WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, August 25, 2026
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School
6:30 p.m.

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

Present: *Brianne Lavallee, John Zavgren, Michelle Alley, Paul White, Darlene Anzalone, Anna Meigs, Craig Chandonnet*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principal Maghakian, Assistant Principal Katie Gosselin, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, Technology Director Nicholas Buroker, Curriculum Coordinator Sam Dignan (online), and Clerk Kristina Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Lavallee called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no adjustments requested.

IV. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Weaver introduced newly hired Athletic Director, Cam Cook. Mr. Cook spoke to the Board who welcomed him, regarding his experience. His day job is the General Manager of the Silver Knights, summer collegiate baseball team at Holman Stadium in Nashua. He spoke of this being apples to oranges, with differences in procedures but grateful to have mentors in other districts for guidance. His goal is to improve operations around athletics; increase attention to detail and increase resources the athletes have and provide coaching and mentorship. He spoke about setting standards of what athletics is and what a student athlete is at WLC; this will take time. He went to a division III school, community based, and he liked that. One of the things he spoke to Principal Ronning and Assistant Principal Gosselin about was having some sort of management club where if kids are interested in that, he has resources and would love to guide them with it. He welcomed questions, comments, good and bad. He can't wait until the dust settles and he can get to work.

Ms. Megan, Nantell, Food Service Director, was present to request an increase in the cost of lunches. This is her annual request. The department operates at a deficit, meaning we do not bring in more money than we either spend or lose due to debt. The state requires us to raise our dollar amount, our lunch cost, in an effort to offset those costs and maybe make more money. There are a couple routes we can do down the road that will allow us to remain stagnant on the pricing or increase it at our own choosing. That would require us to put money in the budget to offset that debt. She is requesting a vote to increase the lunch cost so to remain compliant with the state. She is asking to raise it from $3.10 to $3.25 for student lunches and staff meals from $4.00 to $4.50.

A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to approve the increase in student lunches from $3.10 to $3.25 and staff lunches from $4.00 to $4.50.
Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Vice Chair Lavallee appreciates the materials that are going out to parents explaining why it is important to fill out the forms.

A question was raised if the LCS nurse position had been settled. Superintendent confirms we have a contracted nurse who will fill in for the next few weeks and then we will contract with an agency. A question was raised if we tried to negotiate with the nurse who will be here in September and is the position posted. He responded that we did but she has other commitments. He confirms the position is not posted but will be tomorrow.

ii. Principal's Report/Handbook Changes

Principal Maghakian spoke of Summer Academy and the RISE program over the summer noting it was great to see the students they had a little bit more age-appropriate space to be working in. Summer Academy students worked with teachers, Kirsten O'Rourke, Jess Radloff, Stephanie Loiselle and Jess Hill. She spoke of great improvement with data over the summer and hopefully we have filled in some gaps so that when they start school, they will be more prepared. She thanked the custodial staff, the buildings look wonderful with new tiles on the 2nd floor of FRES, painting and lots of hard work has happened. She recognized Sherry LeBlanc and Christina Gauthier for their work over the summer preparing for the school year. Today there were 4 new registrations and three new calls. She reviewed the new staff, Shyler Simmer, personal care assistant, Jade McAvoy,

IT technician, Taylor Cote, ABA who has worked for us in the past and is back, Speech Language Therapist Allison Leary, Elizabeth Kep who moved from WLC to LCS. We are transitioning from quarters to trimester reporting. She has sent out communications to parents a couple of times to prepare for the new year. New teacher orientation was yesterday and today was run by Ms. Dignan and Assistant Principal Gosselin. There are no new teachers at LCS or FRES. Teachers will be back tomorrow setting up their classrooms. We will welcome all staff back on August 27, 2026. Students first day is Monday. We will be doing fall benchmarks in the first couple of weeks. We continue to focus on the CARES model which is part of our school community. It will be enhanced with Friday morning meetings and more recognition. She will be reporting on innovation and is looking forward to a good year. Appreciation was noted for the "thermometer" on page 22 of the student handbook for people to know how to dress for the weather. Principal Maghakian responded that it keeps us consistent too. There were very little handbook changes, we changed the dress code a bit as we saw a lot of slippers last year which was a safety issue. She confirms she does call out handbook changes to parents highlighting certain aspects too such as there is no supervision before 7:40am.

iii. Business Administrator's Report

Ms. LaPlante reported sending out her report to the members. She spoke of it being a busy summer in the CBO closing out FY 26, analyzing what could be tweaked in subsequent budget years, looking at opening up and executing the beginning of our FY 27 budget. We have started the FY 28 budget process with a lot of research behind the scenes about the implications of state laws. It has been a very number intense summer but on track with where we need to be regarding deadlines. A question was raised when an employee leaves, breaking their contract, after the July cut-off date, where is that fine reflected in the budget. Ms. LaPlante confirms it is counted as revenue and seen in the YTD (Year-To-Date) reports but it's not standout line but is in detail. A question was raised whether we build in any stipulations about breaking a contract within the contracted service personnel contracts for staffing. Ms. LaPlante confirms they are there. She informed the group that the bus routes have been posted and finalized today.

iv. Director of Student Support Services Report

Mr. Pratt reported that the SPED (Special Education) department has been busy this summer having a great ESY program. There was consistent attendance from all the students that signed up and it went smoothly. He thanked everyone in the schools and administrators for keeping those programs running. He informed the group he is fully staffed except for 2 ABA positions which are always tough to fill. We had a huge migration of kids from the 5th grade. Ashley Ansara, head of the WLC program, who does a wonderful job, will be doing some juggling with staff and kids but we will still be able to fulfill all the IEP needs of our students. We continue to aggressively look for those 2 positions to be filled. All the contracted service providers are back, which is great. That continuity of service for these folks, occupational physical therapists, speech and language, reading specialist and HS psychologist and licensed mental health clinician is vital in keeping the relationships going with our students and we are happy to have them back. He spoke of being busy with the budget. He spoke of a doing a self-study of the SPED department which is ongoing and broad. We are looking at the mechanics and day-to-day operations but also how we teach and what we teach; 2 very important pieces. It will be going on all year. We hope to identify the needs and strengths and challenges of working with our diverse learners. The DOE will be doing a 10-year SPED review coming up in 2028 or 2029. He is looking forward to a great year. A question was raised when he thought he would be presenting the Board some of the ideas. Mr. Pratt doesn't have a definitive answer as it is ongoing but will give an update toward the middle of the year. The goal is to finish by the end of the year but doesn't want to preclude us from not being able to spend next summer doing it too because it could be rich and robust at that time for the group. It was noted it is important to look at the summer programing too. A question was raised whether there is a model he is looking at to guide the process. Mr. Pratt explained the work he is doing is with the other SPED directors statewide and attends the weekly DOE meetings. Many districts have done this and typically we begin to ask staff and contracted service providers and other staff for their opinion on what we are doing well and what is challenging. We collect data and begin to disaggregate at building and grade level and district wide. We look at the operations side of it and the curriculum and how it meshes. That is the standard way with some variations. A question was raised if it will get down to the details of how we teach the students and their success rates and putting all the data together in order to identify trends. Mr. Pratt is not sure yet, these studies take a pathway that sometimes winds. Hopefully when he meets with the Board in January/February he will give an update and have a better idea of where we are going. He was thanked for doing the study and it was good to hear other districts are doing this as well.

Vice Chair suggested to pause the meeting at 6:56pm until the joint session starts. No objection heard, all members agree.

The pause ended at 6:59pm and the meeting continued.

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

Present: Alyssa Lavoie, Kate McClure, Bridget Mooney, Craig Alley, Kellie-Sue Boissonnault, and Bob Newton

Chair Lavoie called the meeting to order at 6:59pm.

Chair Lavoie recommended moving the approval of previous minutes to the September meeting as there are a few that need to be reviewed and approved. No objection heard.

a. FY 2027-2028

Chair Lavoie reviewed that we would start with a recap of FY 26 asking for any updates or concerns for FY 27 or anything the committee should be aware of for FY 28 such as contracts or larger things as a heads up. Ms. LaPlante reported sending out the information yesterday on FY 26, unaudited, it is her best guess where we are but there may be some marginal changes, nothing substantially from the 3.72% that is unspent. She spoke of being proud to be able to implement a budget with over 96% accuracy especially considering that pieces of this were developed back in the fall of 2024. It was finalized in February 2025 but as far as what we put forward to voters, it dates back to August and September 2024. Five hundred ninety-one thousand dollars is a lot of money in the big scheme of our budget. It is within the realm that she would look for us to be. The unspent funds are primarily attributed to personnel savings of $900,000. She will speak in round numbers otherwise it gets redundant. This comes from wages, employer taxes and employee benefits. We had 3 positions where we had to hire an agency to fill those vacancies such as the LCS nurse, custodian and a reading service provider. Initially it shows as savings on the wages and benefits side but there's over expenditures on the contracted side of the budget. When the details come out you might look and say for example, why do we spend more at WLC on ABA and not at FRES. This was based on the fall of 2024 so for programs like this she looks at the total amount across all 4 buildings instead of looking at it building specific because people change. Aside from personnel we saw notable overages in several areas. SPED tuition was over budget a net of $134,408, due to student need, over budget in CTE tuitions, a net $27,418, due to significant increased student participation which is a good problem to have. Athletics and co-curriculars were over budget by a net of $28,768, due to various projects approved by the Board in the spring. Facilities were over budget, net $158,677, for repairs, maintenance and supplies including about $40,000 in projects that were approved by the Board in the spring. SPED transportation was over budget by $66,165 which again ties to student need with OOD (Out of District) students and athletics transportation was over budget by $60,000 for a new van approved by the Board. She spoke about what special projects were and explained throughout the budget process we talk extensively about what we can afford and what we can't. The trajectory that we have taken over the last few years is rather than ask for one-time projects, small or large that may or may not carry forward in future years the Board has worked with administrators in the spring to say what are we looking at for unspent funds and is there a project we can take off the list that we've discussed along the way. That is what we've done. It is about $175,000-$180,000 that we have spent that the Board vetted extensively from mid-April through mid-June. She broke it down, not including athletics or co-curriculars because she knows there has been discussion about what we invest into those programs specifically. We replaced a broken desk for the Assistant Principal, we replaced folding chairs that are used for district meeting that were flimsy, a school coin designed by students to help with morale, materials and lab kits for HS science programs and installing a new sound system in the gymnasium for graduation and public events. That was one thing that the Tech Committee did not complete. At FRES we bought robotics kits for our students, replaced some tables and chairs in 2 different classrooms and were able to fund maker space equipment and materials for future use by the 4th and 5th graders. Whether it's extracurricular or part of their curriculum, this is going to greatly give them more exposure to other programs down at FRES. In technology, we replaced 11 battery back-up units to provide front office power redundancy and have spares for the district facilities. We replaced 5 air conditioners and believes now we have 1 extra on hand. We purchased some dehumidifiers for the building, 2 metal storage containers and set aside money for heating unit ventilator repairs and parts and replaced 2 water fountains at WLC that have been out of order for some time. We were able to purchase a can rack that will increase storage in food services at FRES. One topic that was discussed extensively during the budget process last year was investment in athletics and co-curriculars and the Board did a good job balancing the wants and needs of the community and evaluating what was reasonable to spend. There has been discussion about getting another van to support either athletics or co-curricular programs like dance team, track and field, and some of the smaller athletic groups. It's going to decrease the number of cancellations that we have had and is going to save us some money also. Our golf team started up last year and all of that was funded through a donation. The Board approved funding bags, golf balls, and uniform shirts. This past year we're able to purchase a pitching machine for both softball and baseball programs, a turtle batting cage, and repairs to the fences for both fields including increasing the back stop on the baseball field. We purchased a new net system for soccer fields. We were able to purchase new dance team uniforms and costumes and additional mats and benches within the weight room. All those are factored in the amount of money that we're returning. She is thankful the Board has explored other ways to support these rather than allowing programs to fall behind. Mr. Newton asked how many positions from last year were left unfilled and what the net savings is after contractors were paid to fill spots. What was the gross money saved and how much was the expenditure on contracts, adding he is looking for the net amount and not the details. Ms. LaPlante does not have the net number but will get that to him. Mr. Newton asked if those positions will be filled this year. Ms. LaPlante confirms yes, the reading specialist we went with contracted service provider in FY 27 budget and the nursing position at LCS we will have to hire a contracted service provider because the hours and pay rate are not competitive within the nursing industry and we have not been able to fill a full-time position within the facilities department even though the positions had been posted. Mr. Newton commented that we saved money on people, some of whom we may not have needed last year and questioned if we need all of them again this year or did we learn from last year's example. Ms. LaPlante responded that the positions were filled with contracted service providers, nothing went empty. Mr. Newton commented there were only 2 positions that saved half a million dollars. Ms. LaPlante confirmed the savings in net wages are offset by the cost for the contracted service providers, she owes that piece to him, she doesn't have that right now. The positions did not go vacant. Mr. Newton asked how many positions, gross, were left unfilled last year. Ms. LaPlante will need to confirm that. Vice Chair Lavallee informed the group that the School Board received an extensive explanation of this in the spring, and it outlines all of that. It should be in the minutes and there should be a letter from Ms. LaPlante in the packet. The $928,725 cost savings is not just from vacant positions. She reviewed some of the savings including that salary savings were also filled with different pay rates than the previous employees. Mr. Newton commented if we had an example of last year where we were able to operate successfully with fewer people, perhaps we should learn from that and continue that trend rather than try to

fill all the boxes. Chair Lavoie reminded the group that last year we were almost 2 years ahead in our planning of the budget. There are certainly changes that happen that we also have to be cautious from a budget standpoint that we don't over correct and remember that the numbers we're going into this year were calculated, presented and voted on almost a year ago when it started. She spoke of needs changing such enrollment and what student needs are. The discussion continued including Ms. LaPlante informing them we had $38,000 remaining in substitute staffing because as we built our new budget and had a new contract with teachers, we were not sure if we were going to have extra teachers utilizing maternity leave. We have significant savings within our heating fuels for the buildings, especially WLC, because we had new units put in but didn't have any basis to calculate that savings. There is savings throughout the budget besides personnel. Student transportation, we only ran 4 buses vs. 5 for the bulk of the year. She will send out more comprehensive information pointing out where some of these additional savings are. Mr. Newton asked for a copy of the project "wish list" that gets filled at the end of the year, total cost and for it to be shared with the Budget Committee. Ms. LaPlante explained it is not a list. Point of Order was called by Chair Lavoie, requests of administration for reports is something that the Budget Committee as a whole need to be discussed and iron out and voted on before any directives are given. She reviewed the goal for today's meeting, is to get a high-level overview of understanding historical information so that when we receive a detailed budget we will be working with, FY 28 by September 28 we have a starting point for questions. Back and forth discussion was had including Mr. Newton calling the Point of Order, is Out of Order. Concerns of behaviors were raised and behavior as a Budget Committee member vs. personal resident and the role of the Chair and their authority to censor or curtail or control in any way what the other members say in a meeting as they are all equally elected. Vice Chair Lavallee spoke that this is a joint meeting between the School Board and Budget Committee and asks to keep the focus on items at hand and focus on the budget. The Board has a number of things to do after this joint session is ended. Superintendent asked for clarification if they were to answer Mr. Newton's questions and if so, should we hold on to the information and give it all at once to the Budget Committee? In the spring we talked about the committee identifying a list of sorts from the members and the information that was requested. Then we would have time to gather that hopefully in a timely manner for you to have good discussions and make decisions. Clarification was asked for as Superintendent Weaver and Ms. LaPlante are prepared to get any information that has been asked for. Chair Lavoie thinks the answer will come by the end of the meeting once the committee takes a look at what the schedule. Ms. LaPlante reports FY 27 is opening up and starting as budgeted. We are seeing some savings in our CTE transportation, for example, we budgeted a bus for the full year, and students are self-transporting as well as we are using the van. Mr. Pratt is looking at the student population, and we may have additional students with different needs that may need services OOD. It is still being evaluated. We are fully staffed with the exception of the LCS nurse which we will fill with contracted service, a position in facilities will be filled with a contracted service and 2 ABA positions and a kindergarten instructional aid. Health insurance elections are looking great. We are looking at heating right now which looks good and electric. Right now, we are not foreseeing any major issues with opening up the FY 27 budget. A question was raised when they would see the 1st YTD report. Ms. LaPlante believes probably be the end of October, she will have encumbrances but not all of them. She would have the "nuts and bolts". A question was raised about what are we looking at in terms of contracts or larger changes potentially. Ms. LaPlante informs the group we have 2 contracts (CBA), but it all depends on HB 1300, and we will be putting out plowing, we redid our energy contract last year. We are doing our heating right now; transportation was done last year. We don't have any major contract changes. Discussion shifted to school board goals. Vice Chair Lavallee reported the school board worked on them in the spring. Everyone was sent copies of the draft Strategic Plan, Roadmap and the school board goals that were voted on. She spoke of it being a work in progress with the Strategic Planning Committee working on the strategic plan. The Budget Committee had requested some goals; we thought it prudent to come up with something to start. We did receive some feedback from Mr. Newton at the last meeting and opened it up for questions. Chair Lavoie noted having more related to the process of getting here. She spoke of being able to go back to school board meetings and strategic Planning Committee meetings from 2012 that talked about having the same discussions and working toward them but nothing ever is really adopted that can be used for the Budget Committee to manage what expenditures are prudent for success in the district moving forward. There is nothing to measure the administration such as Superintendent Weaver and his success managing the district forward. There are a lot of gray areas. She spoke of some of the goals such as successfully negotiating and ratifying all collective bargaining agreements, to her that is a standard requirement, not a goal etc. She spoke of being stuck in the same cycle of working on them. She does not feel they are ready and is surprised we don't have more and that there are missing pieces of what we can really measure. She wonders if there is a way to look at the process, she knows one of the challenges has been that the Strategic Planning Committee has not met often, sometimes only twice a year. She asks if the school board could maybe discuss adjusting how often that committee needs to meet as well as what their process is. It seems administration is driving the process more. In her opinion it should be the Strategic Planning Committee that should be developing high level goals with some pieces below that then are approved by the school board then move on to the next piece. She spoke of smart goals and that is what we should be striving for, maybe long-term goals look a little different. She spoke of still spinning our wheels from what she read 14 years ago. Vice Chair Lavallee spoke, not for the Board but herself and informed the group at the last meeting they decided to have a couple workshops for the Board about how we can be better as a Board and agrees with a lot of the feedback. Mr. White appreciates the feedback and feels it has been a thing since his last time on the committee. He adds we present something and then it's not the way it is wanted and we have to go back to the drawing board. It is kind of like we are spinning our wheels as much as you are spinning your wheels. He believes the Board needs a more detailed view of what the Budget Committee wants, exactly what you are looking from us to be able to provide you with what you need. Discussion was had including the Budget Committee cannot stop the Board from voting on them even if they don't agree. Ms. Anzalone noted appreciating the feedback but since she has been on the Board, this is the 1st time we have got here. She confirms it is a draft, but we wanted to present something to the Board mainly to see if we are going in the right direction. She thinks it needs to be more

specific with more specific measures. Discussion continued including examples of measurements and not recalling the Budget Committee asking for goals or voting on it, and when that happened and it being in minutes. Vice Chair Lavallee spoke of it being part of Board policy and discussions that were had by the Board. She does not recall as a Budget Committee liaison there being a vote regarding this, but more direction was asked for, there was an extensive discussion about the school board providing the Budget Committee with more specific direction and that is where this originated from. Superintendent reviewed that when the documents were created, HB 1300 was not in place. It has consumed us as a small district and the Strategic Plan is critical in terms of how and if we can sustain ourselves, are we going to get smaller or stay stagnant. It was suggested if these are the thoughts of the Budget Committee it would be good to hear it at the committee meetings through the liaisons and it would be good to have more people there. It was noted that committee work is where the work is being done, it is then brought to the Board and if the feedback is received at the Board meeting it is harder. The committee can flush it out. It was expressed that from a process perspective, it is somewhat difficult to provide feedback as the Budget Committee has not met yet. Once they do, they can formulate a request and discussing it ahead of time makes it more productive rather than as individuals. Discussion moved to HB 1300. Ms. LaPlante reported that the School Board had a presentation last week. It is a new law that passed that significantly impacts municipal budget law that puts forth to voters at the general election in November. Off cycle from normal local business that we typically do, which is in March, there will be an article on the ballot for every community in New Hampshire asking if communities want a tax cap for their school districts. If three fifths of the voting population approve that, then we have a tax cap which is then bound statutorily on what we can do to increase the budget. That increase is capped at the rate of inflation plus whatever percent defined by the DRA right now. There is still a question mark on that. If we have a tax cap, we are very much restricted in what we can consider or use within the tax cap. It is not a tax cap based on last year's approved operating budget. It is based off of the last property tax levy. The last tax bill for a lack of a better term, is sent to the towns of Wilton and Lyndeborough. It is not based off last year's budget; it is based off of the last tax bill. She can provide a more in-depth presentation to the Budget Committee if that is helpful. One of the other things it does is if we have a tax cap, it caps the SAU, the central office cost at 6% of the entire operating budget and that is still pretty fluid based on the workshop she attended earlier today. Right now, we are in a position where we're going to start building a budget in September that may significantly change from the original trajectory in November once our voters vote. If our communities vote to implement the tax cap, then we're going to be looking to build a budget that is roughly 3.6% to 4% above the property tax levy. We don't have concrete numbers yet. It will completely change the way that we do this budget. It will completely change what allowable SAU costs we're allowed to budget for next year. If the 2 communities vote to implement a tax cap that goes into effect immediately for our July 2027 budget. Built into that cap is also the warrants, capital reserve accounts, CBA''s and because we are small and operate as lean as we can already it is daunting and could have significant implications on our district. Vice Chair Lavallee opened it up for discussion. She would like the Budget Committee and Board to come to a decision regarding the direction to give administration to go in, do they build a 1st draft budget under that number or build a budget based on providing the education that needs to be provided to our students. Discussion was had including the timeline of getting the information, impact and preparation. Superintendent confirms it would be prudent to him to have a plan B from the outset. Ms. LaPlante confirms it is 3/5ths of the voting population amongst the 2 communities of Wilton and Lyndeborough. A question was raised if Ms. LaPlante has a calculation of what the cap would be. Ms. LaPlante confirms we have our understanding with minor tweaks. There are 2 factors 1 is the rate of inflation as of March 2026 and we that, and how they are defining and measuring property growth in the communities is not easy. Wors case scenario, we should proceed with only that 3.6% because we don't know when we're going to get that missing piece of information. We're currently estimating budget cap about $430,800 or so. That is a lot until we break down what makes that up. The amounts already known that eat into that are $26,600 for year 2 of the WLCSSA CBA, $23,000 for year 2 of the transportation contract, if estimating healthcare at 15% increase, last year was 34%, that is $336,000, all these pieces add up quickly. That doesn't include the minimum cost of living increase we give to our nonaffiliated staff and doesn't take into account the ABA CBA or teachers contract that need to be negotiated, SPED costs if we have any other students who need to go OOD or any utility cost increases or if we need to replenish the SPED capital reserve. That $430,000 gets consumed quickly. That is the estimate right now of what that number would like. She confirms there is a mechanism at district meeting, she believes what has to go on our warrant is what falls beneath the 3.6% cap but speaking generally, she gave some examples. If 60% of the voters there approve to override the cap then we could fund some of those in excess of the cap. Chair Lavoie's preferences is to recommend administration work on a full budget with keeping in mind the tax cap and making notes of what cuts would be and providing training and education to public to understand how it works and what it means and making sure residents have the opportunity to understand that. Members discussed this, including the Budget Committee, has not had the opportunity to discuss this as a committee nor align as a committee. Chair Lavoie spoke of this being a formal Budget Committee meeting and votes can be taken. There was discussion about this. Ms. LaPlante confirms health insurance rates are not out until the 2nd week of November. Vice Chair Lavallee spoke of it being important to have a decision tonight and support the Budget Committee coming back after discussing it with direction through the liaison. At this point per our discussions, she feels the majority of the Board feel that the budget should be built based on the needs of the school and the children within mind what could be taken out. We know you won't have specifics on September 28 for the 1st draft of the budget but that is our goal. A straw poll was taken of board members, and all were in agreement that the first draft of the budget, we would like to see it based on the needs of the students, school and facilities.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Newton and SECONDED by Ms. Mooney for the Budget Committee to vote to agree with the straw poll that the School Board just took and to request that the 1st draft budget be presented as what the administration and School Board want on the assumption that HB 1300 never happened.

Voting: via roll call vote, five ayes, motion carried. Two nays from Craig Alley and Kellie-Sue Boissonnault, motion carries.

Discussion moved to the budget timeline. Ms. LaPlante clarified a change had been made to the original, the filing period for elected officers January 20, 2027-January 29, 2027. The correction had been made prior to sending it out. Chair Lavoie reported the schedule was made with Ms. LaPlante, they looked at what worked well in the past and what did not and the timing of the Budget Committee to provide feedback and recommendations. She reviewed the document noting there are several things that are unknown that have big cost impact. There will be 2 meetings in December where departments will present, it will be longer meetings but will be done after the November vote and toward the end of information collection. There are a lot of built-in deadlines for the Budget Committee for presenting and voting on specific data and questions and clarification that we want to present and deadlines for those questions being presented back to the committee with updated drafts of the budget. A request was made to add times to the timeline and is it still 6:30PM? Chair Lavoie responded typically it is 6:30pm but can be discussed in their meeting.

A MOTION was made by Ms. McClure and SECONDED by Mr. Alley to adopt the schedule/timeline as presented.
Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Vice Chair Lavallee informs the committee that a school board liaison will not be present at their meeting as the alternate is not present and needs to Chair this meeting. She asks that the liaison share any comments, concerns or questions with her or Chairman Golding and those will be presented at the next school board meeting.

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.

Regina Conrad had her hand up to speak but there was no audio. She was asked to send her comments, and it will be added to the minutes.

The joint session concluded at 8:11pm and the Budget Committee continued their meeting in another room.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Ms. Meigs to approve the minutes of August 11, 2026, as written.
Voting: all aye, motion carried.

b. Expenditure From Capital Reserve

Ms. LaPlante reviewed the School Board are the agents to authorize funds from the Building/Equipment & Roadway Capital Reserve Fund. Even though we have discussed it openly, the Board needs to vote to approve withdraw funds. In evaluating projects that we have spent money on, B wing bathroom partitions, $4817.35, with work to continue fixing the rest of the bathroom. We replaced the office and library carpets at WLC for $24,016.47 which came in almost $6,000 under budget. Replaced VCT tiles phases 2 and 3 at WLC and second floor at FRES $81,889.66 and then stucco work at WLC budgeted at $30,000 but at the last meeting the Board approved spending $35,000 to have that done. The total amount is $145,777.48 and if the Board agrees a motion is needed to withdraw the funds.

A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Mr. Chandonnet to withdraw $145,777.48 from the Building/Equipment & Roadways Capital Reserve fund.
Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Ms. LaPlante informed the group, once the locker room is complete, she will come back and ask for reimbursement of those funds as well for that package.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Negotiations

Mr. White reported providing proposals to the ABA group and they will look at that with their council. They will get back to us and see if they agree with the changes we proposed and we are holding off on the financial part right now until we have more information on HB 1300.

IX. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES

a. FYI-New Hire-Rebecca Raymond-Paraprofessional-FRES
b. FYI-New Hire-Taylor Owens-ABA Therapist-FRES
c. FYI-New Hire-Jade McAvoy-IT Technician-FRES
d. FYI-New Hire-Tammy Smith-Food Services

Superintendent reviewed the resignation and welcomed staff.

X. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION

Vice Chair Lavallee opened the discussion for any feedback, things that could be done differently or communicated to the Budget Committee. She liked the discussion around how we are going to educate the community and thinks it should be something the Board really focuses on leading up to November. How we're going to do it in a neutral way but with all the information, making people aware and what the financial impact will be and the impact on the schools. Discussion was had including why the Budget Committee needs the school board goals to produce a budget, there seems to be a disconnect, examples were given such as wanting to keep class sizes small, or a new program. It was noted that the Strategic Plan is the legacy, it will live on through changes of administration and Board. The Board sets the strategic plan, and administration has to plan for how those goals will be reached, report back and the Board makes adjustments based on information gathered by administration. It was noted we have a Strategic Plan and Strategic Planning Committee; it was suggested if you disagree, come to the meetings. It was discussed that goals should be measurable, we have some good goals, we should have some stretch goals and should achieve to improve certain things but at the same time not wanting goals that are not realistic. Discussion included understanding that we want to improve test scores, this should always be the Board's goal but also understanding there are a lot of factors. Ms. Anzalone spoke in support of teachers and that they cannot always control what happens, there is only so much they can do. She spoke of all the staff here doing a great job. She gave an example of wanting to improve scores by 10% but at the same time she doesn't want to set everyone up to fail. There is a lot more to it than the teacher standing in front of the classroom that affects this. That is where administration can help setting realistic, measurable goals. Discussion included staff retention and for us to reach our goals we have to have a positive environment so that they want to stay. Every time there is turnover, there is a loss of information. It was noted a great goal is to educate the community. Superintendent commented that when we build the budget, he heard the Budget Committee Chair asking for a sort of cause and effect; if our goal is to increase by 50% for example. We have 21 kids, let's say we are going to have 45, what is the cost associated with that in the budget. Sometimes it is just not as easy. He gave another example of wanting the CTE to grow. We want kids to have opportunities to go to Nashua Community College and take a course if we don't offer it here. Those types of things, but we don't know that yet. When you build the goal out, it is hard to say we're going to spend $10,000 on something that we don't know even exists yet. That's the challenge. Most of the budget is uncontrolled cost to us. Seventy-five percent could just be the healthcare cost at an increase of 15% which leaves us 25% of 3.6% that we can work to grow the budget. He hears what they are saying, they want more guidance and he thinks this is where they communicate together and clarify what it is they want and then we can work with our administrators and Board to give them the information they are looking for. In the meantime, we will look at how we can add more measurables. Discussion continued including not seeing why they must be measurable; it should be priorities when they are setting the budget that have financial impact. The Strategic Plan can be measurable to make sure the Board is going in the right direction. The word goals is wrong, it should be a list of priorities. It was noted the Board can say this is what we are working on and feel our role is and this is our feedback and these are our priorities. Vice Chair Lavallee spoke of taking time to think about it and the feedback they gave us. When we have our workshop, we can iron out what our role is. The workshop is on September 22 at 6pm. We will talk about what our goals are and what we want to focus our time on. She feels we provided them with some information that they can digest and get back to us. It was noted we did not hear from most of the committee. It was suggested to come with the top 5 priorities for us to discuss. Ms. Anzalone will set a date for the Strategic Planning Committee. Vice Chair Lavallee spoke of giving the Budget Committee time to digest the feedback they heard tonight and hopefully when they meet, they will send their liaison with their feedback.

XI. 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.

Superintendent read Regina Conrad's comment from the 1st public comment session. "Public education on 1300 support, have one located at the Lyndeborough School. We have local control at the spring meeting at which we can reduce or increase the budget. HB 1300 is NH State telling the local district exactly how to cap our school budget."

XII. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Zavgren commented that the joint meeting with the Budget Committee was revealing and he thinks their quest for better defined measurable goals was a good thing. He thinks the goals that the Board set should be the highest priority goals. He thinks personally making sure kids get a good education and making sure teachers are respected and paid well and retained for a long time. That is the foundation. He spoke from experience that there are teaching jobs where teachers are treated as a commodity and there's pressure to squeeze wages and it does not make for a good school. He gave a comparison example of what some

people may think. There probably are people that say let the market figure this out. That's a very bad road to go down. We should not be doing that. We have to make sure that teachers are respected and paid well. If you do that you get better outcomes.

Ms. Alley congratulated our new Athletic Director, Cameron Cook. She is excited to hear what he has to offer and his ideas. If anyone is interested in helping with the Strategic Plan or any of the goals, come to these committee meetings because we do discuss things and we discuss them more impactfully because we're discussing them specifically for that committee that we're on and then we can come here and discuss the spectrum. By coming to the committee, you get a better opportunity to see what we're actually working on.

Ms. Anzalone congratulated Mr. Cook, she is excited and would love to learn more about the whole sports management piece. If you can offer that to any of the kids, that'd be great. She agrees with Ms. Alley, please, we're going to schedule another committee meeting tonight and we'll post that for everybody, please come to the meeting. She commented that she is not an expert in Strategic Plans, and often when she is looking at things like this, she is thinking about it as a parent. She wants the best opportunities for our students. She thinks it would be helpful to have other parents and other people that maybe don't have kids in school because opinion matters as well.

Ms. Meigs commented that tonight we talked about HB 1300, this coming up for a vote in November and if this bill passed it will have a very big impact on our school. We realized tonight one of priorities is to help the community get educated about this bill, because it will have a big impact.

Mr. Chandonnet congratulated Mr. Cook, he is a great hire. He is glad to be back. He likes our goals and thinks in terms of how the Board goes and how we want to function here, we can work on how we want to measure our success but thinks we should look at our priorities. He thinks that will also help with strategic planning too if we set our priorities together and that helps formulate the long-term goals and plan.

Vice Chair Lavallee, informed the group on Thursday she will join all the teachers and staff and welcome them back as she has done with the Chairman previously. She asked if anyone has anything to share with them or to include in the welcome back speech. Feel free to email her. She recognized Dolly Parton's passing who was a wonderful advocate for literacy and touched so many people. She advocated for literacy because her father couldn't read when she grew up in the Appalachian and she supported the children of Tennessee by promoting graduation rates and made a significant impact. As someone who held dear to her heart education and literacy as much as she does, the world really lost someone today.

Superintendent Weaver asked for any board members who can come to opening day for the staff, it just takes 2 minutes to say we believe in you and are behind you 100%. It really has an impact. It is a powerful Thursday morning and message. Come for 9:00 AM if you can make it.

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

A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to enter Non-Public Session to review the non-public minutes and discuss personnel matters RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (B) (C) at 8:43pm.
Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 9:44pm.

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

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to adjourn the Board meeting at 9:45pm.
Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler