulk of what was discussed. We talked about ways that we can better represent
467 what we've historically used the funding for because that's ideally an indicator of what we could use it for in the future. It is not
468 always guaranteed that at this point we know what money we're going to get and what our priorities are. Having said that, you
469 spoke extensively about our grants being highly regulated and she wanted to address a comment that was made in the meeting.
470 She reviewed what the Budget Committee member said, "I see \$350,000 going in a generic expense and \$350,000 coming out,
471 as general funding and I have no idea where that's going. That's fine, maybe it's going in somebody's pocket, maybe it is going
472 to lunches. I don't know what it's going to. There's no information." Ms. LaPlante spoke of taking offense to that, she has done
473 her job diligently since the day she stepped foot in this district. She is transparent to a fault. She doesn't have anything to hide.
474 Given the state of the finances of several districts in this state, she doesn't appreciate the insinuation, whether it's the
475 Superintendent or herself, making nefarious choices with the district's money, whether we get that money directly from
476 taxpayers or through federal grants. It is really upsetting that it was put out in the budget committee meeting and could be put out
477 to our constituents who will be voting on the budget. Superintendent spoke for the record, the manifests, the monthly
478 expenditures that the Board reviews twice a month, 2 board members check it, looking at it and asking questions about it. Ms.
479 LaPlante is also responsible for filing a monthly financial statement, so the state is a pass-through for the federal grants, but she
480 has to file a financial statement every month. They've withheld money because they didn't approve of the activities that we
481 asked for as they felt the activity wasn't aligned with the intent or purpose of that goal. He has struggled with that especially
482 with High Mowing because they're not used to really working with federal grants. He and Ms. LaPlante thought about that and
483 to one extent it may have been a lighthearted comment. On another point, he doesn't think it necessarily represents the entire
484 Budget Committee. He thinks the people that may have been listening or are watching the video afterwards and seeing a

comment like that may make some conclusions. We have tried to work hard to move away from that perspective that we're not transparent. Any kind of loose comments like that can be a poor reflection on that. He spoke of wanting their comments on record. Ms. Lavallee spoke of attempting to provide clarification in the meeting regarding this. She wants from the Board to review what her scope is at the budget committee meetings. Her vision is to provide them with information. During the grant discussion she provided them with information that we didn't necessarily discuss here but it was information she had from being at the grant meetings. She views her role as providing information, making sure that information is being reviewed is correct and to also bring them anything the Board's wants her to back, but she is looking for feedback from the Board what they see is her role. If they have questions, she will bring that to the Board, have discussions, and then bring that back to the budget committee. Chairman Golding asked if that was alright with the members, no objection heard. Ms. Foss adds sometimes casual comments come out of people whether on the budget committee or any other committee and is troubled by that too. Chairman Golding expressed as far as grant funding, it has been thoroughly explained over multiple meetings last year and the same questions asked and answered multiple times.

ii. Negotiations

Chairman Golding reviewed they had 2 meetings since the last board meeting. The 1st was our offer to the WLCSSA, and the 2nd was earlier today where we received their counter. We will meet tomorrow as well and will discuss this in nonpublic.

XII. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES

a. FYI-New Hire-Vincent White-Custodian

Superintendent reviewed the new hire who will work primarily at FRES but will cross train for all buildings.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Lavoie spoke regarding the athletic advisory committee saying that an email was received yesterday that they are no longer needed at that level and there has been a general sense of frustration with the way that those meetings have turned out. Granted it's not a formal committee and Principal Ronning had made that clear from the beginning we have no vote; there's no authority there. There was not any intent that what we said had to be done. The way we worked with Principal Ronning, and the Athletic Director was looking at what our programs look like and a couple of conversations that came up had to do with charging at home varsity games and what we thought about that. Asking about our awards ceremonies and how they are going, are there any suggestions for how we could do them differently to improve them. She spoke of part of the reason she wanted to get involved and piqued her interest was last year's dilemma with waivers for below 9th grade related to the soccer team and we lost middle schoolers to the high school when it was just a matter of poor timing, all things didn't align properly. It was not anyone's fault but just trying to be more proactive in how we can get more students involved earlier so that we are not in that position. We wanted to make sure we were helping with keeping an eye on all athletic programs. One of the other key things that came up during that, she personally brought up was the fact that we should be creating a policy of at least 1 assistant coach on every single team, literally within a week, she thinks 48 hours after, we had that conversation, we had an actual incident that surrounded specifically around 1 coach very far away and an injured player. She thought that was a great example of why we needed it. The conversation when brought up was an initial thought it's an unpaid position. We can't really ask anyone to do this for free. All the members said you can. There's a lot of people in the community that absolutely will volunteer to help. Since then, we have done a much better job with. She thinks there's been only 4 meetings in the last 2 years, it hasn't been a lot. One of the things we had hoped to do was kind of define more so what it was that we could help with. We just never got to that point of being able to define that. She doesn't know what the right balance of parents and community are who want to help provide insight on how the programs develop vs. managers/administrators. There is obviously a fine line we need to be cautious of.

Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

Ms. Mel Jones, WLC Kitchen Coordinator, informed the group that Thursday is the holiday meal if members want to stop in and help out. LCS lunch pick up is at 10:15AM and WLC serves at 10:15AM and FRES is 10:45AM. Any help is appreciated. Ms. Lavallee volunteered to help.

Mr. Bill Crouse wanted to second everything that Ms. Lavoie said. He has been part of the advisory committee and was hoping to have attempted and followed with more influence over athletic things. It seems to certainly take up a large portion of the discussion tonight. He thinks that only speaks to its value. The historical nature of it and its importance in the community. He thinks a key to its success is buy in from the community and the easiest way to get that is with community input.

Ms. Crystal Gill wanted to let you all know that the booster club has been part of the PTO budget. It was handed over to her at the same time as the PTO was and she could not get enough volunteers to get it going. There is a line for it and the banners are solicited and sold and Lynn Crouse helps them out with that. They have funds up to \$1,200 for athletics as of last night. They do use it for sports nights and banners. They have some funds if there is a booster group and you can pull parents together for it, we

will help get them started. Ms. Brewster knows the funds are there. There was a booster program, and they kept the banners going to help raise funds, it is part of the PTO agenda and do discuss it at every meeting. She agrees with Mr. Crouse, it is wonderful to have parents input on sports and helpful to have parents for all sports to make sure we cover all of the areas to make sure all their voices are heard. She thinks that is important.

XIV. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Alley congratulated the dance team, loved their spirit and is glad they were here tonight, and we got to see them.

Mr. White congratulated the dance team, and the drama club is putting their show on this Thursday and Friday. He is excited for them and is excited that this is the 1st of his kids who got to go to woodshop class. It is really nice to see that coming back and nice that we have someone that can do that again.

Mr. Zavgren thanked the Superintendent for staying one more year. He thinks he has been a great asset to our school.

Mr. Lavoie complimented administration on the academic portion of what they have been able to provide to the school and where we've come because obviously, we feel very confident with that portion of the SAU and our attentions can now really turn to improving things like athletics and extracurricular activities. He feels like the school board has and the community have really focused their attention on academics and we've seen improvements. We've focused funds on those areas. When people approach him and say, how come we are spending so much money on the school. He is able to give them an answer that it's working in the academic department and now can move our attention as a school board to try to focus on areas we feel we can make even more improvements and that's a good thing overall.

Ms. Lavallee congratulated the dance team and a senior soccer player for getting an award and recognized at the state level. She thanked administration for meeting tonight; it is very long but is good. She echoed what Mr. Lavoie said about academics and is feeling more confident in that. She thanked all the educators, assistants, and paraprofessionals that are helping us move in the right direction.

Ms. Foss commented that she agrees with everything that has been said so far.

Ms. Collins congratulated the dance team and thanked them for attending. She thanked everyone who has been working on this budget and knows it is not an easy process. She is very grateful.

Ms. Anzalone congratulated the dance team and the Superintendent on staying another year. It sounds like there is a lot of interest in talking more about athletics and talking more about extracurricular activities and she volunteered to get more involved and try to get more parents involved. She was interested in the athletics advisory committee and then just never heard anything else about it. She is sure there are more parents who would like to get involved as well.

Chairman Golding welcomed Vincent White, it will be a pleasure to see him in the halls and Superintendent Weaver staying another year. He the Superintendent sees the vision that we are moving toward. That speaks volumes about our district even after he tendered his resignation, he didn't want to leave the district right now. He is enjoying this very much. Thank you for sticking around.

XV. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C)

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to enter Non-Public Session to review the non-public minutes, negotiations and a student matter, RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C) at 9:25pm.

Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 10:38pm.

A MOTION was made to seal the non-public session minutes RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C) by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. White to adjourn the Board meeting at 10:38pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, November 18, 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, John Zavgren, Michelle Alley, Paul White, Erin Collins, Darlene Anzalone, Diane Foss, and Jonathan Lavoie*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principals Tom Ronning and Principal Stacy Maghakian, Assistant Principal Katie Gosselin, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, 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. STUDENT/STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Principal Ronning and Assistant Principal Gosselin honored students from the dance team. The New England Cheer and Dance Competition was held on November 8; this was the 35th year with the competition held at Emmanuel College in Boston. There were 137 teams at the event with 6 sections starting at 10:30AM and ending at about 10:00PM. We received 86.2 points and were awarded 1st place in the Junior High Hip Hop competition. WLC moves on to the Regionals on Sunday February 15 at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts. To prepare for the competition the team has been practicing 3 times a week totaling around 80 hours from the start of school. Team members were present and congratulated, students Cassie Emmons (6 seasons), Raelyn Morrissey (2 seasons), Isabel McKown (2 seasons), Ashley Mitchell (1st season), Harper Perrier (1 season), and coach Mel Jones was recognized for her endless work with the dance team.

Assistant Principal Gosselin spoke of the September Starfish Award winner, Principal Tom Ronning. His impact on WLC is felt in every classroom, and every person is fortunate enough to know him. He embodies the spirit of the Starfish story, making one meaningful change at a time, never losing sight of how each individual moment of care can transform our school. Through steady, intentional acts of service, he has helped shape WLC into an amazing place to learn, work and belong. His devotion to students is unmatched. He shows up for them not only as an educator, but as a champion of their growth, their potential and well-being. He also stands as a mentor to the staff of WLC and district colleagues, guiding with wisdom, compassion, and an unwavering belief in the power of education. His dedication to student learning is not just part of his work, it is who he is through his core. In the face of recent news of his medical journey, he has shown nothing but grace. His strength is quiet, humble, and inspiring. Even through this his thoughts are with WLC where they always have been, on the students he serves every single day. Thank you for your service to WLC, your leadership, your kindness, and your incredible spirit and with sincere appreciation, the staff honors you tonight with our September Starfish Award.

IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent requested to add a student matter to nonpublic.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to add a student matter to nonpublic session.
Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Business Administrator's Report

• Legal Opinion-Health Information

Ms. LaPlante reported paperwork on the tax rates have been submitted for the towns of Wilton and Lyndeborough. Right now, towns are working to set their tax rates. She intends to do a presentation in December, a historical kind of marker of what our per pupil costs are for the Board and public. Currently she is working on the RFP for transportation, our contract ends on June 30 but there is an option for 2, 1-year extensions. We have partnered with Milford School District to hopefully get access to the rates that they get as a larger district. There is a pre-bid meeting coming up this Thursday to discuss it and then bids are due in December. Within the last few weeks, we've had 2 power outages that affected LCS. There is a backup generator owned by the

Town of Lyndeborough, it is their emergency shelter. Unbeknownst to the Town Administrator, Geoffrey Allen, and the selectman, that generator went down and was in need of repair. It was not until the first instance of no power that they became aware of it. Mr. Allen was phenomenal, we talked about options and after the second outage, talked again and they put in the work needed to get it up and running. They are looking at what their long-term options would be for repairing it. She believes it is a substantial repair. She acknowledges that it was a one-off that has never happened where the generator didn't automatically kick on. There is a generator at FRES, which is Wilton's emergency shelter. There is none at WLC. She spoke with Mr. Buroker, IT Director and he is researching just to get numbers if we could move the access point for internet, phones and fiber which currently all come out of WLC, could we move that to FRES. If we have a power outage at WLC currently, we don't have phones or internet throughout the district. It is something that will probably be discussed through the Technology Committee, but she wanted to plant that seed that we are looking at the long-term implications. A question was raised whether the new walkie talkies have the ability to communicate with emergency services with the absence of the phone system to contact police and fire. Ms. LaPlante will look into that; the backup battery is only 15 minutes. A question was raised whether there is a plan for periodic testing of the generators. Ms. LaPlante does not know because they are owned by the individual towns, but she will follow up on it. At her prior employment they did weekly tests. She is not sure if the one at LCS can be done because of its age. It may be something we want to add to the district emergency management plan. She spoke of health insurance. At a prior meeting they discussed the \$231,000 SchoolCare assessment. We have received our rates for next year and they have increased significantly. The driving cost is increase in the cost of care, utilization, specialty drugs, and muscular skeletal issues as well as national trends that are driving the increased costs. The rate has gone up 34.6%, we are one of the highest and that is based on our claims. Dental went up 6% and she budgeted 8% so that is a slight savings there. She is working with Cross Insurance to research our claim data to go out to get other costs. It is not going to be a quick answer, and we won't have that before the December meeting, maybe and estimate in January but it is a long-term investment that we're looking at. There are 2 risk pools within the State of NH, Health Trust, and SchoolCare. Health Trust currently has sanctions by the Secretary of State's Office currently because there is a disagreement with how they run their reserves, there is no easy solution. She spoke of reaching out to council regarding a Budget Committee request for a detailed list of specific benefit costs for health and dental. We were reluctant to provide that information and council agreed that we can provide an aggregate of what makes up the total health care costs and not by specific employees and cannot give out personal identifiable information. She provided a document regarding the electricity contact with rates. We buy our electricity and lock in our rates with energy providers. Standard Power is our consultant. We didn't send out an RFP. They took our information and sent it out to their businesses, and we received 3 prices for electricity for 12, 24, 36-month contracts which are on the document. Constellation is slightly higher than First Point Power and slightly in the end a little higher than Engie but asks the Board to consider renewing the contract with Constellation since this would be our 2nd 3-year contract and would like to think at the end of this 3-year contract we may have longevity to get some better rates looking more toward the future. If the Board is in a position to take action, she can work with Standard Power to get the contracts drawn up. Mr. Lavoie does this for work and says there is no benefit staying with any of them. He recommends choosing the lowest rate and going with a 36-month contract. It is a good time as the energy rates are lower due to gas dropping. If they were higher, he would recommend doing less months.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to contract with First Point or Engie at a rate of .1128 for 36 months.

Chairman Golding suggested choosing one.

Mr. Lavoie AMMENDS his MOTION to contract First Point Power for 36 months (at .1128) and Ms. Alley SECONED.

Responding to a request to explain in a nutshell what that means, Mr. Lavoie explained that Eversource, our provider, and most can pick where the energy comes from. Ms. LaPlante went through a broker, and they give their best rates usually for 12, 24, or 36 months. That price stays locked in for the amount of the contract, (this case 3-years) so if it goes up, we pay the rate we locked in at, if it goes down, we pay the rate we locked in at.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Ms. LaPlante was thanked for working with the Lyndeborough and DPW to get the lights fixed at LCS. Ms. LaPlante said it was all Mr. Hofstetter; he did a great job with that.

There was a brief discussion of the soccer lights regarding one not working, Ms. LaPlante will look into this. She confirmed that she is working to meet compliance of RSA 325D which requires school districts and municipalities to report any money they received from the state and federal government and have that as a running report on their website or posted in 2 public places and available to the public. She notes it was not advertised through the Business Administrators; the Budget Committee brought it to them.

VI. 7:00 PM JOINT BOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION

Present: Bill Ryan, Alyssa Lavoie, Bridget Mooney, Craig Alley, Phil Brooks, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Jennifer Bernet, Harold Melcher, and Robert Silva

The Budget Committee is already in session as they were meeting prior. The joint session started at 6:53PM.

a. FY 2026-2027

Ms. Lavoie asked if there were any specific goals from the School Board to the Budget Committee, (she knows the Strategic Planning Committee is working on it) as they build the budget. Ms. Lavallee responded that the Board has not voted collectively but can weigh in regarding that. The Strategic Planning Committee's last meeting was in October and does not have specific goals affecting the budget process. She spoke of her personal goal, to take a look at what we need, provide the most opportunity and the best education for students, keeping in mind the difficulties of funding that at the local level. In NH we are the last in all 50 states in getting funding from the state. We need to be cognizant of that when we're forming the budget. That being said, it is important we take a look and have all our needs met and then after the needs are met we should be looking at our wants and what we can do to enhance the district as a whole with those wants. This is her opinion on where we should go with the budget. Ms. Foss spoke of since being on the Board, we have always tried to put kids 1st and then after that if there is something we need to shave off because there are towns people who are concerned, we do that but we always look at what is needed first and then we go into what can we do to make it as palatable as possible. Chairman Ryan asked Mr. Vanderhoof if he wanted to bring something up, he did not but was given the opportunity again by Chairman Golding. Ms. Lavoie expressed that one of the things that was brought up at their last meeting was the request to look at additional things. WLC has chosen to not increase their budget, one of the things the Budget Committee will be looking at and is interested to hear the School Board's opinion about, is funding the golf team and adding support for robotics and the dance team and a number of other co-curriculars. There have been a number of other curricular statements made at various meetings. Nothing has been changed on the budget by the Budget Committee or administration at this time. She would like to hear what the School Board has to say in terms of some direction for that or their opinion. Ms. Lavallee recused herself from the discussion regarding the golf team because her son plays and her husband is the coach. Regarding the larger idea of the wants of the district she thinks it is important to keep in mind the feedback we get from the community. She has heard a lot from the community that they would like to see growth with some of our programs. They would like to see the programs we currently have to be supported financially and that includes dance, athletics etc. and some parents would like more opportunities. She understands it is a hard balance because of the price tag that comes with that. Everybody is facing increases including us and SchoolCare's increase is concerning, personally she supports having some of those wants added to the budget within reason. It was suggested that it would be more helpful to have the Budget Committee come up with questions and then they can be discussed as a group rather than getting individual answers from every Board member here, it probably would be more efficient. It was noted that the bid was won for the donation from the casino that was discussed by the Performance Tech Committee and the equipment they need will be a fraction of that. It was suggested the Budget Committee work with Ms. LaPlante on what to do with the extra money, maybe it could be used for some of the ideas like the golf team or tennis, etc. Discussion was had including if we offer these programs, not just athletics, we need to support them. It was suggested to find out what the teams need and what could be supported in the budget. It was noted it is a matter of pride for the students and the community wants them supported. Ms. Foss spoke about one thing people don't consider is how it helps people's overall health, mind, and body now and in the future. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke of every time, to their credit, someone comes up with a new program and you draw 5 students out and maybe one of those was a soccer player and one was a cross country runner and then you drop those teams down by adding but the benefit of adding a program also detracts from other programs due to the number of students. At some point we will get spread too thin and we should pick and choose the most popular and beneficial ones. In the past we have sent students to other places, but we seem to be trying to bring a lot of stuff in, and he is not sure we have the population to adequately fill those things. Even with the teams we have, we need 6 people to score at a meet for cross country, maybe it is down to 5, the kids are getting the benefit of running, which is great, but they are not really getting a chance to compete as a team. It is only an individual sport at that point. He suggests it be thought about. Ms. Lavallee spoke of varsity soccer having more players than they needed, kudos to the coach who kept kids on the team so they could experience it and the same with the golf players, and they were not kids who played soccer. Part of the rationale for adding these programs is there has been discussion in the state around education in general and around potential open enrollment in the state. If we want to be a viable district and keep ourselves going, we need to attract people. She does not feel the solution is to decrease programs we have if the kids are showing up and participating. Years ago, we did decrease programming, we eliminated French because there 2 students taking it and that was not viable. It was suggested to do a survey with the students, if they could have 1 new club or sport added what would it be. She is just using golf as an example with numbers, her opinion is in regard to soccer and programming as a whole, not individual. Principal Ronning was asked to speak with the student board representatives and see if we can develop something like that. Principal Ronning responded that they had that discussion at 3pm today. A question was raised if our current sports and offerings are funded correctly and do they have everything they need? Ms. Lavoie responded and indicated we are where we need to be with the established sports. She spoke of the School Board possibly discussing and considering having activity fees. A lot of districts do and as we start wanting to provide more opportunities that might be part of the solution with the understanding that there would also be help if there is a financial need for a family in order to participate so that a child is never not able to be on a team for financial reasons. She is sure other districts have policies related to this. There was a brief discussion of how joint meetings have been run historically. Chairman Golding reviewed that for the last 3 years Mr. Jones ran the joint session, he asked the Budget Committee what questions you wanted to go over, the Board hears from administration, and we've all formulated our questions. The intent is for everyone to get the information. The Budget Committee gets the bulk of the budget presentations and then comes here if there are other questions. It was asked whether joint meetings are needed. Ms. LaPlante explained that we have always done joint sessions, the Budget Committee would meet prior,

and presentations were done with both Boards. With this being a shift, the intent of tonight is that we are more than halfway through the budget process, and it is opportunity to say are we comfortable with what we are looking at, is there anything we want to collectively change. Having said that there are some things that were discussed at the Budget Committee meetings that can be discussed here, the warrant articles. Ms. Lavoie noted this meeting next year may not be necessary because the Budget Committee still has a lot of bulk information coming to them for the December 3 meeting. They don't have a full picture of the budget yet. Until they see all the pieces presented, ask questions, and get clarification. Chairman Golding spoke that is why we have a budget liaison too, that is why we cut it back last year it seemed a little unnecessary. Maybe we will cut it back further next year. Ms. Lavallee rerecommended the Budget Committee, when forming their budget, are looking at it financially and the Board, has our role and we are looking at what we're required to do under policy, setting class sizes, making sure that all the requirements for the state are met etc. She envisions it to be a more effective way of dealing with this through the budget process as questions come up regarding changes in staff ratios or changing courses for the information to be sent to the Board, a straw poll or vote can be taken and bring that information back to the Budget Committee. That seems, according to her, to be the most effective way to deal with it. Ms. Lavallee volunteered to be the Board's Budget Committee Liaison for the remainder of the process.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to nominate Ms. Lavallee as the Budget Committee Liaison. Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Chairman Ryan was asked to add her to the roster.

b. Warrant Articles

Ms. LaPlante reported that the Budget Committee asked her to do research into whether it is feasible to add 2 capital reserve accounts. We have capital reserve accounts for SPED, technology and Building and Roadways. The question was, is it feasible to add one for unspent funds in case of a spike in health insurance like this year, perhaps rather than funding it at the full 34.6%, we fund it at 20% and we withdraw 14% from that as an example. It is an allowable capital reserve fund under the RSA. We have Buildings and Roadways which doesn't speak to fields, or any of our other athletic curricular programs. Would there be any interest in developing curricular capital reserve? Ms. Lavoie spoke of the \$75,000 line item for salaries and benefits. Ms. LaPlante confirms this is an allowance in case the plan estimates have excessive changes. A discussion was had including adding the allowance in a capital reserve vs. keeping it in the budget to allow for a more stable budget. There were examples also given such as if the lights in the soccer field all stopped working at the same time. It was asked why the lights could not be built into the CIP. Ms. LaPlante confirms based on counsel's advice it is not a liable use by definition for the Building and Roadways Capital Reserve. We could create a new one or change the definition of the existing. It was confirmed that all the money spent from the CIP is funding coming from the Building and Roadways Capital Reserve and confirms you could not just add the lights to the CIP because of this. Ms. Lavoie expressed her concern and is against changing the language of the Building and Roadways Capital Reserve due to the history of decreasing the amount asked for on the warrant to offset the operating budget article. Discussion was had including could we create a CIP for co-curriculars etc. and if it would be presented to the town the projects it would be used for would need to be discussed otherwise it becomes a "slush fund." Discussions continued on this matter including concern about having too many warrant articles. It was suggested to look at other towns as they have many capital improvements or trust funds. Chairman Golding expressed we will look into these. Ms. LaPlante spoke of RSA 198:4b, a contingency fund, and read the language. This would allow the district to retain any unused portion of the year-end unassigned general funds from the preceding fiscal year in subsequent fiscal years, providing that the total amount of the year-end unassigned general fund does not exceed in any fiscal year 5% of the current fiscal year's net assessment. It is allowing the district to retain some portion of unassigned fund balance year end rather than returning 100% of it. If the voters approve it, prior to expending any funds retained, the School Board will have to hold a public hearing on the action and a detailed report of all expenditures from the contingency fund shall be made annually by the School Board and published in the annual report. It is something most districts do, if not probably 90% of the ones she looked at. Ms. Lavoie noted, it is a lot of new funds, but we are catching up. How can we improve now that we have a stabilized budget for the last few years? She spoke of the Budget Committee being urged to try to minimize the unexpended fund balance as well so that we are not having \$500,000-\$600,000 at the end of the year. With the intent of bringing that down and getting a slimmer budget, if you will, something like this would be more important. In response to a question, Ms. LaPlante explained it is capped at 5%, in year 1. The cap is no more than 5% of the net assessment. There are some towns where their policy is 2.5%, that is how they wrote their warrant article and then they have policies behind it. Discussion continued, including that there are policies and processes in place for getting more money from the community if needed, for example the boilers needed to be replaced. It is very transparent vs. a new warrant. Mr. Vanderhoof thinks it is easier to spend and harder to govern. He understands the intent but envisions it allowing more spending on things we may not have spent on. He gave the example of when the pipe froze, they worked through the budget and made it happen with still money left over. He is not in support of a new warrant. Ms. Lavoie thinks putting it in front of the taxpayers is better to see which scenario they prefer. Her concern is that we have not gone to taxpayers to ask for additional funding instead we do budget freezes and cut things out of the budget. Chairman Ryan informed the group this was voted on at district meeting not that long ago and was voted down, they didn't want what they called was a "slush fund," it was overwhelmingly voted down. Discussion continued including there are times when things come up where we can cover it and other times we cannot. Ms. Lavallee spoke of concern when we use statements like it is "more transparent." She struggles with that because she thinks that the process we have in place is very transparent and the process described by Ms. Lavoie is very transparent. If we have a fund

that is set up and specifically defined under the warrant article to be used for emergencies, it is not a “slush fund” at all. It is planning for a bad event fund, and she feels it is important for us to plan ahead for things. She also feels the Board has demonstrated and the Budget Committee has demonstrated that when we have a fund that is fully funded like the SPED fund we don’t go back to the taxpayers and ask for any more money. The taxpayers have a chance in March to vote on warrants and a chance in March to vote for board members that sit up here and decide on what those warrant articles are going to be. She thinks it is both fiscally and educationally responsible for us to have a contingency fund for us to fund by having a warrant article every year asking taxpayers if we can use unspent funds. Responding to a question, Ms. LaPlante confirms to spend from it, the Board votes at a public hearing. A question was raised whether Ms. LaPlante could provide an example of something that it would be spent on. Ms. LaPlante was not prepared to discuss that, only present the topic. Ms. Lavalley noted her understanding is it would be used for things that are a safety issue or problem with communication system or something that had to be fixed so that school could function safely. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke of his concerns, and he does not support it. Discussion continued including it is not a “slush fund,” it is to be spent on certain things, it has been said twice the goal is to have a more balanced budget and you still need a meeting to vote on spending. There was disagreement voiced. The process for noticing a public hearing was reviewed. Ms. Lavoie noted the difference is how it affects taxpayers, you already collected taxes on one and there are no additional taxes needing to be appropriated. The other option is that new expense creates additional taxes on top of last year’s taxes. Responding to a question, Ms. LaPlante confirms she would need to check with council to see if we could put guardrails in the language. Superintendent expressed we will ask about putting some parameters and guardrails around this and research it. Some districts have used it for other things, and he would be supportive for us to see if we can put guardrails, certainly it would be better to have it and not close school but would like direction on how to spend it given the changes we have annually in administration and elections. We would like to do that if the Board agrees. No objection heard, it will be researched. A question was raised if we didn’t have an emergency fund and an emergency happened and we had to go to the town and say we need another \$50,000 and they voted on it, how does that work? Ms. LaPlante responded we have to petition the DRA as well as the courts under specific guidelines about why we need to have another meeting and ask for more money and it has to be something significant.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Kelly Gibson, Wilton spoke about this evening’s discussion and wanted to give a lot of credit to the LaVoie’s, they have a lot of points. She disagrees with Mr. Vanderhoof, she thinks when we are talking about it in a sense of taking it players to play other sports, having 5 children they do not all want to play the same sport, they are all different. She does not believe you would lose players going elsewhere. She spoke of her experience running the tennis program at no cost to taxpayers, all her children would not be playing other sports, and this gives them a home for all abilities. Her kids who have special needs are all together with all the players and unified as a family. When you talk about funding programs and how will it be allocated. They have been at it since January and had great enrollment and are consistent. She invited board members to come to practice, and no one came. She invited them to the WLC tennis page, and no one has done it, not even a secretary, or principal. She has been very transparent. She wants to have all come and see. They gave out awards tonight to 12 students and her daughter gave the opening speech. The majority of this has been created by her daughter, this program and what we are going to say no because we have no funding or something else is more important. Does it come to seniority, how does the Board decide which program will be funded and it is important. If seniority, then tennis came before golf. She spoke of having some amazing players, gave shout-out to Sydney. She spoke of her son being told he could not play because he is not at a competitive level. Her daughter can’t get a scholarship even though NHIAA would allow her to play, hence she is creating the program. Some point Mr. Vanderhoof brought up, she has a comeback for every one of them. When she brought up people paying for sports, she would need some help being able to pay for it but in Massachusetts any sports or co-curricular, there is a fee associated with it so there is not a cost to the taxpayer only to those who want it. It is a good point brought up. She hopes more learn about tennis. She spoke of water on the court which had to be removed for the kids to play on it for the 1st time. It is only 1 more year and then it will go away because there is no line item for it. She thinks it is important for Advantage Kids and supporters who have supported it and they have a student signing certificate for each award. Fran Bujak helped coach, please do not dismiss something even if it is not the numbers you were hoping for. Twelve children playing consistently and 6 children on wait list is pretty good and you will need to put money aside for the court and the shed is dilapidated. Good job guys.

Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

Ms. Crystal Gill thanked the Board for all they do and the time they put in. She spoke regarding an earlier conversation that the casino funds were received and could be used for co-curriculars. The money is not guaranteed, it is fluid and the group has not been given a secure date. She is not saying that the funding can’t be donated but the expectation should not be set that they will just there and funded. Like Ms. Gibson said, whether it’s a large number of students, options should be offered. Regarding the funds we don’t even have yet, it would be unfair to students and feel these things should be built into the budget whether it is our

big varsity sports or extracurricular. Remember nothing is guaranteed with those funds and we want to be sure we can provide that for our students.

Ms. Mel Jones, Wilton resident, and dance team coach since 1997, spoke that she has always asked for a small amount from every dance member since the very beginning and that goes into a bucket held in the office. Ms. Draper controls that or whoever the person was back then. It is spent on the team only and doesn't come to her, she doesn't see it as it goes right there from the beginning. She has tried to keep that expense very low with the little we get in we are able to do all the stuff we have, shoes, uniforms and she does a little sewing to alter when needed. She is thankful for all the donations received in the past years. This team enjoys seeing other performances too, it gets them excited. We go to the dance camps and would love to go to Orlando next year and are trying to do something every 2-3 years if we qualify. It takes a lot to do these extra curriculums, it is not fair to any of our students that it may not be here next year.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Ms. Lavoie to adjourn the Budget Committee meeting and joint session at 8:17pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

VIII. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ms. Anzalone spoke of an athletic advisory committee and thinks there should be a curricular advisory committee. One of the things they are looking at in the strategic planning committee is looking at curriculums. She suggests getting a group together to look at every activity, not just the soccer team and baseball team, all the teams and really find out what teams we have and what they need. We can't cover the cost of everything but should try to come up with a plan. Maybe we budget \$100 a student for example or something to put in the budget. Determine to cover a certain amount of what the clubs and teams need. She thinks it is important, if we are going to offer them to the kids we need to put the money into it as a matter of pride for the kids. She is not sure why the tennis team is not considered a sports team and why are they not part of sports night. She would consider the dance team an athletic team. She thinks we just need to look at all the different things we offer and make sure there is money in the budget to fund those. There was a brief discussion of how much we are budgeting for athletics and \$50,000 was mentioned. Ms. Alley noted that there may be some confusion because we keep talking about a "slush fund" using that to fund athletics. She thinks Ms. Lavoie was asking us if we want to add things to the budget now and what our interest is in doing that. She suggests we first have the survey before we talk about what we would want in the budget. Superintendent spoke of being in the heart of the budget process and not in a place where we think we need to add anything back in, but we can if the Board wishes. Ms. LaPlante confirms we spend about \$192,000 on athletics throughout the budget and includes field maintenance or any of our asset maintenance, coaching staff, transportation, uniforms and all those kinds of things. Superintendent explained we have less than 5% of the discretionary funds he believes. Most of the budget is locked in with contracts etc., about \$50,000 is the amount we have to make decisions over. We are meeting with Milford tomorrow and looking at a RFP to keep that price down and are looking at SPED costs increasing significantly, looking at a CBA for support staff and he thinks we are in a good place with that. We have a lot of costs up ahead and have not even talked about open enrollment yet. There is a lot of movement at the state level. He has spoken with 3 different attorneys and got 3 different answers regarding open enrollment. It's a big deal and could significantly cost us. We are trying to be very careful with the budget and feel we are in a good place with the 2.44% increase where we started. He spoke of being pretty committed to trying to keep this budget in a place where it can get support from the community at district meeting. The worst-case scenario is that they don't support any of our warrant articles and we're kind of scrambling at that point to fund somethings that we've asked for. He spoke of coming here the year after the \$400,000 was cut from the budget and he remembers dealing with a halftime school counselor etc. and it took us 5 years to get some of those programs and resources back into the system. The community has been supportive, but he feels like the way society is changing right now and the conditions we are in, we just have to be careful how much we put back in and how much we ask our community members to support at district meeting. He also spoke about knowing how important athletics is as a longtime coach and well aware. He suggested looking at a booster club that supports athletics and maybe we could reallocate some of the athletic money to the curricular programs that we want to grow. Conversations like that and workarounds where we could fund that even charging \$2 at the basketball game might only raise a \$1,000 in revenue for us but we could earmark that for example to buy sandwiches for away games in Colebrook for the kids so they have something to eat on the way back because they are not getting home until 11 at night. Ms. Lavallee spoke about the budget as a whole noting we really can't forget that right now in NH, school funding as a whole is very complex. It is moving very quickly, and changes are being made. She thinks sometimes the frustration we hear that is directed at the Board is really frustrations with the fact that our state is not funding public education. There are people actively in legislation who do not support public education and support choice which for some people works great but it doesn't work for everybody. She feels her job as board member is to build a good community not just the kids but the towns and community too. It is important for us to have a valuable school that people have good experiences in so that when students go off as adults they don't move to Massachusetts, Maine or Vermont, that they stay in our towns because we are going to rely on them when we are all older. We're going to need nurses, police officers etc. We need people in our community to stay here. The best way to do that is build a great foundation when they are young. She spoke of school funding being complex right now. She spoke of seeing costs shifted down to us multiple times where taxpayer money has shifted to fund things with no accountability regarding education and the need to educate people. She thinks a booster club is a great idea, there

is a need to find that perfect balance. Mr. Lavoie spoke regarding the casino funds; he meant that maybe helping to fund the dance team with a small amount of money would be possible. He understands they decide whatever they want to do with that money. He spoke of having line items for sports and extracurriculars, maybe the booster club could help with some of that so that it doesn't actually have to come out of the budget. He pointed out that sometimes it is said that the sports team has a small percentage of participants, but we have a small school. He believes there are roughly 60 kids per class in each of the MS grades, if you have that in grades, 6, 7, and 8 that comes out to about 195 kids, some quick math says we had 13% of the MS soccer kids and then add in baseball, volley ball and unified sports programs, we are probably talking 40%-50% of the kids that go to school are involved in some type of extracurricular or sports. Add in all these other things like robotics teams etc. that percentage just keeps growing. He thinks it is important that we don't act like these sports and these extracurriculars are small potatoes when we have 50%-70% participating in something. There was discussion about having a subcommittee to talk about these things. It was noted the athletic advisory committee has basically disbanded. Superintendent spoke of being leery adding another subcommittee, it is getting harder to get home late at night, but the Board can direct administration to make a presentation. They can be as involved as you want to be able to make good decision but certainly if you're on a committee you want to have Principal Ronning and some others, he would like to involve elementary as well they are missed quite a bit and it's a feeder program. Discussion was had, does it have to be a school board committee and not wanting it to be just about athletics. Some want to see line items in the budget and not looking at it as a waste of money if it is something that gets the shy student involved we need to invest in it more and sounds like there is more happening than we are aware. It was suggested to have people come in and talk about the different sports and give more recognition to kids. It was suggested that it may have more weight if it is a school board committee. It was noted the scope and sequence would need to be determined and if we are starting to get into the nitty gritty that would go outside the purview of the school board. It needs to be clearly defined to be sure we are not in waters we shouldn't be and ask employees to come in at night. Superintendent asks if it would help if he worked with the principals and do an overall look at athletics and curriculum and do a presentation. He spoke of knowing the importance of athletics in school and community. We can do the survey. He thinks they have collected all the numbers of kids participating in curriculums and can give those. You may find that the need we have is very small and maybe doesn't need a committee, maybe it just needs some direction from the Board in this current operating budget or may be you find that we do need a subcommittee you see too many gaps in the program. He thinks a real issue is how to hold on to coaches. If we can find inspiring, highly qualified coaches that stay with our program which has been an issue since he has been here. That is how we grow the program and how do we do that. He asks the Board to allow a presentation at the next meeting. He believes the Budget Committee would support any changes that we made if there were direction. Chairman Golding suggests before we add another committee, allow the Superintendent to gather the information before we put too much time into it. A question was raised whether there was a way to add a discussion of athletics and programs to the board meetings. Ms. Lavallee spoke of wanting to know what programs and clubs are done by volunteers. There is a student in 9th grade starting an origami club. She spoke that if someone feels passionate about a program it usually takes more than the suggestion, sometimes you need to volunteer your time to get it going.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie for administration to bring to our next meeting a list of every single sport, extracurricular and club we have to offer.

Mr. Lavoie added we don't need the cost or expense just what we have. Chairman Golding expressed that a motion is not needed to provide direction. He asks if all members agree, and all agreed and no objection was heard. Ms. Anzalone asked that as you are bringing that forward could you bring any applicable curriculum around any of that. She would be interested in what our curriculum is for gym class, are we teaching the kids how to play these different sports or origami, is there something in the art curriculum and try to see how we weave some of this in all if possible. Superintendent responds, we can fold that in. A presentation will be created. Regarding warrant articles, there is not a recommendation for the amount to put on the buildings and roadways article at this time. Ms. LaPlante and the Superintendent will look into the other articles that were discussed. Chairman Golding asked for any additional discussion on warrants, none heard.

IX. POLICIES

a. 2nd Reading

i. JLF-Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

ii. JLF-R-Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Form

iii. IHBAE-Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities

Ms. Lavallee reported this is the 2nd reading of these policies, the only change we made to the policies at the first read was to JLF-R, adding a recommendation to the top of the 1st page for the form to be filled out prior to calling DCYF. No other changes were made.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to approve policy JLF-Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect, JLF-R-Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Form, IHBAE-Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

X. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

424 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to approve the minutes of October 28, 2025, as written.*
425 *Voting: eight ayes; one abstention from Ms. Anzalone, motion carried.*
426

427 **b. Superintendent Search**

428 Ms. Lavallee reviewed that the position was posted in September and we did receive a couple of applications. Chairman Golding
429 spoke regarding the search for a Superintendent and there has been a development regarding this and asked if the Superintendent
430 would like to speak to this. Superintendent spoke of being grateful regarding the confidence that the Board has in him and the
431 administration team. He enjoys working with them. It has been a good Board, and he was asked if he would stay one more year
432 and he agreed. The biggest reason is because he believes in this district. He is personally concerned about the landscape in
433 education and one of the things he spoke to the administrators about today is how we create a school where kids and parents
434 want to come here and what we can bring here that they don't have in Milford, Jaffrey-Rindge and Hollis-Brookline. We have a
435 lot of things going on like negotiations. He is really excited to stay and is grateful. Chairman Golding confirms we have a
436 Superintendent for next year. He asks for a motion to disband the search committee, direct Ms. Fowler to email anyone who has
437 applied, give thanks and we will keep them on file for the future.
438

439 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone to disband the Superintendent Search Committee.*
440

441 Mr. Lavoie noted that he would like the last candidate to look at us down the road. He spoke of the district making strides under
442 Superintendent Weavers direction and the stigma around it is really changing.
443

444 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*
445

446 Chairman Golding asked Ms. Fowler to craft a thoughtful note with the Board's gratitude for apply and ask the last candidate to
447 look at us down the road. The post for volunteers for the committee will need to be removed as well.
448

449 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Anzalone and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to take down the ad and communicate with the*
450 *candidates.*

451 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*
452

453 **XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

454 **i. Budget Liaison**

455 Ms. Lavallee reported we went over everything except for one thing we didn't discuss tonight and that was discussed at the
456 Budget Committee meeting was a very long discussion of grant funding and being transparent with where that money is going.
457 Ms. LaPlante did some education regarding how grant funding works because it is on a different fiscal schedule than our
458 schedule runs. For example, under certain grants we have the 24-25 year to spend it and the 25-26 year to spend it. It is
459 complicated sometimes to capture that into our budget because that money can be carried over. There also seems to be a lot of
460 confusion over how the decisions were made over where the grant money gets spent, and where the priorities are. It is highly
461 regulated by the government, whether it's a state grant or a federal grant. The way grants are funded is you find out usually
462 around July what you may get and are given parameters over what you can spend it on and then we have a grant committee that
463 has to discuss potential projects. The money cannot be spent until those projects are laid out in a form submitted to the federal or
464 state government. They read the form, get all the details of what's going to be funded and give a thumbs up or down, maybe they
465 need more information and will ask for that. It is a highly regulated process and kept tabs on through whatever state or federal
466 funding it is. Ms. LaPlante voiced that was the bulk of what was discussed. We talked about ways that we can better represent
467 what we've historically used the funding for because that's ideally an indicator of what we could use it for in the future. It is not
468 always guaranteed that at this point we know what money we're going to get and what our priorities are. Having said that, you
469 spoke extensively about our grants being highly regulated and she wanted to address a comment that was made in the meeting.
470 She reviewed what the Budget Committee member said, "I see \$350,000 going in a generic expense and \$350,000 coming out,
471 as general funding and I have no idea where that's going. That's fine, maybe it's going in somebody's pocket, maybe it is going
472 to lunches. I don't know what it's going to. There's no information." Ms. LaPlante spoke of taking offense to that, she has done
473 her job diligently since the day she stepped foot in this district. She is transparent to a fault. She doesn't have anything to hide.
474 Given the state of the finances of several districts in this state, she doesn't appreciate the insinuation, whether it's the
475 Superintendent or herself, making nefarious choices with the district's money, whether we get that money directly from
476 taxpayers or through federal grants. It is really upsetting that it was put out in the budget committee meeting and could be put out
477 to our constituents who will be voting on the budget. Superintendent spoke for the record, the manifests, the monthly
478 expenditures that the Board reviews twice a month, 2 board members check it, looking at it and asking questions about it. Ms.
479 LaPlante is also responsible for filing a monthly financial statement, so the state is a pass-through for the federal grants, but she
480 has to file a financial statement every month. They've withheld money because they didn't approve of the activities that we
481 asked for as they felt the activity wasn't aligned with the intent or purpose of that goal. He has struggled with that especially
482 with High Mowing because they're not used to really working with federal grants. He and Ms. LaPlante thought about that and
483 to one extent it may have been a lighthearted comment. On another point, he doesn't think it necessarily represents the entire
484 Budget Committee. He thinks the people that may have been listening or are watching the video afterwards and seeing a

comment like that may make some conclusions. We have tried to work hard to move away from that perspective that we're not transparent. Any kind of loose comments like that can be a poor reflection on that. He spoke of wanting their comments on record. Ms. Lavalley spoke of attempting to provide clarification in the meeting regarding this. She wants from the Board to review what her scope is at the budget committee meetings. Her vision is to provide them with information. During the grant discussion she provided them with information that we didn't necessarily discuss here but it was information she had from being at the grant meetings. She views her role as providing information, making sure that information is being reviewed is correct and to also bring them anything the Board's wants her to back, but she is looking for feedback from the Board what they see is her role. If they have questions, she will bring that to the Board, have discussions, and then bring that back to the budget committee. Chairman Golding asked if that was alright with the members, no objection heard. Ms. Foss adds sometimes casual comments come out of people whether on the budget committee or any other committee and is troubled by that too. Chairman Golding expressed as far as grant funding, it has been thoroughly explained over multiple meetings last year and the same questions asked and answered multiple times.

ii. Negotiations

Chairman Golding reviewed they had 2 meetings since the last board meeting. The 1st was our offer to the WLCSSA, and the 2nd was earlier today where we received their counter. We will meet tomorrow as well and will discuss this in nonpublic.

XII. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES

a. FYI-New Hire-Vincent White-Custodian

Superintendent reviewed the new hire who will work primarily at FRES but will cross train for all buildings.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Lavoie spoke regarding the athletic advisory committee saying that an email was received yesterday that they are no longer needed at that level and there has been a general sense of frustration with the way that those meetings have turned out. Granted it's not a formal committee and Principal Ronning had made that clear from the beginning we have no vote; there's no authority there. There was not any intent that what we said had to be done. The way we worked with Principal Ronning, and the Athletic Director was looking at what our programs look like and a couple of conversations that came up had to do with charging at home varsity games and what we thought about that. Asking about our awards ceremonies and how they are going, are there any suggestions for how we could do them differently to improve them. She spoke of part of the reason she wanted to get involved and piqued her interest was last year's dilemma with waivers for below 9th grade related to the soccer team and we lost middle schoolers to the high school when it was just a matter of poor timing, all things didn't align properly. It was not anyone's fault but just trying to be more proactive in how we can get more students involved earlier so that we are not in that position. We wanted to make sure we were helping with keeping an eye on all athletic programs. One of the other key things that came up during that, she personally brought up was the fact that we should be creating a policy of at least 1 assistant coach on every single team, literally within a week, she thinks 48 hours after, we had that conversation, we had an actual incident that surrounded specifically around 1 coach very far away and an injured player. She thought that was a great example of why we needed it. The conversation when brought up was an initial thought it's an unpaid position. We can't really ask anyone to do this for free. All the members said you can. There's a lot of people in the community that absolutely will volunteer to help. Since then, we have done a much better job with. She thinks there's been only 4 meetings in the last 2 years, it hasn't been a lot. One of the things we had hoped to do was kind of define more so what it was that we could help with. We just never got to that point of being able to define that. She doesn't know what the right balance of parents and community are who want to help provide insight on how the programs develop vs. managers/administrators. There is obviously a fine line we need to be cautious of.

Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

Ms. Mel Jones, WLC Kitchen Coordinator, informed the group that Thursday is the holiday meal if members want to stop in and help out. LCS lunch pick up is at 10:15AM and WLC serves at 10:15AM and FRES is 10:45AM. Any help is appreciated. Ms. Lavalley volunteered to help.

Mr. Bill Crouse wanted to second everything that Ms. Lavoie said. He has been part of the advisory committee and was hoping to have attempted and followed with more influence over athletic things. It seems to certainly take up a large portion of the discussion tonight. He thinks that only speaks to its value. The historical nature of it and its importance in the community. He thinks a key to its success is buy in from the community and the easiest way to get that is with community input.

Ms. Crystal Gill wanted to let you all know that the booster club has been part of the PTO budget. It was handed over to her at the same time as the PTO was and she could not get enough volunteers to get it going. There is a line for it and the banners are solicited and sold and Lynn Crouse helps them out with that. They have funds up to \$1,200 for athletics as of last night. They do use it for sports nights and banners. They have some funds if there is a booster group and you can pull parents together for it, we

will help get them started. Ms. Brewster knows the funds are there. There was a booster program, and they kept the banners going to help raise funds, it is part of the PTO agenda and do discuss it at every meeting. She agrees with Mr. Crouse, it is wonderful to have parents input on sports and helpful to have parents for all sports to make sure we cover all of the areas to make sure all their voices are heard. She thinks that is important.

XIV. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Alley congratulated the dance team, loved their spirit and is glad they were here tonight, and we got to see them.

Mr. White congratulated the dance team, and the drama club is putting their show on this Thursday and Friday. He is excited for them and is excited that this is the 1st of his kids who got to go to woodshop class. It is really nice to see that coming back and nice that we have someone that can do that again.

Mr. Zavgren thanked the Superintendent for staying one more year. He thinks he has been a great asset to our school.

Mr. Lavoie complimented administration on the academic portion of what they have been able to provide to the school and where we've come because obviously, we feel very confident with that portion of the SAU and our attentions can now really turn to improving things like athletics and extracurricular activities. He feels like the school board has and the community have really focused their attention on academics and we've seen improvements. We've focused funds on those areas. When people approach him and say, how come we are spending so much money on the school. He is able to give them an answer that it's working in the academic department and now can move our attention as a school board to try to focus on areas we feel we can make even more improvements and that's a good thing overall.

Ms. Lavallee congratulated the dance team and a senior soccer player for getting an award and recognized at the state level. She thanked administration for meeting tonight; it is very long but is good. She echoed what Mr. Lavoie said about academics and is feeling more confident in that. She thanked all the educators, assistants, and paraprofessionals that are helping us move in the right direction.

Ms. Foss commented that she agrees with everything that has been said so far.

Ms. Collins congratulated the dance team and thanked them for attending. She thanked everyone who has been working on this budget and knows it is not an easy process. She is very grateful.

Ms. Anzalone congratulated the dance team and the Superintendent on staying another year. It sounds like there is a lot of interest in talking more about athletics and talking more about extracurricular activities and she volunteered to get more involved and try to get more parents involved. She was interested in the athletics advisory committee and then just never heard anything else about it. She is sure there are more parents who would like to get involved as well.

Chairman Golding welcomed Vincent White, it will be a pleasure to see him in the halls and Superintendent Weaver staying another year. He the Superintendent sees the vision that we are moving toward. That speaks volumes about our district even after he tendered his resignation, he didn't want to leave the district right now. He is enjoying this very much. Thank you for sticking around.

XV. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C)

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to enter Non-Public Session to review the non-public minutes, negotiations and a student matter, RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C) at 9:25pm.

Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 10:38pm.

A MOTION was made to seal the non-public session minutes RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C) by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. White to adjourn the Board meeting at 10:38pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, November 18, 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, John Zavgren, Michelle Alley, Paul White, Erin Collins, Darlene Anzalone, Diane Foss, and Jonathan Lavoie*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principals Tom Ronning and Principal Stacy Maghakian, Assistant Principal Katie Gosselin, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, 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. STUDENT/STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Principal Ronning and Assistant Principal Gosselin honored students from the dance team. The New England Cheer and Dance Competition was held on November 8; this was the 35th year with the competition held at Emmanuel College in Boston. There were 137 teams at the event with 6 sections starting at 10:30AM and ending at about 10:00PM. We received 86.2 points and were awarded 1st place in the Junior High Hip Hop competition. WLC moves on to the Regionals on Sunday February 15 at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts. To prepare for the competition the team has been practicing 3 times a week totaling around 80 hours from the start of school. Team members were present and congratulated, students Cassie Emmons (6 seasons), Raelyn Morrissey (2 seasons), Isabel McKown (2 seasons), Ashley Mitchell (1st season), Harper Perrier (1 season), and coach Mel Jones was recognized for her endless work with the dance team.

Assistant Principal Gosselin spoke of the September Starfish Award winner, Principal Tom Ronning. His impact on WLC is felt in every classroom, and every person is fortunate enough to know him. He embodies the spirit of the Starfish story, making one meaningful change at a time, never losing sight of how each individual moment of care can transform our school. Through steady, intentional acts of service, he has helped shape WLC into an amazing place to learn, work and belong. His devotion to students is unmatched. He shows up for them not only as an educator, but as a champion of their growth, their potential and well-being. He also stands as a mentor to the staff of WLC and district colleagues, guiding with wisdom, compassion, and an unwavering belief in the power of education. His dedication to student learning is not just part of his work, it is who he is through his core. In the face of recent news of his medical journey, he has shown nothing but grace. His strength is quiet, humble, and inspiring. Even through this his thoughts are with WLC where they always have been, on the students he serves every single day. Thank you for your service to WLC, your leadership, your kindness, and your incredible spirit and with sincere appreciation, the staff honors you tonight with our September Starfish Award.

IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent requested to add a student matter to nonpublic.

*A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to add a student matter to nonpublic session.
Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Business Administrator's Report

• Legal Opinion-Health Information

Ms. LaPlante reported paperwork on the tax rates have been submitted for the towns of Wilton and Lyndeborough. Right now, towns are working to set their tax rates. She intends to do a presentation in December, a historical kind of marker of what our per pupil costs are for the Board and public. Currently she is working on the RFP for transportation, our contract ends on June 30 but there is an option for 2, 1-year extensions. We have partnered with Milford School District to hopefully get access to the rates that they get as a larger district. There is a pre-bid meeting coming up this Thursday to discuss it and then bids are due in December. Within the last few weeks, we've had 2 power outages that affected LCS. There is a backup generator owned by the

Town of Lyndeborough, it is their emergency shelter. Unbeknownst to the Town Administrator, Geoffrey Allen, and the selectman, that generator went down and was in need of repair. It was not until the first instance of no power that they became aware of it. Mr. Allen was phenomenal, we talked about options and after the second outage, talked again and they put in the work needed to get it up and running. They are looking at what their long-term options would be for repairing it. She believes it is a substantial repair. She acknowledges that it was a one-off that has never happened where the generator didn't automatically kick on. There is a generator at FRES, which is Wilton's emergency shelter. There is none at WLC. She spoke with Mr. Buroker, IT Director and he is researching just to get numbers if we could move the access point for internet, phones and fiber which currently all come out of WLC, could we move that to FRES. If we have a power outage at WLC currently, we don't have phones or internet throughout the district. It is something that will probably be discussed through the Technology Committee, but she wanted to plant that seed that we are looking at the long-term implications. A question was raised whether the new walkie talkies have the ability to communicate with emergency services with the absence of the phone system to contact police and fire. Ms. LaPlante will look into that; the backup battery is only 15 minutes. A question was raised whether there is a plan for periodic testing of the generators. Ms. LaPlante does not know because they are owned by the individual towns, but she will follow up on it. At her prior employment they did weekly tests. She is not sure if the one at LCS can be done because of its age. It may be something we want to add to the district emergency management plan. She spoke of health insurance. At a prior meeting they discussed the \$231,000 SchoolCare assessment. We have received our rates for next year and they have increased significantly. The driving cost is increase in the cost of care, utilization, specialty drugs, and muscular skeletal issues as well as national trends that are driving the increased costs. The rate has gone up 34.6%, we are one of the highest and that is based on our claims. Dental went up 6% and she budgeted 8% so that is a slight savings there. She is working with Cross Insurance to research our claim data to go out to get other costs. It is not going to be a quick answer, and we won't have that before the December meeting, maybe and estimate in January but it is a long-term investment that we're looking at. There are 2 risk pools within the State of NH, Health Trust, and SchoolCare. Health Trust currently has sanctions by the Secretary of State's Office currently because there is a disagreement with how they run their reserves, there is no easy solution. She spoke of reaching out to council regarding a Budget Committee request for a detailed list of specific benefit costs for health and dental. We were reluctant to provide that information and council agreed that we can provide an aggregate of what makes up the total health care costs and not by specific employees and cannot give out personal identifiable information. She provided a document regarding the electricity contact with rates. We buy our electricity and lock in our rates with energy providers. Standard Power is our consultant. We didn't send out an RFP. They took our information and sent it out to their businesses, and we received 3 prices for electricity for 12, 24, 36-month contracts which are on the document. Constellation is slightly higher than First Point Power and slightly in the end a little higher than Engie but asks the Board to consider renewing the contract with Constellation since this would be our 2nd 3-year contract and would like to think at the end of this 3-year contract we may have longevity to get some better rates looking more toward the future. If the Board is in a position to take action, she can work with Standard Power to get the contracts drawn up. Mr. Lavoie does this for work and says there is no benefit staying with any of them. He recommends choosing the lowest rate and going with a 36-month contract. It is a good time as the energy rates are lower due to gas dropping. If they were higher, he would recommend doing less months.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to contract with First Point or Engie at a rate of .1128 for 36 months.

Chairman Golding suggested choosing one.

Mr. Lavoie AMMENDS his MOTION to contract First Point Power for 36 months (at .1128) and Ms. Alley SECONED.

Responding to a request to explain in a nutshell what that means, Mr. Lavoie explained that Eversource, our provider, and most can pick where the energy comes from. Ms. LaPlante went through a broker, and they give their best rates usually for 12, 24, or 36 months. That price stays locked in for the amount of the contract, (this case 3-years) so if it goes up, we pay the rate we locked in at, if it goes down, we pay the rate we locked in at.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Ms. LaPlante was thanked for working with the Lyndeborough and DPW to get the lights fixed at LCS. Ms. LaPlante said it was all Mr. Hofstetter; he did a great job with that.

There was a brief discussion of the soccer lights regarding one not working, Ms. LaPlante will look into this. She confirmed that she is working to meet compliance of RSA 325D which requires school districts and municipalities to report any money they received from the state and federal government and have that as a running report on their website or posted in 2 public places and available to the public. She notes it was not advertised through the Business Administrators; the Budget Committee brought it to them.

VI. 7:00 PM JOINT BOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE SESSION

Present: Bill Ryan, Alyssa Lavoie, Bridget Mooney, Craig Alley, Phil Brooks, Jonathan Vanderhoof, Jennifer Bernet, Harold Melcher, and Robert Silva

The Budget Committee is already in session as they were meeting prior. The joint session started at 6:53PM.

a. FY 2026-2027

Ms. Lavoie asked if there were any specific goals from the School Board to the Budget Committee, (she knows the Strategic Planning Committee is working on it) as they build the budget. Ms. Lavallee responded that the Board has not voted collectively but can weigh in regarding that. The Strategic Planning Committee's last meeting was in October and does not have specific goals affecting the budget process. She spoke of her personal goal, to take a look at what we need, provide the most opportunity and the best education for students, keeping in mind the difficulties of funding that at the local level. In NH we are the last in all 50 states in getting funding from the state. We need to be cognizant of that when we're forming the budget. That being said, it is important we take a look and have all our needs met and then after the needs are met we should be looking at our wants and what we can do to enhance the district as a whole with those wants. This is her opinion on where we should go with the budget. Ms. Foss spoke of since being on the Board, we have always tried to put kids 1st and then after that if there is something we need to shave off because there are towns people who are concerned, we do that but we always look at what is needed first and then we go into what can we do to make it as palatable as possible. Chairman Ryan asked Mr. Vanderhoof if he wanted to bring something up, he did not but was given the opportunity again by Chairman Golding. Ms. Lavoie expressed that one of the things that was brought up at their last meeting was the request to look at additional things. WLC has chosen to not increase their budget, one of the things the Budget Committee will be looking at and is interested to hear the School Board's opinion about, is funding the golf team and adding support for robotics and the dance team and a number of other co-curriculars. There have been a number of other curricular statements made at various meetings. Nothing has been changed on the budget by the Budget Committee or administration at this time. She would like to hear what the School Board has to say in terms of some direction for that or their opinion. Ms. Lavallee recused herself from the discussion regarding the golf team because her son plays and her husband is the coach. Regarding the larger idea of the wants of the district she thinks it is important to keep in mind the feedback we get from the community. She has heard a lot from the community that they would like to see growth with some of our programs. They would like to see the programs we currently have to be supported financially and that includes dance, athletics etc. and some parents would like more opportunities. She understands it is a hard balance because of the price tag that comes with that. Everybody is facing increases including us and SchoolCare's increase is concerning, personally she supports having some of those wants added to the budget within reason. It was suggested that it would be more helpful to have the Budget Committee come up with questions and then they can be discussed as a group rather than getting individual answers from every Board member here, it probably would be more efficient. It was noted that the bid was won for the donation from the casino that was discussed by the Performance Tech Committee and the equipment they need will be a fraction of that. It was suggested the Budget Committee work with Ms. LaPlante on what to do with the extra money, maybe it could be used for some of the ideas like the golf team or tennis, etc. Discussion was had including if we offer these programs, not just athletics, we need to support them. It was suggested to find out what the teams need and what could be supported in the budget. It was noted it is a matter of pride for the students and the community wants them supported. Ms. Foss spoke about one thing people don't consider is how it helps people's overall health, mind, and body now and in the future. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke of every time, to their credit, someone comes up with a new program and you draw 5 students out and maybe one of those was a soccer player and one was a cross country runner and then you drop those teams down by adding but the benefit of adding a program also detracts from other programs due to the number of students. At some point we will get spread too thin and we should pick and choose the most popular and beneficial ones. In the past we have sent students to other places, but we seem to be trying to bring a lot of stuff in, and he is not sure we have the population to adequately fill those things. Even with the teams we have, we need 6 people to score at a meet for cross country, maybe it is down to 5, the kids are getting the benefit of running, which is great, but they are not really getting a chance to compete as a team. It is only an individual sport at that point. He suggests it be thought about. Ms. Lavallee spoke of varsity soccer having more players than they needed, kudos to the coach who kept kids on the team so they could experience it and the same with the golf players, and they were not kids who played soccer. Part of the rationale for adding these programs is there has been discussion in the state around education in general and around potential open enrollment in the state. If we want to be a viable district and keep ourselves going, we need to attract people. She does not feel the solution is to decrease programs we have if the kids are showing up and participating. Years ago, we did decrease programming, we eliminated French because there 2 students taking it and that was not viable. It was suggested to do a survey with the students, if they could have 1 new club or sport added what would it be. She is just using golf as an example with numbers, her opinion is in regard to soccer and programming as a whole, not individual. Principal Ronning was asked to speak with the student board representatives and see if we can develop something like that. Principal Ronning responded that they had that discussion at 3pm today. A question was raised if our current sports and offerings are funded correctly and do they have everything they need? Ms. Lavoie responded and indicated we are where we need to be with the established sports. She spoke of the School Board possibly discussing and considering having activity fees. A lot of districts do and as we start wanting to provide more opportunities that might be part of the solution with the understanding that there would also be help if there is a financial need for a family in order to participate so that a child is never not able to be on a team for financial reasons. She is sure other districts have policies related to this. There was a brief discussion of how joint meetings have been run historically. Chairman Golding reviewed that for the last 3 years Mr. Jones ran the joint session, he asked the Budget Committee what questions you wanted to go over, the Board hears from administration, and we've all formulated our questions. The intent is for everyone to get the information. The Budget Committee gets the bulk of the budget presentations and then comes here if there are other questions. It was asked whether joint meetings are needed. Ms. LaPlante explained that we have always done joint sessions, the Budget Committee would meet prior,

and presentations were done with both Boards. With this being a shift, the intent of tonight is that we are more than halfway through the budget process, and it is opportunity to say are we comfortable with what we are looking at, is there anything we want to collectively change. Having said that there are some things that were discussed at the Budget Committee meetings that can be discussed here, the warrant articles. Ms. Lavoie noted this meeting next year may not be necessary because the Budget Committee still has a lot of bulk information coming to them for the December 3 meeting. They don't have a full picture of the budget yet. Until they see all the pieces presented, ask questions, and get clarification. Chairman Golding spoke that is why we have a budget liaison too, that is why we cut it back last year it seemed a little unnecessary. Maybe we will cut it back further next year. Ms. Lavallee rerecommended the Budget Committee, when forming their budget, are looking at it financially and the Board, has our role and we are looking at what we're required to do under policy, setting class sizes, making sure that all the requirements for the state are met etc. She envisions it to be a more effective way of dealing with this through the budget process as questions come up regarding changes in staff ratios or changing courses for the information to be sent to the Board, a straw poll or vote can be taken and bring that information back to the Budget Committee. That seems, according to her, to be the most effective way to deal with it. Ms. Lavallee volunteered to be the Board's Budget Committee Liaison for the remainder of the process.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to nominate Ms. Lavallee as the Budget Committee Liaison. Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Chairman Ryan was asked to add her to the roster.

b. Warrant Articles

Ms. LaPlante reported that the Budget Committee asked her to do research into whether it is feasible to add 2 capital reserve accounts. We have capital reserve accounts for SPED, technology and Building and Roadways. The question was, is it feasible to add one for unspent funds in case of a spike in health insurance like this year, perhaps rather than funding it at the full 34.6%, we fund it at 20% and we withdraw 14% from that as an example. It is an allowable capital reserve fund under the RSA. We have Buildings and Roadways which doesn't speak to fields, or any of our other athletic curricular programs. Would there be any interest in developing curricular capital reserve? Ms. Lavoie spoke of the \$75,000 line item for salaries and benefits. Ms. LaPlante confirms this is an allowance in case the plan estimates have excessive changes. A discussion was had including adding the allowance in a capital reserve vs. keeping it in the budget to allow for a more stable budget. There were examples also given such as if the lights in the soccer field all stopped working at the same time. It was asked why the lights could not be built into the CIP. Ms. LaPlante confirms based on counsel's advice it is not a liable use by definition for the Building and Roadways Capital Reserve. We could create a new one or change the definition of the existing. It was confirmed that all the money spent from the CIP is funding coming from the Building and Roadways Capital Reserve and confirms you could not just add the lights to the CIP because of this. Ms. Lavoie expressed her concern and is against changing the language of the Building and Roadways Capital Reserve due to the history of decreasing the amount asked for on the warrant to offset the operating budget article. Discussion was had including could we create a CIP for co-curriculars etc. and if it would be presented to the town the projects it would be used for would need to be discussed otherwise it becomes a "slush fund." Discussions continued on this matter including concern about having too many warrant articles. It was suggested to look at other towns as they have many capital improvements or trust funds. Chairman Golding expressed we will look into these. Ms. LaPlante spoke of RSA 198:4b, a contingency fund, and read the language. This would allow the district to retain any unused portion of the year-end unassigned general funds from the preceding fiscal year in subsequent fiscal years, providing that the total amount of the year-end unassigned general fund does not exceed in any fiscal year 5% of the current fiscal year's net assessment. It is allowing the district to retain some portion of unassigned fund balance year end rather than returning 100% of it. If the voters approve it, prior to expending any funds retained, the School Board will have to hold a public hearing on the action and a detailed report of all expenditures from the contingency fund shall be made annually by the School Board and published in the annual report. It is something most districts do, if not probably 90% of the ones she looked at. Ms. Lavoie noted, it is a lot of new funds, but we are catching up. How can we improve now that we have a stabilized budget for the last few years? She spoke of the Budget Committee being urged to try to minimize the unexpended fund balance as well so that we are not having \$500,000-\$600,000 at the end of the year. With the intent of bringing that down and getting a slimmer budget, if you will, something like this would be more important. In response to a question, Ms. LaPlante explained it is capped at 5%, in year 1. The cap is no more than 5% of the net assessment. There are some towns where their policy is 2.5%, that is how they wrote their warrant article and then they have policies behind it. Discussion continued, including that there are policies and processes in place for getting more money from the community if needed, for example the boilers needed to be replaced. It is very transparent vs. a new warrant. Mr. Vanderhoof thinks it is easier to spend and harder to govern. He understands the intent but envisions it allowing more spending on things we may not have spent on. He gave the example of when the pipe froze, they worked through the budget and made it happen with still money left over. He is not in support of a new warrant. Ms. Lavoie thinks putting it in front of the taxpayers is better to see which scenario they prefer. Her concern is that we have not gone to taxpayers to ask for additional funding instead we do budget freezes and cut things out of the budget. Chairman Ryan informed the group this was voted on at district meeting not that long ago and was voted down, they didn't want what they called was a "slush fund," it was overwhelmingly voted down. Discussion continued including there are times when things come up where we can cover it and other times we cannot. Ms. Lavallee spoke of concern when we use statements like it is "more transparent." She struggles with that because she thinks that the process we have in place is very transparent and the process described by Ms. Lavoie is very transparent. If we have a fund

that is set up and specifically defined under the warrant article to be used for emergencies, it is not a “slush fund” at all. It is planning for a bad event fund, and she feels it is important for us to plan ahead for things. She also feels the Board has demonstrated and the Budget Committee has demonstrated that when we have a fund that is fully funded like the SPED fund we don’t go back to the taxpayers and ask for any more money. The taxpayers have a chance in March to vote on warrants and a chance in March to vote for board members that sit up here and decide on what those warrant articles are going to be. She thinks it is both fiscally and educationally responsible for us to have a contingency fund for us to fund by having a warrant article every year asking taxpayers if we can use unspent funds. Responding to a question, Ms. LaPlante confirms to spend from it, the Board votes at a public hearing. A question was raised whether Ms. LaPlante could provide an example of something that it would be spent on. Ms. LaPlante was not prepared to discuss that, only present the topic. Ms. Lavalley noted her understanding is it would be used for things that are a safety issue or problem with communication system or something that had to be fixed so that school could function safely. Mr. Vanderhoof spoke of his concerns, and he does not support it. Discussion continued including it is not a “slush fund,” it is to be spent on certain things, it has been said twice the goal is to have a more balanced budget and you still need a meeting to vote on spending. There was disagreement voiced. The process for noticing a public hearing was reviewed. Ms. Lavoie noted the difference is how it affects taxpayers, you already collected taxes on one and there are no additional taxes needing to be appropriated. The other option is that new expense creates additional taxes on top of last year’s taxes. Responding to a question, Ms. LaPlante confirms she would need to check with council to see if we could put guardrails in the language. Superintendent expressed we will ask about putting some parameters and guardrails around this and research it. Some districts have used it for other things, and he would be supportive for us to see if we can put guardrails, certainly it would be better to have it and not close school but would like direction on how to spend it given the changes we have annually in administration and elections. We would like to do that if the Board agrees. No objection heard, it will be researched. A question was raised if we didn’t have an emergency fund and an emergency happened and we had to go to the town and say we need another \$50,000 and they voted on it, how does that work? Ms. LaPlante responded we have to petition the DRA as well as the courts under specific guidelines about why we need to have another meeting and ask for more money and it has to be something significant.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Kelly Gibson, Wilton spoke about this evening’s discussion and wanted to give a lot of credit to the LaVoie’s, they have a lot of points. She disagrees with Mr. Vanderhoof, she thinks when we are talking about it in a sense of taking it players to play other sports, having 5 children they do not all want to play the same sport, they are all different. She does not believe you would lose players going elsewhere. She spoke of her experience running the tennis program at no cost to taxpayers, all her children would not be playing other sports, and this gives them a home for all abilities. Her kids who have special needs are all together with all the players and unified as a family. When you talk about funding programs and how will it be allocated. They have been at it since January and had great enrollment and are consistent. She invited board members to come to practice, and no one came. She invited them to the WLC tennis page, and no one has done it, not even a secretary, or principal. She has been very transparent. She wants to have all come and see. They gave out awards tonight to 12 students and her daughter gave the opening speech. The majority of this has been created by her daughter, this program and what we are going to say no because we have no funding or something else is more important. Does it come to seniority, how does the Board decide which program will be funded and it is important. If seniority, then tennis came before golf. She spoke of having some amazing players, gave shout-out to Sydney. She spoke of her son being told he could not play because he is not at a competitive level. Her daughter can’t get a scholarship even though NHIAA would allow her to play, hence she is creating the program. Some point Mr. Vanderhoof brought up, she has a comeback for every one of them. When she brought up people paying for sports, she would need some help being able to pay for it but in Massachusetts any sports or co-curricular, there is a fee associated with it so there is not a cost to the taxpayer only to those who want it. It is a good point brought up. She hopes more learn about tennis. She spoke of water on the court which had to be removed for the kids to play on it for the 1st time. It is only 1 more year and then it will go away because there is no line item for it. She thinks it is important for Advantage Kids and supporters who have supported it and they have a student signing certificate for each award. Fran Bujak helped coach, please do not dismiss something even if it is not the numbers you were hoping for. Twelve children playing consistently and 6 children on wait list is pretty good and you will need to put money aside for the court and the shed is dilapidated. Good job guys.

Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

Ms. Crystal Gill thanked the Board for all they do and the time they put in. She spoke regarding an earlier conversation that the casino funds were received and could be used for co-curriculars. The money is not guaranteed, it is fluid and the group has not been given a secure date. She is not saying that the funding can’t be donated but the expectation should not be set that they will just there and funded. Like Ms. Gibson said, whether it’s a large number of students, options should be offered. Regarding the funds we don’t even have yet, it would be unfair to students and feel these things should be built into the budget whether it is our

big varsity sports or extracurricular. Remember nothing is guaranteed with those funds and we want to be sure we can provide that for our students.

Ms. Mel Jones, Wilton resident, and dance team coach since 1997, spoke that she has always asked for a small amount from every dance member since the very beginning and that goes into a bucket held in the office. Ms. Draper controls that or whoever the person was back then. It is spent on the team only and doesn't come to her, she doesn't see it as it goes right there from the beginning. She has tried to keep that expense very low with the little we get in we are able to do all the stuff we have, shoes, uniforms and she does a little sewing to alter when needed. She is thankful for all the donations received in the past years. This team enjoys seeing other performances too, it gets them excited. We go to the dance camps and would love to go to Orlando next year and are trying to do something every 2-3 years if we qualify. It takes a lot to do these extra curriculums, it is not fair to any of our students that it may not be here next year.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Vanderhoof and SECONDED by Ms. Lavoie to adjourn the Budget Committee meeting and joint session at 8:17pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

VIII. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ms. Anzalone spoke of an athletic advisory committee and thinks there should be a curricular advisory committee. One of the things they are looking at in the strategic planning committee is looking at curriculums. She suggests getting a group together to look at every activity, not just the soccer team and baseball team, all the teams and really find out what teams we have and what they need. We can't cover the cost of everything but should try to come up with a plan. Maybe we budget \$100 a student for example or something to put in the budget. Determine to cover a certain amount of what the clubs and teams need. She thinks it is important, if we are going to offer them to the kids we need to put the money into it as a matter of pride for the kids. She is not sure why the tennis team is not considered a sports team and why are they not part of sports night. She would consider the dance team an athletic team. She thinks we just need to look at all the different things we offer and make sure there is money in the budget to fund those. There was a brief discussion of how much we are budgeting for athletics and \$50,000 was mentioned. Ms. Alley noted that there may be some confusion because we keep talking about a "slush fund" using that to fund athletics. She thinks Ms. Lavoie was asking us if we want to add things to the budget now and what our interest is in doing that. She suggests we first have the survey before we talk about what we would want in the budget. Superintendent spoke of being in the heart of the budget process and not in a place where we think we need to add anything back in, but we can if the Board wishes. Ms. LaPlante confirms we spend about \$192,000 on athletics throughout the budget and includes field maintenance or any of our asset maintenance, coaching staff, transportation, uniforms and all those kinds of things. Superintendent explained we have less than 5% of the discretionary funds he believes. Most of the budget is locked in with contracts etc., about \$50,000 is the amount we have to make decisions over. We are meeting with Milford tomorrow and looking at a RFP to keep that price down and are looking at SPED costs increasing significantly, looking at a CBA for support staff and he thinks we are in a good place with that. We have a lot of costs up ahead and have not even talked about open enrollment yet. There is a lot of movement at the state level. He has spoken with 3 different attorneys and got 3 different answers regarding open enrollment. It's a big deal and could significantly cost us. We are trying to be very careful with the budget and feel we are in a good place with the 2.44% increase where we started. He spoke of being pretty committed to trying to keep this budget in a place where it can get support from the community at district meeting. The worst-case scenario is that they don't support any of our warrant articles and we're kind of scrambling at that point to fund somethings that we've asked for. He spoke of coming here the year after the \$400,000 was cut from the budget and he remembers dealing with a halftime school counselor etc. and it took us 5 years to get some of those programs and resources back into the system. The community has been supportive, but he feels like the way society is changing right now and the conditions we are in, we just have to be careful how much we put back in and how much we ask our community members to support at district meeting. He also spoke about knowing how important athletics is as a longtime coach and well aware. He suggested looking at a booster club that supports athletics and maybe we could reallocate some of the athletic money to the curricular programs that we want to grow. Conversations like that and workarounds where we could fund that even charging \$2 at the basketball game might only raise a \$1,000 in revenue for us but we could earmark that for example to buy sandwiches for away games in Colebrook for the kids so they have something to eat on the way back because they are not getting home until 11 at night. Ms. Lavallee spoke about the budget as a whole noting we really can't forget that right now in NH, school funding as a whole is very complex. It is moving very quickly, and changes are being made. She thinks sometimes the frustration we hear that is directed at the Board is really frustrations with the fact that our state is not funding public education. There are people actively in legislation who do not support public education and support choice which for some people works great but it doesn't work for everybody. She feels her job as board member is to build a good community not just the kids but the towns and community too. It is important for us to have a valuable school that people have good experiences in so that when students go off as adults they don't move to Massachusetts, Maine or Vermont, that they stay in our towns because we are going to rely on them when we are all older. We're going to need nurses, police officers etc. We need people in our community to stay here. The best way to do that is build a great foundation when they are young. She spoke of school funding being complex right now. She spoke of seeing costs shifted down to us multiple times where taxpayer money has shifted to fund things with no accountability regarding education and the need to educate people. She thinks a booster club is a great idea, there

is a need to find that perfect balance. Mr. Lavoie spoke regarding the casino funds; he meant that maybe helping to fund the dance team with a small amount of money would be possible. He understands they decide whatever they want to do with that money. He spoke of having line items for sports and extracurriculars, maybe the booster club could help with some of that so that it doesn't actually have to come out of the budget. He pointed out that sometimes it is said that the sports team has a small percentage of participants, but we have a small school. He believes there are roughly 60 kids per class in each of the MS grades, if you have that in grades, 6, 7, and 8 that comes out to about 195 kids, some quick math says we had 13% of the MS soccer kids and then add in baseball, volley ball and unified sports programs, we are probably talking 40%-50% of the kids that go to school are involved in some type of extracurricular or sports. Add in all these other things like robotics teams etc. that percentage just keeps growing. He thinks it is important that we don't act like these sports and these extracurriculars are small potatoes when we have 50%-70% participating in something. There was discussion about having a subcommittee to talk about these things. It was noted the athletic advisory committee has basically disbanded. Superintendent spoke of being leery adding another subcommittee, it is getting harder to get home late at night, but the Board can direct administration to make a presentation. They can be as involved as you want to be able to make good decision but certainly if you're on a committee you want to have Principal Ronning and some others, he would like to involve elementary as well they are missed quite a bit and it's a feeder program. Discussion was had, does it have to be a school board committee and not wanting it to be just about athletics. Some want to see line items in the budget and not looking at it as a waste of money if it is something that gets the shy student involved we need to invest in it more and sounds like there is more happening than we are aware. It was suggested to have people come in and talk about the different sports and give more recognition to kids. It was suggested that it may have more weight if it is a school board committee. It was noted the scope and sequence would need to be determined and if we are starting to get into the nitty gritty that would go outside the purview of the school board. It needs to be clearly defined to be sure we are not in waters we shouldn't be and ask employees to come in at night. Superintendent asks if it would help if he worked with the principals and do an overall look at athletics and curriculum and do a presentation. He spoke of knowing the importance of athletics in school and community. We can do the survey. He thinks they have collected all the numbers of kids participating in curriculums and can give those. You may find that the need we have is very small and maybe doesn't need a committee, maybe it just needs some direction from the Board in this current operating budget or may be you find that we do need a subcommittee you see too many gaps in the program. He thinks a real issue is how to hold on to coaches. If we can find inspiring, highly qualified coaches that stay with our program which has been an issue since he has been here. That is how we grow the program and how do we do that. He asks the Board to allow a presentation at the next meeting. He believes the Budget Committee would support any changes that we made if there were direction. Chairman Golding suggests before we add another committee, allow the Superintendent to gather the information before we put too much time into it. A question was raised whether there was a way to add a discussion of athletics and programs to the board meetings. Ms. Lavallee spoke of wanting to know what programs and clubs are done by volunteers. There is a student in 9th grade starting an origami club. She spoke that if someone feels passionate about a program it usually takes more than the suggestion, sometimes you need to volunteer your time to get it going.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie for administration to bring to our next meeting a list of every single sport, extracurricular and club we have to offer.

Mr. Lavoie added we don't need the cost or expense just what we have. Chairman Golding expressed that a motion is not needed to provide direction. He asks if all members agree, and all agreed and no objection was heard. Ms. Anzalone asked that as you are bringing that forward could you bring any applicable curriculum around any of that. She would be interested in what our curriculum is for gym class, are we teaching the kids how to play these different sports or origami, is there something in the art curriculum and try to see how we weave some of this in all if possible. Superintendent responds, we can fold that in. A presentation will be created. Regarding warrant articles, there is not a recommendation for the amount to put on the buildings and roadways article at this time. Ms. LaPlante and the Superintendent will look into the other articles that were discussed. Chairman Golding asked for any additional discussion on warrants, none heard.

IX. POLICIES

a. 2nd Reading

i. JLF-Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

ii. JLF-R-Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Form

iii. IHBAE-Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities

Ms. Lavallee reported this is the 2nd reading of these policies, the only change we made to the policies at the first read was to JLF-R, adding a recommendation to the top of the 1st page for the form to be filled out prior to calling DCYF. No other changes were made.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to approve policy JLF-Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect, JLF-R-Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Form, IHBAE-Evaluation Requirements for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

X. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

424 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to approve the minutes of October 28, 2025, as written.*
425 *Voting: eight ayes; one abstention from Ms. Anzalone, motion carried.*
426

427 **b. Superintendent Search**

428 Ms. Lavallee reviewed that the position was posted in September and we did receive a couple of applications. Chairman Golding
429 spoke regarding the search for a Superintendent and there has been a development regarding this and asked if the Superintendent
430 would like to speak to this. Superintendent spoke of being grateful regarding the confidence that the Board has in him and the
431 administration team. He enjoys working with them. It has been a good Board, and he was asked if he would stay one more year
432 and he agreed. The biggest reason is because he believes in this district. He is personally concerned about the landscape in
433 education and one of the things he spoke to the administrators about today is how we create a school where kids and parents
434 want to come here and what we can bring here that they don't have in Milford, Jaffrey-Rindge and Hollis-Brookline. We have a
435 lot of things going on like negotiations. He is really excited to stay and is grateful. Chairman Golding confirms we have a
436 Superintendent for next year. He asks for a motion to disband the search committee, direct Ms. Fowler to email anyone who has
437 applied, give thanks and we will keep them on file for the future.
438

439 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone to disband the Superintendent Search Committee.*
440

441 Mr. Lavoie noted that he would like the last candidate to look at us down the road. He spoke of the district making strides under
442 Superintendent Weavers direction and the stigma around it is really changing.
443

444 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*
445

446 Chairman Golding asked Ms. Fowler to craft a thoughtful note with the Board's gratitude for apply and ask the last candidate to
447 look at us down the road. The post for volunteers for the committee will need to be removed as well.
448

449 *A MOTION was made by Ms. Anzalone and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to take down the ad and communicate with the*
450 *candidates.*

451 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*
452

453 **XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

454 **i. Budget Liaison**

455 Ms. Lavallee reported we went over everything except for one thing we didn't discuss tonight and that was discussed at the
456 Budget Committee meeting was a very long discussion of grant funding and being transparent with where that money is going.
457 Ms. LaPlante did some education regarding how grant funding works because it is on a different fiscal schedule than our
458 schedule runs. For example, under certain grants we have the 24-25 year to spend it and the 25-26 year to spend it. It is
459 complicated sometimes to capture that into our budget because that money can be carried over. There also seems to be a lot of
460 confusion over how the decisions were made over where the grant money gets spent, and where the priorities are. It is highly
461 regulated by the government, whether it's a state grant or a federal grant. The way grants are funded is you find out usually
462 around July what you may get and are given parameters over what you can spend it on and then we have a grant committee that
463 has to discuss potential projects. The money cannot be spent until those projects are laid out in a form submitted to the federal or
464 state government. They read the form, get all the details of what's going to be funded and give a thumbs up or down, maybe they
465 need more information and will ask for that. It is a highly regulated process and kept tabs on through whatever state or federal
466 funding it is. Ms. LaPlante voiced that was the bulk of what was discussed. We talked about ways that we can better represent
467 what we've historically used the funding for because that's ideally an indicator of what we could use it for in the future. It is not
468 always guaranteed that at this point we know what money we're going to get and what our priorities are. Having said that, you
469 spoke extensively about our grants being highly regulated and she wanted to address a comment that was made in the meeting.
470 She reviewed what the Budget Committee member said, "I see \$350,000 going in a generic expense and \$350,000 coming out,
471 as general funding and I have no idea where that's going. That's fine, maybe it's going in somebody's pocket, maybe it is going
472 to lunches. I don't know what it's going to. There's no information." Ms. LaPlante spoke of taking offense to that, she has done
473 her job diligently since the day she stepped foot in this district. She is transparent to a fault. She doesn't have anything to hide.
474 Given the state of the finances of several districts in this state, she doesn't appreciate the insinuation, whether it's the
475 Superintendent or herself, making nefarious choices with the district's money, whether we get that money directly from
476 taxpayers or through federal grants. It is really upsetting that it was put out in the budget committee meeting and could be put out
477 to our constituents who will be voting on the budget. Superintendent spoke for the record, the manifests, the monthly
478 expenditures that the Board reviews twice a month, 2 board members check it, looking at it and asking questions about it. Ms.
479 LaPlante is also responsible for filing a monthly financial statement, so the state is a pass-through for the federal grants, but she
480 has to file a financial statement every month. They've withheld money because they didn't approve of the activities that we
481 asked for as they felt the activity wasn't aligned with the intent or purpose of that goal. He has struggled with that especially
482 with High Mowing because they're not used to really working with federal grants. He and Ms. LaPlante thought about that and
483 to one extent it may have been a lighthearted comment. On another point, he doesn't think it necessarily represents the entire
484 Budget Committee. He thinks the people that may have been listening or are watching the video afterwards and seeing a

comment like that may make some conclusions. We have tried to work hard to move away from that perspective that we're not transparent. Any kind of loose comments like that can be a poor reflection on that. He spoke of wanting their comments on record. Ms. Lavalley spoke of attempting to provide clarification in the meeting regarding this. She wants from the Board to review what her scope is at the budget committee meetings. Her vision is to provide them with information. During the grant discussion she provided them with information that we didn't necessarily discuss here but it was information she had from being at the grant meetings. She views her role as providing information, making sure that information is being reviewed is correct and to also bring them anything the Board's wants her to back, but she is looking for feedback from the Board what they see is her role. If they have questions, she will bring that to the Board, have discussions, and then bring that back to the budget committee. Chairman Golding asked if that was alright with the members, no objection heard. Ms. Foss adds sometimes casual comments come out of people whether on the budget committee or any other committee and is troubled by that too. Chairman Golding expressed as far as grant funding, it has been thoroughly explained over multiple meetings last year and the same questions asked and answered multiple times.

ii. Negotiations

Chairman Golding reviewed they had 2 meetings since the last board meeting. The 1st was our offer to the WLCSSA, and the 2nd was earlier today where we received their counter. We will meet tomorrow as well and will discuss this in nonpublic.

XII. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES

a. FYI-New Hire-Vincent White-Custodian

Superintendent reviewed the new hire who will work primarily at FRES but will cross train for all buildings.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Ms. Lavoie spoke regarding the athletic advisory committee saying that an email was received yesterday that they are no longer needed at that level and there has been a general sense of frustration with the way that those meetings have turned out. Granted it's not a formal committee and Principal Ronning had made that clear from the beginning we have no vote; there's no authority there. There was not any intent that what we said had to be done. The way we worked with Principal Ronning, and the Athletic Director was looking at what our programs look like and a couple of conversations that came up had to do with charging at home varsity games and what we thought about that. Asking about our awards ceremonies and how they are going, are there any suggestions for how we could do them differently to improve them. She spoke of part of the reason she wanted to get involved and piqued her interest was last year's dilemma with waivers for below 9th grade related to the soccer team and we lost middle schoolers to the high school when it was just a matter of poor timing, all things didn't align properly. It was not anyone's fault but just trying to be more proactive in how we can get more students involved earlier so that we are not in that position. We wanted to make sure we were helping with keeping an eye on all athletic programs. One of the other key things that came up during that, she personally brought up was the fact that we should be creating a policy of at least 1 assistant coach on every single team, literally within a week, she thinks 48 hours after, we had that conversation, we had an actual incident that surrounded specifically around 1 coach very far away and an injured player. She thought that was a great example of why we needed it. The conversation when brought up was an initial thought it's an unpaid position. We can't really ask anyone to do this for free. All the members said you can. There's a lot of people in the community that absolutely will volunteer to help. Since then, we have done a much better job with. She thinks there's been only 4 meetings in the last 2 years, it hasn't been a lot. One of the things we had hoped to do was kind of define more so what it was that we could help with. We just never got to that point of being able to define that. She doesn't know what the right balance of parents and community are who want to help provide insight on how the programs develop vs. managers/administrators. There is obviously a fine line we need to be cautious of.

Superintendent called out all the phone numbers and names joined in the meeting asking if they wanted to comment.

Ms. Mel Jones, WLC Kitchen Coordinator, informed the group that Thursday is the holiday meal if members want to stop in and help out. LCS lunch pick up is at 10:15AM and WLC serves at 10:15AM and FRES is 10:45AM. Any help is appreciated. Ms. Lavalley volunteered to help.

Mr. Bill Crouse wanted to second everything that Ms. Lavoie said. He has been part of the advisory committee and was hoping to have attempted and followed with more influence over athletic things. It seems to certainly take up a large portion of the discussion tonight. He thinks that only speaks to its value. The historical nature of it and its importance in the community. He thinks a key to its success is buy in from the community and the easiest way to get that is with community input.

Ms. Crystal Gill wanted to let you all know that the booster club has been part of the PTO budget. It was handed over to her at the same time as the PTO was and she could not get enough volunteers to get it going. There is a line for it and the banners are solicited and sold and Lynn Crouse helps them out with that. They have funds up to \$1,200 for athletics as of last night. They do use it for sports nights and banners. They have some funds if there is a booster group and you can pull parents together for it, we

will help get them started. Ms. Brewster knows the funds are there. There was a booster program, and they kept the banners going to help raise funds, it is part of the PTO agenda and do discuss it at every meeting. She agrees with Mr. Crouse, it is wonderful to have parents input on sports and helpful to have parents for all sports to make sure we cover all of the areas to make sure all their voices are heard. She thinks that is important.

XIV. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Alley congratulated the dance team, loved their spirit and is glad they were here tonight, and we got to see them.

Mr. White congratulated the dance team, and the drama club is putting their show on this Thursday and Friday. He is excited for them and is excited that this is the 1st of his kids who got to go to woodshop class. It is really nice to see that coming back and nice that we have someone that can do that again.

Mr. Zavgren thanked the Superintendent for staying one more year. He thinks he has been a great asset to our school.

Mr. Lavoie complimented administration on the academic portion of what they have been able to provide to the school and where we've come because obviously, we feel very confident with that portion of the SAU and our attentions can now really turn to improving things like athletics and extracurricular activities. He feels like the school board has and the community have really focused their attention on academics and we've seen improvements. We've focused funds on those areas. When people approach him and say, how come we are spending so much money on the school. He is able to give them an answer that it's working in the academic department and now can move our attention as a school board to try to focus on areas we feel we can make even more improvements and that's a good thing overall.

Ms. Lavallee congratulated the dance team and a senior soccer player for getting an award and recognized at the state level. She thanked administration for meeting tonight; it is very long but is good. She echoed what Mr. Lavoie said about academics and is feeling more confident in that. She thanked all the educators, assistants, and paraprofessionals that are helping us move in the right direction.

Ms. Foss commented that she agrees with everything that has been said so far.

Ms. Collins congratulated the dance team and thanked them for attending. She thanked everyone who has been working on this budget and knows it is not an easy process. She is very grateful.

Ms. Anzalone congratulated the dance team and the Superintendent on staying another year. It sounds like there is a lot of interest in talking more about athletics and talking more about extracurricular activities and she volunteered to get more involved and try to get more parents involved. She was interested in the athletics advisory committee and then just never heard anything else about it. She is sure there are more parents who would like to get involved as well.

Chairman Golding welcomed Vincent White, it will be a pleasure to see him in the halls and Superintendent Weaver staying another year. He the Superintendent sees the vision that we are moving toward. That speaks volumes about our district even after he tendered his resignation, he didn't want to leave the district right now. He is enjoying this very much. Thank you for sticking around.

XV. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C)

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee to enter Non-Public Session to review the non-public minutes, negotiations and a student matter, RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C) at 9:25pm.

Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 10:38pm.

A MOTION was made to seal the non-public session minutes RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C) by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Foss.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. White to adjourn the Board meeting at 10:38pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*