WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 20, 2026
Florence Rideout Elementary School
6:30 p.m.

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

Present: *Dennis Golding, John Zavgren (6:35pm), Michelle Alley (6:33pm), Paul White, Erin Collins, Darlene Anzalone, Anna Meigs (6:33pm), and Craig Chandonnet*

Superintendent Peter Weaver, Business Administrator Kristie LaPlante, Principal Stacy Maghakian, Director of Student Support Services Ned Pratt, Technology Director Nicholas Buroker, Curriculum Coordinator Samantha Dignan, and Clerk Kristina Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Golding called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. STUDENT/STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This was deferred due to scheduling conflicts.

IV. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent requested to remove the FYI new hire and move the EMC presentation to November.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Collins and SECONDED by Mr. White to accept the adjustments to the agenda, removing the new hire and rescheduling EMC.
Voting: all aye, motion carried.

V. PRESENTATION-ENERGY MANAGEMENT COMPANY

The company EMC performs energy analysis throughout facilities for the last 30 years in NH. Joe, the Director of Project Development, explained they are a consulting and energy firm. He reviewed their process, prioritizing things from the highest, then out 2-4 years and out 4 plus years. He gave examples such as if the filters are in poor condition, it prevents proper performance. He spoke of forecasting and budgeting which is all data driven. Once a project is chosen, they utilize the life cycle, cost analysis and cost to operate it over the lifetime. Project implementation would include a conceptual design and obtain 3-5 competitive bids for each measure. Then it is transferred to a manager who manages the Gannt Chart. He reviewed the bid process and bid opening which is all fully transparent. They would provide a link that can be posted on the website for the public to see what is happening at the facilities in real time and can be catered to whatever the Board wants. They also provide STEM camps in the summer with a coordinator teaching it for a couple of weeks in the summer. They also look at grant opportunities and work with utility providers. He provided project examples. They are not tied to anyone or any supply or entity, they look at what is best for the facility. He reviewed a customer choice tool and report. Once a project is selected, the additional deficiencies are still there and instead of waiting for the next year to make decisions they track them and prioritize them for which phase. The Board makes the decisions on how those things will be implemented. Once the analysis is completed, they go into great detail and go through the engineering and provide a report with unit inventory. They show how many of each unit you have, the age of it and life expectancy. They provide a capital planning matrix and show the details of each and every measure. He reviewed the implementation, full analysis, RFP process, engineering and the costs are identified. They want to continue the relationship and help the district through the projects. There are no upfront costs until a project is selected. Once a project is selected, they have a development kick off meeting and talk about the issues and common problems and what is constantly being fixed. Those things would be high priority. They then go through everything, such as windows, roofing, fire alarms, fire suppression, ADA compliance, bathrooms, etc. Once the projects are approved there are no change orders, and once you get the budget and it is approved that is what you are paying. If they miss something, he gave example, that is on them which is a big benefit to the district. That is why they do the upfront work, to make sure they don't miss anything. They would do the grant work then provide it to the district to sign. Mr. White indicated he is supportive, however it may be best to table this until after November 3 vote. Joe informed them the first payment is not due for a year from today. There would be time to prepare for it. Chairman Golding having them come in to do the analysis doesn't cost anything, and we decide not to do it, there is no cost now and could do it later possibly. Joe confirms this. Responding to a question, he confirms the software they use is not shared with the district but certainly he will make any changes and send it out. They are transparent about what they are showing. Chairman Golding asked if the Board wanted to move forward or not with this.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Chandonnet and SECONDED by Ms. Anzalone to bring on EMC Company to start the analysis with Mr. Hofstetter leading the project.

Voting: all aye, motion carried.

VI. PRESENTATION-INNOVATION COMMITTEE

The slides are attached to the minutes. This committee consists of the following teachers, Andrea Lawner, Meghan Levesque, Julie Lemire, Jessica Hill, Kirsten Rourke and Morgan Kudlich with support from Principal Maghakian and Ms. Dignan. The group met over the summer to define what innovation means in the district, sharing ideas and narrowing their focus to things that could be obtained this year. They explored outdoor activities they could tie to the curriculum. They noticed there was a lot of food being thrown out and came up with the idea of worm farming. They reviewed their process, which begins with collecting food waste from lunches weighing and tracking it to be used in worm bins and rotating composters to create compost. Students will learn what food is fit for worms. The timeline was reviewed; they will start tomorrow collecting food waste. Students have been spoken with about what is appropriate and what is not for worms. Students will record and graph learning these techniques and collect data. It is tied to every subject in the school and projects happening in school including specials, reading, writing, math and science plus community and nature involvement. The goal is that on Earth Day each student at LCS and FRES will plant a seed from the soil they created by composting. They hope eventually to make this project bigger and possibly involve WLC with having them test the soil and use it in their classes, then later possibly have a school garden. The success criteria was reviewed, students can correctly identify compostable vs. non-compostable items, sort food waste correctly and can demonstrate an understanding of how composting helps the environment. The 1,000 worms came from an online purchase which included the kit. Students will be wearing gloves when touching the worms. It was suggested another project could be collecting and measuring rain. The group has not chosen what type of seeds, likely native wildflowers, something that is good for bees. One of the PTO members works for UNH and can supply the seeds from NH and maybe help with community partnerships. A brief discussion was had about how this program could grow, including a greenhouse and farm stand. They discussed how it can be included in the curriculum and common core, reading, science and improving skills. If students have more of an investment, hopefully that will lead to higher scores and hands-on opportunities for students. It was noted it should be an enhancement and not take away anything. It was suggested students keep journals. Superintendent spoke of how excited this team is, and we want to keep that momentum going. He spoke about creating a foundation where you get students excited about learning. He thinks it will be successful and likes the idea of taking a problem and figuring out a way to solve it.

The EMC presenter arrived and there was no objection from the Board to hear his presentation. See above.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment section of the agenda was read. There was no public present. Chairman Golding reported there is no online public comment due to technology.

VIII. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

a. Reports

i. Business Administrator's Report

Ms. LaPlante reported she will be sharing a verbal report tonight. She spoke of being consumed with dollars and cents with everything from continuing to close out FY 26, open and implementation of FY 27 as well as plan into FY 28. She submitted the "powerhouse" financial document. It takes every dollar that the district spends and analyzes it in many ways and provides a lot of great, useful data in a uniform statewide report so that everyone is using the same data which allows us to accurately compare to other districts. The next thing to complete is the tax rate paperwork with the DRA once the form is approved by the DOE. This year we're returning $239,510, which is lower than we originally anticipated. We had spoken of having about $500,000 in unspent funds. The decrease is because in the year end closeout process in accounting, we have to close out what are called due to and due from accounts. With funding, if one account owes another account, we have to close that out. Guidance she had received by the Office of Nutrition a few years ago regarding the food service deficit contradicted NH accounting laws. We have had to make that adjustment. The good news is we are not in a deficit. One of the reasons this report takes so long is because she is not going to release any information until she has reviewed it. She sent around the MS 25, which is the school financial report for setting the tax rate. The Budget Committee has received the 1st draft of the budget. For us, there is a little bit of lull until we figure out the results of the community vote on the tax cap and then are prepared to start drafting the 2nd draft which will be reviewed later in November after we get the revised health and dental rates from SchoolCare. She had originally talked about having the FY 27 year-to-date report for this meeting but is not going to release something that is not factually vetted by her and will bring this in November. She will be doing a deep dive into better understanding and explaining what makes up our per pupil cost, what makes up our spending, and how it impacts when we're compared to other districts. Because per pupil cost is a common term, she really wants to dig in and provide some helpful data for the Board and community at the November meeting. She recognizes much of her time has been taken up and if she has overlooked getting anything to the Board over the last couple months please reach out to the Board Chair and Vice Chair and they can let her know what is still lingering. She was asked if she would be providing per pupil cost data like was provided last year at district meeting, including the special education piece and not just a broad per pupil cost. Ms. LaPlante responded, not being comfortable having time to analyze it and making sure that she really gets the nitty-gritty of it. For the next meeting she will talk about the state comparable cost but wants to dig in and see what Ms. Lavoie's data set was so she can provide that comparable information.

ii. FRES/LCS Principal's Report

Principal Maghakian's report reflects September. She reports they have established instructional baselines, completed assessments and data meetings. They recently created the W.I.N. groups and things are in full swing. One of the things she

started this year is holding Friday meetings. She reviewed how they meet as a whole school community and talk about different things such as the innovation project, CARES and each grade level takes over one of the Friday meetings and does their own thing to lead the school. On the first Friday of the month each grade level does their own Friday morning meeting at their respective areas. The other Fridays, she has student recognition and school updates. She spoke of the students being excited about the worm farm project, talking about it and how we can have some impact on our community. She reviewed some of the upcoming field trips, LCS went to Windy Hill Farm, 4th grade had the Wilton-Lyndeborough local tour, PTO Penny Wars started, the 5th grade will go to Sturbridge Village. Parent/teacher conferences are coming up next week and we are celebrating Halloween with a parade. Skate night is this week with the PTO. She is working on culture building with the staff and has a calendar where we do different things on a certain day. Tomorrow is flannel day, there is apple cider donut day, and we are having a pumpkin contest. The parent who is helping with the innovation project also donated the pumpkins for it and you can see those down the hallway. She provided the discipline report. August and September comparatively compared to last year are much different. October will also be much different. A question was raised what the 7 "other" incidents were. Principal Maghakian responded that it's things like playground infractions or disrespect in the classroom, and a lot of disruptive behavior and reminders, things like that. When it comes to consequence, it is usually that they have met with her or she has called the parents or there may be a note of apology or intervention with the student, or she reaches out to the school counselor for intervention.

iii. Director of Student Support Service's Report

Mr. Pratt reviewed that when he started in the district, we had 43 district staff and now we have 42.5. in 2019 we had 6.5 contracted service staff and now we have 9.2. We have 17 more students than we did in 2019. You can see other staffing from 2019 to 2026 in his report. The RISE program has increased by about 40% in students and 50% in staff. He has spoken with the Board previously about issues relating to COVID such as speech and language and this is proof. It also says our staff, especially on the district side, are very efficient. We are having some issues with the grant and the DOE, but everyone is helping and we will look at it very closely in terms of what we need to do to improve our performance. One standard we know we need to improve is based on testing. When he started to look at this, it was a stunning portrait; we have done more with a lot less and it speaks volumes about the staff, and many have been with us for years. We have a lot of work to do still. Next month he will provide a summary, and challenges for the future. This month he wanted to provide this information to the Board and public. A question was raised with fewer paraprofessionals, how is it affecting the staff. Mr. Pratt explained they made a shift, a budgeting shift with the growing RISE population to eliminate some paraprofessionals, typically in the past there was a crossover between paraprofessionals and ABAs. We eliminated that and moved some people up to the ABA group. It is not that staff are getting extra stressed out because we do not have the extra set of hands, it is just labeled differently at times. He spoke of not minimizing what paraprofessionals do, they do a tremendous job and work really hard and are flexible. Sometimes we have to move them to different buildings and are flexible with that.

iv. Curriculum Coordinator's Report

Ms. Dignan reported much of the information in her report was reviewed by Principal Maghakian and the innovation group. She informed the group they continue to work on the health curriculum in the MS and moving that up into the HS. The math coach is working with the 1st grade in particular and met with them to talk about data they are collecting and one thing they did was to look at the assessment and make sure they are most efficient by paring it down and not spending extra time assessing instead working with the students. The new math curriculum has a readiness screener that asks did the students learn everything needed for the grade. Google sheets were made that have all the different standards, which students did not master it yet and came up with a plan to make sure all students have them before it would impact the 1st grade for example. The data sheets the coach created are for all grade levels although not completed yet. There have been 2 professional development days, back-to-back which was a lot to do in a short time. On the half day, teachers had options for podcasts, and they would self-select what they needed to work on as an educator. She surveyed teachers to obtain feedback, and some said they wanted more time to collaborate with their team after the podcast. One said there were too many options. The 2nd professional development was a full day. Based on feedback when Polly Bath came previously, teachers did not want this on opening day. This time they broke it up by grade and had 2 sessions. The other half of the day was spent with an educational consultant from the new math program. She talked about research based instructional strategies and how teachers can navigate the online platform. There are a lot of resources on that platform and it can be overwhelming. Ms. Dignan has been going to LCS about 2 days a week most weeks. She went on the field trip to Windy Hill with the kindergartners. Today she walked with them and staff to the library. The librarian was amazing! Ms. Dignan spoke about grants. The most recent approved are Title 1, Title II for the math professional development and innovation group materials were approved. A question was raised what she is required to do when she is speaking with High Mowing; shouldn't they have a list of things they want, and she guides them in that direction? Why did she then have to speak with another person there and what is she having to help them with? Ms. Dignan explained federally that she has to meaningfully consult with them. She was asked to meet with the head of the HS who had an idea and was asked to see if it was viable. She reviews the parameters of the grant and the rules and expectations, which is the same as with the first person she met with. A brief discussion was had that if she is comfortable and it's not taking away from any of her other duties it is ok. It was also noted that this is another hoop public schools have to go through and private citizens get a check from the state and basically send their kids wherever they want whether it be a religious school or a school that takes only certain types of students, who is looking at that. We have to spend money to make sure that not only our school, but other neighboring schools are doing things correctly and that it is frustrating. Superintendent Weaver explained that High Mowing does not have the expertise on staff. He provided an example. Ms. Dignan added it's because the pedagogy is different, their data is very different in how we collect data. We can always pull data from NHSAS or iReady and they don't have that. They don't know how to collect data to show growth and that is a barrier for them. Ms. LaPlante added the state changed and began enforcing the time limit on grants. High Mowing can only

spend it in the year it is awarded vs. 2 years as in the past. We are working closely to make sure we are only paying for qualifying things so that it doesn't get returned from the state. Chairman Golding noted that ultimately, we don't want to put our staff in a situation where they are uncomfortable and are not spending an exorbitant amount of time on it. It sounds like it is okay for now. Ms. Dignan confirms she provides the same as she would here, a blank template of what the grants look like and a list of questions to help them fill it out. She was asked why we work with them. Ms. Dignan explained we get Title I, Title II and Title IV funds, they have opted not to participate in Title IV she believes because it is data heavy and is student centered. Because it is federal funds, we must provide equitable service funding from our grant money to any nonpublic school in our district. There is a formula to figure out how much and once that is allocated, she has to meet with them, give them the parameters, tell them how much they receive and there are rules provided by the government on how many times she has to meet with them and a whole set of things she has to do. They still have to follow the same rules we do, and she shares resources with them. Mr. Pratt informed the group we have a fairly large amount with the IDEA grant, and we have to essentially do the same thing. October 31 every year we must do a very thorough analysis not only for our SPED students but also for theirs. They have an eligibility determination somewhere from us to another school. They also have an to have an individualized plan not an IEP, they do it differently. Every year we get a booklet about all the different changes, and we share it with the private schools who get upset with us and I explain it is not us. It does take a significant amount of time and can affect funding, so we pay significant attention to theirs. It is complex at times; we are pretty good at it trying to do what is right and requited but at the same time getting all the dollars we can. Superintendent Weaver added the more we teach them to be self-sufficient the easier it is for us and Mr. Pratt as his issues are larger because the funding is larger.

VI. BOARD BUDGET DISCUSSION

Chairman Golding asked unless there is anything anyone wants to discuss there is not much going on. The committee did have a meeting last night but did not discuss the budget. They did fill the Lyndeborough At-Large seat and have a new Chair. He will report on this during committee reports unless the group wants him to do it here. Superintendent Weaver wanted to remind the public and Board that we will hold an information session regarding HB 1300 with a brief review and how it may impact our school district if passed and if not on Monday, October 26, 5pm at WLC MS/HS. Our employees will be neutral and as a Board you have to remain neutral but as a private citizen you may have a different opinion about how that impacts the district and can voice that. Mr. Chandonnet expressed as a Board we can give our opinion but cannot use any school district materials. Superintendent Weaver added there will be question and answer time. It was noted on the handout, to change the color and perhaps use black text. Mr. Buroker informed the group his plan is to livestream it like he does with district meeting for those who just want to listen and post the link for those who wanted to listen to the recording (if appropriate) at a later time. It will be Monday, October 26, at 5pm in WLC for those who would like to come and listen or ask questions.

VII. POLICIES-1ST READING

i. JICK-Pupil safety and Violence Prevention-Bullying

Superintendent reported the lettering in black is existing language and yellow is the new language since the law passed in 2026. There is a big focus regarding bullying or harassment involving other districts which does not happen on a regular basis but happens. There is also stronger language around retaliation for those who come forward with an issue of bullying or harassment. Mr. Chandonnet added that the definitions around cyberbullying were not there before. Superintendent referred to section I, the red text under number 3 directs the Superintendent to create a report that shows how the district's policy has been integrated into the school's curriculum, discipline policies, behavior program and other violence prevention efforts and is sent to the Office of the Commissioner of Education, the Chair of the State Board of Education, the President of the NH Senate, the Speaker of the NH House of Representatives and to members of the NH House and Senate Education Committees. It is in an effort to revisit the different ways rather than something we take off the shelf when there is an incident. It is added work and it needs to be completed by December 15, 2026.

ii. JJJ-Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic, Charter School and Home Educated Pupils

Superintendent reported there are less changes in yellow in this policy. Essentially, it adds education freedom accounts and home school students and EFA students. Prior to this new law, the EFA students were not part of the definition. Most of this policy does not change. The goal is for November 3 if there are no questions or changes to take a vote and pass both policies. We are a little behind on approving the bullying policy. Chairman Golding informed the group if there are changes requested, send those to the Policy Committee and bring them back to the next meeting for the 2nd reading.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Ms. Collins to approve the minutes of October 6, 2026, as written. Voting: all aye, motion carried.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Budget Liaison

Chairman Golding reported there was no budget discussion. Mr. Adam Lavallee put his name forward to fill the At-Large, Lyndeborough seat and was voted in and voted in as Chair. It was confirmed that Mr. Lavallee has been sworn in. There was a different tone at the meeting. It was very respectful and probably the best meeting they have had so far in his opinion.

ii. Negotiations

Chairman Golding reported there is nothing really going on. We have not had any meetings. We will talk more about it during nonpublic.

X. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS / LEAVES

a. Resignation-Tom Ronning, WLC Principal

Superintendent informed the group of Principal Ronning's resignation at the end of the year. He read his resignation letter with his approval. Superintendent Weaver spoke of his positive impact in all kinds of ways and we will need to look for someone to continue to move WLC forward. It is with some regret that he shares his resignation with the Board.

b. FYI-New Hire-Nicholas Kennedy-WLC ABA

This was removed from the agenda.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Golding noted there is not public present. He asked anyone online if you have any comments to send those to him and they would be included in the minutes of the meeting.

XII. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Zavgren commented that he liked the presentation from EMC. He thinks it is a good thing and going forward would make things much easier to follow.

Ms. Alley spoke of appreciation for Principal Ronning and his commitment to the school. She loves that he always has new ideas and wants the best for the staff and loves the way he has gone about it. She is and is not looking forward to seeing what's happening with the new principal position and looking forward to having EMC as well. She thinks that will be really good.

Mr. Chandonnet thanked the innovation team; you could feel the energy and hopes it expands and into the garden at WLC and make it a full community program. Those things are just going to build and create ideas, and it could go into the shop class and make rain catchment and things like flower beds and maybe build boxes next time.

Ms. Anzalone also sees it growing. She was hoping to talk Principal Ronning into one more year and is hopeful we will get more candidates.

Ms. Meigs loved the worm project. It is excellent teaching, she is a former teacher, it draws students in and they get to be creative and innovative and involved other aspects of other subjects.

Ms. Collins agrees with all that has been said.

Mr. White thought both presentations were great. He feels like we received a lot of useful information that we can use to steer us in that proper direction for the foreseeable future.

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

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

A MOTION was made by Mr. White and SECONDED by Ms. Alley to enter Non-Public Session to review the non-public minutes, discuss personnel matters and negotiations, RSA 91-A: 3 II (A) (B) (C) at 8:25pm.
Voting: via roll call vote, all aye, motion carried.

Ms. Collins exited the meeting at 8:25pm.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board entered public session at 9:10pm.

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 9:10pm.
Voting: all aye, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler

Innovation Project Kick-Off



W.O.R.M.S.

2026-2027

Meet the team:



Andrea Lawner

4th Grade Teacher

Meghan Levesque

Special Education

Julie Lemire

2nd Grade Teacher

Jessica Hill

1st Grade Teacher

Kirsten Rourke

Kindergarten Teacher

Morgan Kudlich

Music Education Teacher

With support from Stacy Maghakian & Samantha Dignan

Agenda

01
Where did our ideas come from?

02
What does W.O.R.M.S. mean?

03
Main Purpose

04
Timeline

05
End Goal

06
Wrap-Up and Questions

Where did this idea come from?

Our team worked together to define what **innovation** means in the Wilton Lyndeborough district.

When we think of **innovation**, we think of students engaging with our outdoor environment, creating community partnerships and solving real-world problems.

We secured grant funding to establish this project in our school and will be collecting data points to evaluate its success.

We

Observe

Recycle

Make

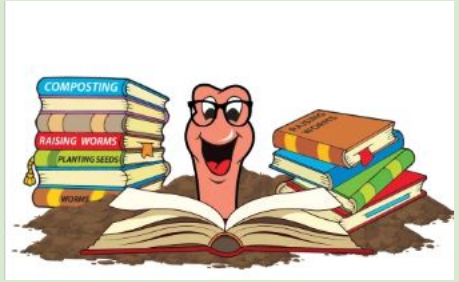
Soil



Timeline









Begin Collecting

As a school community, we will be collecting food waste from our lunches. We will be using that waste in worm bins and rotating composters to create compost. Students will be learning what food is fit for worms.

Tracking

Students will be learning how to weigh and record food, tracking the progress of the project throughout the year.

Curriculum Connections

Students will also be completing activities in every subject relating to the worms and the composting process.

Compost Maintenance

Every student will participate in maintaining the health and balance of the compost bins. Students will be responsible for adding food and bedding, as well as removing finished compost and liquids.



Our End Goal

By Earth Day, every student at LCS and FRES will be able to plant a seed in the soil we created by composting.

Success Criteria

We know we are successful when:

Students can correctly identify compostable versus non-compostable items.

Students will be able to sort food waste correctly.

Students can demonstrate an understanding of how composting helps the environment.

Where do we go from here?

After this year…

- ❏ We could ask students to find another problem in our community and brainstorm ideas to help solve it
- ❏ We could extend our innovation project and create a garden

Any questions?
Ask away!