

West Bath School Administrative Unit

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the West Bath School

Members Present: Dennis Crews, Keith Hinds, Robert McDaniel, Ashleigh Randall, and Jordi St. John

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Patrick Bowdish and Emily Thompson

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by Keith Hinds.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Comments from the Chair:

Mr. Hinds said that Finance Committee had met with the Board of Selectmen on Monday. They were very appreciative of the adjustments that were made to the budget, and appreciated the work of the Board and the Superintendent to make it as tight as it is. He thanked the Board for all of their hard work.

Adjustments to Agenda:

None

Public Comments:

None

New Business:

1. Approval of the 2017-2018 Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Mrs. Thompson walked through the warrant articles, sharing that the warrant will appear to be familiar to them at this point, with the exception of articles 17, 18, and 19. She showed the board how the articles related directly to the cover sheet they had been working with. She said that article 17 established the special education reserve fund, with \$70,000, article 18 established the school capital reserve fund, with \$15,000, and article 19 allowed for the Board to accept more subsidy from the state than is built into the budget, if more subsidy is provided

once the state votes on a budget. Mrs. Thompson said that she was not expecting that this will be the case, but would not be surprised if the state votes to put system administration back into the budget, which would adjust the amount exceeding EPS listed in article 13.

Mr. St. John arrived at 6:36 PM.

Mr. Hinds asked the Board to review article 17. He asked the Board if they felt that \$70,000 is appropriate for that account? Mr. McDaniel asked if it should be written in the warrant what it is. Mr. Crews stated that the felt that the Board should discuss what it is rather than write what it is and that the account is to help with a buffer for an unforeseen student, but it does not bulletproof the budget. Mr. St. John said that the Board should make it clear that this is a transfer from undesignated funds, not additional funds raised.

Mr. Crews asked if a motion was needed, but Mr. Hinds said that the articles can be approved with one motion. He asked the Board to look at article 18. Mr. Crews said that Mr. Hennessey made some good points in relation to the town and the maintenance budget, and the town bank, and he feels that larger items would be funded through the town bank, not the school budget. This would help to absorb costs. Mr. Hinds said that this would be for a situation where if something came up on a Monday morning, the Board could fix it immediately without going through town meeting. It is also a way of sheltering some funds so the state does not recapture funds from the undesignated fund balance. Mr. McDaniel asked if the funds would remain, or if they would need to be reauthorized? Mr. Hinds said that all that would need to be reauthorized would be if the Board wanted to add further funds in. Mr. Crews said that there may need to be a warrant article that allows the Board to maintain it. Mr. St. John said that the Board would know more next year.

Mr. McDaniel said that the Board needed to discuss what a desirable rate would be for the long-term. Mr. Crews said that he got the impression that there would be pushback from the community if the Board tried to put in more than \$15,000. Mr. St. John said that \$15,000 would cover the Board in an immediate situation, and then the town could be approached if more was needed. Mr. Hinds asked if the Board felt that \$15,000 was the right number? Mr. Crews said that he did not feel that the Board could go higher, or lower. Mr. McDaniel said that the Board needed to keep in mind the need to fund further capital improvement projects, such as heating and cooling. Mr. Crews said that it was known that would need to happen, but putting it in the regular budget would be preferable.

Mr. McDaniel made a motion to accept the warrant articles are written. Mr. Crews seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Vote (5-0).

Public Comments

None

Next Meeting Dates and Locations

- a. April 24, 2017 – Board of Selectmen’s Meeting @ 5:20 @ Town Office – Approve Final Town Warrant
- b. May 3, 2017 – West Bath School Board of Directors Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Adjourn

Mr. McDaniel made a motion to adjourn at 7:48 PM. This was seconded by Mr. St. John. Vote (5-0).

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Thompson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emily Thompson