

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

The videoconferencing link was published several places including on the meeting agenda.

Present: *Dennis Golding (6:37pm) Brianne Lavallee, John Zavgren, Paul White, Erin Collins, Darlene Anzalone, Diane Foss (online), and Jonathan Lavoie*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, and Clerk Kristina Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Lavallee called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent asked to move the business administrator's report up.

*A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Ms. Collins to accept the adjustments to the agenda.
Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.*

IV. 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.

V. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent spoke about building a draft slide deck for the Building and Roadways Capital Reserve. Ms. Alley is aware and will get the draft to her to present at district meeting. The CBA slide deck has been started. His goal is to have a week's turnaround for the Board to review it before the meeting. He spoke of the principal position having 4 applicants. He met with Assistant Principal Gosselin to talk about a timeline; mid-week they will look at the applications. The leadership team will identify the candidates to interview. He felt the timeline was too tight to do committees. We had around 11 applicants when we hired Principal Ronning and now there are only 4. They will dig into it as a leadership team and make recommendations for next steps. If they don't want to continue down this road we will have to talk about any other options we are not seeing such as an internal candidate we can move around. There is a lot of anxiety in public education right now and people are reluctant to make a move until we settle down with things and where the legislature will land. Ms. Lavallee reminded the group that the Board had spoken about updates regarding the grants and identifying where we are. Superintendent expressed he feels we should wait, there is a lot on the table right now with district meeting around the corner, but we can present on March 3 in terms of budget and next steps. With Title 1, Principal Maghakian and Ms. Dignan are meeting with their leadership team to look at the model for summer academy. Because the goal he thinks is to change it to be able to include transportation. It was a barrier last year for some kids to be able to get support. We want to provide a bus run for a limited pickup and limited drop-off similar to what we did 2 years ago. We have to look at the budget and then Title II and Title IV. Ms. Dignan can give an update on projects and budget. We can follow up on March 17 with any pending questions. He spoke of the importance of trying to reduce the summer dip for kids. We have 35% kids who are eligible for Title I. They qualify for Title I, ELA or math or a combination of both. It is a significant number. His report includes the latest on open enrollment, this Thursday the House may consider a vote on HB 751 or decide to go in a conference committee where members of the House and Senate will work together to try to address their differences and then a bill comes out of the conference committee that the House can vote on or they could take a vote this Thursday. If it passes the Governor could get it before the weekend and she will have 5 days to make a decision. A brief discussion

was had regarding how you know if they will vote or the bills they are discussing on a given day. Superintendent informs the group there is a calendar, but it does get amended. He notes the NHSBA is very responsive about what is on the calendar for the House to debate and questions about open enrollment and once the House session is over, they send us an update similar to what they did this weekend. For example, there was a bill discussed about firearm safety and the curriculum for HS students.

ii. Business Administrator's Report

Ms. LaPlante informed the members the warrant is being passed around for signatures. One article is a petition warrant article. The Budget Committee is due to come in and sign the MS 27 budget document. It will be posted later this week. She sent her report out yesterday summarizing what has been happening in the business office over the last several months. In January she presented the cost for transportation, Butler and STA were the 2 low bidders and the Board's direction was to move ahead with Butler if Milford did. Milford took some time to vet the contracts and met with the vendors and last night voted to go with Butler. Based on the Board's direction previously, she will move ahead and negotiate the contract with Butler. Right now, it looks like there will be savings of at least \$60,000 between what we budgeted and what Butler's costs will be. She hopes to have more concrete numbers for district meetings in the event a motion is made from the floor to reduce it by that amount. She is very pleased with the collaboration of Milford and is confident in the decision that we have moving forward. The Association of Behavioral Support Professionals (ABA Therapists, RBT's) voted to form a union, and she was able to confirm with the attorney what the next steps are. As of right now, everything stays status quo for that group, but we will have to negotiate a new contract for them. One thing for the Board to consider when appointing new committee members after elections is whether to have 2 negotiations committees or stagger them so that we are not doing 2 contracts at the same time. The attorney has offered to meet with the Board; we will keep it on our radar for now. She is working with administrative team right now regarding the current budget to evaluate costs and determine unspent funds. The goal is to come forth with projects for unspent funds around April 7, taking time to vet and present to the Board ideas. The PTO and Wilton Tech Committee, who did a great job fundraising for sound system, and lighting system at WLC. They have finalized the fundraising and will be purchasing and paying for the installation of the entire system down at WLC. Because the cost of the project exceeds \$20,000 the Board is required to have a public hearing under state law as well as your policy. We have that scheduled for March 3. She thanked the Performance Tech Committee and PTO and are so close to getting this project up and running. A brief discussion was had that the play Pippin starts the first week in April and would there be enough time to update the equipment for the play. A question was raised whether they have already pulled permits, chosen vendors and obtained insurance for them. Superintendent spoke to Principal Ronning but not with those specifics. Principal Ronning does want to expedite it and is waiting for the Board to accept the \$72,000. He will text him tonight to see where we are with it and get details. Discussion was had about starting ASAP. Superintendent had told Principal Ronning to start lining up the work. He is 100% sure the Board will accept the \$72,000 at the public hearing. Our goal is to get whatever we can so hopefully we will have something for the play. It was noted the Board has discussed it a number of times. Ms. LaPlante believes the only permit they need is electrical from Wilton. With a trade permit you don't have to wait, it is essentially an inspection. She will work with the Superintendent to obtain proof of insurance. Ms. Lavallee spoke about accepting electronics payments, currently the school only accepts them with Meal Time. She would like to have it researched, see what other schools do to be able to accept electronic payments for things like fundraising for classes, class dues, field trips etc. Ms. LaPlante added that we are not using PayPal or Venmo, things like that, and would look for another safe secure online option.

Chairman Golding took over the meeting at 6:42pm.

iii. Director of Student Support Service's Report

Mr. Pratt reported speaking to the Board before about the IDEA grant and the proportionate share money that we share with High Mowing and Pinehill. There have been several developments that have gone on in terms of determining how many of their students are eligible to receive the funds. The next situation he spoke of will affect our SPED student roles. In the everchanging goalpost movement with both the state and federal government, they are now saying that in order for a student to receive proportionate share funds that the student has to have an evaluation. They have to determine eligibility for SPED by some school district. Many times, we test kids from Pinehill and High Mowing. They can also be tested in their hometown and that can be in NH or Mass if they are coming from Mass. Finding eligibility and then a support plan developed by High Mowing and Pinehill has to be in play. It does not give any guidelines though for how old the plan can be. Again, a kind of gray area. H continues to meet with the higher and lower schools to determine which students that we have files on now meet those criteria. This year we had about 12 students who met the criteria. He is unsure what it will mean for next year because we are going through it right now but will have a better idea as to what that means in the spring. It is important we determine that because it does give them their share of the money. Another thing that is changing is that up until now the inclusion of students

in a private school within a district or co-op that receive proportionate share money can either be posted or not posted on our special education information systems. The state, starting next year, is requiring us to put those numbers in. For example, we're at 120 and we identify 20 students, that number will go to 140. That means nothing in terms of our regular count because it is going to be 2 separate things. He is not sure if they disaggregate that to a separate holding spot. He won't know till later in the spring. As things start to rev up it may look like that SPED number jumped and not because we have more it is because of what he just explained. Once he has harder data he will share it with the Board.

VI. BOARD PREPARATION FOR DISTRICT MEETING

Chairman Golding reviewed that the Superintendent has prepared most of the slide deck and the Board will get it early next week to review on those 2 areas. It was noted that the open enrollment slide deck can be updated if needed. Chairman Golding reviewed who will be presenting which article. Open enrolment will be Mr. Lavoie and Ms. Lavallee, the CBA, Ms. Alley, Mr. White and Chairman Golding, building and roadways capital reserve, Ms. Alley, Ms. Collins and Mr. Zavgren. The date is Saturday, March 7 at 9:00 AM at WLC. Superintendent Weaver informed the group he and Ms. LaPlante are meeting with legal counsel from Wadleigh to discuss areas we would like him to pay attention to. In particular, the motions, amendments from the floor to add or take away funding, etc. On Thursday we will meet with the moderator to go over the warrant articles and answer questions. He believes it will go well and we will have a big turnout for district meeting. Ms. Lavallee spoke of the feedback at the budget public hearing. The hearing went well; the community gave feedback that they recommend the Budget Committee reduce the slides, where the schools are broken out combine them as a district. In regard to our presentation she read out the warrants and for the building and roadways they asked if we would discuss where we started with a certain number and get in specifics how we were able to bring that number down so that the public knows what projects we worked on and that we're making sure to take care of everything. We had to fix a typo in the tax impact on article #6, the Budget Committee voted on it. We were also given feedback when we talked about the percentage increases and the average increase to make sure that we're providing the justification for why. The other thing that came up and we should be prepared for if there is a motion from the floor regarding the superintendent position, she feels that the Board should be prepared to discuss why it was kept as a full-time position and the justification for that so that people understand why we structured the budget that way because that has been feedback we've received in the past, why do we have so many administrators and the cost of that. When we are preparing for the budget, we should have that information. Superintendent was asked for his opinion. He spoke about discussing it on record and informally too that there's a lot happening right now with our principal retiring, a possible significant change with the structure of school, and how it is funded. We are looking at the potential of doing a public hearing to talk about the pros and cons of closing a school, is it doable, does the community support that? There is a lot of work that goes in behind the scenes just preparing for a public hearing on a closure and a lot of work that has to be done. He added, there are 303 bills being tracked by the Superintendent's Association, last year there were 50, and the year before that over 50 that were passed by the legislature and signed all around public education. There are a lot of reasons the Board could be reluctant to reduce this position, there is a lot on the table. Does it mean it will always be full-time? He is not sure. He thinks for the next year it seems to him that the Boards's point is a good one, there is a lot now happening with public education. He thinks it is a reasonable argument, but whatever happens, happens. At the end of the day, you can only make the argument that you want to make, and the community has to listen to that and then at some point vote. If they vote to reduce it because they feel that enrollment is going down and the district is small, we will make the best of it. We would need to regroup and find a way to make it work so the concerns don't become reality. He spoke about being concerned about the principal's position. It is an ideal position with a lot of support from the school board, a lot of support from both communities, great kids, great staff, involved parents and the idea that people are not applying for a job like that, is concerning. He does not see a lot of principal positions open in the state. It concerns him that the Superintendent perhaps might be the interim principal until the situation gets resolved. June 30 comes quickly. There is a lot of work that happens in the summer over at WLC. That is another reason you would want a Superintendent that has more hours in the district vs. part-time. He thinks it is a good idea to prepare for it. Ms. Anzalone suggested making it clear who the administration is and who is not. Last year there were a bunch of people sitting at the tables that were not part of the administrative team and comments were made of how big the administration was. She supports a full-time Superintendent. She also suggested reminding people that we have a new principal at FRES and about to maybe not have one at WLC. We need consistency and reminding them of what a Superintendent does and when you have Principals they have to focus on what is going on with the schools, and if you don't have a Superintendent, you'll take them away from their job. Superintendent added that FRES has had 4 principals since he has been here. We want to make sure the principal is successful and make sure she has a supervisor supporting her 24/7. Ms. Lavallee added that during the meeting it is important for us if the Superintendent is asked to speak, he is speaking about his position, he has his own opinion but the Board should be

prepared to speak to it and if we have a number of board members that are willing to talk to the reason why we feel it is important at this point to say that and then the Superintendent can surely speak to it as well but its more important it comes from the Board. The legislative changes have increased the workload in the administration office, and no one sees that and the amount of time we have to refer to counsel etc. Superintendent spoke about always trying to sit district leadership teams together. It was strategic and wants people to understand we are in this together and if we struggle and fail this team struggles and fails. It was noted there were members of the WLCTA sitting there and people didn't realize all those people were not in administration.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone to accept the minutes of February 3, 2026, as written.

Voting: via roll call vote, seven ayes, one abstention from Ms. Collins, motion carried.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Collins to accept the minutes of February 10, 2026, public hearing, as written.

Voting: via roll call vote, seven ayes, one abstention from Mr. White, motion carried.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Budget Liaison

Ms. Lavallee reported she updated the Board earlier. Additionally, she wanted to get feedback from the Board regarding the open enrollment slides. When she gave the example of 1 student from each grade leaving 1st-12th the cost to our budget would be \$240,000, which is 45% of the proposed budget. She asked if she should use that scenario or instead Superintendent Weaver suggested we also use the scenario of just 5 students leaving it would cost us \$100,000. There was a brief discussion. It was decided to change it to 5 students leaving the district costing \$100,000 and she will get that percentage. There was feedback regarding a comment she made about EFA. There was some concern it may be confusing; she read her comments. She asks if we should keep that in and add a bullet to the slide? There was a brief discussion about this. It was decided to have a quick explanation of EFA (Education Freedom Accounts) and not to use the acronym.

IX. 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 was no public comment to report.

X. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Foss spoke that she thinks you are all doing a wonderful job. It is interesting listening from another place. It has been easier to hear everything. The audio is really good and clear. She knows you have all worked tirelessly to get ready for this meeting and feel you represent the town well.

Ms. Anzalone commented on the great job Ms. Lavallee did presenting at the public hearing.

Mr. Zavgren added, Ms. Lavallee did an excellent job.

Mr. Lavoie informed the group that the MS boys baseball team needs kids to sign up, if anyone knows any please put their name on the list. Ms. Lavallee added girls' varsity baseball too.

Ms. Collins commented on the awesome job Ms. Lavallee did and thanked her for all the work she has been doing. She thanked the tech crew and PTO for all they have been doing with the sound system lights, and all that.

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

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Collins to enter Non-Public Session to review the non-public minutes, RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (C) at 7:17pm.

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

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 7:21pm.

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XII. ADJOURNMENT

229 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Lavoie and SECONDED by Mr. White to adjourn the Board meeting at 7:21pm.*

230 *Voting: all aye, motion carried.*

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232 *Respectfully submitted,*

233 *Kristina Fowler*

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