

## **West Bath School Administrative Unit**

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

March 24, 2021 at 4:30 PM (Remote Meeting)

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**Members Present:** Keith Hinds, Joanne Powers, Ashleigh Randall, and Casandra Whorff

**Members Absent:** Alexandra Jungbluth

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 PM by Keith Hinds. Roll call attendance was taken. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **Comments from the Chair:**

None

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

None

#### **Public Comments:**

None

Mr. Hinds reminded the public how to submit public comment during remote meetings.

#### **Old Business**

##### **1. Second Reading of the 2021-2022 School Budget**

Mr. Hinds stated that the current proposed budget is \$3,981,584.33, which is an increase of \$78,909.55 or 2.02% over the current year. The state subsidy is \$260,981.61, carry forward from the current year is projected to be \$150,000, and from undesignated funds is \$116,854.27. He said the local contribution is \$3,453,748.45, which is increase of \$16,084.80 or 4.99%.

He explained that the the finance committee met on Friday and looked through the budget to make further recommendations. The committee recommends removing \$16,000 from operation/maintenance to pause on the unitventilator projects, until funds become available. He said that the board was fortunate to have been able to do capital improvement with COVID relief funds this year. He said that he would also recommend removing \$3,000 from board stipends, zeroing out that line for the second year in a row.

He said that pulling more funds from the current budget was discussed as an option, but the finance committee was not comfortable doing so, as there still is an extra month more to get through than usual because of the compressed timeline.

Ms. Powers said that she liked the proposed plan. She made a motion to remove \$3,000 from the board stipends. This was seconded by Mrs. Whorff. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote (4-0).

Ms. Powers made a motion to remove \$16,000 from operation/maintenance. This was seconded by Mrs. Whorff. No discussion. Roll call vote (4-0).

Mr. Hinds said that with these changes, the proposed budget is now \$3,962,584.33, which is an increase of \$59,909.55 or 1.54% over the current year. The local contribution is \$3,434,748.45 which is an increase of \$145,084.80 or 4.41%.

Mrs. Randall said that it was worth mentioning that at the last meeting with the budget advisory committee, it was recognized that there are no areas to pull from that are not impacting children and their experience at school. Nickeling and diming the budget would not have a noticeable impact on the tax base, but would on the children.

Mr. Hinds also said that this is a 1.54% increase in the operating budget, during pandemic, when West Bath has been able to have children in school 5 days per week. He said that the reason the local contribution is up is because the board made a choice last year to increase the carry forward to zero out the increase to the local contribution. He cautioned that the time will come when the board is not going to be able to consistently maintain less than a 2% increase. He stated that the cost of living is 1.7% and the board is at a 1.54% increase.

There was no further discussion. Mrs. Randall made a motion to accept the budget as proposed. Mrs. Whorff seconded the motion. Roll call vote (4-0).

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments. Mr. Hinds reminded the public the procedures for making a public comment.

Mrs. Jungbluth arrived at 4:42 PM.

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

1. March 29 at 4:30 PM (held remotely) - Special Meeting of the School Board of Directors  
- Approve Budget Warrant

### **Adjourn**

Mrs. Randall made a motion to adjourn at 4:43 PM. Mrs. Whorff seconded the motion. Roll Call 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