

**LINCOLN-WOODSTOCK
COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Annual School District Meeting Minutes
March 16, 18, and 26, 2021**

The annual meeting of the Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District was held per HB 1129 utilizing the ZOOM platform for virtual sessions. A virtual informative session was held on March 16, 2021. On March 18, 2021 a virtual deliberative session was held in order for the School Board to finalize the wording of the Warrant based on comments received from the community during the March 16th session and through alternate means. Finally, voting was held by walk-in and by drive-through at the Lin-Wood Public School on Friday, March 26, 2021.

**Virtual Session 1: Informative Session via ZOOM
March 16, 2021 6:00 PM**

Approximately 60 people were in attendance electronically.

Meeting discussion was held in two parts as it was noted that community participants initially had difficulties with the raise hand feature in ZOOM. A number of community members gave suggestions on access to the raise hand feature and the School Moderator, Robert Wetherell encouraged participants to turn on their video and raise their actual hand to be seen and called upon.

School District Moderator, Robert Wetherell, called the session to order at 6:01 PM.

The Moderator: Read his opening remarks for the session, “Good evening everyone. My name is Robert Wetherell. I am the Lincoln-Woodstock School District moderator. I call our annual district meeting to order. Due to COVID-19, the school board voted to hold our annual meeting in accordance with HB1129. That is two virtual meetings followed by voting on the official ballot and alternative written ballot. Tonight, articles will be introduced. There will be time to speak about articles and ask questions. You also have the opportunity for the next two days to submit comments in one of three ways:

Email: community@lin-wood.org

Telephone: 603-745-2051 x 210

Or drop off at the Superintendent’s Office at:78 Main Street Unit3, in Lincoln.

Comments are due by 5pm on Thursday. Please include your name and address with your comment. On Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 6pm we will reconvene the meeting. The school board may review and discuss comments. Per HB1129, School board members may propose amendments. A vote of school board members on motions and to move the question and finalize the warrant will be taken. Voting will occur on Friday, March 26th from 2pm until 6pm at the middle/high school. Please note that is a change from previous years when we used the elementary school. Again this year, Friday the 26th 2pm to 6pm at the middle/high school.”

The Moderator: Established the rules to be followed at the meeting.

- Each participant will treat every other participant with respect and courtesy. The moderator will not allow personal attacks or inappropriate language.
- Anyone wishing to address the meeting will use the virtual raise hand feature and wait to be recognized by the moderator. Please have your video active if possible. Speakers will begin by stating their name. All other speakers will be considered out of order. I will allow non-voters to speak, however please identify yourself as a non-voter.
- The initial presentations on Articles will be limited to ten minutes total, all speakers in debate will be limited to three minutes (including a warning at one minute remaining). Time to be determined by the moderator. All new speakers who desire to speak will be given a chance to do so before one is given a second opportunity on the same issue.

- Chat function on *Zoom* may be turned off. If it is active, comments there may be read out loud and are public information. Please avoid using chat.
- Each Article needs a motion and a second in order to discuss it. Because of this unique three-part system I will allow articles to remain open as we move on to the next article.
- The moderator can be overruled by a majority of the meeting.
- State statutes do govern legal procedures not listed here including HB 1129.

The Moderator: Noted that Warrant Articles 1-3 were in relation to the Vote which will take place on Friday, March 26, 2021.

The Moderator: Noted that Article 4 would be read at the continuation of the meeting on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

The Moderator read Article 5: Passage of this article shall override the 10 percent limitation imposed on this appropriation due to the non-recommendation of the budget committee. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred forty thousand dollars (\$540,000) for the purpose of upgrading the HVAC systems and controls at the Lin-Wood Elementary School, and to authorize the issuance of not more than five hundred forty thousand dollars (\$540,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33) and to authorize the school board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. And further to raise and appropriate an additional sum of thirteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$13,500) for the first year's interest payment on the bond. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation. (3/5 ballot vote required) Tax Impact: 10 Year Bond Lincoln = \$.05/per thousand, Woodstock = \$.10/per thousand

School Board Secretary, Brian Angelone: Provided a history of the project. The project began in July of 2016 when NH DES notified the District of their intent to Red Tag the elementary school piping system. Starting in September 2016 many options were explored to replace the system including research on systems utilizing different fuel alternatives as well as a shared plant system for both school buildings. In June 2019 by School Board vote, a contract was signed with the engineering company, Yeaton Associates for a plan to replace the Elementary School HVAC system with a new system utilizing propane eliminating the current oil system and piping. The plan including replacing the system's antiquated controls. The cost of this plan was put on the 2020 Warrant as a Bond Article for \$600,000. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was the decision of the School Board to table the Article and revisit in 2021. In September 2020, the District was notified by NH DES that the Elementary School piping system project must be completed by January 2021. With that in mind, the piping project was put out to bid and will begin sometime in April. The cost for the piping project alone is in the current School Year's (2020-2021) Budget. Since the fuel oil piping project completion is now required by NH DES, the full propane system was taken off the table and the decision were made to replace the elementary school HVAC system with a new oil system. This decreased the cost of \$600,000 by \$60,000 to the \$540,000 noted on the current Warrant, Bond Article #5. Bonds are currently at a low rate. The cost to the tax payers in Lincoln would be 5¢/thousand and in Woodstock would be 10¢/thousand.

Community Discussion Part 1: None

Community Discussion Part 2:

Jerry Stringham: Mentioned that the Budget Committee does not recommend this Article. The Committee listened to the discussion from the community regarding the need for air filtration systems to be built in to the project. There were concerns with the level of details in the work plan presented to the Committee and the HVAC replace is not time critical. There may be funds available from the State capital budget through federal funds received. There is potential that this project can be completed without tax payer dollars.

Brian Angelone: Noted that there has been ample time and opportunity for the Budget Committee to have reviewed this project. The project was originally begun by members of the Budget Committee. Based on low bond rates, it is the best time to get this project completed. It is best to maintain the buildings and not keep putting these things off. There have been questions regarding replacing the elementary HVAC system when the

high school's system is older but, to say the high school's system is older is a misnomer, the high school burners and controls are updated equipment.

Matt Manning: Mentioned that the School Board and Administration do look for and utilize available grants.

Heather Krill: Noted her support of Article 5. There is no better time to complete this project. Keep our school safe, healthy, and clean.

Tracy Brumlik: Noted her support of Article 5.

Jay Duguay: Safety discussions have already begun between the project engineers and the Director of Building and Grounds, Mark Houde to incorporate air filtration into this project. We did not miss the boat on including these measures.

The Moderator read Article 6: To see if the District will set the salaries of the School Board at \$1,000, the Vice Chairperson at \$1,250, the Chairperson at \$1,500, the Board Negotiation Team at \$150 per day, the Moderator at \$90 per meeting, the School District Clerk at \$250 per meeting, the Ballot Clerks at \$80 per meeting, the Supervisors of the Checklist at \$90 per meeting, and the School District Treasurer at \$4,000 per year. The money for this article is included in Article 7.

Community Discussion Part 1: None

Community Discussion Part 2:

Debbie O'Connor: Commented that this Article has traditionally appeared on the School District's Warrant, the salaries noted in the Article are included in the Budget Article, Article 7.

The Moderator read Article 7: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended sum of eight million two hundred sixty-seven thousand three hundred thirty-eight dollars (\$8,267,338) for the support of schools; for the salaries of school district officials, employees and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the District, and to authorize the application against said appropriation such sums as are estimated to be received from state aid, together with other income; the School Board to certify to the Selectmen of each of the Towns of Lincoln and Woodstock, respectively, the balance to be raised by taxes by the Towns of Lincoln and Woodstock in accordance with the formula adopted by the Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District; and the School Board further to certify to the Selectmen of each of the Towns of Lincoln and Woodstock the amount to be raised by taxation by each of said two towns. This article does not include appropriations in any other warrant article. The School Board recommends eight million three hundred eighty-three thousand seven hundred ninety-six dollars (\$8,383,796).

School Budget Committee Chair, Tucker Barnaby: Mentioned that the Budget Committee brought forth a sustainable budget and listened to the community during the Budget Hearing, putting money back into the Budget that had been originally slated to be removed. The budget recommended by the Budget Committee decreasing the budget presented by the School Board by 1.2% an approximate decrease of \$116,000. The School Budget Committee recommends the budget of \$8,267,338.

School Board Chair, Matt Manning: Noted that the Budget presented by the School Board was a responsible budget that covered the needs of the School District. The School Board's 2021-2022 budget was presented at \$100,542 less than the 2020-2021 budget. This amounts to a decrease of 8¢/thousand for Lincoln tax payers and 15¢/thousand for Woodstock tax payers. Listening to the feedback from the community given during the Budget Hearing, the School Board continues to support the School Board's 2021-2022 budget of \$8,383,796.

Community Discussion Part 1: None

Community Discussion Part 2:

Heather Krill: Noted she is in support of the School Board's recommended budget. It is a reasonable, responsible Budget. After multiple hours over two evenings of overwhelming support for the School Board's budget during the Budget Hearing it took the Budget Committee until the last ½ hour to make the decision to revise their originally suggested budget and put some of the funds back. The Budget Committee budget suggests a decrease

of ½ of a guidance counselor position. This is not mindful of the mental health and social and emotional needs of the students at this time. There is not enough guidance staff as it is.

Moderator, Robert Wetherell: Mentioned the Budget Committee is not allowed to actually cut any positions. They make a recommendation of where they think the monies can be found but the decrease is actually to the bottom line. It is up to the School Board and Administration to determine where the decrease actually comes from in the budget.

Kevin Bell: Indicated he supports the School Board recommended budget. Disheartened by the Budget Committee. Still have not heard one good reason to make the budget cuts.

Paula Houde: Said thank you to Heather and Kevin and noted her agreement with them. Supports the School Board's recommended budget and Article 20 to rescind the Budget Committee.

Tracy Brumlik: Noted her support of the School Board's recommended budget and Article 20.

David Webster: Not a District voter. Mentioned that, with the situation this past week involving the missing member of our community, the guidance staff has made it a top priority that everyone understands and has a softness in their hearts for what is going on. Losing that kind of support from a District is not appropriate.

Victoria Martin: Indicated she fully supports the School Board's recommended budget. The School Board is made up of bright people that are budget conscious. They made a careful, deliberate budget to support the community, staff, and kids. The Budget Committee choosing the guidance department as a possible location to make cuts illustrates that the Committee doesn't represent, and are out of step, with the community. The guidance staff at the school are incredible.

Pat Bahr: Noted her support of the School Board recommended budget and Article 20.

Jeff Proehl: Noted his support of the School Board recommended budget.

John Kimball: Noted his support of the School Board recommended budget. Thank you to our educators. Grandson is receiving a great education. We expect a lot from our teachers, and they go above and beyond. Would like to see each teacher in the Annual Report with an assigned grade to have a base salary of \$52,000 (\$1000/wk). Would like to see at least that amount added to the Budget Committee's budget.

Kelsea Beaudin: Noted her support of the School Board recommended budget and Article 20. Write-in for Budget Committee for 1-year term.

Hanna Kinne: Noted her support of the School Board recommended budget and Article 20. Write-in for Budget Committee for 1-year term.

The Moderator read Article 8: To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School Board and Lin-Wood Education Association/NEA-New Hampshire which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits over those paid in the prior fiscal year:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ESTIMATED INCREASE</u>
2021-2022	\$114,887
2022-2023	\$112,635

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fourteen thousand eight hundred eighty-seven dollars (\$114,887) for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional cost attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation.

School Board Member, Tamra Ham: Presented details on the Article. This is a two year agreement with the Lin-Wood Education Association. It includes BA base increase of \$700/year and off step of \$2000/year which amounts to 3.5% increase the first year and 3.4% increase in the second year. The School Board and the Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

Community Discussion Part 1: None

Community Discussion Part 2: None

The School District Moderator noted that Article 9 would be called only if Article 8 was defeated.

The Moderator read Article 10: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty-four thousand dollars (\$154,000) for the replacement of the Lin-Wood Middle/High School roof area encompassing the middle school hallway and classrooms and main entrance hallway (approx. 14,000 sq. ft.). This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (d) and RSA 32:7 V. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation.

School Board Member, Vance Pickering: Presented a brief history on the school roofing. The final two sections of the roof on the middle/high school need replacement. This would complete the roofing project that began in 2013. Throughout the years the project has been utilizing roofing with 25-30 year life spans. Except in the instance of catastrophic failure the roofing would not need to begin again until around 2038. The cost of the project is \$154,000. This amounts to a 12¢/thousand for Lincoln tax payers and 23¢/thousand for Woodstock tax payers. The School Board and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.

Community Discussion Part 1: None

Community Discussion Part 2:

David Webster: Not a District voter. Mentioned that the school needs a roof. Supporting the building blocks, the maintenance of the school, is important.

Heather Krill: Indicated her support of the roof Article.

Jayne Ludwig: Inquired if this is the last portion of the roof needing completion?

Moderator: Yes, further roof replacement project would not be needed again until 2038.

Vance Pickering: The project began in 2013 and roofing guaranteed for 20 – 30 years has been used. Further roof replacement project would not be needed until around 2038.

The Moderator read Article 11: To see if the school district will vote to establish a Special Education Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of meeting the expenses of students with disabilities, and to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred eighty-four thousand dollars (\$184,000), with this sum to come from the June 30, 2021 unassigned fund balance, contingent upon the passage of Article 12. Further, to name the School Board as agents to expend from said fund. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation. (Majority Vote Required)

School Board Vice Chair, Jay Duguay: Explained that upon recommendation of the School District's Council, the District would like to change the current Special Education Trust Fund to a Capital Reserve Fund. This would streamline the process of accessing the funds in the account. The funds would continue to only be allowed to be utilized for Special Education needs and the Capital Reserve Fund would still be overseen by the Trustees of the Trust Fund. The difference in the terminology (Trust Fund vs. Capital Reserve) is that no public hearing would be necessary, allowing the funds to be accessible sooner in an emergency situation and offer the confidentiality needed for special education students. The appropriation of approximately \$184,000 is the amount currently in the Special Education Trust Fund. There would be no cost or tax impact to the voters.

Community Discussion Part 1: None

Community Discussion Part 2: None

The Moderator read Article 12: To see if the District will vote to discontinue the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund created in March 1998, said funds (in the approximate amount of \$184,000 as of June 30, 2021) with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the School District's General Fund, contingent upon the passage of Article 11. (Majority Vote Required)

School Board Vice Chair, Jay Duguay: Explained that Article 12 is tied to Article 11. The Special Education Expendable Trust Fund would need to be discontinued in favor of the Special Education Capital Reserve Fund.

Community Discussion Part 1: None

Community Discussion Part 2: None

The Moderator read Article 13: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate sixty percent (60%) up to the amount of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to be placed in the School Facilities Expendable Trust Fund, with said funds to come from the June 30, 2021 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation.

School Board Vice Chair, Jay Duguay: Noted that the funds in the Facilities Trust Fund were utilized for unforeseen cost items associated with the buildings and grounds. In the past the monies in this fund have been used for items such as installing A/C in the gym, windows in the high school, cabling, tree removal, and the engineering cost associated with the elementary school HVAC system. The Facilities Trust Fund sees a lot of use and provides a cushion of funds to address needs as they arise.

School Budget Committee Secretary, Jerry Stringham: Noted that the Budget Committee supports the appropriation of these funds. The funds for the Trust Funds are not raise by taxation but from unassigned funds. Most of the other Trust Funds have sufficient funding. The Budget Committee would like to see more money allocated to the Facilities Trust Fund. Having a higher balance in the Facilities Trust Fund might allow the Fund to partially defray other items such as the cost of the elementary school heating system.

School Board Vice Chair, Jay Duguay: Noted that the monies for the Trust Funds are not raised by taxation but are left over (unassigned) funds from the Operating Budget.

Community Discussion Part 1: None

Community Discussion Part 2: None

The Moderator read Article 14: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate ten percent (10%) up to the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the School Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund, with said funds to come from the June 30, 2021 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation.

School Board Vice Chair, Jay Duguay: Mentioned that the monies in the Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund, as with all the Trust Funds, were used for a specific purpose, in this case for vehicles, in unforeseen circumstances. In the past, the monies in this fund were utilized to replace a bus that was damaged during an accident in 2018. It is true that monies were received through insurance for partial reimbursement of the bus lost in the accident, but those monies were not quickly available. It was necessary to utilize the Trust Fund monies to replace the bus quickly and cover costs not reimbursed by insurance. Another example of the use of this fund was to purchase a small mini-van in 2019 that could be driven by staff members when all qualified drivers of the larger bus were lost. The large bus was then sold, and the money was placed in the operating account. There are no current purchases planned to utilize this Fund, but the Fund is for things that are unforeseen, it is not known when something may come up.

School Budget Committee Secretary, Jerry Stringham: Noted that the Budget Committee agrees that a Vehicle Trust Fund is necessary but believes that the Fund's balance is currently sufficient. The Committee would like to see the appropriation slated for the Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund be added to the Facilities Expendable Trust or returned to the tax payers.

Community Discussion Part 1: None

Community Discussion Part 2: None

The Moderator read Article 15: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate ten percent (10%) up to the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the School Equipment Expendable Trust Fund, with said funds to come from the June 30, 2021 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation.

School Board Vice Chair, Jay Duguay: Mentioned that the monies in the School Equipment Expendable Trust Fund, as with all the Trust Funds, were used for a specific purpose, in this case for unforeseen equipment failure or maintenance. In the past, the monies in this fund were utilized for an air cooler in the kitchen, soccer goals, basketball hoop winch, and equipment for the workout room. Generally purchases made utilizing this account range from \$1500-\$18,000.

Community Discussion Part 1: None

Community Discussion Part 2: None

The Moderator read Article 16: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate ten percent (10%) up to the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the School Technology Expendable Trust Fund, with said funds to come from the June 30, 2021 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation.

School Board Vice Chair, Jay Duguay: Mentioned that the monies in the School Technology Expendable Trust Fund, as with all the Trust Funds, were used for a specific unforeseen purpose, in this case purchases include a financial server in the SAU office, Kanc Connection video equipment, and *Chromebooks*. These expenses range from \$4000-\$19,000. Technology issues generally require larger expenditures. It is necessary to keep a good balance in this Trust Fund account.

Community Discussion Part 1: None

Community Discussion Part 2: None

The Moderator read Article 17: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate ten percent (10%) up to the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Special Education Capital Reserve Fund, with said funds to come from the June 30, 2021 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021, contingent upon the passage of Article 11. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation.

School Board Vice Chair, Jay Duguay: Mentioned that this Article relates to the amount of unassigned funds generally placed into the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund each year if available. It is important to keep a significant balance in this account as it can be extremely costly to the District if the need arises to send a Special Education student out of district. This can cost upwards of \$200,000 per year.

School Budget Committee Secretary, Jerry Stringham: Noted that the Budget Committee supports the appropriation of \$10,000 of unassigned funds in to the Special Education Capital Reserve Fund. Although the balance in the Fund is over \$183,000, the State currently requires School Districts to cover the cost of students' Special Education needs. An insurance program is in the works that may be available through the State in the future. The Budget Committee, by process, was only allowed to vote yes or no on the Warrant Articles with appropriations and the Special Education Capital Reserve Fund received the Committees recommendation as it is very important to keep a good balance in the Fund. The Committee would support moving the monies slated for the other Trust Funds to the Facilities Expendable Trust Fund.

Community Discussion Part 1:

John Kimball: Expressed concerns regarding the wording of this Article as it depends on Articles 11 and 12 passing. Would it be possible to include that the monies would go to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund if Articles 11 and 12 are defeated?

Moderator: Noted that the School Board may be able to make a change on Thursday.

Atty. Gordon Graham: Indicated that including the caveat regarding the Trust Fund would not be permissible as the Article must be written for a specific purpose. If Articles 11 and 12 do not pass, the \$10K would be lost this year.

John Kimball: Wondered, in that case, could a contingent article be added to the Warrant.

Atty. Gordon Graham: Noted that a new Article could not be added now.

Community Discussion Part 2: None

The Moderator read Article 18: To see if the District will vote to authorize the School Board to convey an easement to the Town of Lincoln over a small portion (11,049 sq. ft.) of the Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District property for the Town to use as an emergency turnaround at the end of Pleasant St., on such terms and conditions as the School Board determines are in the best interest of the District. (The Town constructed a hammerhead in 2007, but the original authorization and executed easement to the property cannot be located.)

School Board Vice Chair, Jay Duguay: Discussed the history of this Article. A local resident requested to construct a driveway for her property that would connect to the emergency turnaround that the Town constructed in 2007. While researching this issue, it was found that the paperwork for the Town of Lincoln's easement deed to construct the emergency turnaround was never filed. Additionally the processes, at that time, had not gone to the District voters on a Warrant. This would correct the issue to give the Town of Lincoln the proper easement for the turnaround that has been in use for 14 years.

Community Discussion Part 1:

John Kimball: Has this been given valid consideration why the Town would require an Easement to turn a fire truck around in the School's road?

Jay Duguay: This is not at the School parking lot but part of the school's property on Pleasant Street. The land holding the Town of Lincoln's turnaround on Pleasant Street is school property but the paperwork to make the Easement to the Town for this turnaround was not finalized.

Atty Gordon Graham: Noted it is the Town's road. This Article is just a housekeeping item to get the proper documents in order. The original paperwork cannot be located, and this is just to get that paperwork completed for the Town of Lincoln turnaround on the school's property.

John Kimball: Asked, how does it impact the School's future development?

Atty Gordon Graham: The 11,000 sq ft easement does not convey the School District's use of the property.

Denise Heredeen: Calling the hammerhead an "emergency turnaround" may be a misnomer as she has heard from residents that only smaller trucks like UPS and FedEx have the ability to turnaround in the area.

Tamra Ham: Lives on Pleasant Street and emergency vehicles/ fire trucks have turned around there many times.

Community Discussion Part 2: None

The Moderator read Article 19: Shall the District vote to authorize the School Board to convey a driveway easement to Denise Heredeen, or her assigns, for a driveway to be connected from her property over a small portion of the District's property to connect to a hammerhead turnaround already constructed by the Town of Lincoln on District property at the end of Pleasant St., all on such terms and conditions as the School Board determines are in the best interest of the District.

Community member, Denise Heredeen: Explained that she owns a two deed parcel of land and one portion is landlocked. A driveway from Pleasant Street is needed to provide access for the landlocked parcel of property. Nate Hadaway from the Town of Lincoln has developed a plan for the driveway. The Town of Lincoln has given approval subject to this School District's acceptance. Ms. Heredeen is hopeful that the Article is considered by the voters and moves forward.

Community Discussion Part 1: None

Community Discussion Part 2: None

The Moderator read Article 20: By Petition, shall the Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District rescind the school district's budget committee pursuant to RSA 195:12-a. This is a petition warrant article submitted per RSA 197:6. (Majority vote required)

Community member, Katie West Scambio: Introduced herself as a resident of Lincoln, noted her support of the School Board recommended budget and presented the petition article and noted a majority vote is required to pass this Article. Ms. Scambio noted that the majority of the current Budget Committee members were appointed and not voted in and of those voted in, some were by write-in. Additionally, Ms. Scambio noted that she had attended a number of the Budget Committee's meetings over the last couple of months and was disheartened by the language used including the use of words such as incompetent, untruthful, and uncooperative in regards to programs and staff of Lin-Wood. Ms. Scambio noted that like many schools in NH that operate without a Budget Committee, the Lin-Wood community should have confidence in school staff and administration in conjunction with the elected School Board to present a budget to allow Lin-Wood to offer an excellent education to students.

Community Discussion Part 1:

Chris McClure: Supports Ms. Scambio and Article 20.

Community Discussion Part 2:

Bonnie Ham: Asked that the community please reconsider the School Budget Committee. The Committee may have been overzealous, but the Budget Hearing process worked, the committee listened, and monies were returned to the budget.

Tamra Ham: Noted that she sees the value in the Budget Committee. Perhaps not the current make-up but rally the troops and get new community members to run. Encouraged to see a couple of people step-up today. A budget committee is a valuable tool for checks and balances.

Tucker Barnaby: Mentioned that this was his first year as part of the Budget Committee and it was a learning experience. The budget process is not an easy one. It is not right to get rid of the committee. The Committee provides accountability, means and ways. Making the last minute change to the budget at the end of the Budget Hearing is how the process works per the State. The \$116,000 (1.2%) reduction can be found somewhere in the budget and not necessarily from the guidance department.

Victoria Martin: Noted that Katie presented a good case in support of the Article. The way the Budget Committee is operating now is more dysfunctional than having no committee. If the Budget Committee did what it was designed to do it would provide checks and balances to determine if the budget presented by the administration/School Board was reasonable. It looked very much like this Budget Committee was just looking for places to cut. It was even said at one of the Budget Committee meetings that we were told we had to make cuts to the budget. If we do not have a Budget Committee made up of interested community members that represent the breadth of the community, then we just have a group of likeminded people that does not align with the community. If we do not have enough interested people participating on the committee that are voted in and represent the community accurately, we should not have the committee.

Jasmine Weeden: Agreed that the Committee should provide checks and balances, but this did not appear to be the goal of the Committee. Not an apt representation of the community. Not the first time there have been challenges, miscommunication, and disagreements but the most explosive.

Kevin Bell: Indicated his support of Article 20. Agrees there should be checks and balances to the School Board budget but disagree with the process. The process was unclear with no goal. The Budget Committee was not listening to what was being said by the superintendent/administration. There was no collaboration with the school.

Matt Manning: Reminded the community that during the discussion, members of the School Board are speaking as community members not as representatives of the School Board.

Jayne Ludwig: Agreed with Tamra Ham. The Budget Committee provides checks and balances. It is good to disagree, and frugality is not a bad thing. Thank you to the School Board and Budget Committee. If this Article is adopted, could the Budget Committee be reestablished in the future?

Atty Gordon Graham: The District would be able to adopt the Budget Committee again in the future.

The Moderator: Expressed thanks to Vance Pickering for his years on the School Board.

The Moderator: Read his closing remarks for the session: “You can review this meeting on YouTube; search for Kanc Connection channel. Annual Meeting and voting information are available on the school website: www.lin-wood.org. Remember this was part 1. Part 2 is this Thursday at 6pm. If you would like to comment or ask a question of the school board you may contact the superintendent’s office by: Email: community@lin-wood.org, Telephone: 603-745-2051 x 210 or drop off at the Superintendent’s Office at: 78 Main Street Unit3, in Lincoln. Comments are due by 5pm Thursday. Do not believe this is electioneering as there is no vote tonight: Kelsee Beaudin and Hanna Kinne have expressed their interest in being write-in candidates for one year terms on the Budget Committee. Be sure to mark your calendars for part 3, the voting. It’s a week from Friday, March 26th from 2 until 6pm at the middle/high school.”

Matt Manning: Expressed his thanks to Robert Wetherell and to the community for their participation.

Heather Krill: Asked about the procedures for the next portion of the meeting on Thursday?

The Moderator: Noted that per HB 1129 the School Board will amend the Warrant and vote on the amendments as a Board. Comments received between this meeting and Thursday’s meeting will be considered. These comments may not be read in full. The Board is allowed to generalize and summarize these comments.

Atty Gordon Graham noted that at the final voting session, there will be a ballot for the election of officers and a separate ballot where the first question will be if the voters accept the procedures of the 2021 annual meeting process. This ballot will include a vote on the Bond Article.

At 8:14 PM, The Moderator, Robert Wetherell recessed the meeting until Thursday, March 18th at 6pm.

**Virtual Session 2: via ZOOM
March 18, 2021 6:00 PM**

Approximately 60 people were in attendance electronically.

The School District Moderator, Robert Wetherell, called the session to order at 6:00 PM.

The Moderator: Read his opening remarks for the session, “Good evening everyone, my name is Robert Wetherell. I am the Lincoln Woodstock Cooperative School District moderator and I call this meeting to order. We will reconvene our annual meeting. As this is a continuation of our recessed meeting the moderator’s rules shared on Tuesday are still in effect. Tonight is part 2 of our 3-part annual meeting allowed by HB1129. You can review Tuesday’s meeting and tonight’s meeting on YouTube; search for Kanc Connection channel. Annual Meeting and voting information are available on the school website: www.lin-wood.org. The sample official ballot is there along with other resources and soon the updated finalized warrant will be available. Voting is one week from Friday on March 26, 2021 from 2pm until 6pm at the middle/high school multi-purpose room. That day you will receive two ballots one is the official ballot for election of officers, the second is alternative written ballot. Basically it is a secret vote for every warrant article. On Tuesday, articles were presented. Questions and comments were shared. There was confusion on where to find the raise hand button depending on how you access Zoom. We did ask members to turn on their video and raise their actual hand if they wanted to speak. Last week all registered voters were mailed directions on how to contact the school board in multiple ways between the two meetings. If you are having trouble tonight, please email sholt@lin-wood.org or call 603-745-2051 x 210. Tonight the primary purpose is for the school board to review comments and vote on the final wording to be used on the alternative written ballot. Using HB 1129, “the governing body shall discuss, debate, and be permitted to amend the posted warrant. I understand there is no way to please everyone. As you know I am also Lincoln’s Town moderator. The Selectmen chose to hold in-person traditional meeting last Tuesday. A couple attended a Selectmen’s meeting to express their dismay and would have preferred this virtual setting. At the meeting itself, another voter praised the board for their decision to hold a traditional meeting. The school board voted to use HB1129. They talked about safety, the school building Covid policies and that, by law, maskless voters must be allowed to vote. There was confusion with the budget hearing this year as to whether it would be in-person, hybrid, or in the end that too was virtual. The Town of Woodstock is using HB1129. As the Lincoln’s town moderator, I can appreciate Lincoln selectmen’s decision. Despite it being the complete opposite, as the school moderator I can appreciate school board’s decision. These procedures were

created by our law makers in Concord as an option this year. It was made clear by the Attorney General and Secretary of State that annual meetings could not piecemeal what we like about traditional versus HB1129. It needs to be one or the other. Next Friday you will be asked if you agree with the procedures.”

The Moderator: Read the suggested Procedural Question Article A: Shall the voters approve the optional meeting procedures, authorized by the adoption of Chapter 8 (HB 1129), for conducting the 2021 Lin-Wood Annual School District meeting? Robert Wetherell entertained a motion from the Board to include this question on the Warrant. **Matt Manning made a motion to include Procedural Question A on the Warrant. Jay Duguay seconded the motion.** Discussion: none. **The School Moderator took a roll call vote. Matt Manning, YES; Jay Duguay, YES; Brian Angelone, YES; Joe Bossie, YES; Tamra Ham, YES; Jasmine Weeden, YES; Vance Pickering, YES. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Moderator read Article 4: To hear all reports of Agents, Auditors, Committees or Officers chosen, and pass any vote relating thereto. **Matt Manning made a motion to open Article 4. Joe Bossie seconded the motion.** Discussion: **Matt Manning made a motion to amend Article 4 to read: To accept all reports of Agents, Auditors, Committees or Officers chosen, as written in the District’s annual report, and pass any vote relating thereto. Joe Bossie seconded the motion. The School Moderator took a roll call vote. Matt Manning, YES; Jay Duguay, YES; Brian Angelone, YES; Joe Bossie, YES; Tamra Ham, YES; Vance Pickering, YES; Jasmine Weeden, YES. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Moderator reread Article 5 as presented on March 16, 2021. **Matt Manning made a motion to accept Article 5. Jay Duguay seconded the motion.** Discussion: none.

The Moderator reread Article 6 as presented on March 16, 2021. **Matt Manning made a motion to accept Article 6. Jay Duguay seconded the motion.** Discussion: none.

The Moderator reread Article 7 as presented on March 16, 2021. **Matt Manning made a motion to open Article 7. Jay Duguay seconded the motion.** Discussion: School Board Chair, Matt Manning discussed the correspondence received between the session held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, and the current session. Of the comments received, eight community members wrote in favor of the School Board’s recommended budget. One comment received had a differing opinion. Matt Manning read Sherry Hoover’s comment received on Thursday, March 18 at 7:11 AM:

“It is my hope that someone will read this aloud to everyone, as I am unable to attend Zoom meetings.

To all concerned.

First, I want all to remember, that a large portion of the lack of or damage to “our children’s” social and emotional piece, is due to the extended remote-learning, that was governed by the school and staff. That was NOT the parents’ or taxpayers’ doing.

It is very clear to me, after watching Tuesday night’s meeting, explaining the warrants, why the townspeople have stopped attending/voting at the Annual School Meeting.

The only people who spoke, with the exception of two, were spouses or siblings of teachers, or were teachers themselves.

It was also quite clear, that “our children” are being held for ransom (the desired budget) in a questionable game of emotional blackmail. It was implied, several times, that anyone that does not approve of any of the warrants, well, they just don’t seem to care about “our children”, or we don’t want what’s best for them. Those same people either passed around or signed a petition, to rescind the Budget Committee. I am beginning to understand how “our children” have learned how to bully. I have taught, at one time or another, the majority of the students that are attending Lin-wood Public School. So many of them have a piece of my heart. I think it is quite shameful to think it is okay to “shame” people into going along with what is asked for, or just shut up. Maybe it is time to consider a two-part budget, which would consist of a base-line budget that covers all basic expenditures (things that are used by the whole-school population. This would be charged to the two towns through taxation. The second part, would be for anything used by a limited/select population, which would be any and all extra-curricular items/activities. This part would be charged only to parents of current students.

It is certainly time to show some consideration and respect for the taxpayers. Remember, they are the ones that pay the salaries and expenses of such. There are many things that I would like, but if I can’t afford them, that does not mean that

I should be shamed for it. It is the same for a school budget. We are not a limitless wallet, even if it for “our children”.
Thank you.
Always,
Sherry Hoover
North Woodstock, NH 03262”

Paul Schirduan: Has three children in the school. Has attended a number of Budget Committee and School Board meetings where students’ low test scores were discussed. Students have not benefited from the new program in the elementary school. A new math program is being researched for the middle school but has not been purchased. Would like to make an amendment to the budget to include \$60,000 for new math, science, and ELA programs for the school.
Moderator, Robert Wetherell: Reminded everyone that members of the public could not make amendments at this session per HB 1129. The community can only provide the Board with feedback to take in to consideration.

Matt Manning made a motion to amend the first line of Article 7 to read: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the School Board’s recommended sum of eight million three hundred eighty-three thousand seven hundred ninety-six dollars (\$8,383,796)...Vance Pickering seconded the motion. Discussion:

Moderator, Robert Wetherell: Asked for clarification regarding the last line of Article 7: Should this be amended to include the School Budget Committee’s recommended budget amount, or should the line be stricken?

Matt Manning: Noted to strike the last line of the Article.

Atty Gordon Graham: Asked for clarification regarding the remainder of the Article. Was the district information to be removed from the Article?

Matt Manning: Mentioned that all other information in the Article should remain the same.

Paul Beaudin: Asked if the amended Article could be read in full?

The Moderator read the full amended version of Article 7: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the School Board’s recommended sum of eight million three hundred eighty-three thousand seven hundred ninety-six dollars (\$8,383,796) for the support of schools; for the salaries of school district officials, employees and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the District, and to authorize the application against said appropriation such sums as are estimated to be received from state aid, together with other income; the School Board to certify to the Selectmen of each of the Towns of Lincoln and Woodstock, respectively, the balance to be raised by taxes by the Towns of Lincoln and Woodstock in accordance with the formula adopted by the Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District; and the School Board further to certify to the Selectmen of each of the Towns of Lincoln and Woodstock the amount to be raised by taxation by each of said two towns. This article does not include appropriations in any other warrant article.

Paul Beaudin: Asked if all comments received would be read aloud into public record?

Moderator, Robert Wetherell: Gave a reminder that at the session on Tuesday, March 16, he had noted that the comments received are for the consideration of the School Board. The Board is allowed to generalize and summarize these comments. The comments may be read aloud but it is not required.

Matt Manning: Mentioned that eight comments were received in favor of the School Board’s recommend budget. As well as a number supporting Article 20. Comments having opinions not heard at Tuesday’s session will be read aloud.

Atty Gordon Graham: Suggested that the names of those that had submitted comments could be read aloud.

Moderator, Robert Wetherell: Noted that this session is all about the governing body, in this case the School Board. The Board may read all the comments allowed but it is not required.

Jay Duguay: Noted that all members of the School Board received all of the comments for consideration.

The School Moderator took a roll call vote to accept Article 7 as amended. Matt Manning, YES; Jay Duguay, YES; Brian Angelone, YES; Joe Bossie, YES; Tamra Ham, YES; Vance Pickering, YES; Jasmine Weeden, YES. The motion carried unanimously.

The Moderator reread Article 8 as presented on March 16, 2021. **Joe Bossie made a motion to accept Article 8. Tamra Ham seconded the motion.** Discussion: none.

The Moderator reread Article 9: Shall the District, if Article 8 is defeated, authorize the Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School Board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 8 cost items only? (Majority Vote) **Tamra Ham made a motion to accept Article 8. Matt Manning seconded the motion.** Discussion: none.

The Moderator reread Article 10 as presented on March 16, 2021. **Matt Manning made a motion to accept Article 10. Brian Angelone seconded the motion.** Discussion: none.

The Moderator reread Article 11 as presented on March 16, 2021. **Matt Manning made a motion to accept Article 11. Tamra Ham seconded the motion.** Discussion: none.

The Moderator reread Article 12 as presented on March 16, 2021. **Tamra Ham made a motion to accept Article 12. Matt Manning seconded the motion.** Discussion: none.

The Moderator reread Article 13 as presented on March 16, 2021. **Joe Bossie made a motion to accept Article 13. Matt Manning seconded the motion.** Discussion: none.

The Moderator reread Article 14 as presented on March 16, 2021. **Matt Manning made a motion to accept Article 14. Tamra Ham seconded the motion.** Discussion: none.

The Moderator reread Article 15 as presented on March 16, 2021. **Tamra Ham made a motion to accept Article 15. Matt Manning seconded the motion.** Discussion: none.

The Moderator reread Article 16 as presented on March 16, 2021. **Tamra Ham made a motion to accept Article 16. Brian Angelone seconded the motion.** Discussion:

Atty Gordon Graham: Noted that the record should include any comments or recommendations received on an Article.

Matt Manning: Mentioned that comments were received on Articles 7 and 20.

Tamra Ham: Noted a couple of the comments did mention supporting all Articles. The comments are public record and can be attached to the minutes.

Atty Gordon Graham: Noted that was a good idea.

The Moderator reread Article 17 as presented on March 16, 2021. **Joe Bossie made a motion to accept Article 17. Tamra Ham seconded the motion.** Discussion: none.

The Moderator reread Article 18 as presented on March 16, 2021. **Tamra Ham made a motion to accept Article 18. Jasmine Weeden seconded the motion.** Discussion:

Paul Beaudin: Asked why there has been no vote after each motion and second?

Moderator, Robert Wetherell: Noted that at the end of the session on Tuesday, March 16 he had mentioned that each Article would remain open as voting would not take place until Friday, March 26. At the end of this session the School Board will vote on the verbiage as amended on the Warrant, end debate and finalize the wording of the Warrant.

The Moderator reread Article 19 as presented on March 16, 2021. **Tamra Ham made a motion to accept Article 19. Jasmine Weeden seconded the motion.** Discussion:

Joe Bossie: Clarified that the wording of the Article is not conveying anything to anybody it just authorizes the School Board to make the decision.

Atty Gordon Graham: Agreed with Joe Bossie's statement.

The Moderator reread Article 20 as presented on March 16, 2021.

Tamra Ham: Asked, do we need a motion and second on this Article as it needs to go on the Warrant as is?

Moderator, Robert Wetherell: Mentioned that comments were received regarding the Article, a motion and second is needed to get it on the floor. Opening the Article does not mean you are supporting the Article but allows the comments to be read.

Tamra Ham made a motion to open Article 20. Jasmine Weeden seconded the motion. Discussion:

Matt Manning: Noted two or three comments were received in favor of Article 20. One comment received offered a differing opinion. Matt Manning read Paul Beaudin's comment received on Thursday, March 18 at 8:54 AM:

“Good Evening:

My name is Paul Beaudin I have been a taxpayer in Lincoln as has many of my family members for generations. I have served in the past on the School Board and am currently on the Town of Lincolns budget committee. Article 20 flies in the face of our democracy it goes against everything that we as Americans have fought for, for generations. We will not always agree and we may not like what our neighbor does or says but in America we still have the freedom to express ourselves unlike many other countries across the globe. This budget is not the School Boards or the Budget committees, it is the peoples budget the taxpayers of Lincoln and Woodstock. It is the School Boards and the Budget committees responsibility to present their facts that will support their decisions and recommendations and let the taxpayers of both communities choose and vote what they want . By Removing the budget committee process our taxpayers will only be getting a one sided approach and recommendation. This is contrary to what our fore fathers fought for and what we have been accustom to having for generations. It also teaches our children that we support the process of just eliminating something or someone if we do not like what they represent. Instead we should be supporting getting involved, being part of a solution to a problem not part of the problem to our future generations. Imagine if our children came home from school one day and said” all of the kids in our class voted to get rid of our teacher because we did not like what they were teaching us” . It would be a bad day in America if that happened, We should lead by example and show that we will not always agree with everything that is put before us all the time but we will listen and make sound decisions based on the facts and information that is presented before us. The budget committee process allows for different viewpoints to be expressed and bring into the open opportunities for debate and dialog prior to a final vote. Without this there is the possibility that decisions will be made the night of a School district meeting and there will not have been any warning about other options or opinions and a negative vote could jeopardize the operations of the Lin-wood school district. Instead we should foster participation on both committees to get the best random sampling of taxpayers we can get so that all viewpoints are represented and continue to give the taxpayers of Lincoln and Woodstock recommendations and facts to support their final decision and vote. Having participated in this process for many years I can not recommend the passage of article 20, removal of the budget committee is the wrong thing to do and sends the wrong message to our children. There is enough hate and bullying in our society lets set the example and show our future generations that it is ok to disagree but in the end we still have our god given right to vote our conscience after having listened to all our options.

Paul J. Beaudin II
Lincoln Taxpayer”

The Moderator: Asked Matt Manning if these were the only comments received on this Article?

Matt Manning: Confirmed that was the case.

The Moderator read Article 21: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

The Moderator recognized principal, Mark Pribbernow.

Mark Pribbernow: Read a statement, “On behalf of Central Office and the administration, I want to stress that building a budget is an arduous task. Being fiscally responsible with the communities hard earned money is something that is not taken lightly. The administration wants the public to fully understand the process is time consuming, challenging and weighs heavy on us to do what is right for our students, staff, and the taxpayers. We extend an immense thank you to the school board and the budget committee who have shown compromises and shaped future budgetary platforms for the administration to work towards. We are grateful for the proposed budget and will use it responsibly to promote academic success and meet the social emotional needs of our students. To our community members, we can’t express how grateful we are to all who support Lin-Wood Public schools and our mission to build the best representatives of our community as we can. I’m getting to know your children more and more, and I cherish how they impress me every day. We thank the staff members for their countless hours working to support the students of Lin-Wood. We educators are fortunate to have the backing of such a conscientious community. Now is not the time to rest on our laurels. We have more work to do. Opportunities to create new traditions, relish the old ones. And also show taxpayers we are up to the challenge of shaping a better version of ourselves. We need to embrace this gift from the school board, budget committee and community members. We have heard many different voices over the last couple of months and will note the

concerns of the community as we build future budgets. Being a responsible steward of taxpayer money is something that we have to embrace. Again, thank you all for the dedication to our schools. Go Lumberjacks.”

Matt Manning: Recognized Vance Pickering. This is Vance’s last meeting as a School Board member. He has served on the Board for the past 9-10 years. Thank you for your years of service and the work that you have put in.

Vance Pickering: Said thank you and wished Matt Manning a Happy Birthday.

Moderator, Robert Wetherell: Asked about additional questions or comments?

Vicky Martin: Addressed Paul Beaudin’s comments, agrees with the idea of taking and listening to people with different backgrounds. Disagrees that the Budget Committee represented the democratic process this year. Members of the committee were not democratically elected and not a representative sample of the community.

Jasmine Weeden: Addressed Paul Beaudin’s comments, glad Mr. Beaudin reminded everyone that this is not the Budget Committee’s budget or the School Board’s budget. Disagrees that this process teaches children to just get rid of something they don’t agree with. Teaches children to stand up for what they do not believe in.

Paul Beaudin: Addressed his comments, the comments were not to condone the action of the current Budget Committee but to call the community to action for others to participate on the Committee. The process of review of the budget is an inherent right to all tax payers and it should be kept. Hoping that of those watching tonight a diverse representative group will step up to participate in the Committee.

Moderator, Robert Wetherell: Thanked Mr. Beaudin for a great call to action.

The Moderator: Noted that he saw nothing further and recapped the amendments to the Warrant. Procedural Question Article A will be added to approve of the procedures. Article 4 was amended to include the verbiage that the reports will be accepted as written. Article 7 was amended to reflect a different amount of eight million three hundred eighty-three thousand seven hundred ninety-six dollars (\$8,383,796) strike the words “Budget Committee recommended” in the first line and replace with “School Board’s budget of”. If the Board made no changes to the Articles, the words remain as written in the Article.

The Moderator: Entertained a motion to end all debate and finalize the wording of the 2021 Warrant. **Matt Manning made motion to end all debate and finalize the wording of the 2021 Warrant. Tamra Ham seconded the motion. The School Moderator took a roll call vote to accept the motion, end debate and move the Warrant to the voters. Matt Manning, YES; Jay Duguay, YES; Brian Angelone, YES; Joe Bossie, YES; Tamra Ham, YES; Vance Pickering, YES; Jasmine Weeden, YES. The motion carried unanimously.**

The Moderator: Read his closing remarks “That will bring us to the end of today’s agenda. Monday or before, the final warrant that will go before the voters will be available on the school website: www.lin-wood.org or from the Superintendent’s Office at 78 Main Street unit 3 in Lincoln. Voting is one week from Friday on March 26th from 2pm until 6pm at the middle/high school.”

At 6:50 PM The Moderator, Robert Wetherell recessed the meeting until Friday, March 26th at 2 PM.

Community comments received between March 16, 2021 and March 18, 2021 that were not read in full at the session:
Received: Tuesday, March 16 11:19 PM

Good Evening Members of the Board,

I was able to listen to some of your meeting tonight and have listened to the budget committee meetings. I am writing to let you know that I am in full support of the School Board’s budget as presented. I support the roofing and HVAC projects. I urge you to make necessary amendments, so all warrant articles put forth are those that the School Board supports. The only cutting at this time should be the Budget Committee-hence my support of rescinding the committee. Thank you for your work to support our school community.

Jessie M. Graham
Woodstock

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Received: Wednesday, March 17 4:47 PM

To whom it may concern,

As a parent of two children in the Lin-Wood School District, I would like to state that I am in favor of the school board's budget for the 2021-22 school year. I am also in support of all of the warrant articles as presented.

Thank you,

Rebecca Manning

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Received: Wednesday, March 17, 6:53 PM

We would like to add our names to the list of those who support the school board's budget.

Sincerely,

Steve and Carol Smith

PO Box 445

104 Pollard Road

Lincoln NH 03251

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Received: Wednesday, March 17, 8:05 PM

March 16, 2021 Lin-Wood Cooperative School District Annual Report and Meeting Comments respectfully submitted by:

John Kimball

9 White Birch Lane

Lincoln, NH 03251

1. I apologize for joining the meeting late. I repeatedly tried to join the meeting via my cell phone by calling (646) 876-9923, Meeting ID: 971 8495 5098, Passcode: 485938 as instructed in the March 8, 2021 Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District letter.
 - I was able to reach the Zoom directory every time, but the stated passcode was consistently rejected as invalid.
 - It took several minutes to download and install the Zoom program because of the age of my computer. I was able to successfully join the meeting around the Article 15 discussion.
 - I appreciate everyone's patience and willingness to regurgitate the discussion about the preceding Articles for my benefit upon concluding the discussion on Article 20.
2. I recommend removing *as an emergency turnaround* text from Article 18. The people involved with drafting Article 18 obviously knew exactly what the legacy issue was and how this Article would resolve this condition.
 - However, I was a fresh set of eyes that read it for the first time. My initial reaction was that the community protocols had become so anal that an easement was going to be necessary for an emergency vehicle to turn around on School District property at the end of Pleasant Street. That is why I asked if an easement was also going to be required if an ambulance or fire truck entered Lin-Wood Drive and wanted to turn around in the parking lot.
 - I'm reasonably confident that some other voters may read this text for the first time while in the voting booth, and like my initial reaction, may conclude that this response must be NO.
 - Also, Ms. Heredeen later mentioned that the use of "emergency turnaround" was probably misleading based on her conversations with Town officials.
 - Bottom line – passage of Article 18 is important to the Town, the School District, and Ms. Heredeen. Removing the above text clarifies the actual intent of Article 18 and may also improve the odds for approving Article 19, which is also important to Ms. Heredeen.
3. The group discussion on Article 20 intrigued me for many reasons.
 - I learned a long time ago to not criticize others until I took the time to look and try to understand issues from their perspective and maybe even walk in their shoes for a while.
 - Until last night, my lifetime experiential learning was deficient because I did not know that Budget Committee and School Board budget disagreements had to be tied to a specific budget item.

- Obviously, several teachers felt betrayed by the Budget Committee recommending removal of an additional \$116,458.00 from the School Board recommended budget. The brunt of the \$116, 458.00 was tied to Guidance funding. Their emotional reaction appears to be the stimulus for the petition warrant Article 20.
- I don't agree with the decision to limit Guidance expenditures, but I commend the Budget Committee for doing their job and challenging each School Board line item. Their courageous actions provided us voters with options that enable us to make rational and better informed choices. By law, the lower budget has to be included in the Warrant Article, but that doesn't mean we voters can't amend and accept the higher or some other budget amount during the Annual Meeting if we conclude that is the appropriate action to take. This is the beauty of the Democratic process; voters can focus on doing what is right rather than debating who is right.
- Honestly, I did not fully understand why the Guidance position was targeted as much until I learned that some line item had to be identified whenever there was disagreement between the two proposed budgets. This was as easy as anything else, but easy is not always the best choice as this choice hit a negative chord that resonated throughout the meeting.
 - a. In reality the School Board, Superintendent, and Principal are going to distribute the approved funds where the need is the greatest within established framework constraints.
 - b. The United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics website conveniently catalogs data for all major occupations, salary ranges, current and projected job demand, etc., and this information is publicly available to every student, parent, as well as the guidance counselors.
 - c. Realistically, not every student will or should attend college based on the dismal Math and Reading/ELA scores stated within the Report of the Superintendent on page 14 of the Annual Report.
 1. Yes, this is academic blasphemy; I realize that COVID-19 may have contributed to the low scores; but the decreasing proficiency range as the grades progress from 3 through 8 is alarming and should be a wake-up call for action.
 2. Perhaps these score trends are a result of implementation of the Eureka Math and English Language-Arts programs discussed in the Report of the Principal on page 16 of the Annual Report.
 3. Perhaps too much focus is on teaching to the current State Standard rather than ensuring topic mastery and proficiency.
- Personally, if I were a Budget Committee member, I would have probably targeted items like 8% Executive Administration costs, 5% School Administration Services costs, and 1.5% energy costs from the pie charts on pages 21 and 22 and the status of high speed internet access discussed in the Report of the Technology Director on page 18 of the Annual Report.
 - a. Has the School District performed a self-assessment to look for ways to consolidate, reduce, and eliminate administrative overhead, potential duplicated services, and incorporate labor saving technology?
 - b. Have electrical equipment/components been upgraded to smart controls, power strips, LED lights, etc.?
 - c. Has a facility assessment been performed to identify, reduce, or eliminate watt wastage?
 - d. Is there a campus program to encourage faculty and students to conserve power?
 - e. What is the plan and status of ensuring access to high speed Internet throughout the Lin-Wood Cooperative School District community?
- Statements were made that unlike the School Board members, the Budget Committee members were not in touch with school needs, modern teaching realities, and the importance of Guidance teachers in today's COVID-19 pandemic, etc.
 - I further scrutinized the differences between the proposed School Board and Budget Committee budgets based on comments made during the meeting. I found little objective evidence to substantiate the negative claims. In fact, just the opposite was true.
 - I believe the primary function of the School Board committees are to work with the wants and needs of the Superintendent, Principal, teachers, parents, students, etc. to ensure the local community, State, and Federal academic requirements are appropriately addressed. Their primary focus is Academia satisfaction.
 - I believe the primary function of the Budget Committee is to independently ensure the academic needs identified by the School Board committees and their stakeholders are justified and adequately funded based on the ability and willingness of community to pay for these services. Their primary focus is Taxpayer satisfaction.
 - I know of no real world CEO, Director, Manager, or Superintendent that would not feel ecstatic upon receiving 98-99% approval of their requested annual operating budget request. Most of us have household or

work budgets that we have to live with that are no way near this value. Hopefully, we all realize that the budget is just a best guess framework to work with, and additional contingency funds have been purposely included in the proposed budget to address immediate, planned, and emergent issues.

- Superintendent McGann eloquently stated that *the most important resource is the children of these communities* on page 15 of the Annual Report. I don't believe I could find anyone in our community that would disagree with this statement.
 - The challenge lies in arriving at a consensus of what this means to each individual voter and what they are capable and/or willing to fund.
 - News Flash – Not all residents of the Lincoln and Woodstock community support either proposed school budget as some meeting attendees asserted.
 - a. Statistically, some have no children, some struggle through the pandemic to maintain food on the table and a roof over their head, and some seniors have to make the hard choice between eating, heating, and their paying for their medications. Academic funding is not high on their priority list.
 - b. Prior to the pandemic, I occasionally heard negative comments about taxes being too high because we employ too many educators, teacher unions have become too powerful, similar schools have a higher student to classroom teacher to reduce costs, teachers are overpaid because they only work half the year, etc. Fortunately, these are minority opinions.
 - c. I'd also like to believe that these attitudes and perceptions have changed drastically over the past year. However, rescinding the Budget Committee could result in a community backlash if these unfounded beliefs are simply ignored. The School Board alone will have to face the onslaught of allegations, hostilities, and innuendos if Article 20 is approved. The Budget Committee members didn't deserve the criticism, and it is unlikely the School Board members will fare any better unless the community learns to become more tolerant of opinions different from their own.
 - d. Maintaining independent objectivity is paramount for sustained success. Simply flooding both the School Board and Budget Committee with special interest members or eliminating the independent Budget Committee could have negative consequences later on if the taxpayer support and trust is ever compromised.
- I am disappointed to see the “my way or the highway cancel culture attitude” so prominently displayed by some leading members within our community. Is this really the behavior we want to teach our kids, or do we want them to develop and grow up using their listening and problem solving skills, powers of persuasion, ability to compromise, and demonstrate mutual respect for opinions that may differ from our own? Whatever happened to simply being able to agree or disagree with one another rather than petitioning abolishment of an established process that has effectively performed for years just because of a few hurt feelings? Rather than be derided and ridiculed for their decisions, the Budget Committee should be congratulated for their doing their job!
- Personally, I believe approving Article 20 to disband the Budget Committee based solely on the comments I heard at last night's meeting would be a major community blunder. I have witnessed and experienced strong community support and interaction throughout the entire Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District. I believe the existing administrative check and balance process helps foster trust between all parties. It would be potentially devastating to the community if this balance and trust were ever disrupted.
- The School Budget Committee appears to be a job that few wanted in the past, and it's encouraging to see new volunteers for the open positions if Article 20 is rejected. However, I caution that electing or appointing only people that share common goals and interests can lead to a *Group Think* situation where dissenting opinions are either not readily accepted or people are unfairly ostracized for group perceptions that they are not being a *team player*.
 - *Group Think* was identified as the root cause of the 1986 Challenger spacecraft explosion that killed social studies teacher Christa McAuliffe and set the space travel back at least 35 years. There was so much focus on preventing further launch delays and capitalizing on the positive publicity created by the first civilian teacher traveling into space that people who knew about the rocket's fuel system O-ring issues failed to escalate the conversation to a level that may have prevented the catastrophe.
 - Highly effective committees have learned from NASA's mistake and usually assign a member with the specific task of dissenting with the group consensus during meetings to ensure that a thorough topic discussion is completed before decisions are made to minimize *Group Think* pitfalls.

Received: Thursday, March 18 3:50 PM

I would like to say that I'm in full support of the School Board's budget, and also in support of rescinding the budget committee.

Barbara Burhoe

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Received: Thursday, March 18 4:10 PM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Sarah Beaudin and am a taxpayer in North Woodstock. I currently have a son in 2nd grade at Lin-Wood and my daughter will be in Kindergarten this upcoming fall.

I am in full support of the School Boards 2021-2022 school year budget as well as the warrant articles as they are presented.

Sarah Beaudin

--

Received: Thursday, March 18 4:42 PM

Please consider this as our support for the school board's version of the 2021 budget proposal (warrant article 7). Thank you all for all you do for our community!

Tara & Steve Tower
Voters in Woodstock

**Voting Session: Walk-in and Drive-up
March 26, 2021 2:00 PM**

Moderator, Robert Wetherell presented the ballot box, confirmed with the clerks and supervisors in the room that the ballot box was empty, stated that absentee ballots would be announced as early as 4:00 PM, and declared the polls open at 2:00 PM.

The Ballot Clerks were:

For the Town of Lincoln:

Jennifer Franz
Randall Thomas

For the Town of Woodstock:

Cheryl Bourassa
Faith Desjardins

The Supervisors of the Checklist were:

For the Town of Lincoln:

Laurel Kuplin
Janet Peltier
Carol Riley

For the Town of Woodstock:

Barbara Avery
Helen Jones
Cynthia Thomas

At 6 p.m. Moderator Robert Wetherell declared the polls closed.

Number of official ballots cast: 223

The Moderator for 1 Year (Vote for 1):

Robert Wetherell 215 (Elected)

Write-In:

Ryan Weeden 1 (Not Elected)

School Board Members for 3 Years (Vote for 2):

Paul Schirduan 63 (Not Elected)

Ashley Youngheim 132 (Elected)

Jay Duguay 171 (Elected)

Write-In:

Jon Ham	2 (Not Elected)
Shawn Woods	1 (Not Elected)
Sherry Hoover	1 (Not Elected)
Jasmine Weeden	1 (Not Elected)
Zach Vigneault	1 (Not Elected)
Tim Perterson	1 (Not Elected)
Donald Trump	1 (Not Elected)
Paul Rand	1 (Not Elected)
Kelsee Beaudin	1 (Not Elected)
Mike Donahue	1 (Not Elected)
Tucker Barnaby	1 (Not Elected)

Budget Committee for 3 Years (Vote for 2):

Write-In:

Kelsee Beaudin	18 (Not Elected per passage of Petition Article 20 rescinding Budget Committee)
Sara Beaudin	1 (Not Elected)
Hanna Kinne	13 (Not Elected)
Nicole Tewksbury	12 (Not Elected)
Tucker Barnaby	18 (Not Elected per passage of Petition Article 20 rescinding Budget Committee)
Jerry Stringham	16 (Not Elected)
Paul Schirduan	1 (Not Elected)
James Fadden	1 (Not Elected)
Marcy Shamberger	6 (Not Elected)
Jim Chesebrough	1 (Not Elected)
Pat Timbury	1 (Not Elected)
Jon Ham	1 (Not Elected)
Sherry Hoover	10 (Not Elected)
Bernie Madoff	1 (Not Elected)
Rob Blagaduk	1 (Not Elected)
Bonnie Ham	1 (Not Elected)
Ryan Weeden	1 (Not Elected)
Ashley Youngheim	1 (Not Elected)
Shawn Woods	1 (Not Elected)
JJ Bujeaud	1 (Not Elected)
Tony Brapeau	1 (Not Elected)
Mike Donahue	1 (Not Elected)
Megan Harrington	1 (Not Elected)
Ivan Strickon	2 (Not Elected)

Budget Committee for 2 Years (Vote for 1):

Write-In:

Sherry Hoover	25 (Not Elected per passage of Petition Article 20 rescinding Budget Committee)
Ryan Weeden	1 (Not Elected)
Tom Sabourn	1 (Not Elected)
Kelsee Beaudin	5 (Not Elected)
Jerry Stringham	2 (Not Elected)
Jeanie Gessner	1 (Not Elected)
Hanna Kinne	2 (Not Elected)
Keith Carron	1 (Not Elected)
Michael Donahue	1 (Not Elected)
Tucker Barnaby	3 (Not Elected)
Jon Ham	1 (Not Elected)
Vicky Martin	1 (Not Elected)

Kayleigh Ham 1 (Not Elected)

Budget Committee for 1 Years (Vote for 2):

Robert McAfee 69 (Not Elected)
Jerry Stringham 79 (Not Elected per passage of Petition Article 20 rescinding Budget Committee)
Write-In:
Kelsee Beaudin 82 (Not Elected per passage of Petition Article 20 rescinding Budget Committee)
Hanna Kinne 72 (Not Elected)
Tucker Barnaby 4 (Not Elected)
Katie Scambio 5 (Not Elected)
Brent Bradley 1 (Not Elected)
Brenda Goodbout 1 (Not Elected)
Sarah Beaudin 1 (Not Elected)
Sherry Hoover 2 (Not Elected)
Brent Bradley 1 (Not Elected)
Ryan Weeden 1 (Not Elected)
Jon Ham 1 (Not Elected)
Megan Woods 1 (Not Elected)

Number of alternate ballots cast: 213

Procedural Question A: Shall the voters approve the optional meeting procedures, authorized by the adoption of Chapter 8 (HB 1129), for conducting the 2021 Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative Annual School District meeting?

YES: 185 NO: 24 Article Passes

To see if the District will adopt Article 4 as amended, to accept all reports of Agents, Auditors, Committees or Officers chosen, as written in the District's annual report, and pass any vote relating thereto.

YES: 183 NO: 23 Article Passes

To see if the District will approve Article 5, Passage of this article shall override the 10 percent limitation imposed on this appropriation due to the non-recommendation of the budget committee. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred forty thousand dollars (\$540,000) for the purpose of upgrading the HVAC systems and controls at the Lin-Wood Elementary School, and to authorize the issuance of not more than five hundred forty thousand dollars (\$540,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33) and to authorize the school board to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. And further to raise and appropriate an additional sum of thirteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$13,500) for the first year's interest payment on the bond. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation. (3/5 ballot vote required) Tax Impact: 10 Year Bond Lincoln = \$.05/per thousand, Woodstock = \$0.10/per thousand

YES: 145 NO: 66 Article Passes with 3/5 Majority

To see if the District will approve Article 6, to set the salaries of the School Board at \$1,000, the Vice Chairperson at \$1,250, the Chairperson at \$1,500, the Board Negotiation Team at \$150 per day, the Moderator at \$90 per meeting, the School District Clerk at \$250 per meeting, the Ballot Clerks at \$80 per meeting, the Supervisors of the Checklist at \$90 per meeting, and the School District Treasurer at \$4,000 per year. The money for this article is included in Article 7.

YES: 182 NO: 28 Article Passes

To see if the District will approve Article 7 as amended, to raise and appropriate the School Board's recommended sum of eight million three hundred eighty-three thousand seven hundred ninety-six dollars (\$8,383,796) for the support of schools; for the salaries of school district officials, employees and agents, and for the payment of statutory obligations of the District, and to authorize the application against said appropriation such sums as are estimated to be received from

state aid, together with other income; the School Board to certify to the Selectmen of each of the Towns of Lincoln and Woodstock, respectively, the balance to be raised by taxes by the Towns of Lincoln and Woodstock in accordance with the formula adopted by the Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District; and the School Board further to certify to the Selectmen of each of the Towns of Lincoln and Woodstock the amount to be raised by taxation by each of said two towns. This article does not include appropriations in any other warrant article.

YES: 169 NO: 38 Article Passes

To see if the District will approve Article 8, to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School Board and Lin-Wood Education Association/NEA-New Hampshire which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits over those paid in the prior fiscal year:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ESTIMATED INCREASE</u>
2021-2022	\$114,887
2022-2023	\$112,635

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fourteen thousand eight hundred eighty-seven dollars (\$114,887) for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional cost attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation.

YES: 181 NO: 31 Article Passes

To see if the District will, if Article 8 is defeated, approve Article 9, to authorize the Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School Board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 8 cost items only? (Majority Vote)

YES: 170 NO: 37 Article Passes

To see if the District will approve Article 10, to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty-four thousand dollars (\$154,000) for the replacement of the Lin-Wood Middle/High School roof area encompassing the middle school hallway and classrooms and main entrance hallway (approx. 14,000 sq. ft.). This is a special warrant article per RSA 32:3 VI (d) and RSA 32:7 V. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation.

YES: 196 NO: 15 Article Passes

To see if the District will approve Article 11, to establish a Special Education Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of meeting the expenses of students with disabilities, and to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred eighty-four thousand dollars (\$184,000), with this sum to come from the June 30, 2021 unassigned fund balance, contingent upon the passage of Article 12. Further, to name the School Board as agents to expend from said fund. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation.

(Majority Vote Required)

YES: 192 NO: 19 Article Passes

To see if the District will approve Article 12, to discontinue the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund created in March 1998, said funds (in the approximate amount of \$184,000 as of June 30, 2021) with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the School District's General Fund, contingent upon the passage of Article 11.

(Majority Vote Required)

YES: 161 NO: 45 Article Passes

To see if the District will approve Article 13, to raise and appropriate sixty percent (60%) up to the amount of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to be placed in the School Facilities Expendable Trust Fund, with said funds to come from the June 30, 2021 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation.

YES: 185 NO: 23 Article Passes

To see if the District will approve Article 14, to raise and appropriate ten percent (10%) up to the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the School Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund, with said funds to come from the June 30, 2021 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation.

YES: 155 NO: 56 Article Passes

To see if the District will approve Article 15, to raise and appropriate ten percent (10%) up to the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the School Equipment Expendable Trust Fund, with said funds to come from the June 30, 2021 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation.

YES: 157 NO: 51 Article Passes

To see if the District will approve Article 16, to raise and appropriate ten percent (10%) up to the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the School Technology Expendable Trust Fund, with said funds to come from the June 30, 2021 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation.

YES: 161 NO: 49 Article Passes

To see if the District will approve Article 17, to raise and appropriate ten percent (10%) up to the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Special Education Capital Reserve Fund, with said funds to come from the June 30, 2021 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2021, contingent upon the passage of Article 11. The School Board recommends this appropriation. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation.

YES: 188 NO: 21 Article Passes

To see if the District will approve Article 18, to authorize the School Board to convey an easement to the Town of Lincoln over a small portion (11,049 sq. ft.) of the Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District property for the Town to use as an emergency turnaround at the end of Pleasant St., on such terms and conditions as the School Board determines are in the best interest of the District. (The Town constructed a hammerhead in 2007, but the original authorization and executed easement to the property cannot be located.)

YES: 182 NO: 25 Article Passes

To see if the District will approve Article 19, to authorize the School Board to convey a driveway easement to Denise Heredeen, or her assigns, for a driveway to be connected from her property over a small portion of the District's property to connect to a hammerhead turnaround already constructed by the Town of Lincoln on District property at the end of Pleasant St., all on such terms and conditions as the School Board determines are in the best interest of the District.

YES: 173 NO: 34 Article Passes

Article 20, By Petition, shall the Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District rescind the school district's budget committee pursuant to RSA 195:12-a. This is a petition warrant article submitted per RSA 197:6. (Majority Vote Required)

YES: 107 NO: 103 Article Passes

Article 21, To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

YES: 130 NO: 35 Article Passes

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon S. Holt
School District Clerk
Lincoln-Woodstock Cooperative School District