Public Notice of Meeting
WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Florence Rideout Elementary School
6:30 p.m.

Videoconferencing: meet.google.com/gjn-edpe-wvo
Audio: +1 252-423-4222 PIN: 905 488 352#

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 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.

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE
a. Reports
i. Superintendent's Report
ii. Business Administrator's Report
iii. Director of Student Support Services Report

VI. BOARD PREPARATION FOR DISTRICT MEETING

VII. ACTION ITEMS
a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS
i. Budget Liaison

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

X. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

XI. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C)
i. Review the nonpublic Minutes

XII. ADJOURNMENT

INFORMATION: Next School Board Meeting-March 3, 6:30 PM at WLC

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WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 3, 2026
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, Darlene Anzalone, Diane Foss, Jonathan Lavoie, and school board student representative Hannah Hamilton*

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, Curriculum Coordinator Samantha Dignan, 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. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C)

i. Review the Nonpublic Minutes
ii. Personnel Matters
iii. Negotiations

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. White to enter Non-Public Session to review the non-public minutes, negotiations, and discuss personnel matters RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C) at 6:30pm.
Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 6:47pm.

A MOTION was made to seal the non-public session minutes RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C) by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. White.
Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Chairman Golding informed the public the Board voted to ratify the contract with the WLCSSA. Ms. LaPlante explained the highlights of the contract. The WLCSSA covers support staff which includes attendance secretaries, bus monitors, enrichment and library aid (no one in that position), part-time custodians working 30 hours or less, para health aid (no one in that position, computer instructor (no one in that position. She spoke specifically about attendance secretaries, bus monitors, custodians and paraprofessionals. In year 1 of the contract, attendance secretaries will have an average increase of 9.44% and in years 2 and 3, 4.25% of pay. The bus monitor is increasing 4% in year 1, and 3.85% and 3.7% in years 2 and 3. Custodians, we have 2 groups, 2 are on longevity who have been with the district more than 20 years. Those increases are 6.97% in year 1 and 3.72% in year 2 and 3.59% in year 3. The custodian who is not on longevity is increasing 10.48% in year 1, and 4.74% in year 2 years and year 3 an increase of 4.53%. The paraprofessionals are increasing 11.5% in year 1, 4.25% in years 2 and 3. She reviewed the warrant article costs broken out by years 1-3. Year 1 of the contract would be $66,818 covering wage increases as well as an adjustment to the health insurance reimbursement. Year 2 of the contract would be $27,599 and year 3, $27,572. The total overall 3 years is $120,989. The wages seem to be focused on those areas where we do have the most staff turnover where we really want to appeal to some of newer staff coming. Ultimately at the end of the day, the negotiations team and Board had settled on an 11%, 4% and 4% type of contract. This really equates to a slight savings for the district over the course of the 3 years. Chairman Golding reviewed the Board did vote on warrant article #6 (CBA) going to the district meeting in March.

IV. STUDENT/STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

There was no presentation.

V. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent reported no adjustments needed.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

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VII. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Student School Board Report

Ms. Hamilton reviewed her report.

- The High school drama club has officially started rehearsals for their spring production of "Pippin" Which will take place in April!
- Dance Team: The dance team had a successful production of the mini nutcracker in early January. There was a concern brought up of basketball practice happening during the show, and it was hard for people to focus and hear the ballet music during the performance. Overall, it was a great night for all.
- Winter Sports Update: Winter Sports are quickly coming to a close, it has been a roller-coaster of a season for the sports teams, but we are all looking forward to spring sports in the upcoming months.
- Students in grades 9-12 took midterms January 12th and 13th. The students were happy to start fresh with a new semester full of new classes. On behalf of the students, they are ready to take 1 more and be done for the year.
- In February a group of Middle school students who are part of the National Junior Honors Society headed to Camp Cody in Freedom New Hampshire to attend a Youth Leadership summit where they will learn how they can be a leader in their community. While away at this camp they will create an action plan on a project they will implement in their school/Community. Ms. Hamilton will also be staffing that leadership summit.

Ms. Lavallee asked if the National Honor Society is providing babysitting for district meeting. Ms. Hamilton is unsure but thinks they are.

ii. WLCTA Report

Ms. Radloff and Ms. Kudlich reported:

Florence Rideout Elementary School

- First grade is completing a unit on Braille. Students learned the history of Louis Braille and the Braille system, discovered Braille throughout the school building, practiced "writing" in Braille, and received sticky notes with their names written in Braille.
- Students recently completed a "travel" unit exploring holiday traditions from around the world. As part of this learning, they visited Nelson's candy shop to observe candy cane production. All students were generously given a candy cane free of charge.
- Students are continuing their hands-on learning through their adopted calf, Amelia. They are learning about the responsibilities of dairy farmers and how those responsibilities compare to caring for a calf. Students take home a stuffed version of Amelia and write and share reflections about their experience.
- Second graders have begun an exciting new project focused on observing and learning about Bald Eagle nests. This project builds on a long-standing first-grade tradition started by Mrs. Lemire, in which students observe the Peregrine Falcons that nest in Manchester, NH. Students have been eagerly anticipating the female eagle, Jackie, laying her eggs. Ms. Radloff provided an update on the Peregrine Falcon eggs; they have been stolen by ravens she believes but there is the possibility of laying more eggs in March.
- Fifth grade students visited the Boston Museum of Science which included a curriculum aligned

Planetarium show about the Solar System. All grade levels are looking ahead to upcoming Data Days, where teachers will review student progress and identify opportunities for continued growth.

WLC Middle School & High School

- Semester One final high school artworks are currently on exhibit throughout the community.
  - Drawing and 2D Art are displayed in the hallways of Wilton–Lyndeborough Cooperative Middle High School.
  - 3D Art and multimedia sculptures, including ceramics, are exhibited at the Wilton Public Library from February through March.
- Community members are encouraged to visit and celebrate student creativity.
- Eighth-grade students are actively creating artwork for the community-wide downtown celebration planned for May 9 in honor of the United States' 250th anniversary.
- Local resident Matt Fish has generously offered Curtis View Farm as a space for building parade floats.
- Community members interested in float design, volunteering, or sharing local history are encouraged to contact the Wilton Historic Committee or WLC art teacher Emily Hall.
- Students participating in the Double Good Popcorn fundraiser raised over $1,500 toward their upcoming international trip to the United Kingdom and France.
- The WLCTA extends appreciation to the community members who supported these students.
- Read Across America will be celebrated by FRES and LCS the week of March 2-6. The theme is the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America. Students and staff will participate in dress up days, drop everything and read time and a school wide challenge to read a book set in every state. We have invited community members to be guest readers throughout the week in each classroom. If Board members are interested, please reach out to Kirsten Rourke. FRES and LCS will have a PTO sponsored visit with Steve Blunt at LCS and Marty Kelly at FRES.

A question was raised regarding the adoption of a calf; did they visit a dairy farm? Ms. Kudlich believes they visited a dairy farm; she does not know if they went back to see the cow again, but they get regular updates on the cow. They have pictures that

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they put up in the classroom, and they have a stuffed cow. A question was raised whether during Read Across America week is there an opportunity for some of our HS students to go down to read to the students. Ms. Kudlich suggested reaching out to Ms. Maghakian or Ms. Radloff. A question was raised if the Spelling Bee was happening this year. Ms. Kudlich responded they are not doing it; it was lost in the shuffle and hopefully it will be brought back next year.

iii. Principal's Report

Principal Maghakian reported that iReady assessments in math and reading were done. They have just concluded data days reviewing data and intervention processes. The PTO's skate night was January 16 and Read Across America is coming up. They had curriculum-based field trips, the 5th grade went to the Museum of Science, and the 4th grade went to the State House. Jaymin LaPonsie is the long-term substitute while we awaited the arrival of Ms. Albee's baby who has since come. Report cards went out a week late due to a computer glitch but has been fixed and it won't happen again. She spoke of the New Hampshire School of Excellence application which she applied for and were selected to move forward in the process. She had a team of folks go to Concord on January 23. That team included, Ms. Dignan, Stephanie Loiselle, Julie Lemire, Tammy Cargill, PTO President Becky Raymond and 2 5th graders Lily and Owen who did a fabulous job representing our school. The whole team did but the kids take the cake every time. We had support from Mr. Buroker, IT Director, who helped us with any glitches. Assistant Principal Gosselin drove the van. There were a lot of behind-the-scenes contributions from the community, students, and staff creating our videos and our presentations. Unfortunately, they were not selected to move forward but had a great experience which is valued and learned some great lessons. They learned that they need more time to prepare. They had less than 9 days to prepare. They did a fabulous job for the short amount of time they had and will be ready for next year and will be applying again. Should they be chosen to move forward they will be already prepared to move to the refinement part rather than the gathering and piecing together. They were congratulated on coming as far as they did.

Principal Ronning and Assistant Principal Gosselin reported the 1st semester midterms are over, reports cards went out. Students, when they take the exams, they're finding out that they're a little bit more rigorous, but they are still doing well and rising to the occasion. Principal Ronning said he made an error in his report regarding the civics assessment, he reported a 90% success rate, but it is actually a 93% success rate! They are talking about moving forward with some of the changes in social studies and things like that. The Leadership Team is having discussions about how they could earn half a credit in PE by doing varsity sports. They will come up with some criteria as to what that would look like and begin to put that into place. Course selections are coming up next week and 8th grade transition night. They are looking at the National Honor Societies and the many other ways they could acknowledge what the students are doing and have started to talk about other specific honor societies such as English, math, music etc. that could be put in place. He provided a letter from NEASC, asking if we could postpone their visit and come the following year as they have so many schools next year. He let them know it would be a good thing, giving time for the next principal to make sure they're aligned with the school and understand what is going on with the process. Athletics has been going fantastic. Some sports are doing better than others, some teams better than others etc. but it is the skill development and what our students are getting out of the process. This is the 1st season they have not lost any players due to academic performance. This goes back to the expectations that we're putting on our students to make sure if you want to participate in this type of activity, you need to make sure that you have the grades in order to do that. Regarding the principal search the leadership team met last week to talk about what we're looking for and what skills. We started talking about the questions because we want to make sure that the person that comes in can look at it and share who they are and give some experience regarding certain areas to be addressed. We also updated the ad to include "academic best" and "best version of self". Ms. Fowler shared the ad with the Superintendent who approved it. This way they continue some of the things that we've been doing over the years because it's hard to come in and then change everything. You want someone who's going to look at things and based on what is already in place, says this is how we can move the school forward. Assistant Principal Gosselin spoke about discipline and her biggest takeaway when she looks at these months-to-month is looking for trends. It has been cell phones, especially at the HS, they have seen a major uptick in cell phone use in the hallways, classrooms and bathrooms. All 8 of those infractions in HS were all cell phone violations. Other than that, we are pretty consistent with what we have seen every month. The Program of Studies is based on the 306 Ed Rule requirements as they change the minimum standards for the current 8th graders entering HS for the next year. For the next few years, they are going to have 2 Programs of Studies. One is our current HS kids that fall under the old rules and other is incoming freshman or current 8th graders who now have their own Program of Studies. If you are someone who has kids at different grade levels, you have a lot of reading to do. Physical Education is now 1.0 credit to graduate vs. the previous 1.5. This goes along with the conversations about whether varsity sports can be a part of that required curriculum. American Literature, they're going to be absorbing that half credit of writing, you may have heard about. British Literature is going to absorb that logic and rhetoric which is already part of their course competencies. Consumer math, they already offer financial literacy, they're just changing the name to match so it's easier to track it transcript wise but have been that for years even before they told them to. Algebra 1 and Honors Algebra 1, which is typically a 9th grade class, is now Algebra I and Data Analysis and Honors Algebra I and Data Analysis, it is going to include the data analysis requirement which it already does anyway. Social studies credits, she thinks most know that they went from 3 to 4 and these are listed in the Board packet. US history is also going to be doing NH history. There's already competence there as well, they just have to draw attention to it terms of the name. Government and Economics is going to be worth 2 credits. This is where competency vs. seat time conversation really gets heavy because while it's a year-long course, it is worth 2 credits because as long as you're covering the material the credit number doesn't matter but it matters anyway. That will be in the junior year. There are a couple of new art classes, some electives but the big picture really is they have 2 Programs of Studies. One has the old 306 requirements and the other has the new. E- portfolio that 8th graders take to get the credit under their belt still exists and will be something still offered. Typically,

about 99% of the students are able to achieve that in their 8th grade year. A question was raised whether within NH history if there is a piece about the 1st inhabitants of NH, FRES has a unit on it. Assistant Principal Gosselin believes it is more of NH's role in the overall US history and major events not necessarily specific to the details of NH. Most of these changes, while they're for the incoming freshmen, they're not even going to see these for 2-3 years down the road. A question was raised regarding the credit for sports participation, if it is just 1 year and have you thought about the kids who play 2-3 sports. Assistant Principal Gosselin responded that is why we need to develop criteria because there are a lot of questions not necessarily answered whether you say yes or no. Also, because PE is a designated requirement, the other question that comes into play is whether it belongs under electives because you have your art requirement that includes 3D art, 2D art etc. It is a bigger discussion of just what equals replacing a class that's required vs. an elective that you chose to do on your own. They're definitely talking about what is the right number of sports. It was noted that regarding the PE credit, if they're participating in sports here there is a way to verify and validate and see for ourselves that they're participating in it if they are doing things outside of here it makes it a little more difficult. Ms. Lavallee gave kudos on the 93% passing the required civics assessment, it's a very difficult test to take. Great job, social studies department!

iv. Curriculum Coordinator's Report

Ms. Dignan recognized Ms. Fowler for the behind-the-scenes system work with the civics test. She spoke of how well the students did. It was the 1st time they had done it on the computer too. It was a big deal using the same assessment system as the NH SAS. The half day of professional development (PD) was "choose your adventure" and had over 25 courses teachers could choose to take developed on teacher need and surveys. They had many people in-house presenting those sessions today. Some outside such as Discovery Ed. So far, all the reports are positive, and some have said it was the best one yet. The administrative team continues with the book study on deeper learning and assessment for curriculum. Regarding curriculum, they continued with the math committee and narrowed it down to 2 with 1 visit scheduled. Observations at FES and LCS continue. She has done some walkthroughs where it is a pop-in surprise as the teachers requested that. They wanted feedback in the moment vs. the scheduled visit. She spoke of the Edie's, School of Excellence and it being a reflective process. Looking through the rubrics, one of the things she noticed is to continue to develop all the documentation of our curriculum at the elementary level. She has focused a lot on MS and HS. On a positive note, she noticed we are really data centered at the elementary school. We have spent a lot of time looking at our data making decisions about student instruction. Principal Maghakian spoke about the data days, and looking at creating intervention plans and all of those things and they are doing those things really well. NH SAS, grades 3-8 continue to do modulars in different content areas and reviewing their data. The teachers go through and look at what students are getting right, what is not right and why. Mid-year iReady testing is wrapping up. A question was raised whether she was seeing any trends on the math modular assessment done in November. Ms. Dignan responded that each grade level did notice trends in their data and they talked about it in the grade level meetings and what to do about it. Some teachers had said that they taught this at the beginning of the year and they passed the classroom assessment but are not doing well with the module, how can we spiral our math, so it shows up more frequently. There were 2-part questions, and they were not necessarily answering the whole question, which was another thing they noticed. She confirmed she had not shown the math committee the modulars, but before this group got together the curriculum committee looked at the NH SAS, SAT, PSAT, iReady and classroom teacher input etc. They looked at all of our data in order to make the decisions to look at different programing. A question was raised whether they get feedback from students who moved on to college or trades to see how well they did with their transition. Ms. Dignan had been speaking with Assistant Principal Gosselin and Ms. Mandy Kovaliv about this, we only get the information if they come back and want to share that. Colleges do not share that with high schools. A question was raised why students do not have any homework. This was a lengthy discussion. Ms. Dignan spoke about research regarding homework that says unless it is specific it is not helpful. Ms. Dignan spoke about the issue with students who do not have a great foundational understanding before they go home to do the homework, it can entrench the wrong learning, and they have to undo that. Mr. Lavoie spoke of one of the best schools in the state and they have homework. We heard tonight that kids learned a certain portion of math then they forget it, why are we not sending sheets home so they can have a refresher. The other school has homework, and they are testing better than us. Ms. Dignan responded it is being talked about within the leadership team. There are 2 different leadership teams, FRES leadership team with teachers representing different grade levels such as a teacher representing 2nd and 3rd grade etc. and a school counselor. At WLC it is a school counselor and department heads. Discussions included not knowing if students are getting homework, not seeing any homework at FRES, having homework can be beneficial and there are differences of opinion in terms of how important homework is. Ms. Foss, who has been in education for many years, spoke about the last few meetings hearing strongly worded suggestions that maybe our Board is not well informed about educational practices, our teachers are not always astute at their current practices, and she strongly disagrees with that. She was very impressed with the work and effort that is being put in by our staff and very impressed with Ms. Dignan. In terms of homework, she noted that if you're a parent that thinks your kid needs it nothing says you can't bring work home or ask for extra things from the teacher. A suggestion was made to educate parents on how important reading to their kids is every night. Sometimes parents don't know what to do and need help to be pointed in the right direction. Discussion was had that parents are really busy and reading to their children or doing math facts are one thing they can do that is important. Principal Maghakian elaborated on what the leadership team has been talking about. All do homework but don't necessarily send homework home, there are expectations to do things such as vocabular, math facts, a game activity, reading, language-based learning and notes most curriculum is in a language-based format. Packets are sent home in the 1st grade and in the newsletter. We do a lot of reading during the year, and it goes away in the summer, we see an uptick and see that mostly in our iReady scores. The discussion continued about homework including it may be difficult for parents to do nightly but maybe could do a night a week or a certain schedule, kids are busy too with sports etc, it was also questioned if homework is graded. Mr. Lavoie wanted to be clear that his suggestion is to try to help

with the NH SAS scores that we struggle with and to benefit the kids. He hears what is being said about new things going home but he has heard students passed in the beginning of the year but then didn't do well when they took the test. He thinks the Board should give a directive to revisit it. Mr. Zavgren, who teaches math at the college level, spoke that one of the biggest problems is to differentiate memorization. There is a misconception a lot of people have about mathematics that's it is just a bunch of facts that you memorize. The question is how you get beyond memorization because that is the worst thing you could do is approach mathematics as memorization of facts. Ms. Dignan said she would love to have Mr. Zavgren speak with Mr. Comerford, the HS math teacher, because she has had these conversations with him about memorization vs. just a conceptual understanding of math and having efficient strategies and just knowing how to persevere through math problems and that's more what our focus is. These are some of the things they are looking for when looking at new math programs for grades K-8. They are looking at things that are not just straight memorization. You have to memorize the facts, addition, subtraction, multiplication but the other concepts of math such as are you using your strategies efficiently, how are you solving problems, how do you begin to attack a word problem, do you have enough information etc. Principal Maghakian noted when you look at the younger grade levels, we're looking at number sense, what is tangible, visual, what does it look like. Building number sense helps them with problem solving and then also the inquiry how did you get to that answer and being able to language base walk them through. Chairman Golding remembers during all the grades at FRES there at least being an hour's worth of homework no matter what grade. He asked when the philosophy changed and did it change by going one to one. Going back a couple of years, he remembers adding big facts math booklets into our budget which he was a fan of but is still struggling to understand why something is not sent home that they can practice on that is not computer related. Ms. Digan responded that they have been having discussions about it, and if you can't see how kids are getting the answer you can't see where the problem is. She doesn't think the policy changed with technology, she thinks a lot of factors change it. There is research saying it doesn't help, people are really busy and now you are holding kids accountable for things they may not have control over at home, their time. Discussion continued, including it is important to pull parents in so they can be an integral part of the learning process for their kids. It was noted that it would be helpful when you send home sheets to send explanations on it as parents don't know a lot of time how to do it. Superintendent said that we need to continue to talk about how you approach homework at different levels and school and talk to parents. He thinks the Board wants them to explore this deeper if there is a way to make it work for kids and families, we can't just rule it out. We don't want to assume parents wouldn't do it or assume a parent would do it. We want to explore and report back. We want to find ways to improve learning. Maybe we can ask parents with a survey what they think is appropriate for their 3rd grader or 7th graders. He believes there is work to do on how we approach this at each level, each teacher, and there is a way we can improve it or change it. Chairman Golding noted based on his experience the reason he brought up the technology was when the Chromebooks started coming home the paper homework stopped. It was just a curiosity thing. There was a brief discussion regarding whether technology has gone too far, maybe we should not be one to one until 6th grade, has it been a crutch and maybe we should go back to books. Superintendent confirms we have work to do and wants to be sure we don't leave anything unturned.

VIII. BOARD DUDGET DISCUSSION FY 27 & WARRANT ARTICLES

Ms. LaPlante provided updated warrant language. Chairman Golding reviewed the Budget Committee came up with a number. The articles the Board has to vote on are article 5, which is the district operating budget to recommend or not recommend and article 6 which we voted on earlier. Article 5, the Budget Committee recommended an amount of $16,578, 477. Ms. LaPlante was asked to review how they got to this number. They added $10,000 back to athletics facility maintenance and cut $2,500 net from contracted professional development as well as mileage reimbursement for FRES Principals office. She was asked what specifically they looked at in adding that $10,000, was it something specific or was it just overall maintenance. It was noted the minutes are available but not specific. Minutes indicate there was a long discussion about budget concerns including a discussion and explanation of iReady. Mr. Vanderhoof made a motion to add the athletic maintenance money, and it passed unanimously. It does not have any specifics as to why. Ms. Lavallee noted there was specific discussion at the meeting in December when we discussed having a warrant article about athletics. She made the suggestion to them at that time if they were concerned about it they should look at it and add money in because there was concern over why projects would be put into an athletic capital reseve and spend money on large ticket items if we're not doing the year over year maintenance to maintain the things we spend money on. She believes it may stem from that. A brief conversation was had regarding the line it was added to. Ms. Lavallee spoke about receiving calls from several residents, especially regarding staffing. Back in September when administration brought the 1st draft, at that time they felt you could reduce staffing by about 3 full-time positions with a 7 net reduction by reducing hours or responsibilities of some staff. Since the budget has changed, she has some questions about where specifically those staffing changes are. There was a reduction in the facilities line 82, food service line 132 and line 343, which is SPED. She asked the Superintendent to speak to those reductions for the public record, so the public understands where those reductions come from. The Superintendent reviewed, talking about teachers, the elementary position is a work in progress but eliminated 1 teaching position. We need to look at dynamics of the classes because in some classes if the number is low, it doesn't necessarily mean that it is a lighter class. It might be the dynamic of that class that needs to be broken up from 2 teachers to 3 teachers for example. He thinks they have a good idea of where that position will come from but have not finalized it and not had discussions with staff yet. He is reluctant to have more of a specific conversation other than agreed that we can move forward with 1 less elementary school teacher. At the MS and HS, he thinks they have been open that they are not going to fill the 2nd PE (physical education) position and if in a jam with PE they are trying to find workarounds. For example, if we have a teacher teach a 6th class and would like to teach PE class. If we are able to come up with a policy that has kids who play multiple sports or one sport over multiple years or some sort of combination where they can earn a PE credit that helps get the numbers down. One of

the things we don't want to do with that position is cut it to sacrifice opportunities for MS kids to have especially organized activity. As a Board it was agreed that's a need we don't want to compromise. The 2nd WLC position is based on our program of studies, based on the minimum standards changes and again we haven't had a chance to really finalize that conversation with staff. Until then we can move forward with the 2 cuts at WLC but cannot identify that 2nd one yet until conversations have been had with the staff members. He spoke of administration back in September telling the Budget Committee they stand by that budget. There was some question at the last district meeting that we had agreed to some staff cuts but then when they were asked to be put back on the floor then our minds changed. He wants to be really clear and on the record that they fully support moving forward with 3 less teaching staff between K-12 and that we're able to make sure that we don't compromise the quality of the teaching and learning at the schools with those positions. He thinks at the next Board meeting they can probably give more definiative information about which positions those are and how they arrive at those decisions. Ms. Lavallee spoke about the class size policy and there have been times before she was on the Board where we have had class sizes that are right at that limit and then halfway through the year, we get new students that come in and it pushes us over that limit. It is hard for her to decide to support a budget without knowing exactly what that's going to look like. She thinks that part of what happened this year in her personal opinion is that the budget process was really different than other years and thinks some of the details were lost in the discussion and there was a lot of discussion about some things like athletics but not a lot of discussion on these types of things. She notes she shouldn't have waited until this meeting to talk about the concerns. Superintendent voiced that he had just had that conversation with Principal Maghakian that with this cut where do the numbers fall. He reviewed the requirements in the policy on class size and confirms we fall below that. Ms. Lavallee noted parents want to have answers to these questions so they can feel good about the decision that they make and know they have made the decision with all the information. She encouraged people to attend the meeting on Thursday as well as ask questions and be there for the committee's presentation. Ms. LaPlante reviewed within facilities a few years ago we put a halftime position back in. We're removing that based on the efficiency of our current staff, with food service, we are not funding a position that was added this year that has remained vacant and a couple of years ago there was a motion on the floor to add back in $50,000 for a student support services coordinator at LCS which we have not been able to fill and are eliminating the funding for that and shifting around responsibilities to cover that. We're looking to reduce our BCBA position from 260 days per year to 195 days per year. We are looking to change the nursing position at LCS from .80 to .50. We are shifting the ABA/RBT schedule, reducing the hours from 7.5 hours a day (37 hours a week) to 6.8 hours a day (34 hours a week). That is the totality of those adjustments. Ms. Lavallee does remember Ms. LaPlante speaking to some of that previously and thanked her for reviewing it.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to recommend Warrant Article 5, District Operating Budget of $16,578,477.
Voting: via roll call vote, six ayes, two nays from Ms. Lavallee and Chairman Golding; motion carried.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Mr. White to accept/recommend Warrant Article 6, Collective Bargaining Agreement between School Board and the WLCSSA (WLC Support Staff Association).
Voting: seven ayes; one nay from Mr. Lavoie, motion carried.

Mr. Lavoie spoke about a previous discussion regarding the open enrollment warrant article that included grades K-12. The language of the warrant they are seeing tonight includes only HS. Superintendent explained that after meeting with Principal Maghakian and her staff, they felt it was in a good place. He spoke of having room at the HS for additional students and thought the focus should be on the HS given there is so much unknown at the time. He soke of HB 751 regarding the open enrollment vote being delayed which was just a vote up or down without any discussion to have public schools completely open (without any cap). The latest vote is February 12. If that passes and the Governor signs it, all of this conversation becomes moot at that point. He doesn't know how we could even have a warrant for the operating budget. He spoke of doing the math and the fixed costs are the same and this keeps him up at night. He spoke of how serious this issue is for our district. He is very concerned about the viability of our district. Our focus is to draw kids to the HS and have opportunities that they may not get in the larger districts. If it worked then we would open it up to the elementary school, we just need a year. It was noted that the language of the warrant currently does not give the option. Superintendent spoke of the numbers at the elementary school are robust. If all the stays the same and it passes, he thinks we can draw a handful of kids from other districts to the HS. Ms. Anzalone spoke in agreement with Mr. Lavoie and added that we can specify the number at each grade and would rather have it open to the lower grades. What if a HS student has a younger sibling and the parents want to keep the kids in the same district? Superintendent has concern opening it up but gave examples of changing it to grades 1-12, taking up to 15% but not identifying how many in each grade such as 1 student in 1st grade and 4 in 5th etc. It could leave us open but decide specifics later in the fall. Discussion was had including the way it had been explained to the Board they can accept as many students as they want based on the criteria they set, it would be limiting if it is only open it to HS and we have a really good elementary school and have room and the younger students would grow with the program. Discussion was had regarding amending the language. Ms. LaPlante voiced concern about the timeline with the attorney, and the budget hearing is Thursday. The Board theoretically has until February 17 to act. It was noted if the state law passes, there is no choice. Discussion was had including hesitation to make a change now due to the timeline from a legal perspective and it doesn't mean it cannot be changed on the floor from the public. There was a brief discussion on that. Ms. Lavallee spoke of HB 751, should it pass and signed by the Governor, she speculates it would go to court because it will be financially bankrupt districts. She suggests presenting it, it is important to get the information out there and then the Board would know what the taxpayers want. HB 751, if anyone has questions or concerns, they are free to email their

representatives. Discussion was had concerning changing the language from the floor. Mr. Lavoie asked if they have the ability to amend it. Superintendent expressed that they could change it but the Budget Committee already voted on the language and would need them to meet to vote on it. Ms. Lavallee reminded the group that the budget hearing is this Thursday and the public hearing on open enrollment is February 10. There was discussion on the process. Mr. Lavoie reviewed he wanted the language to designate grades K-12 as open enrollment at SAU 63, crossing out HS only. Basically, allowing the administration team to work to set admission standards and criteria as well as maximum capacity for each school grade and program with a total number. Superintendent and Ms. LaPlante will work on the language. Ms. LaPlante informed the group the estimated tax impact is not completed yet as she is waiting on property values from the towns, Wilton and Lyndeborough. She will add the tax impact once she receives them.

IX. YTD REPORTS

Ms. LaPlante reviewed the YTD expenditure report through January 30, 2026. We are currently at about 4.4% of the budget unspent which is due to several unfilled positions, wages and benefits. For example, in facilities, 2 of our full-time positions were not filled until recently. We are currently about $57,000 over budget on special education. This is because some out of district tuitions were not budgeted but we can absorb those within the 2100 series, student support services. We have not been able to fill the LCS nurse position and have an agency nurse. There is a recognizable savings of about $100,000 in unspent staffing to offset that overage there. Faciliteis is over $56,800. Some of that is because of excess repairs but there are also correlating savings with positions not filled. We are using a staffing agency for one of those facilities positions. Within transportation we are over budget because of our out of district tuition but as of right now she is anticipating about $65,000 savings on the regular ed transportation lines because Butler has not been able to fulfill the totality of our contract. She is comfortable with where we are right now. She intends to have more concrete numbers for the Board at the March meeting, and we can start to evaluate what we might be returning to the taxpayers and what the Board can do with any of those funds that remain unspent. She was asked what the 4.4% correlates to as a number. Ms. LaPlante responded with $701,010 rounding up. She confirms SchoolCare came out of last year. A question was raised what the balance from lines 891and 892 replacement equipment is. Ms. LaPlante responded, floor scrubbers and Mr. Hofstetter is working to purchase those, the funds are obligated, not sure if they are encumbered.

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 January 20, 2026, as written. Voting: five ayes; three abstentions from Ms. Lavallee, Mr. Whie and Mr. Lavoie, motion carried.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Facilities Committee

Ms. Alley reported the meeting was held and discussed what is currently on the CIP and whether or not the action items are completed or scheduled to be done. There wasn't anything in 2026 that was not due to be done or started. They discussed a lot about the 2027 CIP and whether there would need to be anything added to the current CIP for next year. There were several things that they would want to start thinking about and discussing. One of those things was the heating units throughout the schools. There are 74 of them and at some point, they should all be replaced. There were 2 not working but they are very old and the heating units are not on the CIP currently. The other thing is the underground storage tank that is 36 years old, it is oil. It was noted the underground storage tank, which is 36 years old, the states around us have a 30-year cap but NH says as long as it passes. The replacement is over $100,000 and it is not on the CIP and should be. Ms. Alley added the other thing that has been discussed is the stage lights and tech performance things, it is something we pushed out, and it might be nice to talk about that some more and put it on the CIP to get fixed. Those are the 3 big things we discussed, everything else is on the CIP. The only other thing we may want to discuss is the roof and Mr. Hofstetter had someone come out and the CIP has them scheduled for certain times which may be based on inspections, and we may need to change that. Mr. Hofstetter spoke of losing 3 coils and 3 of the separate heating units as well. There are 2 now that need repair and need a break from school to be able to do it. It is more cost effective to do multiple at once. Ms. Lavallee reviewed a CIP project needs to be over $20,000 and there is a 3-year waiting period. She asked if it is something that needs to be done now or can it be added to the CIP for the future. Mr. Hofstetter spoke of the age of them. The older ones he doesn't know when they were installed. The cost is about $25,000 each and we have 74 of them, just north of $2,000,000. He is also looking at another vendor to see what upgrades we can make for efficiency and if we establish a program, correlate with the towns' people it could end up being zero tax impact because of energy benefits and government incentives, but he is still looking into this. He does not believe we have other units for replacement in the other buildings. At LCS, we will be replacing the boiler this summer with one that is more conducive to schools and is on the CIP. It was suggested to add the unit ventilators in the other buildings to the CIP before they need repair. Mr. Lavoie suggested if Mr. Hofstetter comes up with a great plan to reduce the number with better plan, he would do a 5-year plan and start putting them on the CIP and maybe take unexpended funds to do a couple sooner, doing the worst ones first. He notes the oil tank is probably coming to an end and you don't want to wait until it starts leaking. A lot of the oil companies may want to earn our business and put their tank in the ground. If they use their tank, we will have to get the oil from them, but they may chip in to get our business. He volunteered to help Mr. Hofstetter if he needs it as he has experience with this. Discussion was had regarding the performance tech lighting. Ms. Lavallee would love to know where they are at, what they are planning on doing and what still needs to be done. It is difficult because you are dealing with a donation. She asked Mr. Hofstetter to get the detailed numbers for

the CIP, but you still can't act until 3 years on the CIP. Mr. Hofstetter informed the group they are working within the bounds they have to update the lighting system at the HS stage with the infrastructure they have with minor adjustments that allow us to be done within the budget. The electrician is coming tomorrow and another one next week to look at it. Assuming we can't do what we want, we would need to start replacing all the panels, if you replace 1 you must replace all 4. It became a larger project that we were not anticipating. Ms. Lavallee asked that he share the quotes from the electrician with them and the report. Mr. Hofstetter has the answer for Mr. Lavoie on volunteering to do some baseball cleanup he had had a couple meetings ago and they will take that offline.

ii. Budget Liaison

The item was skipped and discussed after the open enrollment article update. Ms. Lavallee informed the group she was not at the last meeting. The January 28 meeting was a workshop going over the slide presentation. There are a lot of slides, Ms. LaPlante worked with Ms. Lavoie on getting the numbers finalized. Ms. Lavallee made a public comment as a member of the public and said that she personally found the process this time cryptic and difficult to follow at times, especially during the Budget Committee meetings, there was a lot of discussion vs. decisions being made. She has heard from others it is difficult to know what is in the budget and what we are supporting. She thinks as a Board it may be helpful to provide feedback to the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee talked a lot but made no decisions and when you go back and read the minutes it is hard to tell what happened. She asked for the Board's opinion. She added the last slide does have areas for improvement in the process. Next year some of their goals are to start a joint meeting prior to summer break and for us to set clear goals around the budget, like talking about class sizes etc. Discussion was had regarding how members felt about this year's budget process. Discussion included the joint meetings seemed like the committee didn't know what to discuss, in previous years they were run by the Budget Committee Chair but this year that was not the case, it did not seem productive for the Board, they would ask questions that had not been discussed by the Board, a lot of discussion was happening without decisions, you had to sift through the conversations and there needs to be collaboration. There was a brief discussion on how they ended up adding money to athletics. Chairman Golding added that there were some SPED questions that could not be answered (confidentiality reasons). It was noted there was some turnover on the Budget Committee with some new members, and it may be helpful to go over what their role is in the process, administration's role and set forth our standards. Ms. LaPlante was asked to provide feedback from the administrative team which included, always wanting to work with the Budget Committee and help educate them in the process and answer any questions. As it is February 3 and she has been working on the budget since July 8, she questioned if it is the most effective use of administration's time to have such a prolonged process. The Board are the ones that direct the Superintendent who then directs administration and we will absolutely work with them all day long. We want to make sure that we're giving our taxpayers a fair budget and helping to educate our kids responsibly, but it has been a very long and trying process with limited staff. She confirms it was more trying this year than the previous. Discussion continued, it would be good if every time they left a meeting including the ones with the Board that everyone is on the same page, we all know where the budget is at and what direction we're going what things they are looking to add and remove and clarify this for the public. Ms. Anzalone felt that maybe part of the frustration was they were asking questions and not getting answers, she thinks it goes both ways. It was noted there are new members who may need an introduction session and explain reasons for not being able to answer some questions, such as some SPED specific questions. It was noted in the September 23 meeting they did look to the Board to provide goals; we had not outlined specific goals and that is something we as a Board can do. It was suggested to table this discussion so that the public who are here can comment.

iii. Negotiations

Chairman Golding reported they met for mediation and recently came to an agreement, and it was ratified.

- **UPDATE WARRANT ARTICLE #4-OPEN ENROLLMENT**

Superintendent asked to revisit the open enrollment warrant. He worked with Ms. LaPlante to rework the language to align it with the discussion that the Board just had and the process it would be if this is the language that the Board approves and would like to move forward with. They would need to make a motion to withdraw/rescind the previous language of the warrant and make another motion to accept this language for the warrant article. Members were given the new language. He reviewed it supports open enrollment in our district in grades 1-12, the percentage of kids that we would consider would be as a percentage and 10% would put us at about 45-50 kids which is plenty to try to figure out. The criteria on the caps at each grade would come later after the dust has settled and have looked at enrollment, class sizes and staffing. It still prevents us from supporting students to take their tuition money to leave. That is still 0%. He spoke of it being cumbersome if it is not taken care of tonight because the budget hearing is Thursday and the open enrollment public hearing on Tuesday where we present to the community. He does not want to present that with also having to discuss changing the language, it is just confusing. He added what Mr. Lavoie said makes sense and it doesn't box us into 50 kids in the 2nd grade. We can cap that at zero if we feel that class size is where it needs to be. We can take just HS if we feel that the elementary class sizes are where it needs to be, but at least this leaves it open for possibilities in grades 1-12. If you like the language, you would vote to remove the previous warrant article and make a 2nd motion to consider this language and the Budget Committee would vote on Thursday, we will ask them to revisit it. Ms. LaPlante will communicate with them tomorrow, anyway, letting them know we had this discussion and changed the open enrollment warrant article language to open it up to create grades 1-12 open enrollment vs. just 9-12. Mr. Lavoie is happy with the language.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Foss and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone to withdraw/rescind the first article regarding Open Enrollment, Warrant Article #4 voted on at the last meeting, (January 28, 2026).

Ms. Alley noted being uncomfortable with this at first and having changes from the floor but now after the discussion and initiative of the new language she is more comfortable.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Ms. Foss to accept/recommend Warrant Article #4 Open Enrollment (with new language) as amended by the administrative staff.

A question was raised why we moved from 15% to 10%. Superintendent responded that we are trying to stay close to the numbers originally stated and with grades 1-12 it is a higher set of numbers and if we stayed at 15% it starts to become unmanageable, it is just too big.

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

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Mr. Bill Crouse, Lyndeborough was excited to hear of the physical education (PE) credit for varsity sports. He spoke of its value and importance on an academic level, in his opinion. He is strongly in favor and implores the Board to get on his bandwagon to go forward and ask for it. He spoke of his children's situation who would need to take 2 PE classes to fulfill the credits when instead it would have allowed them to take other academic classes and there is not much of an academic piece in his opinion in PE. He spoke of his daughter and doesn't want her to come to her senior year after doing the CTE program, which we've been pushing, and she is signed up for her next year for her junior year and is told she has to take 2 PE classes to fulfill her credits, it is concerning to him. She could be taking a dual enrollment class. She could take any number of beneficial honors type classes. He spoke in favor of making it a full credit and not a half as previously mentioned. He is hesitant to say anything about open enrollment because it is so, everywhere.

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

Ms. Mel Jones spoke in favor of the possible PE credit. She asked if there are schools already doing this and if they are doing it for all varsity sports or just specific sports. She was told it would be looked into.

XIII. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Alley thanked Ms. Hofstetter for coming and representing the school on the Board. She wanted to address the WLC Dance Team, and hopefully the next time that they perform there maybe the schedule is better maintained and that they'll be able to perform without people in the gym. She is sure they worked extremely hard on that. She congratulated FRES for being able to participate in the NH School of Excellence panel and to everyone that was involved in that. Really good job to our students for finishing midterms. She also notes there were not any academic suspensions for the month of January. She thought that was really cool!

Ms. Anzalone echoed what Mr. Crouse and Ms. Alley said in their comments. It is obviously too late for her kids because they only have 2 years left but she definitely thinks giving kids credit opens up other classes they can take and whether or not it's pushing it too far that it has to be a varsity sport. She thinks the dance team is getting a lot of physical activity too. She asked to look at all the different activities that we have or things like that because she knows some sports are more clubs because it is not official. She doesn't know if it must be a varsity sport. She also agreed that it needs to be better planned with schedules because she is sure it was very disruptive to the performance to have the basketball team in the gym.

Mr. Lavoie likes the credit idea for a year of varsity sports or if we're going to do a half credit. If they do 2 years, they get half a credit each time they do a varsity sport and then they can get the full credit that way. He thinks it makes sense what Mr. Crouse was talking about.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:31pm.
Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler

DRAFT