

1                                   **WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL**

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3                                   **BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**

4  
5                                   **WLC-Library; WLC Conference Room**

6                                   **FINAL MINUTES**

7                                   **Tuesday, August 25, 2026**

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9   **Committee Membership:** Alyssa Lavoie (Chair), Phil Brooks (Vice Chair)  
10 Bridget Mooney (Secretary), Craig Alley, Kellie-Sue Boissonnault, Kate McClure, Bob Newton,  
11 Bob Silva  
12

13 **Present:** Alley, Boissonnault, Lavoie, McClure, Mooney, Newton,  
14 **Absent:** Brooks, Silva, vacant Wilton seat  
15

16 This was a joint meeting between the Budget Committee and the School Board. The School board  
17 meeting began at 6:30. The meeting was recorded.  
18

19 Chair Alyssa Lavoie called the Budget Committee to order at 7:00.  
20

21 Alyssa LaVoie made the motion to approve previous committee minutes at the September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
22 meeting. All ayes.  
23

24 The minutes for the joint session can be found in the school board minutes.  
25

26 Bob Newton made the motion for the Budget Committee to vote to agree with the straw poll that the  
27 school board just took and to request that the first draft be presented as the administration and school  
28 board want on the assumption that HB1300 never happened.  
29 Bridget Mooney seconded the motion.

30 The roll call vote was 4 ayes; 2 nays. The motion passes.

31 Kate McClure – yes; Craig Alley – no; Kellie-Sue Boissonnault - no; Alyssa Lavoie – yes; Bob Newton  
32 – yes; Bridget Mooney – yes.  
33

34 The Budget Committee has proposed a new schedule for meeting with the department heads and  
35 administration leading up to the spring budget presentation.

36 Kate McClure made a motion to adopt the new schedule.

37 Craig Alley seconded the motion.

38 All ayes.  
39

40 Following the discussions involving the Budget Committee, the School Board and the Administration,  
41 the Budget Committee continued their meeting in the conference room.

42 This meeting was not recorded.  
43

44 The Budget Committee continued the discussion around HB 1300 and the vote to proceed with the  
45 budget building process as usual.  
46

47 Craig Alley wanted to explain his reason for voting “no” to Mr. Newton’s motion in the joint session  
48 regarding the budget directive. He advocates for building at least two budget options; ideally an “A”,  
49 “B” and “C”. He explained it as “A” is a budget with everything, “C” is a budget with worst case  
50 scenario of HB1300 passing and “B” is somewhere in the middle.

51 Discussion continued regarding the amount of time, effort and many different variables that others felt

52 made it more complex than Mr. Alley was suggesting.

53 Bob Newton defended his vote suggesting it was important to get something in motion asap without  
54 contingencies.

55  
56 Kellie-Sue Boissonnault felt that the school board's focus on the budget was based on the sob stories  
57 of the students and was meant to pull at the heart-strings of the voters. She expressed the view that  
58 the tax payers were being asked to cover too much of the burden and suggested a mediocre budget –  
59 not too high or too low.

60  
61 Kate McClure said the needs of the children and the needs of the school are why we are here. She  
62 said we need to let the community know what this upcoming vote is about.

63  
64 Cost items such as health care, transportation, SPED and other various moving targets and mandated  
65 items contribute to the complexities behind a budget being built 18 months ahead. No motions were  
66 made to change the directive given to the administration.

67  
68 Craig Alley mentioned that a pet peeve of his is the school budget never coming in at or closer to zero.  
69 He says in business an overage of 5% in the budget would not be acceptable.

70 He's concerned that there are unspent funds, which he referred to as a slush fund, every year that  
71 then get spent on items not in the budget. Mr. Alley and Mr. Newton expressed concerns about  
72 transparency. Mr. Newton and Ms. Boissonnault expressed concerns about the administration being  
73 capable of building a strategic budget vs. doing the way it's always been done by  
74 administrations. Chair Lavoie stopped the discussion and reminded them to be cautious to not make  
75 accusations. They are not free to express their opinions when those cross the line to accusations.

76  
77 Alyssa Lavoie pointed out that for years the unspent funds were returned. Her opinion is that  
78 historically, there were years when the unspent funds were always returned without any consideration  
79 of what, if any projects, could be covered that may have had to be cut or put off in previous years.  
80 That residents had been expressing interest in having the school board and administration look at  
81 options for spending the unspent funds on needed items that didn't get into the budget.

82  
83 Alyssa Lavoie suggested that the administration would likely put together a list of items that may need  
84 to be cut if HB1300 were to pass and it would be beneficial for school board and administration to  
85 have that available with a plan to educate the public on the potential impact it could have.

86  
87 Bob Newton feels that it is important to leave the sports budget alone as it is a very small percentage  
88 of the overall budget and is a vital part of the school community. Alyssa Lavoie strongly agrees with  
89 this viewpoint.

90  
91 Bob Newton believes that it is important to look at the Big Picture of how the district operates. He  
92 expressed concerns regarding performance and disciplinary issues. He suggested looking at other  
93 teaching systems such as Alpha out of Texas, and schools that begin the day with outdoor morning  
94 time and physical activity.

95  
96 Craig Alley said this would come under Strategic Goals. Chair Lavoie reminded the committee that  
97 policy and operations are not the authority of the Budget Committee. If anyone is looking to make  
98 changes in the way of policies such as curriculum and how to spend the budget, they need to run for  
99 School Board. The Budget Committee is not the place for those discussions.

100  
101 **Public Comment:**

102 Jonathan Vanderhoof- Lyndeborough

103 1.requests that the Special Ed Department provide how they got to the budget number they requested;

104 what is the procedure used.  
105 2.requests that budgeted items be purchased. He gave the example of cafeteria tables being  
106 budgeted for several years, but never being purchased and the money being returned.  
107 3.wants the FY26 year end report of expenditures.  
108 He goes on to say that all excess money is built into the budget, but the administration says the only  
109 thing that can be cut is staff. What extra built in cushion is there in health, dental, retirement?  
110  
111 Alyssa Lavoie brought up HB1234 which is a recently passed bill identifying certain school district  
112 offices as incompatible for purposes of school district elections. The relevance to the committee is that  
113 Bob Newton holds a Budget committee position as well as the Moderator of the District Meeting.  
114 Holding two positions will be disallowed beginning September 8, 2026.  
115  
116 Bob Newton will mail out his "Information Needed from Administration and School Board for 2027-  
117 2028 Budget" memorandum for the board to consider and vote on at the next meeting.  
118 The next Budget Committee Meeting (Workshop) will be September 14, 2026 in the WLC Library.  
119  
120 Bob Newton made the motion to adjourn  
121 Kellie-Sue seconded the motion.  
122 All ayes.  
123  
124 The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm  
125  
126