

West Bath School Administrative Unit

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 11, 2015 at 6:00 PM at West Bath Town Office

Members Present: Dennis Crews, Meagan Hennessey, Keith Hinds, Robert McDaniel, and Jordi St. John

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Scott Andresen, Melissa Belanger, David Hennessey, Justin Hennessey, Emily Thompson, Steve Winter

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:24 PM by Dennis Crews following a joint workshop with the Budget Advisory Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Adjustment to Agenda:

Mrs. Thompson requested that the board consider a school choice request.

Public Comment:

None

New Business:

1. School Choice – Mrs. Thompson presented a school choice request from a family who had not received the application from the town, and therefore had not met the deadline requested. The family had already secured enrollment at a neighboring community's public school, and would like the school board to honor their school choice. Mrs. Thompson encouraged the board to approve the application, given the lack of notification and because the board had not yet adopted a budget. Mr. Hinds made a motion that the board approve the late applicant and make the adjustment to the budget. This was seconded by Mr. Crews. Vote (5-0)
2. Approval of the 2015-2016 WBSAU Budget – The board discussed additional proposed reductions that were provided by Mrs. Thompson. These reductions equaled approximately \$71,100.

A motion was made by Mr. Hinds with reluctance to modify the Gifted and Talented Program as had been discussed. This was seconded by Mr. St. John. Vote (5-0)

The need to make adjustments to the amount allocated for retirement funds of previously funded Federal Employees was discussed, as contributions of Federal employees are larger. No motion was needed to make this adjustment.

A motion was made by Mr. McDaniel to reduce repairs and maintenance by \$500. This was seconded by Mr. St. John. Vote (4-0)

The board discussed the proposed foreign language reduction. Ms. Hennessey stated that it could be possible that if it is reduced this year we bring it back to the table next year when there are not the additional start up costs. Mr. McDaniel reminded the board, that even if the position is not in the budget, it could be added back in at the town meeting, and we should anticipate the questions about what the cost would be. Mrs. Thompson stated that the total cost of the program is \$31,427.54. Mr. St. John stated that he hated to see language go. Mrs. Thompson stated, that there were many reasons why language is important, but that the board needed to consider the impact of the current budget for the entire community. Mr. Crews told the board that if having foreign language attracted 4 tuition students, then it pays for itself. Mr. Hinds posed a question to the BAC, asking since the board had already cut more than \$38,000, does that mean that foreign language was off the table? Mr. Hennessey spoke on behalf of the budget committee and said that they are looking for reductions from those two areas. Mr. Winter commented that he was sold on withdrawing based upon lower taxes. Mrs. Belanger commented that she expected her taxes to go up. Mr. Crews stated, this was a bill, not a budget. If one looks at the non-budgeted items, the proposed budget is under budget. Mr. Hinds commented that the withdrawal was about local control, about getting our school back. He asked Mr. Hennessey if the BAC was opposed to the cost or opposed to the position. Mr. Hennessey stated that he was opposed to creating a new position in this budget. Mr. McDaniel stated that we could take it out and see what happens at town meeting, or leave it in and see what happens at town meeting, but that it was time to make a decision. Mr. Crews said he was going to push for it every year, whether or not it was presented in the budget. Mr. McDaniel made a motion to accept the cut in the foreign language program. Mr. Hinds seconded the motion with "great disdain that we were put in the this position by the shoddy work of the town's committee." Mr. St. John stated that both his parents were language teachers, but that he knows the board is never going to make up the difference between the proposed budget and the hypothetical budget and if there's something we can do to make the budget work, then we should. Ms. Hennessey stated that she agreed with Mr. Crews, and would continue to support and advocate for foreign language when there are no start-up costs involved. Vote (5-0)

Mr. Crews made a motion to accept the next two proposed reductions to the field trip and co-curricular lines, totaling \$500. This was seconded by Mr. McDaniel. Vote (5-0)

Mr. Crews made a motion to accept the proposed reduction of Tumblebooks in the amount of \$499.00. This was seconded by Mr. St. John. Vote (5-0)

The board revisited the Chrome Books. Mr. Hennessey stated that the BAC voted to recommend that the board purchase the class set, and then a second class set next year. Mr. Hinds made a motion to reduce the chrome books to a class set, with 2 spares, totally 20 chrome books. This was seconded by Ms. Hennessey. Vote (4-1)

Mr. Hinds made a motion to adopt the budget as it currently stands. This was seconded by Mr. St. John. Vote (5-0)

Next Meeting Date and Location:

Wednesday, May 20, 2015, 7:00 PM, West Bath School to discuss the warrant, town meeting, and policies

Tuesday, May 26, 2015, 6:00 PM, West Bath School – School Budget Town Meeting

Monday, June 8, 2015 6:00 PM, West Bath School

Adjourn:

Keith Hinds made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 PM. This was seconded by Jordi 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