

Public Notice of Meeting
WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 6, 2026
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School
6:30 p.m.

Videoconferencing: meet.google.com/wom-stnk-wzn

Audio: [+1 414-436-8882](tel:+14144368882) PIN: 132 471 189#

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. STUDENT or STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
- IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**
- V. 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.
- VI. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**
 - a. Reports**
 - i. Student School Board Report
 - ii. WLCTA Report
 - iii. WLC Principal Report
 - iv. Butler Bus Update
- VII. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION**
- VIII. ACTION ITEMS**
 - a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting**
 - b. Coaching Stipends**
 - c. Delegate Assembly Representative**
- IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - i. Facilities
 - ii. Budget Liaison
 - iii. Negotiations
- X. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/LEAVES**
 - a. Appointment-Nicole Leahy-LCS School Nurse**
- XI. 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.
- XII. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**
- XIII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (B) (C)**
 - i. Review the Nonpublic Minutes
 - ii. Personnel Matter
 - iii. Negotiations

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

INFORMATION: Next School Board Meeting-October 20-Florence Rideout Elementary-Library

The Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, handicap, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status in its administration of educational programs, activities or employment practice.

WLCTA Board Report 10/6/26

As we begin this school year, our teachers and staff have been diligently putting their expertise and experience to work in the classroom. We have spent hours over the summer preparing curriculum, classrooms, and all manner of things to help us be successful this year in the WLCSD. We have also already administered the diagnostic testing to establish baselines and plans going forward for all students. We greatly appreciate the focus that this district has on data, and we hope that we can continue that focus on science-backed, research-driven techniques. Great gains in learning are not possible without great staff working at all levels and in all roles, and small class sizes are one of the cornerstones of this district's appeal and effectiveness. We are looking forward to building a new contract with the community this year!

Lyndeborough Central School

- Kindergarten went on their first field trip of the year to the apple orchard on 10/2!

Florence Rideout Elementary School

- First grade and fifth grade teamed up on September 24th to make apple pies for the whole school! They were delicious, nice work!
- 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders will be performing in the Holiday Concert on December 10th at 6 pm in the FRES gym.

WLC Middle High School

- The High School international trip will be going to Italy and Greece in 2028. There will be an informational meeting on October 8th at 6pm in the WLC Library.

School Board Report

October 5th

HS Assembly - September 16th - ThinkFast interactive Teen driving safety.

- Sponsored by the Department of Transportation
- Students enjoyed this interactive “Game Show” assembly to review safety procedures on driving and bike riding rules of the road.

MS Assembly - September 23th - Chris Poulas

- Students were inspired by an incredible assembly featuring Chris Poulos, professional trick cyclist and motivational speaker. Through some amazing tricks Chris reminded students that success does not happen without effort, perseverance, and a willingness to overcome challenges. His message encouraged students to believe in themselves and keep moving forward when things get difficult. This experience reinforced our commitment to help every student become their best version of self.

Middle School Lunches

- Two middle school lunches (Grade 6 and Grades 7&8) have merged into one on September 28th. All middle school students are eating lunch at the same time.

Good to Great

- We also believe that a good school never stops growing and as a staff we are committed to reflecting on our work, listening to others, celebrating our successes, and continually looking for opportunities to improve.
- English Language Arts (Prior request):
 - How many long-term “essays” do you assign in your core classes:
 - Middle School Social Studies and ELA about 3-4 a year
 - HS Social Studies about 3-5 a year
 - HS ELA more than 5 a year
 - How often, if ever, do your students write in-class essays? (Only done in the classroom, with limited support / graded as a summative).
 - MS - 1-2 /year
 - HS Social Studies 2-4 /year
 - HS ELA 2-6 / year (depending on class)
 - How many pages do you expect on a typical paper in your class?
 - Consistently 3-5 pages
 - What is the longest paper length you assign?
 - MS - 3-5 pages
 - HS Social Studies - 5-8 pages
 - HS ELA - 8-10 pages

Celebrations - Warrior Cards / School Coin

- Our school staff are committed to looking for and acknowledging positive actions during the school day. To date: 105 Warrior Winner Cards have been mailed home and 1 Warrior Coin has been issued. The coin was issued to a student for standing up to his peers encouraging them to be “Better Versions of Themselves”.

NEASC Vision of a Graduate

- Our Vision of a Graduate identifies the knowledge, skills, characteristics, and qualities we hope every WLC student develops before graduating. While our current vision is good, it has not been reviewed in recent years. We believe it is time to take another look. Our communities are changing, the world our graduates will enter is changing, and the skills students need for success continue to evolve. Our vision should reflect the aspirations of the families and communities we serve.
- Soliciting members for a committee to look into this.

Jr. Class: Request for an Instagram Account.

- With Social Media being relatively new to the WLCSD, the Junior Class recently requested permission to open a separate Instagram Account to best share Class events/activities. Mr. Gosselin and I support this and would like your go ahead.

Behavior

High School Behavioral Referrals:

- For the month of August/September there were a total of 33 office referrals. Of the 33 referrals, there were 25 students. This is an increase of 23 office referrals and a significant increase in phone violation. This year is the second year of implementing the state legislation of the electronic device law where students are not permitted to have them from “bell to bell”. This year another level of disciplinary action has been taken to further improve the distractions from electronic devices.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Aug/ Sept 2025</u>	<u>August/Sept 2026</u>
Total Log Entries	10	33
Detention	0	0
ISS	3	1
OSS	1	1
Restorative Practice	1	0
Cell Phones	5	29

Other (non phone issues)	0	2
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Middle School Behavioral Referrals:

- For the month of August/September school year there were a total of 23 log entries. This is an increase of 16 log entries from this time last year. 17 students made up the total number of 23 log entries. This year is the second year of implementing the state legislation of the electronic device law where students are not permitted to have them from “bell to bell”. This year another level of disciplinary action has been taken to further improve the distractions from electronic devices. In addition, administration utilizes progressive discipline whereas incidents that happened the previous year may lead to a more significant consequence, such as an ISS.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Aug/ Sept 2025</u>	<u>Aug/Sept 2026</u>
Total Log Entries	7	23
Detentions	0	0
ISS	2	6
OSS	0	3
Restorative Practice	3	0
Cell Phone	0	7
Other- non cell phone issues	4	7

Upcoming Events:

10/2 – Homecoming GV Soccer vs Hinsdale, 4:00; BV Soccer vs. Hinsdale, 6:00

10/3 – Homecoming Dance, 6:00-9:00

10/8 – International trip meeting for parents/students, 6:00

10/9 – Teacher Workshop, NO SCHOOL

10/12 – NO SCHOOL

10/15 – Picture Re-take Day; Milford HS Career Expo

10/21 – Unity Day

10/23 – Progress Reports

10/28 – Parent/Teacher conferences, 3:00-6:50

10/29 – Parent/Teacher conferences, 3:00-6:50

10/30 – NO SCHOOL

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING & WORKSHOP
Tuesday, September 22, 2026
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School
6:00 p.m.**

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

Present: *Dennis Golding, Brianne Lavallee, John Zavgren, Michelle Alley, Erin Collins (6:30pm), Darlene Anzalone, Anna Meigs (6:26pm) and Craig Chandonnet*

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

I. 6:00 PM WORKSHOP

The Board discussed areas of school board operations as listed in policy BA-School Board Self Evaluation and Goal Setting. Discussion was had regarding how the group felt last year. There was a brief discussion regarding curriculum and how much the Board should be involved. A desire to be involved collaboratively with the process was expressed. They discussed what went well and some challenges. Superintendent Weaver spoke regarding curriculum and that Ms. Dignan is comfortable talking to the Board, she is a good resource for them, and not afraid to discuss challenges. Ms. Lavallee spoke of the Board's goal to have input. The Board sets policies and goals and standards. How administration carries that out and the final details the Board does not get involved in those decisions. They discussed the possibility of having faculty attend the strategic planning committee meetings with the caveat that there are specific questions for them and needing to be cognizant of their time. However, if the Board wants input from teachers, Superintendent Weaver can be tasked with that. An area they talked about improving is curriculum input. It was noted members on the Strategic Planning Committee can help guide the discussion. They discussed community relations and how teachers can struggle in the classroom due to behaviors and as a Board how do they get parents more actively involved. People in the community have all sorts of skills and how do they make outreach. Chairman Golding reviewed the many ways the Board has made outreach and without tapping into taxpayer money he is not sure how much more can be done. It was noted that as elected members, the Board represents the parents. Discussion was had regarding getting information out. Superintendent Weaver spoke about getting the word out regarding HB 1300 tax cap is a good test for the Board if the goal is to improve community relations. A couple board members attended parent night for this. He spoke of wanting to schedule a meeting and the need to remain neutral. He suggested an early October date, sending an email blast, and posting it on the WLC Facebook page and the community Facebook page. They could ask the attendees how they learned about the meeting, what motivated them to come and then gauge how effective the outreach was. That model could be used for the superintendent search also. It was suggested to post a sign at Carnival Hill, at the dump and have a QR code. Ms. Anzalone informed the Board that Mr. Howard Ray, Lyndeborough Selectman, has informed her that the Board cannot post information at the Town Hall regarding HB 1300. It was determined that two goals are to work on parental outreach and engagement improving those relationships and being more involved with the curriculum at a strategic level. A brief discussion was had regarding the Board doing a better job sharing the good things relating to students. The Board discussed the need to have a quorum at the committee meetings and recently there have been situations where they did not. Ms. Lavallee provided information from her research on the topic. She reviewed that all the committees are school board committees and actionable, motions are made, votes are taken and the meeting cannot be held without a quorum. Since there was no quorum for a couple of the meetings, a discussion was had but no action was taken. She reviewed the committees and noted that if the Board feels the committees are no longer useful, they can disband them. Negotiations is required by the CBA. Often the committee is meeting and bringing back information to the Board and as a whole they are making decisions. In regard to negotiations specifically it is making the process longer because the decisions are not being made at the committee meeting but without a quorum that cannot happen. They need a quorum physically present as it falls under RSA 91:A unless it is an emergency meeting. They discussed goals around committees. Ms. Lavallee spoke of her goal for the Policy Committee to meet more regularly. Discussion was had regarding adding members to the committees, such as an alternate member to help with achieving the quorum. They discussed it needs to be small enough in order to prevent the classification of a "board" meeting. It was determined to adjust the agenda and add an action item to assign alternates to the committees. Some ground rules were discussed such as sending 48-hour notice via text or email when you cannot attend giving the alternate ample time. It was determined that another goal for the Board is to improve committee attendance and another is to improve communication between the group and plan ahead. Communicate when you cannot attend. Ms. Fowler asks this when the agenda is sent. A good rule is to email Ms. Fowler, copying the Board Chair and Vice Chair to let us know when you cannot attend. If that does not happen it is assumed you will be present. Members should be checking their email regularly as well. A brief discussion was had regarding meetings during inclement weather. It was suggested that the Chairman and Vice Chair could have a discussion if it is inclement weather and discuss if it makes sense to cancel the meeting and that decision needs to be made by 3pm. They need to know who is coming and who is not as part of their decision making. RSA 91:a, II was reviewed for emergencies; it is up to our interpretation of what constitutes an emergency. Part of the decision will be if there is something on the agenda that requires immediate attention. The communication piece will help with this. Ms. Lavallee spoke about board members checking email regularly to know if times change, alternates will know if they need to step

in and what the Chairman and Vice Chair will do is if there is a meeting that needs to be held for actionable items to take care of and it is bad weather, they will coordinate and verify attendance and move forward. She feels if the members communicate with each other, they can prioritize.

There are 4 goals the board will be working on. Ms. Lavallee will send something out to members. The group had agreed to meet at the end of March or beginning of April. A half hour is sufficient before a board meeting and then plan it for September again to check in to see how the goals are coming.

The workshop ended at 6:38pm.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Golding called the meeting to order at 6:38pm.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Chandonnet to add under action items, VIII, section b, assigning alternate committee members to Board committees.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read.

Mr. Bob Newton, Lyndeborough, commented that he is here to set the record straight. He spoke of the last board meeting, he watched the recording. At the last meeting many made comments about the Budget Committee's draft meeting minutes. He spoke about them not being accurate and it was hard to believe it was not a deliberate attempt at character assassination. He acknowledges if he had seen what the Board saw in those draft minutes, he would have reacted the way they did, but he may first say, are those minutes correct, it is not like him. As you have seen, there has been some passive aggressive behavior. He won't ask for an apology or the Board may want to amend their minutes. He joined the Budget Committee so that our schools provide the best education to our students at the most reasonable cost. Let's all focus on the work we are here to do. He is happy to take any questions at any where and at any time.

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

VI. PRESENTATION-CAMERON COOK-COACH STIPENDS

Principal Ronning introduced Mr. Cook, Athletic Director. Mr. Cook is here to review a proposal for a new stipend matrix for next fall. He spoke of the schools in NH having a different structure, some it's a flat rate regardless of sport, barring football, others have a budget of \$2,000 for an assistant coach and that can be split up as they choose. He thought it was important to not make it a convoluted process with a bunch of variables and instead, use a base salary of someone in the district as a barometer for what to pay someone that's here just coaching a sport. His matrix was passed out. The left shows the current salary, and the right shows the proposed. Right now, there are 4 levels, he proposes moving to 3 and the increase varies by percentage based on HS vs. MS vs. number of weeks the season is. Such as basketball is a little longer and runs through a quiet period on the calendar and lends itself to a little more of a lift. The median of these numbers at each level he believes is slightly above average. He reviewed some of the other district rates. He spoke about the importance of stipends for assistant coaches because he thinks it lets a head coach be far more capable of what they are able to do. He has experience with this firsthand. Even if a team of 14 kids it's really hard to manage when you're the only one and he does think there is a liability component. When we travel to Gorham or Sunapee, we're in a van and there is only one coach and if anything happens the adult is with the student, maybe going to the hospital and not on the field and the game doesn't happen. He reviewed the proposal and noted that no one is coaching here because they are going to get rich. It is not about money, but it is about compensation for the level of commitment. He thinks we do want coaches that if they're choosing between Milford and BG, and it pays \$200 more here to make that person come here he doesn't want the money to be the reason they didn't come. He thinks they can have more of an impact on a school like ours when it is such as small school and he doesn't know if that spills beyond practice and they can be a little more ingrained in what we're doing here. He spoke of something they do for the Silver Knights and acknowledged it is not apples to apples, but he thinks coaching at a high-level which varsity sports are that it is important to be compensated for a job well done. Athletics as a whole, we are looking for more buy in and commitment and drive from the coaching staff all the way down to the 15th player on the bench. An additional performance stipend or bonus is short money but if a team is to make the playoffs at the varsity level, he proposed a \$150 for the coach. You are probably still losing money coaching a sport here but if you make the quarterfinals, \$300, and making a championship is \$500 and making a state championship \$1,000. It is about 20%-25% of what we're paying somebody. Is a state championship title worth if not a thousand dollars, some level of compensation

to the coach to stay here and not go win a championship elsewhere. He thinks there is value in backfilling roles within the school via coaching rather than doing it the other way around all the time. In his experience so far, if he didn't already have a dream job, he would be very interested in what other positions are open here that would allow him to be the athletic director or coach baseball and do something that makes him more part of the community as a whole. We're proposing to implement a budget for assistant coaches to decrease liability on road games, build a better coaching staff and allow for more efficient practices day-to-day. We can squeeze more out of an hour and a half practice with 2 bodies rather than 1 which is better for our players. Years of experience are only applicable for years of serving coaching here. He would be willing to put a waiver in that can get you to the year 2 to 4 vs. a first year here and provided an example. We want to reward someone who has been here and want them to be here in perpetuity until they decide they don't want to. Ms. Anzalone commented that she loves he is playing the National Anthem at games. As a parent, she thinks it is great, we want to attract good coaches. She wants to see practices 1.5 hours, and they not be cut short, she wants them to be dedicated to the teams. If coaches are acting a certain way in the field, she doesn't care how good they are, they should be pulled from the field. She doesn't have a problem with the \$150; let's try to have the attitude of we want to be here, and it starts with the coaching staff. Mr. Cook spoke of coaches having a new standard and the bump in the stipend is not happening because it is long overdue, it is happening because we want more from them. He should not have to hand hold 4-5 teams at a time, the coach is an extension of him, and we would cosign and assistant coach. He sees a lot of things the Board sees and there is a change that needs to happen. The last thing he wants to do is pay more for the same, that would be frustrating. A question was raised how it is budgeted now. Ms. LaPlante confirms it is under athletics, co-curricular salaries. If the Board goes in that direction, we will make adjustments for this year and absorb and build it in for next year. Chairman Golding would like to see the total, as if all the performance bonuses are happening. He questioned if it would be left up to the coach to determine if they share a performance bonus with the assistant coach or if it will be decided prior. Mr. Cook does not want the coach to have to make that decision and it would be written in but not change the amount proposed he would split it for example for a state championship the bonus amount is \$1,000 and would be split \$750 for the head coach and \$250 for the assistant coach. Chairman Golding suggested changing the wording to coaching staff and provide the split. Ms. Lavallee and Mr. Chandonnet recused themselves from the discussion and voting pertaining to coach stipends. A question was raised how administration sees it fitting in the budget. Ms. LaPlante does not know and will have to reference the current coaches for this year and can have the calculations for the next meeting. A question was raised whether the list included the coaches for sports Mr. Cook wants or the ones he has. Mr. Cook responded yes or anticipated to have; they removed the ones they don't or likely won't have and added what they hope to have next year. Principal Ronning confirmed there are 2 positions we currently don't have, JV boys' and JV girls' basketball; this is the master list. Superintendent spoke about the Budget Committee mentioning wanting to support the athletic program and feels it would have a positive impact on the budget process. Working with Mr. Cook and his experience we really wanted to take a look at this. We had a couple of teams where he thought we had the opportunity to be at semi-finals if not state finals with community support but the piece that was missing was stability in coaching. We had turnover and one coach he thinks left mid-year. It sends a message to our community and our kids that if you want to play sports you don't have to take that seriously here because the school district doesn't. He thinks this helps us with that. We recruit and we retain high-quality coaches, the ones that can really build the culture here. That has an impact not just on athletics but family engagement. It also has a significant impact on academics in the schools because the data says that when kids are participating in extracurricular activities, especially competitive ones, their grade and their performance are much higher than the student that isn't. He spoke of being excited for Mr. Cook who clearly spent time figuring this out and the Board seems open to his ideas. Chairman Golding expressed that he likes Mr. Cooks proposal and the way he presented it but is uncomfortable voting for it until he has the budget number. He suggests to table this until the next meeting when they have the number. He asked the Board if that makes sense to everyone and they all agreed. This is tabled until the next meeting.

VII. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent asks if there are any questions about his report, otherwise he would like to bring Principal Ronning up and talk about the Delegate Assembly. A question was raised if he knew when November's sample ballot would be available. Superintendent Weaver responded not at this time, and he believes they need to be printed very soon, maybe having it available by the end of the week. Ms. Lavallee asked if the Board can task him with reaching out to the town clerks to get a sample of each to see the wording of the HB 1300 question. There was brief discussion of the wording being difficult for people to decipher and having that would help educate people. Superintendent will share that with the Board as soon as we get it. Ms. Lavallee thanked Mr. Holland for stepping in as Moderator and Ms. Spurrell for accepting the position as district clerk. She asked what is being provided for training for her. Superintendent spoke of being fortunate to have 2 strong resources at the SAU, Ms. Ryan who has been district clerk for a long time and Ms. Fowler who also has served as district clerk. The one thing that pushed Ms. Spurrell to accept was the amount of support she has. He is excited that we have someone at the SAU in that role. A question was raised if he knew how many superintendent positions are open in the state. He does not know but can report this back at the next meeting. He adds that it is not just NH, it is regionally, Vermont, NH and Maine, we are competing for the same pool of applicants. So far, we have 2 applicants from NH. He spoke of being grateful to the Board for posting it early and it being premature to start moving on them until the November vote is completed because we may need to decrease the position to part-time if HB1300 passes. Ms. Fowler will periodically repost it to refresh it. The 2nd meeting in October may be a good time to report again on how many applicants we have, how many in state and out of state and talk more specifically in nonpublic about the candidates. In November the Board can decide on how to move forward with the interview process, and Ms. Fowler and I will communicate to

the candidates regarding where the Board has landed. We have 6 candidates in total with different experiences, strengths and weaknesses. A question was raised if a standard letter is sent when there is an inquiry to let the candidates know of the timeline. Superintendent confirms that has not been done but he and Ms. Fowler spoke about that today, maybe early next week, letting them know we are grateful for applying and alerting them the timeline has been pushed out due to HB 1300 vote and to reassure them. He spoke of the NHSBA Delegate Assembly asking if it is something the Board wants to consider by sending a representative. He briefly explained what it is. The representative sits through the discussion of resolutions and votes on behalf of the Board. The deadline to register is October 14 and the assembly is Saturday, October 17. On October 6 the Board can discuss the resolutions briefly to inform the representative how to vote or the Board can choose not to send anyone. It was noted that given the petition warrant article regarding the tax cap at district meeting the voters spoke clearly on their stance that should not be a tax cap and if there is a resolution that addresses that it would be important for us to send a representative to advocate on behalf of the taxpayers because the taxpayers specifically tasked us with addressing that. Superintendent Weaver will review the resolutions with Ms. LaPlante and Ms. Fowler and determine if there is a resolution related to the tax cap and then when the draft board agenda is reviewed it can be decided if it should be on the agenda to appoint someone and review resolutions. Ms. Lavallee noted she will not be at the next meeting but also will not be able to attend the assembly. There is a link in the Superintendent's Report to the resolutions.

Principal Ronning addressed the Board regarding at the end of last year there was a conversation about a school coin and it was a vision about bringing things together and the wording of the school coin may be awarded to students, staff and community members who demonstrate exemplary contributions to learning our school and community recognizing acts of leadership, kindness, service and school pride. Recipients may carry this coin as a symbol of the positive impact they've made and the values, we strive to uphold at WLC. He presented the school board members each with a coin. It was designed by an 8th grader, Isabel McKown and she was presented with the 1st one last week. He thanked the Board for believing in the things they are doing here at WLC. This coin is a great way for students, staff and community members to know that their contributions to our school really make an impact.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Ms. Collins to appoint Lori Spurrell as School District Clerk. Voting: all aye, motion carried.

ii. Business Administrator's Report

Ms. LaPlante reported doing a deep dive into the spending into our FY 26 from the budget process to implementation, to spending, to what additional projects did the Board spend and to figure out where we got to how we got there. She provided a lengthy memo to the Budget Committee explaining it as well as our year-end financials. She pointed out one error on page 7, SPED out of district tuition was over budget by \$61,456 and the amount she has there was the amount that we spent. It does not change the amount we returned. She and the Superintendent met with the administration team reviewed their budget proposals for FY 28 and tried to understand how their budget meet the needs of our students and our staff and how that aligns with the district's current draft strategic goals to make sure that we're investing in what the Board has publicly stated that they feel is important. We are maintaining our existing staff within the FY 28 budget. We are doing some finer details, so she doesn't have the final number yet. It will go out to the Budget Committee on Monday and will send a copy to the school board. It will be presented to the Budget Committee on October 5. The administrators did a phenomenal job or really putting intention and thought into their budgets so that it aligns with the Board's strategic plan. She spoke of it being a privilege to work with Ms. Dignan who has some great ideas when it comes to grants management. She handles Title I, II and IV. This year we have had a more collaborative approach to managing the grants. Some expire September 30 of this year, some 2 years from now and really having intentional meetings to say what projects did we budget, where are we at with those and can we release any funds, did some come in under budget and making sure whatever programming comes into our district is sustainable. That is what they are working on, creating a goal of adding value back into our district so that for some reason if the funding is pulled by the state or federal government, it's not going to leave our students and our staff in a lurch. She spoke of bus issues and will be meeting with Butler Bus later this week to discuss it being a rough transition from 5 to 4 routes and with them taking on SPED transportation. Ms. Decoteau is doing a phenomenal job in the Milford office, it's a struggle. Everyone is passionate about their students and rightfully so. We are meeting this week to continue discussions about ways that we can improve not only this year but starting to take notes about what we can do to make sure that some of these issues don't arise again next year. She is happy to answer any questions, none heard. A question was raised since 3.35% of funds were not collected, according to HB 1300 it will be based on what we collected not what was approved by the voters since it was not spent. Ms. LaPlante does not have the figures yet but has a rough idea where we are at. We have received legal guidance. If our voters say yes to the tax cap and through difficult means we cannot get under that, there are metrics to have some wiggle room. She confirms we need 60% majority for that. Ms. Lavallee notes it would be helpful to have those exact numbers both the percentage and dollar amount. One of the things that is confusing is the budget that was voted on and the funds we collected are significantly different. If we have savings of \$900,000 just because we didn't collect it or spend it does not mean we didn't need the positions or it's related to health insurance, and we have no way of knowing who signs up for that. A brief discussion was had about benefit enrollment, Ms. LaPlante has a good census on employees and what changes we might expect. Ms. Lavallee spoke of this being the 1st year having Butler Bus for SPED students and when we have children that have a difficult time with transition it is concerning some of the things she has heard, including pick-up times and how long students are on the bus. She asked that these concerns be shared with Butler during administration's meeting this week. Ms. LaPlante hopes to have an update for the next meeting. Ms. Lavallee hopes they will

take all the feedback and make changes and if not, she asks if there is a clause to back out of the contract. Ms. LaPlante believes there is a clause to change plans with proper notice. It was noted to keep an eye on this as this is transportation for our most vulnerable students.

iii. Facility Manager's Report

Mr. Hofstetter gave a big shout-out to the WLC PTO. He spoke about the PTO funding some shelving for the gym closet for organization. In the next couple of weeks, he will put the new shelves in. He thanked Ms. Crystal Gill specifically for coordinating it all and making it happen. He confirms they had 70 help tickets with about 30 of those being correspondence tickets. He spoke of doing a lot of education using the system last year but feels it may have gone the other way now where they are putting in tickets for basic questions. He appreciates the Board approving the system. He spoke of some of the tickets for small things, lockdown switch on doors not working and spoke of humidity being a problem this year. He has had a lot of swelling doors and had to purchase humidifiers. A question was raised how we heat the schools given the rise in costs. Mr. Hofstetter confirms 2 schools heat with oil, and one heats with propane. He has not thought that far in advance yet, but Ms. LaPlante has. Ms. LaPlante spoke of having adequate funds and back in July she reached out to partner communities and unfortunately one was supposed to get back to her, but it dropped off her radar and missed that opportunity to do a bulk buy, but we will be putting it out to bid. Mr. Hofstetter spoke of not having any true vandalism and with everything functioning and looking better it may be because students have some respect for their environment. Going forward they will be doing a lot with the bathrooms and will discuss what we can do with what we have. He is confident it will be respected by the students but acknowledges it will be a lot of work to get it where we want it.

iv. Director of Student Support Services Report

Mr. Pratt reported this is the beginning of 3 reports as some specific questions were asked by the Finance Committee (meaning Budget Committee). He reminded the Board that when we have students with a suspected disability and they are found to be eligible, one of the cornerstones of the law is they have to have a disability. In the report he has detailed what disabilities we have across what grade levels. We have 129 SPED students. The district enrollment when we were doing the report was 514 so our percentage for SPED is 25.1%. We have 50 students that have specific learning disabilities (typically associated in the areas of math, reading, writing etc.), 24 on the autism spectrum, 18 with developmental delay, a category for younger students. We want them to develop a bit and before grade 3 these likely morph into a different disability or none at all. Seventeen have other health impairments, 11 have speech language only impairments and 1 has intellectual disability. Our SPED percentage is increasing as all are across NH and the US. He spoke of COVID impacting our learners due to their time away, parents were doing amazing work at home but one of the cornerstones of learning is being with other kids and not the others in your household. He spoke of kids not reading like they used to. He spoke of no discernable things he can discuss although notes one grade stands out. He spoke of students having more issues as opposed to less and the acuity of need being deeper and broader. A question was raised if Title I students would be included in this and do students grow out of it. Mr. Pratt confirms no that is a totally different situation. Typically, kids don't grow out of developmental delay, it typically morphs into something else. He is looking at data and how many of our students, apart from leaving the district or graduating, are coming off IEP's while they're here. When districts say we believe a student is no longer disabled in that particular disability it is not an automatic thing to come off an IEP, the power of the pen is with the parent. They can disagree with the district, and we have to mitigate that but cannot unilaterally say your great, and all set. We would never do that to a student. A question was raised whether part 3 of the report could include possible ways to improve things. Mr. Pratt spoke of the self-study that is being done but won't be ready for part 3 of his report. Hopefully in December or January he can talk about the progress made. One reason is to address what was just said and the other is to get us ready for our state report which will not be until 28-29. A question was raised that in the beginning he said it was requested by the Finance Committee, did he mean Budget Committee? Mr. Pratt did mean the Budget Committee. Ms. Lavalley thanked him for the information but did want to note that she is aware the Budget Committee asked for this and did ask for a lot of specifics when we break down the disability types, it does make her a little uncomfortable breaking them down by grade only because of the size of our district. She appreciates the Budget Committee wants a lot of information but thinks her perspective is that we should just be very cautious about the information we provide, especially when we have one student with a diagnosis. Mr. Pratt agrees and informs the group that he did check with SPED counsel before releasing it. He adds that some things he will not be providing. He confirms he will present to the Budget Committee in December. There was a brief discussion and determined breaking it down by school would meet the needs of the Budget Committee vs. grade and the Budget Committee liaisons are comfortable having to explain that if needed. There was a brief discussion of why the Budget Committee needs this information. Superintendent spoke of them working to finalize a "basket" of information and evidence they asked for; the Board has not had a chance to weigh in, and this is one of them. He has concern about some of the questions they are asking and has asked legal counsel for guidance. He gave an example of this. He informed the group that he asked Mr. Pratt to gather the information he presented. We are trying to prepare for this, and this is just the first level. We are in the preliminary stages, and Mr. Pratt was kind enough to get this ready quickly. He tells the Board we will need your guidance with what information you believe we should provide the Budget Committee and what is in the purview of the Board. A discussion was had. Chairman Golding reported that on May 13 the Budget Committee received a memo with questions from a committee member. At the last meeting they did not go line by line and determine whether or not it is in their purview. After a quick discussion with Superintendent Weaver about probably forwarding that to the attorney to determine if any of it is overreaching. Discussion was had regarding the idea of being fiscally responsible. Ms. Lavalley spoke about the amount of resources we are utilizing during this year's budget committee process. It is important to provide information they are asking for but wants everyone to be aware of the amount of time it takes for administration to do this, who have other projects we want them working on. She is also concerned about the amount of times we have consulted an attorney over this and that is costing us money. We have to figure out

a way, and they need to find some balance, and she would like them to be more aware of the hours of work they are asking administration to do. It was noted every year we are overspending attorney fees and every year more and more of these problems are coming up. Mr. Pratt spoke as an administrator; he has to assume good intentions and explaining SPED is very hard at times and his philosophy is the more information he gives them legally the better prepared they are asking him. He will not explain with our RISE program how our ABAs are deployed, they rotate across all grade levels. We are trying to take a difficult topic and boil it down to be as simple as possible. Board members have received a copy of the requested information.

v. Director of Technology's Report

Mr. Buroker informed the group they had 442 new tickets in the last 90 days. He spoke of having blind luck hiring the best people which has continued. The tech at FRES he has heard nothing but good things about and he has been impressed with her device issuance. He gave a shout-out to Principal Ronning and Assistant Principal Gosselin and Mr. Hofstetter and his team with regard to issuing Chromebooks, which went smoothly. With cybersecurity we are inundated and the payroll person gets about 7-10 phishing emails trying to steal payroll information which is up significantly from what we are accustomed to. He was asked to talk a little about the 1:1 Chromebooks. Mr. Buroker explained at the Technology Committee meeting they discussed 4 topics with one being 1:1 at FRES. This was born out of public comment a teacher made about 8 months ago concerned about screen time. He did a survey to see how many minutes they were doing a day. That turned in to for example, 1st grade is on it 30 minutes a day and is that the most efficient way of having technology. Superintendent Weaver asked him to run a pros and cons scenario of having carts going up to 3rd grade. He had Principal Maghakian and Ms. Dignan speak from their perspective about it. What came of that is that he and Principal Maghakian will dig into the individual classrooms and see how it is being used. He had brought some studies which concluded not all screen time is useful. That is our next step, and he intends to have some findings by the next technology committee meeting on December 15.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

Corrections to the Board member list of attendees needed correcting to list Mr. Chandonne vs. Mr. Lavoie and Ms. Meigs vs. Ms. Foss.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Anzalone and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to approve the minutes of September 8, 2026, as amended.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

• Add Alternate Committee Members

▪ Facilities Committee

Mr. Chandonnet volunteered to be the alternate, no objection heard

▪ Strategic Planning Committee

Ms. Lavalley volunteered to be the alternate, no objection heard.

▪ Technology Committee

Committee meets quarterly. Ms. Collins volunteered to be the alternate, no objection heard

▪ Policy Committee

Ms. Lavalley would like the committee to meet monthly and will schedule an October meeting. Mr. Zavgren volunteered to be the alternate, no objection heard.

▪ Negotiations Committee

There was a brief discussion about having a difficult time setting dates for this. It was suggested a schedule of dates be sent out to all members and they can go in and sign up. Ms. Lavalley spoke of empowering the committees to make decisions on the Board's behalf which would help the process move along faster. Ms. LaPlante was asked if that would be helpful. Ms. LaPlante agrees it would but most critical for the teachers since we are early in the process. She also suggested Board members familiarize themselves with the current CBA's which are online and perhaps at the next meeting in non-public the Board can discuss as a whole if there are any recommended changes or what they want to see as their vision. That way members at the table are really representing the interests of the Board. It was noted that with other committees such as policy, everyone trusts them to look at the policies, put in the work, and we make motions to present them, and you get the final for review. It should be the same way with the CBA, they should be able to make decisions and then at the end the Board gives the final okay, but we trust the committee to represent the Board. Superintendent spoke of that being a different approach from what we have done in the past, but we have also been inefficient. This is what our attorney also suggested, they make strong recommendations. It was also noted the non-public sessions would be shorter. Superintendent agrees we will send out a google sheet with editing writes to sign up with your name. It was noted an alternate is still needed. It was suggested that all the members are alternates. Ms. Fowler will send out the dates we have locked in so far for both the ABA/RBT group (ABSP) and the WLCTA to all board members and hopefully someone will agree to be there for the 6th. Ms. Alley can attend and Chairman Golding on the 29th.

There were technical difficulties with online audio.

i. Strategic Planning

Ms. Anzalone spoke of having a lot of good things in the Strategic Plan and would like to start moving forward with it. The committee has goals they agreed to. Mr. Crouse thought it would be great if we could offer something special like more dual

credit classes. We are looking to see if that is something we can offer to make ourselves more attractive to students and part of what the Board would have to look at is teachers would need their master's degree to be able to teach those classes and what kind of incentives can we offer for that, again this is for long-term planning. We sort of tasked ourselves before we meet again to see what other kinds of ideas can we come up with as a Strategic Planning Committee to think about what else special things we could offer. We want to keep the format of the Strategic Plan we have now. If we can get some specific feedback from the Board by the next meeting, then we can try to have our meeting after that to start to tweak it. There were discussions around measurable things, but the committee feels we need the Board to tell them if they are going in the right direction before it is tweaked too much. Ms. Meigs added the school is really good at paying attention to people and from her experience that is so crucial and things that should be something we boast about. Superintendent Weaver added that originally, we built the Roadmap which has more nuts and bolts. The Strategic Plan may be a nuts-and-bolts plan and how can we make it more visionary. We don't know what is around the corner but how can we move in that direction. He spoke about differentiating our district from others and are we just a smaller district than others. The need to be different and our small size allows us to have these conversations about personalizing learning and creating a niche environment. A place where students feel this is great; I could take running start classes in my junior and senior year. The plan was very specific, and we want to celebrate our size and expertise in our staff and the student experience. We need to hear from the Board what you want to brag about in our district and what your vision is 3-5 years from now and how do we incorporate that. There has to be a section that forces us to engage in these conversations. He thinks it is headed in the right direction and hopefully the Budget Committee will support the idea of personalized learning. He will update the draft, and it will be shared with the Board. He suggests ideas can be sent to Ms. Anzalone or to him. A question was raised regarding there being an extensive talk at the joint Budget Committee session and did they send the liaison with any questions. Ms. Anzalone and Ms. Alley confirm the liaison was present but did not have questions. Ms. Lavalley thanked the committee for the hard work they have done. There was a brief discussion about teachers needing to hold a master's degree in the subject they teach to teach dual enrollment classes. It was confirmed the classes are not integrated into a regular class, they are stand alone classes similar to AP classes as the pace and depth of the content is at a different level, more on track with honors and the curriculum is aligned with the college course. Superintendent spoke of it being beneficial to families also as the cost is much cheaper. It allows a student to take classes and the flexibility to change your mind if it doesn't suit you. He spoke of providing an incentive for the teachers to obtain their master's degree, how to support them to implement it and a need to be thinking out of the box. Ms. Collins agrees with the idea of humanities, especially with AI becoming such a big thing. Superintendent confirms that Principal Ronning and staff are open to the Strategic Plan and looking at things like daily schedules to support all students and supportive of different tracks for kids and the schedule has to align with that. He is glad there is this burst of excitement. Most districts don't engage in this type of conversation, and you see from the history here that there were 3 plans and they are not very visionary and maybe they were not so excited and they didn't follow through. In a world where open enrollment is a possibility, we want to be open to it. A brief discussion was regarding mentors and apprenticeships, extended learning opportunities and making sure we are talking about K-12, not just HS. We want to create excitement at the elementary level as well and the Superintendent has been talking with Principal Maghakian about building her vision as Principal. How do we create this so that kids are effective communicators and independent critical thinkers? We want them to make good decisions for their future, but they need to learn how to do that.

ii. Technology Committee

Chairman Golding reported they did not have a meeting they had a discussion due to no quorum. Mr. Buroker explained most of the meeting earlier and will have additional information for non-public. The next meeting is December 15.

iii. Budget Liaison

Chairman Golding reported it was a lively meeting with a lot of back and forth and changing their minutes. There were 2 versions presented, one was accepted. He was not really asked any questions. The Budget Committee made a motion and voted to have Mr. Silva and Mr. Newton to collaboratively discuss with administration the document provided earlier. Between the 2 negotiations meeting, we met with the attorney looking over the list of questions discussing what is their purview and how we should move forward. While we wait for her responses, we will not be open to answering any of these right now or directing anyone to do anything until we get the attorney's approval. A brief discussion was had that there was no recording of the meeting. Given that the minutes were changed it is suggested the directive to the attorney should be that we're still addressing the fact that they should not be making accusations against employees in public meetings and a need to keep the meetings professional and following policies KE and KEB and not make accusations without factual information. The policies direct the business of the entire district. Chairman Golding noted the Budget Committee said that the School Board cannot direct the Budget Committee to do anything and they do not have to follow school board policies. A brief discussion was had and determined to seek clarification from NHSBA attorney. Ms. Lavalley will reach out to them as Policy Committee Chair. It was suggested if the answer is they do not need to follow policy could we get clarification what laws they follow. A brief discussion was had that the Budget Committee Chair was trying to approve some policies and procedures at the meeting but at least one member was against due to not having enough time to look at it. They are working toward approving them and hopefully can have something for their October 5 meeting. Ms. Lavalley will attend that meeting. She will bring the information discussed after she speaks with the attorney and based on earlier discussion ask what is the purpose of the data they are requesting, what are they going to do with the data and for them to be cognizant of the number of hours of work they are requesting from administration. She questioned when we discuss enrollment numbers we do not talk about homeschool students taking classes here and unless they come in for a certain amount of time, they are not counted in the enrollment. There is a cost to that, and it would be good to provide that for the community. Superintendent spoke of it being challenging because we only have numbers for homeschool when the parent informs us. It is difficult to get a handle on families who are participating in Freedom Accounts

(EFA) and that is across the state. He would like to be able to inform families about what we are doing and have some students return. It was noted for budgetary reasons that it would be good to know the number of students that are not enrolled but utilizing our services. Superintendent will get those numbers to the Board and provide context around it for some clarity. It is believed that the EFA accounts are still being handled out of state in New York. A question was raised whether there are any other questions to bring to the Budget Committee, none heard.

iv. Negotiations

Chairman Golding reported last Thursday there were 2 negotiations meetings, first with the ABA/RBT group and we will discuss that in non-public, and we also met with the teacher's group after.

Chairman Golding stepped out of the meeting, Ms. Lavallee took the meeting over at 9:02pm.

VIII. 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.

Ms. Crystal Gill attempted to make a comment but due to technical difficulties the audio was not working. She was directed to put a comment in the chat. Her comment was there is always next time.

IX. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Collins thanked everyone at WLC for the gorgeous coins and congratulated Isabel McKown, awesome job!

Ms. Lavallee thanked Ms. LaPlante for the comprehensive report she provided. She asked how long it took to put it together. Ms. LaPlante responded about 30 hours.

Chairman Golding and resumed as Chair of the meeting at 9:05pm

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

A MOTION was made by Ms. Lavallee and SECONDED by Mr. Chandonnet to enter Non-Public Session to review the non-public minutes, discuss personnel and negotiations RSA 91-A: 3 II (A)(B) (C) at 9:06pm.

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

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 10:05pm.

A MOTION was made to seal the non-public session minutes RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (B) (C) by Ms. Anzalone and SECONDED by Ms. Lavallee.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Zavgren and SECONDED by Mr. Chandonnet to adjourn the Board meeting at 10:06pm.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*