

Public Notice of Meeting
WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 6, 2026
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School
6:30 p.m.

Videoconferencing: meet.google.com/eww-fmij-wuh

Audio: [+1 470-273-8886](tel:+14702738886) PIN: 327 241 485#

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. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

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.

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

- i. Student School Board Report
- ii. Principals' Reports
- iii. Curriculum Coordinator's Report

b. Letters/Information

- i. Election Warrant Article

VI. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION FY 27 & Warrant Articles

a. Transportation Bid

VII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- i. Budget Liaison
- ii. Negotiations

IX. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/LEAVES

- a. FYI-New Hire-Paige Johnson-FRES Paraprofessional**
- b. FYI-New Hire-Connie Pollard-Food Services**

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
- iii. Personnel Matter

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

INFORMATION: Next School Board Meeting-January 20, 6:30 PM at WLC

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

WLC School Board Report

By: Tom Ronning and Katie Gosselin

January 6, 2026

Winter Concert

- Was held Wednesday, December 17th
 - We have a very talented group of students

The NHDOE

- IBAS survey has been submitted to reflect our school meeting the state's standards.

Clubs / WIN - Semester 2 modifications

- Mondays will be the P/SAT/Khan/iReady day- students need to complete this work to remain eligible to participate in their clubs for the rest of the week
- Study halls and teacher support will be offered daily
- Ineligible students will have dedicated study group with the content area needed
- Clubs running include:

School Store	Cooking	Sports	Weight training
3D Modeling	Chess	Robotics	Environmental
Model UN	Outdoor	Art	

Graduation Requirement:

- NH State-mandated Civics Competency Assessment (January 28th): A letter has been sent to all Junior Class students and their parents. A reminder letter will be sent next week.

iReady mid year assessment

- Testing takes place this week in grades 6 through 8 and for students in grade 9 who did not meet their benchmark.
- Data will be used for lesson planning and individual interventions during WIN along with instructional planning for core curriculum work.

Mid-terms - Application of Skills

- Rigor: We continue to improve the academic rigor in our classes. Rigor refers to the quality and depth of learning, not the quantity of assignments. Rigorous instruction challenges students to think critically, apply knowledge, and demonstrate an understanding in meaningful ways. Rigor is not asking students to just do additional assignments.
- Midterm assessments are being held Thursday, January 15 and Friday, January 16th with a school-wide review day: Wednesday, January 14th

Athletics:

- Thank you to Cheryl Carter for designing the Varsity Basketball Programs being distributed at home games. We will also be creating a QR Code for spectators to have the opportunity to view the programs using their cell phones.
- MiddleSchool Basketball
 - Girls: 5 wins; 1 loss (as of 12/19)
 - Boys: 0 wins; 6 losses (as of 12/19)

- MS teams will be in Winter tournaments. Both girls and boys are attending the South Meadow Winter Slam, giving them a great opportunity to play teams from other areas. The girls will play on 1/17 and boys 1/18.
- Varsity Basketball
 - Girls: 1 win; 4 losses (as of 12/19)
 - Boys: 1 win; 4 losses (as of 12/19)
- Unified Basketball: 1 loss but an incredible match against Conval
- Varsity Swimming:
 - Nancy McManus recently contacted our Athletic Director and she wrote: "I have to brag about your kids again.... I really enjoy having these 3 swim with us!"
 - Jack Bennet came 1st in the 50 free at 26.17 seconds out of 16 with students from Londonderry, Merrimack, Pelham, Goffstown, Alvirne and Salem.
 - Jack also came in 2nd out of 14 in the 100 free against Merrimack, Saint Thomas, Pelham, Londonderry, Milford, Salem and Alvirne
 - Sydney Beam came 6th out of 13 at 2:24 against students from John Stark, Alvirne, Londonderry, Goffstown and Milford.
 - She also came in 2nd out of 20 in the 100 free against the same schools plus Saint Thomas
 - Caiden Lambert is new to swimming and training for the Marines. In the 100 free, he received 8th place out of 14 and 10th out of 16 on the 50 free.
 - Caiden dropped 3 seconds in his 50 freestyle and 10 seconds in his 100 freestyle . Those are big time drops to get in just a week!

Discipline:

High School Behavioral Referrals:

- For the months of December there were 14 log entries that required administration's attention.
- These log entries represent 11 students out of 153 students, which makes up 7.1% of the student population.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Aug/ Sept 2025</u>	<u>October 2025</u>	<u>November 2025</u>	<u>December 2025</u>	<u>December 2024</u>
Total Log Entries	10	7	9	14	7
Detentions	0	2	1	0	1
In School Suspension	3	1	1	2	2
Out of School Suspension	1	0	2	1	0
Restorative Practice	1	0	0	0	0
Other (ie- suspension from athletics, bus suspension, etc)	5	4	5	11	4

Middle School Behavioral Referrals:

- For the months of November, there were 6 log entries that required administration's attention.
- These log entries represent 6 students out of 127 students, which makes up 4.7% of the student population.

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



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 January 6, 2026

Professional Learning

Our “Choose Your Own Adventure” professional development day planning is well underway. Teachers have been sent a survey to learn more about what type of professional development they are looking for, in addition to what is already being offered (CPR, CPI, Data Studio, etc.).

The Professional Development Committee met and reviewed our Teacher Supervision and Evaluation Process. We are looking to make changes to this process over the next two years to ensure we are using updated metrics for evaluations.

The fourth and fifth grade teachers at FRES are looking forward to implementing a pilot of Magnetics Literacy, which is a newer version of Magnetics Reading that now includes written expression. Magnetics Reading and Ready Writing were two separate programs, but Magnetics Literacy is one cohesive program to integrate reading and writing seamlessly into one program.

I continue to facilitate 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*. We have taken components of the Toolkit to review midterm assessments at the high school level.

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. We have received samples from two of the three programs we initially requested, and eliminated one program from our search.

Instruction

I have completed all of the first of three observations for new teachers. The following two observations will be completed by their building-level principal. In addition, I have been asked to support at FRES to take one observation for other teachers who require three observations. I have begun scheduling those observations in January and early February. These observations also include the pre-observation meeting, where we discuss the learning outcomes, instructional strategies, and 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 second New Hampshire Statewide Assessment System Modular. These modular assessments are “mini” versions of the larger assessment students take in the spring. Students in grades 3-5 have completed their ELA - Reading Modular, and students in grades 6-8 have completed their ELA - Writing Modular. 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. 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. So far this year, we have taken a Math Modular assessment in grades 3-8, as well as the ELA Modular mentioned previously. At the conclusion of these Modular assessments, I have met with grade-level teams in grades 3-8 to review the data. We’ve discussed what skills have been taught this year so far, which items students did well on, and which items students did not do well on. For the items that students did not do well on, we analyzed why they did not do well. For example, in several instances, we noted as a team that students were not “selecting all” on questions that required them to. In all cases, we discussed the next steps to ensure our students are prepared appropriately for these assessments.

iReady mid-year assessments are scheduled for the first few weeks of January. The middle and high school students have started their assessments this week so as not to interfere with midterms next week. FRES and LCS will begin their iReady assessments next week.

FRES

I continue to spend a day at FRES to support with behavior. I also continue to meet bi-weekly with the Special Education Case Managers at FRES to support them in a variety of ways.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT WARRANT
FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS ON MARCH 10, 2026

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

**You are hereby notified to meet on the tenth day of March 2026
At the following places in the Town of your residence:**

Wilton	Town Hall	8:00 o'clock in the forenoon
Lyndeborough	Citizens' Hall	10:00 o'clock in the forenoon

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

To vote for District officers:

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

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

Article 3: To choose one (1) At Large Member of the Budget Committee, by ballot, from the Town of Lyndeborough for the ensuing three years; one (1) Member of the Budget Committee, by ballot, from the Town of Lyndeborough for the ensuing three years; one (1) Member of the Budget Committee, by ballot, from the Town of Wilton for the ensuing three years; one (1) Member of the Budget Committee, by ballot, from the Town of Wilton for the ensuing year.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS AT SAID WILTON THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

Michelle Alley

Darlene Anzalone

Erin Collins

Cynthia Diane Foss

Dennis Golding

Brianne Lavallee

Jonathan Lavoie

Paul White

John Zavgren

SCHOOL BOARD

A true copy attest:

SCHOOL BOARD

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, December 16, 2025
Lyndeborough Central 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 (exited at 7:58pm), 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, Technology Director Nicholas Buroker, Curriculum Coordinator Samantha Dignan, Facilities Manager Ben Hofstetter, 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 Maghakian informed the group there were 4 nominations for Starfish, 2 from WLC, Becky McGrath and Amber Brewster and 2 from FRES, Pat Berube and Marissa Hofstetter. Ms. Hofstetter, School Nurse was chosen as the starfish awardee. Ms. Hofstetter was chosen for many reasons; some include how she consistently goes above and beyond to support the children at FRES and other buildings. She supports and supervises the contracted service nurses at LCS ensuring consistency and best practices across both buildings on top of her own caseload. She is compliant with medication management and all medical and safety procedures. Congratulations Ms. Hofstetter, October's starfish!

IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent requested to add a personnel and student matter to non-public.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. White to accept the adjustments to the agenda, adding a personnel and student matter to nonpublic.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Mr. Bob Newton, Lyndeborough, commented, see attached written comments.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Reports

- i. Student School Board Report**
- ii. WLCTA Report**
- iii. Principals' Reports**
- iv. Curriculum Coordinator's Report**

Chairman Golding informed the group that reports from December 2 are in the consent agenda, which can be approved in one motion unless you have any reports that you wish to ask questions or pull out from the consent agenda.

A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to accept the reports as written in the consent agenda.

Ms. Anzalone noted wanting to discuss some of what is in the WLC Principal's Report during the presentation. No objection heard.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

VII. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

- i. Superintendent's Report/Donation-Tools-Guild of NH Woodworkers**

Superintendent recognized Ms. Dignan for obtaining approval for a \$9,000 grant for Discovery Ed for all 3 schools. He is working with Ms. LaPlante regarding a CTE transportation grant to see if we can recoup some of the money in terms of transportation to get students to and from CTE classes. Ms. Lavallee spoke regarding the last Budget Committee meeting with the majority of it discussing Title I. There was some concern over funds that were allotted to us in the last fiscal year and not all the funds being used. Superintendent Weaver did have an explanation, but the Budget Committee wanted the Board to have a discussion including Superintendent Weaver regarding a timeline that we could perhaps have as a Board where at a certain point we realize how to use all the funds. Superintendent expressed the need to know when the Board would like this reported out, is it twice a year? Discussion was to perhaps have an initial report when we know what the numbers will be and the grant process was reviewed which is the same for Title I, II, IV. Superintendent explained to make changes, the activity must be rewritten and approved prior to spending funds. It was confirmed that currently there is \$20,000 not assigned, we have a Title I tutor position vacancy and are hoping to fill that. He adds in January and February we could determine the model to use for Summer Academy, look at the data from last summer, and see what is needed. We tried a different model where we didn't provide transportation but found that was a barrier for some students coming and want to build that in this year. He thinks March may be a good time to report out. Ms. Lavallee recaps we have an initial report of what the programs are and in March will see if there is any different opportunities. Ms. LaPlante noted just because we have funds available, it is still very restrictive. If we were to be using some of that money to create programs, we may not be able to fund them moving forward and need to be sure we are spending it on long-term sustainable programs if funding was taken away what is the impact. Ms. Lavallee reviewed we can't use the money for something that is already budgeted. It was confirmed it is used for targeted students and free and reduced, it is not a school wide initiative. Ms. Lavallee noted that the Budget Committee was questioning whether the Board could have a more active role in it. The Superintendent will be reporting out on all 3 grants in March with any balances and activities. Ms. Anzalone noted regarding the Road Map, the Strategic Planning Committee will meet again in January. A question was raised regarding the Title I grant being set at \$143,000 and as of December 10 we have encumbered \$123,000, is there any concern it will go over. Superintendent responded that in March we will start to build out the Academy and he has a sense that the \$123,000 will go down because we have not been able to fill all the tutor hours and will know better as we get closer.

ii. Business Administrator's Report

Ms. LaPlante reports finishing presenting the major components of the budget with 2 outstanding items which will be discussed at their next meeting. It was noted the January 6 joint session has been cancelled. We will be looking at transportation costs; the RFP was due yesterday. In prior years we only received 1 bidder, this year by partnering with Milford, she was pleased to report we have 3 regular ed bids and 5 SPED. She met with Milford yesterday and today and will meet again on Thursday and Friday to really vet that out and start asking questions of the vendors to make sure we are getting an equitable price that meets the budgetary and student needs. Transportation will need to be discussed as well as capital reserve funding which has not been finalized yet. The operating budget is up about 3.15% from FY 26 approved, just the operating budget. Both towns have received their tax rates. She is on social media and sees the feedback and rightfully so. It has been a tough economy. Everyone's costs are increasing and there is not a lot of relief. The school district's portion of the tax increase is about 4.8% but there are many factors that go into the tax rate. There are 4 components: the town, the county, the state education piece and local education piece. As a school district, every penny that we don't spend, or any penny of excess revenue goes back to the voters automatically. Towns can retain that. They can automatically retain any unspent funds and excess revenues. What towns typically do is they will fund projects with their fund balance, or they will use it as an offsetting revenue to pay down their tax rate. Looking at a tax rate from one year to one year without factoring in how much a community may have used to pay down their local portion of the tax rate can sometimes be a little misleading. One metric she uses is to take any fund balance that they apply, any excess money that they apply as a revenue to reduce their tax rate because theoretically if they spend every penny and they didn't have the ability to manipulate which she uses that word not nefariously, she worked in a community and knows what you can do to adjust your tax rate. If communities didn't have the ability to manipulate their tax rate, what would it be? In Lyndeborough, the district's portion over the last several years is, we take about 53.32% of the total adjusted tax rate. This year we're up to about 55.75% of the total tax rate. In Wilton, historically, we're about 55.94% and this year we're at 57.59%. What that tells or the message that sort of sends is that our spending is in line with that of the state. It is in line with that of the state of the county as well as our local community. We're not having a significant spike in one year of the other that is negatively influencing the tax rate or making the town's portion insignificant because we need a lot more. That is one metric she uses to say where are we at and are we monopolizing that tax rate. It helps to understand when you are getting your tax bill. She is pleased with where we're at with the tax rate as far as the analysis and she has 7 years' worth of data. Even comparing it to seven years we're still within the line. Regarding year to date, she does not have the detailed year to date yet. She provided a summary report on the back of her board report. As of today, our unaudited financials are about 6.4% unspent and unencumbered, \$5,668,443 has been spent. We have about \$9,243,000 encumbered and a lot of that encumbered is in the range of benefits. A question was raised regarding support services, maintenance and transportation which show over budget. Ms. LaPlante confirms we are \$110,000 over budget on support services \$57,749 is wages that show as encumbered in bottom part of the page and unspent on top which nets out to about \$53,000. Facilities have had 2 vacancies with 1 just filled and a contracted service for the other, we are over about \$1,900 and on the top on wages and benefits side we are showing savings for 1 staff member for the whole year, so they net out to minimal overages. She confirms we have about 4 FTE equivalent vacant positions. She confirms with facilities we will stay with the contracted service and there is a nurse position at LCS that we have been unable to fill despite interviews, the part time hours and pay have been an issue but it has been actually easier and more cost effective to hire a staffing agency there compared to the wages and benefits of an employee. She confirms we are doing OK, but we may overspend on another line item because those will not fall under salaries and benefits.

iii. Facilities Manager's Report

Mr. Hofstetter reported not much has changed since he submitted the report. He gave a shout out to his team, saying they had been a dream come true. This is his first real management position in this capacity, and he could not have asked for a better team to surround himself with. He has them doing things they have not done before. Ann Bird, Scott Hasu, Ariel Desfosses, Bill Carey and Pete Stephenson have all worked countless overtime hours trying to bridge the gap of those 2nd shift vacancies while we found Janine Sykeny and now Vinny White who have fit right in and hit the ground running. He just learned Alex Golding will be back for another month which he is happy about. As of right now we are fully staffed. Ariel is an ABA working extra and fits right in. Appreciation was voiced for how the buildings look so clean. It was suggested before the games at WLC that the gym be cleaned up around the stage if it possible for the custodians to get in there. Mr. Hofstetter acknowledged this and had just asked if they could get in there to do that, the gym is booked from 2:45pm-9:30pm, 5 days a week but is trying to work something out with the Principal and Athletic Director (AD). He would like to wash and clean floors too. Mr. Lavoie questioned whether it would be possible for some adults to volunteer to clean up the baseball field and wonders if there is a process to be able to do that. It would be a group of fathers just looking to do this if someone could get back to him and let him know if this is Ok. Mr. Hofstetter spoke, answering a question about the outdoor lights, he did speak with a vendor for a quote, but they gave a proposal for all new lights, which is not what we want. He has a number from another to just do the replacements and is waiting till spring to coordinate that, a quote is pending. It was suggested it be rectified before fall. Regarding trash around the gym bleachers, he has asked the custodians to place multiple trash barrels for people to throw things away and hopefully that will help. Ms. Lavallee spoke that it would be helpful to have a small table and chairs near concessions for anyone who wants to sit to eat and that may help minimize bringing food into the gym and remind people that it is not allowed in the gym. It may help to have a couple volunteers to remind people going in.

iv. Director of Technology's Report/Technology Plan

Mr. Buroker recognized our technician in WLC, Marisa Abasto for passing her Comptia Network+ certification with flying colors. She has been studying for the last six months, it is a pretty involved test, and it was all funded through a grant program with the state. He said he could not be happier and prouder for her. Regarding support, this is the slow time of the year, all the bugs have been worked out of the system since the start of the school year, everything is pretty level there. We did have a few power outages at LCS and that is forcing us to evaluate what we take as a given. He does not have a clear timeline. He spoke regarding the Technology Plan; this is the 3rd year he has presented it. Last year the big thing was to get the extracurricular piece sorted out. It didn't quite work. He ran a coding club with about 6 students attending maybe once and then of the consistent kids he had about 3. Unfortunately, a lot of kids say they want to code but it's really hard. He believes he is on track with the other things. The maintenance calendar has been implemented, the maker space has been implemented, library skills are teaching digital citizenship; he thinks we are in a good place. A question was raised about any need to go a bit further into the AI portions of this. Mr. Buroker responded there is a committee made of teachers concerning AI and how to actually fold it into classroom practices inspired by the code of ethics the Board approved about 18 months ago. When they come up with what they want to do he will happily fold that into the plan he will be presenting sometime next year, this time. He spoke a bit about what type of coding the coding club was working on noting one student could probably code Python better than he could. A question was raised regarding internet safety especially with AI, what are we doing to teach the kids how to be safe on the internet and how to be critical thinkers when they see something on the internet and not to believe everything they see on the internet and how to differentiate. Mr. Buroker spoke about our librarian, at MS HS, who teaches digital citizenship as part of library skills. Ms. Wiley talks about what sources are reliable and how to know if it is a reliable website, do they cite sources etc. Ms. Dignan confirms Ms. Loiselle also teaches digital citizenship at the elementary level as well, how we can fact check and images we talk about using what we have and how do we implement that with AI because it is different, it is different technology. Ms. Lavallee remembers having a night for parents where there was not much attendance and suggested perhaps having a short information piece at curriculum night or something that may be more accessible to parents. Assistant Principal Gosselin thinks it is a great idea, it has been popping up a lot lately especially in 6th grade and they have been speaking with a lot of parents, even this morning they spoke to a class and reiterated the presentation they had previously. It is something we spend a lot of time with kids on.

VI. PRESENTATION-ATHLETICS/CO-CURRICULAR

Principal Ronning, Assistant Principal Gosselin and Athletic Director Amber Brewster were present and provided information regarding athletics and clubs. A copy of the presentation can be found with the minutes. Principal Ronning thanked Ms. Draper, Assistant Principal Gosselin and Ms. Brewster for putting a lot of the information together. Ms. Brewster gave a shout out to Mr. Crouse and Mr. Lavoie for helping to clean up, sweep and put chairs away after games. Fall sports are Varsity Boys Soccer, Varsity Girls Soccer, Varsity Cross Country, Varsity Golf, Middle School Girls Soccer, and Middle School Boys Soccer. Changes since fall 2024 are that they added Varsity Golf (full roster) and JV Girls Soccer move to Varsity Soccer. Winter sports are Varsity Boys Basketball, Varsity Girls Basketball, Varsity Co-Ed Swim (doing awesome, piggy backing with Milford but playing for WLC, hope to have enough for our own team), Varsity Unified Basketball, Middle School Girls Basketball, Middle School Boys Basketball. Changes since fall 2024 are we offer Indoor Track (numbers permitting) and added Unified Basketball. Spring sports are Varsity Boys Baseball, Varsity Girls Softball, Varsity Track & Field, Varsity Unified Volleyball, Middles

School Girls Softball and Middle School Boys Baseball. No changes since fall 2024. Athletic participation (some students counted more than once) 24-25 is: MS, 35 in fall, 27 in winter, 29 in spring, total of 91. Participation in HS is: 34 in fall, 38 in winter, 39 in spring, total of 111. Participation in 25-26 for fall and winter only is: MS 30 in fall, 33 in winter, total of 63 and at HS 57 in fall, 38 in winter, total of 95. We have increased a lot and may get to the point of having to make cuts. Wrestling was explored but too late, if we want to do this next year we need to decide in May. Ms. Brewster does not have any kids actively in our district in wrestling she knows of but could be involved in a club elsewhere. Principal Ronning spoke about cost per sport. MS Boys Soccer, \$13,904.64 includes coach stipend, equipment, transportation, registration fees, officials, porta potties and field maintenance, MS Girls Soccer \$11,977.34, Boys Varsity Soccer \$22,393.32 (increase is due to using LA Limo cost for transportation), Girls Varsity Soccer \$13063.63 and Varsity Cross Country \$10,602.63. The total for the fall season is roughly \$71,000, the winter season total is about \$28,000 and spring is about \$75,000. All together our sports programs are roughly \$174,000, about 1% of our overall budget. Uniform rotation schedule was included in the presentation, and some sports may vary in years due to the sport such as basketball has a home and away uniform and are only worn 8 times each where baseball have more wear and tear therefore replaced more frequently. He spoke of clubs and reviewed all the clubs we have for MS (Drama Club, National Jr. Society, Dance Team, Robotics, Homework Club, WLC News Club, Student Leadership, Art Club, Band, Tennis Club, Rock Band, Ski Club, Tabletop Gaming, etc.), and HS (Drama Club, National Honor Society, Dance Team, WLC News Club, Student Leadership, Robotics, Student Government, Homework Club, Math Team, Tennis Club, Art Club, Horticulture Club, Weight Training, Band, etc.).plus the cost associated with each and overall MS clubs total cost is about \$6,175 and HS is about \$10,765. Student Government was a little more difficult to parse out because it includes the 4 years of HS and their class advisors, a historian, a secretary, and have dances etc. Participation numbers were presented for 24-25, MS 62, HS 28 both in 1 or more clubs, and this year MS 89 and HS 41 some students are counted more than once in multiple clubs. Principal Ronning spoke about W.I.N. period and looking at academics and doing a push with PSAT, SAT and iReady. They reviewed data and made improvements. They understand not all kids are going to college. They discussed what they could do to get kids to buy into the classes and school. We looked at offering clubs during the day and adding things instead of after school because it can be challenging because of transportation etc. They spoke to staff about what their interest would be if they could offer a club what it would be and they created a list. They surveyed students to see what they are interested in and met today, and did a Venn diagram to see what they have in common. The slides show the results of MS and HS. They are looking at building some of the programs they have and expanding them and adding some new ones. The HS listed a video game club, he found that interesting because NHIAA has a varsity team for video competitions, it is something we could possibly consider for next year. It's all still in the process of being put together. A brief discussion was as had regarding senior project and Assistant Principal Gosselin notes the seniors want to keep dedicated senior project time. Ms. Anzalone would like to see more specific numbers, when looking at the total number of athletes she would like to see it by sport, grade, how many are on the honor role etc. and ways to improve the program and is any of it built into the curriculum, what are the kids doing in PE and even with the clubs. She would like to know as much as can be shared regarding the feedback from the surveys. What changes or improvements could we make going forward and how do we really want to help develop our teams and the kids to be better athletes? She would like to see the breakdown of the cost, what makes one more expensive than another. Ms. Brewster responded that usually it's transportation. Ms. Anzalone suggested the soccer uniforms be a 2-year replacement. Ms. Brewster noted if there is a team that is a priority we have some flexibility. Ms. Anzalone wonders what grades are interested in which clubs, she is interested in how they choose which ones to use and how often W.I.N. would be utilized, first and foremost it has to be used for academics. Assistant Principal Gosselin gave some examples; there are parameters built in and you need to be earning your proficiency and competencies or they don't go. They do check ins with teachers if they are not eligible, they don't go and instead will have "structured work study" in that content area where they are most struggling with. There are a lot of parameters built in. Ms. Anzalone asked which teachers are running them, as you would want your math teachers to be available for math help. A question was raised whether golf has been put into the budget and is there anything they need; we should be paying for it. Principal Ronning responded we are staying with the current budget but typically there is funding left over and he would come to the Board to ask to allocate some of that toward golf for next year and a couple of items. A brief discussion was had regarding elementary PE, it was suggested to utilize the hill at LCS more, having kids outside at FRES playing more sports, having fun and going outside and using the field. A brief discussion was had about having proper coaches and assistant coaches, we have a community of moms and dads who know a lot about sports. Principal Ronning spoke of the difficulty finding coaches and sometimes they may not be the best but without them we may not have a team. There have been coaches put on improvement plans and some may be asked not to return. Ms. Brewster added she has just reconstructed the coach evaluations recently so that it is more in depth. Ms. Lavallee voiced appreciation for the volunteers that are helping to keep the costs low and keeping the clubs going. She is thankful for them. Discussion was had regarding some coaches commenting that it is becoming more and more difficult to coach because of the dissatisfaction people have. We rely so heavily on volunteers, and the coaches do get a stipend, but it equates to about \$2 an hour when you calculate the hours in and most fold it back into the program, they are really volunteering their time. It is important for us as a community to be cognizant of that, if you want to attract great people you have to have a great environment. Parents play a big role in that environment too. Discussion was had regarding a situation during the soccer season and the need to set examples for the students. Ms. Brewster spoke of having a program which should be out for the upcoming home game which basically says how you should behave and things like that. We want to be sure we get that out there, enjoy the game but be responsible. We have incorporated Owen who does announcements for us and will incorporate into his script that certain behavior is not tolerated and will result in removal from the gym. At this point with some consistent behaviors, she has seen at sporting events there is no more warning. If you continue the behavior, it is one and done.

VII. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION

a. Budget FY 2026-2027

Ms. LaPlante reviewed the operating budget is at \$16,152,855, which is an increase of \$492,647 over FY 26, about 3.65%. It does include the increase in health insurance. We were able to reduce essentially by a little over \$200,000 by revising our staffing estimates. When she builds it in September it is based on known staffing positions and makes assumptions about vacancies. We are continuing to budget federal grants at \$350,000 with an allocation to Title I, II and Title IV and IDEA. All in all, she evaluated the open positions, revised salaries and benefits for them and were able to save quite a bit of money. The other thing is that our maximum exposure for teacher retirements per the CBA is \$20,000 per longevity, up to a maximum of 4 teachers. When she first built the budget, she built for the worst-case scenario. We have received zero retirements but did choose to keep \$20,000 in the event that there are any unforeseen circumstances that the Board allows a special exception and waives the notice requirement. We were able to put in just over 3% on that. Our transportation costs for both regular ed and SPED are pending, she is hoping to have a contract for the Board or a proposal to the Board for their review on January 6. She built into the budget a 5% increase in transportation costs and right now from what she is seeing she thinks it may be lower than that. She is not anticipating the estimate will be exceeded. Aside from the operating budget which the Budget Committee is parsing out, federal grants, the only things left for the Board to consider are warrant articles for capital reserve accounts and any new. Discussion was had including confirming the transportation place holder is 5%, appreciation was voiced for Milford incorporating us into their negotiation. It was confirmed that, when possible, transportation is combined for both boys' and girls' games but depends on season and location. Chairman Golding asked for any further questions on the budget. None heard

b. Warrant Articles

Ms. LaPlante informed the group in speaking with legal counsel about the existing Building & Roadways Capital Reserve; it cannot be used for athletic facility needs. We would need to amend the language to add athletics facilities repairs, maintenance and upgrades and it would become part of the same CIP document, that same funding source, or there could be a subsequent capital reserve specific to athletics, facilities, repairs and upgrades. That is something she told the Board she would follow up on and has informed the Budget Committee. She provided a recommendation for the Building & Roadways capital reserve fund if we are keeping to specific to that. She is not prepared to discuss a proposed amount if you fold athletics into that. Responding to a question, she confirms it would be one warrant article which would be revised and a subsequent warrant article to appropriate. A question was raised whether the current one is amended would all of our facilities, fields and whatever is not included be included then into the CIP. Ms. LaPlante confirms yes, the Facilities Committee, she believes, would then be charged with also building out athletic facilities and upgrades into the CIP. If it were totally separate, it would have the have its own initial funding sources and then the Board would have to determine how they want to monitor it because the Board are the agents to expend. The Board does not have to have a subsequent committee to figure out the funding on that. The Board could also delegate that to the Facilities Committee, how the items on the CIP are managed and is something probably for the future discussion because she feels if we are going to have a capital reserve fund for something for athletic fields, there needs to be a mechanism for us to monitor and for the public to see what our plan is and where the money is. Superintendent spoke if we fold it into the CIP, we have to be guided by a policy that the Board passes. You cannot expend that money in the first 3 years, and the estimate needs to be over \$20,000. If we put it in the current CIP we cannot start the project for 3 years. If it has its own account and the Facilities Committee manages that we need to be sure we are not mixing the two. We would want the WLC Principal to be part of that subcommittee since most of the fields are at WLC. It was noted we have had projects like tennis courts which were over \$20,000. Discussion was had including several projects that need to be done, would need a draft policy before district meeting that deals with managing those funds, and options were discussed, leave it as is keeping athletics in the budget, adding to the current CIP warrant or having a separate one. Ms. LaPlante confirms if it is separate, the 3-year waiting period would depend on what the Board determines the parameters are. It was noted the idea would be to save for projects similar to CIP but for athletics so that over a few years you have enough to do some of those projects but would need guidelines. Having guidelines for the facilities CIP has been very helpful. We would need to take a hard look at what we need and some smaller things would go in the budget. Mr. Hofstetter was brought into the discussion, to see if he could get some estimates of what projects may be needed. Some concern was raised about putting it into the current facilities warrant and not being able to start projects for 3 years. Mr. Hofstetter prefers having two separate CIP's not mixing the two. A question was raised if it is 2 separate, is it something we can fold into the Facilities Committee. Ms. LaPlante responded, if the policy is similar, it makes sense, maybe just seeking outside input from coaches, the AD etc., and once it is created the Facilities Committee can manage it. Superintendent spoke that one of the big issues has been putting big projects in the operating budget and if we have the ability to save for it over a couple of years it seems more reasonable. He does not want another committee formed. Further discussions were had, including the need to show why we are asking taxpayers for this funding, how it will be managed and accountable for spending. One of the reasons the Budget Committee was looking into this and suggesting something like this is as we have discovered in the budgetary process every year, we essentially encounter a cost that we have no control over but is very expensive. Whether it is the state pushing back retirement funds on us or it's our health care costs going up, or it's our transportation costs, we don't necessarily always have control over those things. Since we have control over this, it makes sense for us to manage it so we can try to keep the year-to-year increases that we are asking for more level. Chairman Golding asked for a straw poll of who wants to see a separate warrant for athletics. All are in agreement with a separate warrant. Ms. LaPlante was directed to come up with the language for January 6 and Mr. Hofstetter will come up with what he thinks needs to be done and what would go on the CIP and present this in January (list of projects and costs). Mr. Hofstetter noted it will be difficult to get costs due to snow covered fields but he will ask our fields person to get some rough numbers. It was noted there is a lot of work including baseball field, lights, scoreboard

etc. It was confirmed this is for exterior not interior. That list will be provided at the January 20 meeting if possible. There was no objection heard.

Ms. LaPlante spoke about the Building & Roadways Capital Reserve and being able to save about \$30,000 over the last few years. She recommends asking for \$190,000 on the warrant article and that will keep us on the same funding trajectory. She confirms the Facilities Committee meeting could not be held as there was not a quorum, but they did have a discussion. Last year the amount on that warrant was \$272,000.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Collins to approve \$190,000 on the Building & Roadways Capital Reserve warrant article.

Voting: all aye, motion carried unanimously.

There was a discussion regarding the SPED warrant article and if they should ask to add funds to this. Ms. LaPlante confirms there is \$342,000 in it currently. Mr. Pratt spoke that we will have further conversations on SPED later and one of the fears of SPED directors he is hearing from the group at his meetings is the amount of students that are unannounced moving from one district to another district and identified with emotional disability, the numbers are increasing greatly. If he was to say at this point, he thinks there should be a contribution to it. This was tabled for now, return on January 6 with a recommendation for a number for a SPED Capital Reserve warrant. There was discussion including interest to know if there is something we can do systemically that could meet the needs of students experiencing difficulties especially for emotional disorders without costing money. Mr. Pratt spoke about weighing developmental programs or additional services, programs are difficult as it is a 3 year pathway and services are different but it's a bit grey. Mr. Pratt spoke about sometimes the needs of these students affect and entire building or class, we adjust services and try different things for kids to get into the flow of the classroom. The biggest concern is when you have 3-4 students disrupting 5 or 6 classrooms, it is hard to balance that. Even districts with more resources are struggling with this. Discussion continued on this topic. Mr. Pratt spoke of a couple of districts in Massachusetts that provide day programing and kind of create a service for those student but it is very expensive. If we did something like that it would cost \$250,000 to do that and weigh that against an OOD that costs \$100,000.

Chairman Golding spoke of the final warrant that needs to be discussed is if the Board wants to have one for open enrollment. He suggests developing the language and deciding how many students to come in and out. A long discussion was held regarding this including it does not have to be done at district meeting, it can be a special meeting. There is concern for a petition warrant article, it is important to present the way the Board and Budget Committee do with facts and unbiased. Kearsarge has just put forth in a warrant. That warrant is limited to the HS and lists zero percent going out. It was noted to accept students; we would need to know that number that could be accommodated. Superintendent suggests doing it for HS only. Concern was voiced if the warrant does not pass. Ms. LaPlante is suggesting if there is an open enrollment warrant that it be placed first. Discussion was had regarding the number of students and the cost. It is based on per pupil cost, using \$20,000 as a rough number if 50 students left, it would cost the district \$1,000,000. Discussion was had regarding the difficulty of being able to plan and budget for an unknown amount of students. It was noted there is also the EFA program. Superintendent feels most kids will want to stay here. It was suggested to make the whole district open enrollment vs. just the HS. Discussion was had you could have zero go out and take 1 student per grade in, Londonderry district is looking at something like that. Superintendent suggests if doing open enrollment then at the HS allow students in, accepting 10% which would be about 15 students. Further discussion was had including the concern with it potentially not passing and affecting the budget for next year and how do you know what to budget for. A suggestion was made to hold a special meeting prior to the March meeting. Some had concerns about not having enough time. Ms. LaPlante confirms we can't do it before the district meeting. Discussion included concern for going with a zero percent of students out as some may think it is not fair if they have a chance to not pay for tuition and that option not being available. It was noted that there is no guarantee that their child would be chosen to attend due to the lottery process. Students could be split up and attend different schools. The lottery is determined by the district, and a policy needs to be created. There may be criteria for a district to accept a student also. Superintendent voiced that the laws will likely change, it could be that each district will need to allow a certain percentage to leave a district. He spoke of another issue which is that if we do not put a cap on the number of students leaving, we will not know how much staffing we need in and out of the classroom etc., and we can't issue contracts until we know. He gave examples. If the cap is 10 students, that is about \$200,000 but we are short of \$200,000 in the budget, let's say the budget passes we are already looking to cut 2 teachers and support staff to get to that \$200,000 and that is for the 10 students leaving. If it is 20 students, that's \$400,000. If we decide right now instead of doing zero, let's say we do 10 on either side now we have a projection that we can go back and add \$200,000 to the line item in the budget. It is a risk, we are asking taxpayers to pay for it, and he thinks you would need to find cuts in the budget. He believes most schools will be open enrollment from the conversations he has had with other Superintendents and will have zero percent going out. Discussion was had regarding how many students could be added to the HS with the fixed cost the same. It was suggested to start district meeting presentation with all the positive things happening here. The last data presentation was great, not just about test scores but the bigger story, kids on the honor role and tell them what is great about our district. Superintendent spoke about the jeopardy of liability for a small district like ours. He spoke that the law will change, and districts know the only way around it is to cap it. A big school like Milford could sustain 40 students going out but for us and schools like us, Mascenic, Jaffrey-Rindge, we are all trying to figure out how to survive this without getting crushed by the Milford and Hollis-Brookline schools. At some point we can't afford to keep the school open. He thinks most of the families are really happy and the kids love our school. This is changing public education in the state and schools in our region. Ms. Lavallee spoke of what happened in larger districts like

Manchester when the open enrollment within districts law was passed that allowed parents to decide which school their children attend within their district and the effect was one school becoming better because they have the influx of tuition meanwhile the other has the opposite happening with higher needs, and higher behavioral needs. It's created a huge economic divide because you have the schools that cater to the people that have the means. Superintendent added that schools are not going to welcome kids that are at the most risk for academic failure. They won't recruit our at-risk kids and the way to control that is to set the criteria. They could say they are focused on academic achievement and will accept kids with a certain GPA. Right now, you can set any criteria you want. We could then become a school with really complicated students with complicated needs; our athletics program will be decimated. Ms. LaPlante spoke of how it affects the community and doesn't equate to automatic savings. Chairman Golding asked for a show of hands if the Board wants a warrant for open enrollment. It was unanimously in favor of having a warrant for open enrollment. Discussion was had including being the first on this, some favoring zero in and zero out, some zero out and some in and the opportunity to have students attend here and people understand this is a good school and concern was raised regarding finances and the unknown. Superintendent expresses that we need to plan for the worst-case scenario. Further discussion was had including a survey Lyndeborough put out that surveyed how happy people were with the district. The survey came back and it was abysmal but when dissected it there were no parameters to it. Anyone could have filled it out 20 times and when you dissected how many of the people that answered the survey had kids in the school they easily accounted for the positive responses about the school. Ms. Lavalley spoke about being concerned on a personal level about some members of the communities that don't support public schools and public education is taking hits from all different directions, issuing state mandates that are not fund regarding curriculum, putting rules in place we have to take care of and not funding those. Discussion was had including people don't connect that tax money to the economy in a town. You spend a dollar on public education, that dollar supports teachers and supports the staff etc., and they take that money and buy groceries and it just goes on and on and spreads throughout the entire economy and boosts the entire economy. It was noted sending your students out of district does not lower your taxes and the need to be transparent and show the great things about our district. Discussion was had regarding what is happening with legislative changes and some that have put a higher workload on administration whether it is ed rule or the curriculum changes and it is hard to quantify but even the changes to the right to know request law puts a burden on them and that is all behind the scenes. The cost doesn't just take place in the classroom. Discussion moved back to the warrant and number of students coming in and out and perhaps should start with zero out. It was noted that it has to be a percentage on the warrant. The consensus agrees with 15% coming in and zero going out. Ms. LaPlante confirms it can be revised each year. She will come back with that language for the next meeting and can work on the explanation. Ms. LaPlante informs them we are required to have a public hearing on it and she suggested February 10. Mr. Zavgren feels there should be a connection to the tax bill so that if we hit that number this is what it would look like and spread that out to each household and make it clear. Chairman Golding asked if there are any other warrants to discuss. Superintendent responded, the WLCSSA CBA but we are not there yet. Chairman Golding added we need a place holder for that we do not have a number yet but we do have language from prior years. He asked for any further discussion on the budget, none heard.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Collins to approve the minutes of November 18, 2025, as written. Voting: all aye, motion carried.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Facilities Committee

Chairman Golding reported in Ms. Alleys absence. The committee did not have a quorum, and Ms. LaPlante provided a recommendation for the CIP capital reserve.

ii. Technology Committee

Mr. Zavgren reported the committee discussed moving the internet point of presence from the current place which has backup power this is prudent but if the line is out, then the phone service goes out. We want to have a no single point of failure. The idea is to move that point of presence over to FRES because they have a backup power supply and it is used as Wilton's emergency shelter. There is fiber connectivity between all these places. It should be relatively easy.

iii. Budget Liaison

Ms. Lavalley reported already speaking of this earlier. She asked what information would the Board like her to bring back regarding negotiations. Negotiations will be further discussed during non-public.

iv. Negotiations

Chairman Golding reported this will be discussed during non-public.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Mr. Bill Crouse, Lyndeborough spoke regarding the cleanliness of the gym, he knows there is a desire to keep it dry and food free, but many other schools do not that and they don't have a cleanliness problem. He suggests at the end of the game take your junk with you. He spoke regarding FRES PE and feels it is in need of an adjustment, a wholehearted look at the program. He spoke of being part of the PTO and is not speaking on their behalf but it is the Parent Teacher Organization and there is lack of effort on the teachers. Aside from Ms. Bujak who participated regularly, other than that we don't have attendance from teachers

and would like to see that. He was curious about meeting tonight and at FRES and wondered why the option to comment online is not available. He wants it available. Chairman Golding responded that we don't have the same set up here, technically we don't have to offer it. Mr. Crouse spoke of wanting to see sports participation be a credit achieving mechanism for PE credits as this is done in many other HS in the state at all levels. He doesn't know the right way to go about suggesting it. He has 3 kids who play sports and thinks they are getting their PE time and wants to see a mechanism for doing that. He spoke of being a proponent of the fields warrant, things have gone undone for a long time and wants to see them done now. Regarding warrants, he is still in the dark about the Performance Tech Committee, he feels they got the short end of the stick, why it was not on a warrant ever or ushered in that direction he questions. It is an asset of the school and when the fridge breaks, we replace it but we have this sound and light system overused and undermaintained and wants to do something about it. It gets pushed off in the donation schedule, but this should have been paid for by the school or coordinated with donations. Even though the money is coming in from other sources the school needs to stand behind it. At the last meeting he may have made a comment about the community being disregarded as far as the Athletic Advisory Committee and there are signs of maybe having more information. The ripples he put in the water have had an effect and is thankful for that but there is more than can always be done.

XI. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. White commented that things are moving in a positive direction and we are in budget season, let's keep moving along.

Ms. Anzalone agrees we should have the online piece.

Mr. Lavoie attended unified basketball today, it was a great game, and the kids had a great time. It is the only game you go to where everyone claps, and everybody scores. It doesn't matter the score; they had a great time. He thinks Matthew Hannigan put up about 100 points, did a good job.

Ms. Collins commented we hear about the taxes continuing to go up and everything else going up and what we need to improve the scores. Speaking for herself as a parent, she has never questioned our average test scores or wherever any of that falls because she talks to the teachers. Anytime she is at the school she sees everybody doing the work and doesn't know what more they would necessarily be doing. She feels the vast majority of the increases are coming from things beyond what the teachers are able to control because a lot is coming from DC. She doesn't know what other programs and things there are but if anyone has ideas, she is wide open.

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

A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Mr. Lavoie to enter Non-Public Session to review the non-public minutes, discuss personnel and student matters and negotiations, RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C) at 9:41pm.

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

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 10:19pm.

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

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Mr. White to adjourn the Board meeting at 10:19pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*

December 16, 2025

To: The Wilton-Lyndeborough School Board

From: Bob Newton, Lyndeborough

I've attended many school board and budget committee meetings over the past six years in person and online, and I have read all the minutes from both boards since August. I was surprised when an administrator at a recent meeting mentioned some recent standardized test results, one of which was under 50% proficiency and the other just over, with the comment that "at least we are above the state and national averages", and there was zero reaction from anyone on the board. It struck me at the November joint board meeting that I have never heard anyone on either the school board or the budget committee discuss how to improve the actual academic performance of our schools. I've heard about bake sales and field trips and sports field repairs, but I have never heard a board member ask, "Why do we rank so low on the state achievement tests, and what can we do about it?" For the record, our district does quite poorly on state standardized proficiency tests:

FRES: ELA 46%, Math 39%.

Middle School: ELA 50%, Math 31%.

High School: ELA 50%, Math 31%. State Average ELA 55%, Math 42%

The top five ranked elementary schools in New Hampshire have ELA proficiency scores above 80%, with nearby Mason Elementary the best at 90%, and similarly high math scores.

(I'll grant that state standardized tests may not be the most valid way to assess educational achievement, especially at the high school level. But I have also heard the administration talk about how they are very "data-driven" in managing the schools, and what better data do we have?)

My complaint as a voter here is that we don't seem to be getting much value for our money. With approximately 550 students in the system, the current proposed budget of nearly \$16.8 million represents a cost per student of over \$30 thousand.

But aside from the poor productivity of our school spending, the test scores also tell me that our schools are failing to educate more than half of the children in our towns. Why don't all of our students (at least those who are not seriously learning disabled) meet the state standards, which I expect have been dumbed down over the decades since we were kids? If our schools were a business, they would have gone bankrupt and disappeared a long time ago as their customers would have left because of the bad quality of service. We already see that trend growing as more families opt for charter, private, or home schooling. And it is a tragedy on a human level, for every child and family we are failing. Studies show that illiteracy is a prime cause of failure in life including unemployment, crime, addiction, and mental illness. And highly successful

Americans such as Dr. Ben Carson, Justice Clarence Thomas, and JD Vance show that education can overcome even the worst socio-economic disadvantages.

Now this is important: I am not criticizing the school board or budget committee, nor any member of either. You all volunteered for these positions and put in long, hard hours without pay because you care about our community, and you all deserve our thanks and honor for that.

But I think you may be victims of bureaucratic capture. Your position is similar to what the cabinet secretaries face in our federal government – you are viewed by the “professionals” in the bureaucracy as summer tourists who are in position only temporarily, and who don’t know the system and how to play it as well as they do, so you can easily be kept in the dark and your orders resisted. You must rely on the people you supervise to give you the information you need, but they will give you what they need instead. Over a long time the education-industrial complex has set up a system that protects their interests in part by making the system nearly incomprehensibly complicated (for example, the state education standards and the state-mandated budget spreadsheet format) and by training their supervisors – you - to avoid focusing on serious matters and filling your time with trivia. They provide goals and action plans that are classic bureaucratese: vague, abstract, heavy on buzzwords, and ^{not} measurable as to what will be done and when. I refer you to the Superintendent’s District Goals document of September 9th. And I’m not going to blame them either, because acting in one’s own best interests is natural human behavior. So we end up with a culture of non-accountability: Nobody is responsible for producing tangible, measurable results; there is no consequence for failing to do so, so we don’t get any. Even better, anyone who criticizes the system is accused of “not caring about the children”.

Nobody, that is, except for our teachers, who are at the cutting edge, supporting all the burdens of the system imposed on them by both bureaucrats and parents. And here I must point out that I have no criticism of our teachers. They are doing the best they can in a system that simultaneously makes ever-increasing demands on them and cripples their ability to do their job. Every day spent on standardized tests, every IEP report and meeting, every stupid pedagogy idea espoused by “education” PhDs in universities, every counterproductive or politically motivated curriculum regulation demanded by the state bureaucrats (“Common Core” reading and math for example), is time they can’t spend helping the kids to learn. Most teachers I’ve talked with do many hours of unpaid work at home on nights and weekends.

But by statute, the school board does have the responsibility to provide an education for the towns’ children. Schools are not really a sacred, social institution, but a service business, and you are like the board of directors of ^{that} a business. The customers of the business are the families of our towns, and the shareholders are the taxpayers who are forced to pay for all of it. The customers aren’t satisfied, and the shareholders have hit the limit of what they can afford to pay. The cost per student is simply outrageous.

I’m asking you as the directors of our school district to put your time, attention and energy into improving the quality of academic education here. Find out what the best-performing schools are doing in curriculum, teaching methods, and materials, that we could copy or adapt. What do the

top five schools, with proficiency over 80%, do differently from us? Look not only at other public schools. Look also at private schools that achieve extremely high learning results. Look also at great teachers of our times. Can we teach math as Jaime Escalante did? Can we use the "Guerilla Curriculum" methods of John Taylor Gatto? Can we use the methods developed by Elon Musk's schools to teach math, science, and ethics?

I believe you should focus your efforts on our elementary schools, LCS and FRES. Children who are literate, and numerate, and who can express themselves clearly in writing and in speaking, have a foundation that leads to success in learning and in life. It's logical to assume that any weakness in middle or high school was caused at the elementary level. Looking at the FRES numbers, that's where we get the most value for the effort. You should also ask, "Is there anything counterproductive in the way we teach basic skills such as reading and math that could cause learning or behavior problems leading to Special Ed diagnoses?" Because I would also expect that improving curriculum and pedagogy methods would decrease the demand for Special Education, since remedial tutors and CBTs would no longer be needed. Fixing FRES will both improve outcomes at all levels and lower costs at the same time. It's a win-win.

I'll end with a note about the open-enrollment situation. In his report at tonight's meeting, the Superintendent's Report asks, "How do we develop and implement innovative programming and opportunities in academics, co-curricular and athletic programs that will motivate students outside of our district to tuition into our schools, particularly our high school?" I suggest that if we were in the top five ranked districts for elementary education, families will line up to give us their children without any expensive, fancy high school programs. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

RSA 189:1-a II. Elected school boards shall be responsible for establishing the structure, accountability, advocacy, and delivery of instruction in each school operated and governed in its district. To accomplish this end, and to support flexibility in implementing diverse educational approaches, school boards shall establish, in each school operated and governed in its district, instructional policies that establish instructional goals based upon available information about the knowledge and skills pupils will need in the future.

Wilton-Lyndeborough School District Co-Curriculars



Agenda for Presentation:

WLCM/HS Athletics
WLCM/HS Clubs
FRES Clubs

Fall Sports

Varsity Boys Soccer

Varsity Girls Soccer

Varsity Cross Country

Varsity Golf

Middle School Girls Soccer

Middle School Boys Soccer

Changes since Fall 2024:

Added Varsity Golf

Went from JV Girls Soccer to Varsity Soccer



Winter Sports

Varsity Boys Basketball

Varsity Girls Basketball

Varsity Co-Ed Swim

Varsity Unified Basketball

Middle School Girls Basketball

Middle School Boys Basketball

Changes since Fall 2024:

We offer Indoor Track (numbers permitting)

Added Unified Basketball

Spring Sports

Varsity Boys Baseball

Varsity Girls Softball

Varsity Track & Field

Varsity Unified Volleyball

Middle School Girls Softball

Middle School Boys Baseball

Changes since Fall 2024:

No changes

Total Athletic Participation Numbers

Total Number of Athletes (1 or more sports) 2024-2025

- Middle School: 35 (Fall), 27 (Winter), 29 Spring
 - 91 total
- High School: 34 (Fall), 38 (Winter), 39 (Spring)
 - 111 total

Total Number of Athletes per season (Fall and Winter 2025-2026)

- Middle School 30 (Fall), 33 (Winter)
 - 63 total
- High School 57(Fall), 38 (Winter)
 - 95 total

Total Cost Per Sport: Fall Season

- MS Boys Soccer \$13,904.64
- MS Girls Soccer \$11,977.34
- Boys Varsity Soccer \$22,393.32
(LA Limo costs)
- Girls Varsity Soccer \$13,063.63
- Varsity Cross Country \$10,602.63

Total Cost Per Sport: Winter Season

- MS Boys Basketball \$2,915.31
- MS Girls Basketball \$2,915.31
- Boys Varsity Basketball
\$10,506.00 (uniforms cost)
- Girls Varsity Basketball \$8,723.22
- Unified Basketball \$1,152.49
- Indoor Track \$633.19
- Swim \$462.99

Total Cost Per Sport: Spring Season

- MS Baseball \$13,641.57
- MS Softball \$13,488.77
- Varsity Baseball \$16,127.41
- Varsity Softball \$17,927.25
- Unified Volleyball \$822.86
- Varsity Track \$11,498.86

Uniform Rotation

Sports Team	Year Purchased	Next Scheduled	cycle length
Fall			
Boys Varsity Soccer	home-7/2023, away 7/2022	7/1/2026*	5 years
Girls Varsity Soccer	7/1/2025	7/1/2029	5 years
Boys MS Soccer	7/23/2023	7/1/2027	3 years reversable
Girls MS Soccer	7/23/2023	7/1/2027	3 years reversable
Golf		Fall '25 purchased by community member	
Cross Country	7/1/2024	same as track	
Winter			
Boys Varsity Basketball	7/1/2023-4	7/1/2027	4 years
Girls Varsity Basketball	7/1/2023	7/1/2027	4 years
Boys MS Basketball	11/1/2024	7/1/2028	3 years (reversables)
Girls MS Basketball	11/1/2024	7/1/2028	3 years (reversables)
Swimming		Purchase as needed, per athlete	
Unified basketball	7/1/2024	SAME as Volleyball	
Spring			
Boys Varsity Baseball	7/1/2023	7/1/2026	4 years
Girls Varsity Softball	7/1/2023	7/1/2026	4 years
Varsity Track	7/1/2024	7/1/2028	4 years
Boys MS Baseball	10/30/25	7/1/2029	4 years
Girls MS Softball	10/30/25	7/1/2029	4 years
HS Unified Volleyball	7/1/2024	7/1/2028	

Middle School Clubs

- Drama Club (\$1,240)
- National Jr. Honor Society (\$985)
- Dance Team (\$500)
- WLC News Club (\$0)
- Robotics (\$1,275)
- Student Leadership (\$300)
- Ski Club (\$0)
- Homework Club (\$550)
- Art Club (\$250)
- Tabletop Gaming Club (\$300)
- Weight Training Club (\$250)
- Origami Club (\$0)
- Band (\$275)
- Chorus (included in \$275 band)
- Unified Club (\$250)
- Tennis Club (\$0)
- Rock Band (\$0)

Total Cost of Middle School Clubs: \$6,175.00

High School Clubs

Total Cost of High School Clubs: \$10,765.00

- Drama Club (\$1,240)
- National Honor Society (\$985)
- Dance Team (\$500)
- WLC News Club (\$0)
- Robotics (\$1,275)
- Student Leadership (\$300)
- Ski Club (\$0)
- Student Government (\$3600)
- Homework Club (\$550)
- Art Club (\$250)
- Horticulture Club (\$600)
- Weight Training Club (\$250)
- Origami Club (\$0)
- Band (\$275)
- Chorus (included in \$275 band)
- Math Team (\$690)
- Unified Club (\$250)
- Tennis Club (\$0)

Total Club Participation Numbers

Total number of club members (1 or more clubs) 2024-2025

-Middle School: 62

-High School: 28

Estimated total number of students in clubs this year so far:

-Middle School: 80*

-High School: 41*

note- some students are counted more than once if in more than 1 club

Middle School Club Survey Results

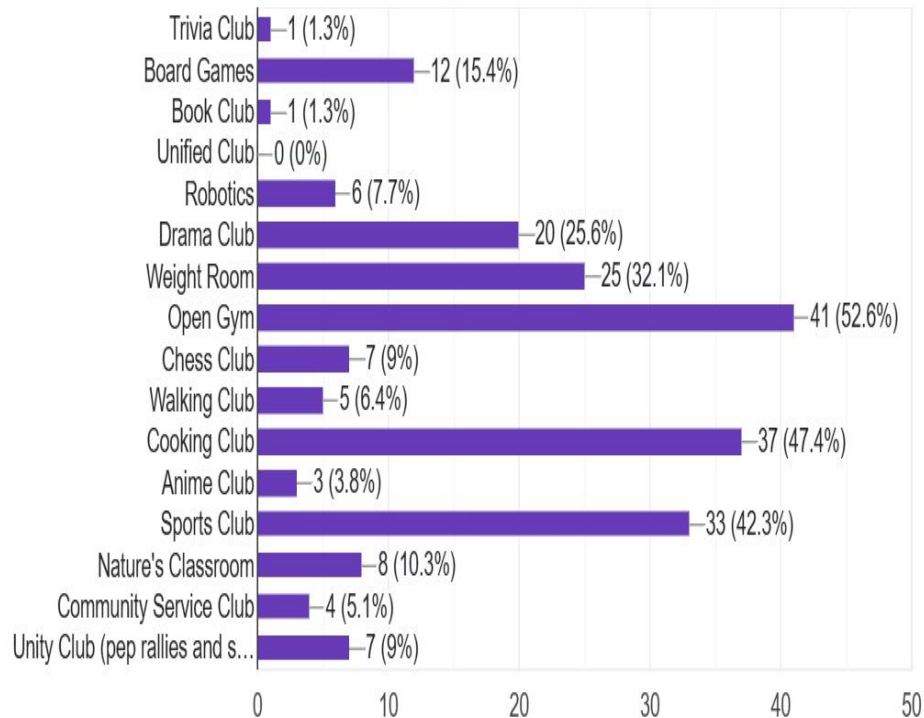
Additional clubs students asked for:

volleyball club, choir club, video game club, ping pong club, mountain bike club, d&d club, poetry club, astronomy club, woodworking club, kpop club, and tennis club.

I am interested in the following CLUB(s) during WIN.

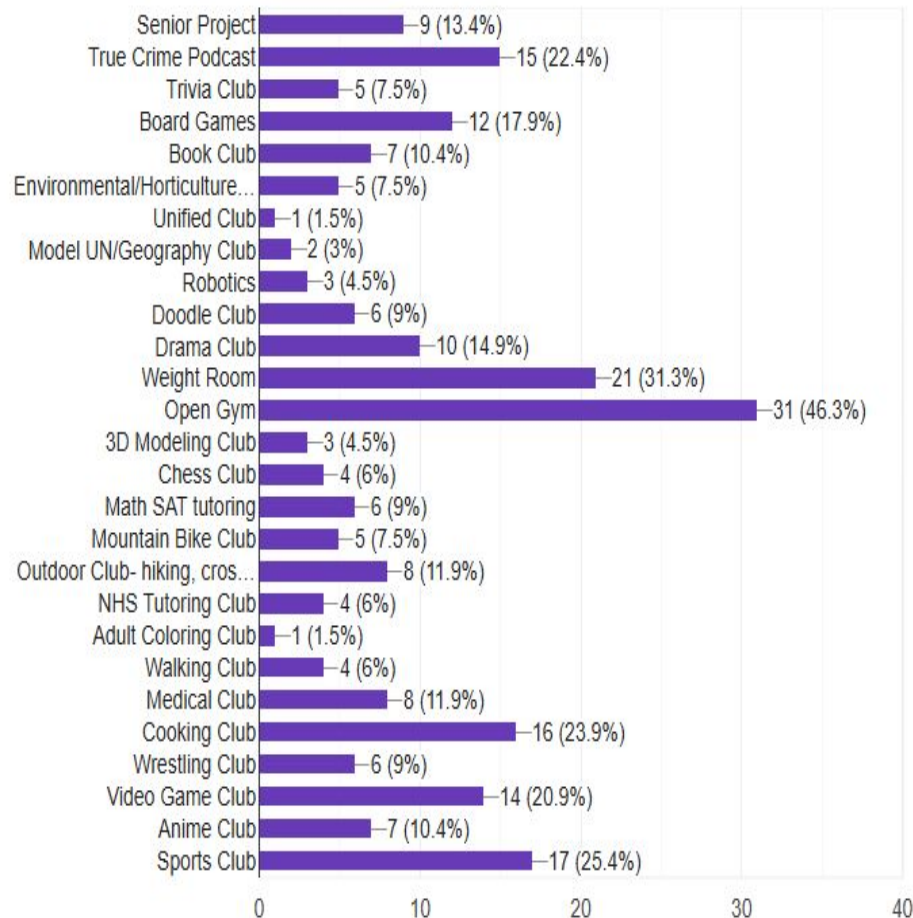


78 responses



High School Club Survey Results

Additional clubs students asked for:
tennis (if not embedded in sports club),
movie club, e-sports club, outing/field trip
club, school store club, godot club, coding
club, karaoke/singing club, yoga club,
military history club, engineering club,
HOSA or vet club, Clash Royale club,
LARPing club, and kickball club.



FRES Clubs

Clubs are developed voluntarily based on student and teacher interest. There are no clubs that are currently running. In the past, we have had Lego Club, Chess Club, Writing Club, Robotics Club, Girls on the Run, and Crazy 8's Club through Beast Academy.

Lego Club ~ supplies and stipend, possibly funded through grant (\$330 per lego kit)

Chess Club ~ stipend and supplies possibly through grant

Writing Club ~ stipend and supplies possibly through grant

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP/NONMEETING
Tuesday, December 16, 2025
Lyndeborough Central School
6:30 p.m.**

*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, Technology Director Nicholas Buroker, Curriculum Coordinator Samantha Dignan, and Clerk
Kristina Fowler*

The meeting started at 5:32pm. Attorney Alison Minutelli was present and provided legal counsel, and
information regarding open enrollment, and answered questions. The meeting ended at 6:20pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*