

## **West Bath School Administrative Unit**

### **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

April 25, 2018 at 5:30 PM at the West Bath School

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**Members Present:** Dennis Crews, Ashleigh Randall, and Mary Wallace

**Members Absent:** Keith Hinds & Robert McDaniel

**Others Present:** Patrick Bowdish & Emily Thompson

#### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Dennis Crews. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **Adjustments to Agenda:**

None

#### **Public Comments:**

None

#### **New Business:**

##### 1. Double Validation Process

Mr. Crews asked the board to turn their attention to article 18, which addressed the double validation vote. He explained that the board first needs to decide whether or not to include the article in the warrant, and then needs to decide if they recommend a yes or a no vote. Mrs. Wallace asked what the benefits of the double validation were, and why it should happen, or why should it not happen. Mr. Crews said that it is state law that there is a ballot vote for the school budget. If it was voted down, that would go into effect next year. He said that for why not to do it, there is the expense of holding an election. Mr. Crews asked what the cost of a referendum was, to which Mrs. Thompson responded that it was approximately \$800. Mrs. Wallace asked if there have been people who want the double validation? Mr. Crews said that there are people on both sides. Some feel that it is not a good use of time and resources. Others feel that it is easier to go to the polls than it is to go to town meeting. Mrs. Randall asked if there was ever a time that the referendum vote had not agreed with the town meeting decision, to which Mr. Crews responded no. She asked about the voter turnout. Mrs. Thompson said that when it is

only the school budget that is being voted on, the turnout is low, sometimes under 20 voters.

Mrs. Randall made a motion to include the article in the warrant. Mrs. Wallace seconded the motion. Vote (3-0).

Mrs. Randall made a motion to recommend a no vote and discontinue the double validation process. Mrs. Wallace seconded the motion. Vote (2-1).

Mr. Bowdish spoke from the floor asking for clarification on the decision that was just made. Mrs. Thompson read the warrant explanation language that said "A 'YES' vote will require the West Bath SAU to continue to conduct a referendum to validate its annual budget for the next three years. A 'NO' vote will discontinue the budget validation referendum for at least three years and provide instead that the annual school budget shall be finally adopted at a meeting of the voters."

## 2. Approval of the 2018-2019 Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Mr. Crews reviewed articles 1-18 of the warrant.

Mrs. Wallace made a motion to approve the warrant articles as written and amended. Mrs. Randall seconded the motion. Vote (3-0).

### **Public Comments:**

None

### **Set Next Meeting Dates and Locations:**

1. Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM – Regular Meeting of the School Board of Directors, with an executive session at 6 PM

### **Adjourn:**

Mrs. Wallace made a motion to adjourn at 5:45 PM. This was seconded by Mrs. Randall. Vote (3-0).

Submitted by,



Emily Thompson