

1 **WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL**
2 **BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**
3 **WLC-Library**

4
5 **DRAFT MINUTES**
6 **Wednesday, January 14, 2026**
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8
9 **Committee Membership:** Bill Ryan (Chair), Alyssa Lavoie (Vice Chair),
10 Lavallee (SB rep), Bridget Mooney (Secretary), Craig Alley, Phil Brooks, Harold
11 Melcher III, Bob Silva, Jonathan Vanderhoof
12

13 **Present:** Alley, Brooks, Lavallee, Lavoie, Melcher, Mooney, Ryan, Silva, Vanderhoof
14

15 **Absent:** Vacant Wilton position
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17 The meeting was recorded.
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19
20 The meeting was called to order at 6:22
21

22 No Adjustment to the agenda
23

24 Alyssa Lavoie presented to the committee the FY27 Budget presentation (still under
25 construction) which will be presented to the public in March 2026. There was a great
26 deal of discussion and critique on how to present information and what information
27 to include that will be most useful and relevant to the taxpayers. Numbers for most of
28 the categories were not available but will be by the January 20th meeting. This
29 presentation and feedback session took close to one hour and 45 minutes.

30 *(note: to see a full accounting of the discussion watch the recording but note that*
31 *only Alyssa Lavoie is clearly audible. There is an accompanying transcript which*
32 *tries hard to capture other's comments, often not successfully.)*
33

34 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
35

36 Adam Lavallee, *Lyndeborough*: advises that the number of slides that will be presented
37 to the public be limited to ensure an engaged audience. He further suggests keeping the
38 presentation to twenty minutes to accommodate those with very short attention spans.
39 He suggests beginning with a story, not data and he believes that cost per employee is
40 more relevant data than cost per student. He feels there is not too much information on
41 the lack of state funding in the presentation and talks about the six tax breaks for business
42 owners which results in higher tax rates for property owners. He goes on the question
43 some of the data in the presentation pie charts.
44

45 Bob Newton, *Lyndeborough*: began by stating that he was wearing two hats and would
46 begin with his moderator hat. He asked if the agenda for the school district meeting had

47 been set yet as he needs to know the structure/flow of the meeting. He became upset
48 when a point was being explained to him about the timing of posting the agenda and
49 demanded that he not be interrupted. He feels he needs to know who will be presenting,
50 who will be making motions, etc. and suggests that the board not wait 'til the last moment
51 to involve him.

52 As a citizen he believes the data should be presented up front, not begin with a story. He
53 goes on to explain how he expects the presentation should be given and the information
54 that should be included. He states that if his suggestions aren't adhered to, he will vote
55 against the budget. He suggests the board answer anticipated questions in the
56 presentation, not waiting for questions to be asked. He says to only include need to know
57 information and not "fluff".

58
59 Bill Crause, *Lyndeborough*: is concerned about the zero-increase budget and cuts in the
60 budget for athletics. He says there are programs including new programs that are
61 flourishing and showing lots of participation and success and that these programs should
62 be receiving more support, not cuts as this will have a detrimental effect on the students.
63 He approves of the new extra-curricular warrant article for large ticket item needs, but
64 feels the immediate issue is supporting the needs of teams and programs within the
65 budget. He's gone to other towns meetings and has seen they start with everything that
66 everyone wants and the cut down from there and he believes that what should be done
67 here.

68
69 It is noted that the list of "wanted" items, requested by the Budget Committee, was never
70 provided by the Administration. It should be requested again.

71
72 Brianne Lavalley, *Lyndeborough*: agrees with Bill Crause that starting the budget at a
73 higher level and cutting down is the right approach. The current approach took longer to
74 understand what was taken away. It might be better to change the process; to have
75 community conversation that includes the public, SAU, and the boards. Currently
76 collaboration is limited.

77
78 Jonathan Vanderhoof asks for clarification on the Special Ed fund. Brianne Lavalley
79 explains that the additional \$100,000 will be in the operating budget and not requested
80 for the Special Ed fund.

81
82 Chair Ryan thanked Alyssa Lavoie for her presentation and apologizes for Moderator Bob
83 Newton's outburst and explains that he and Superintendent Weaver discussed Bob
84 Newton's list with a lawyer and were advised that they can take information or advice
85 from the public but are not tied to the public's request.

86
87
88
89 Bob Silva motions to approve the 12/17/25 Budget Committee minutes. Hal Melcher
90 seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

91
92 Bridget Mooney motions to adjourn the meeting. Hal Melcher seconds the motion.

93 The motion passes unanimously.

94

95 The meeting adjourned at 8:42

96

97 The next joint meeting of the Budget Committee and the School Board
98 is January 20th, 2026

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DRAFT