

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO: The voters of the Town of West Bath:

Take notice that a public hearing will be held by remote participation at 4:30 PM on May 19, 2021 for the purpose of public participation in and receipt of public comment on the proposed 2021-2022 school budget and on the referendum articles set forth below. Pursuant to Title 1, section 403-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, the hearing will be conducted by remote means and may be accessed by the public as follows:

To access the remote public hearing or to participate (provide comment/input): Follow the instructions to access and participate in the public hearing as provided below and on the School website at [www.westbathschool.org](http://www.westbathschool.org).

**Public Access:**

- Members of the public can participate in the meeting remotely through a livestream link.
- The livestream link can be accessed on the calendar posting of the school board meeting at <http://www.westbathschool.org> or directly on the agenda that is posted here: <http://westbathschool.org/school-board-meetings/>
- The livestream link for the public informational session of May 19, 2021 is: <https://youtu.be/Xi39xyYOJIM>

**Public Comment:**

- Those who wish to provide a public comment should submit his/her comment by email to [publiccomment@westbathschool.org](mailto:publiccomment@westbathschool.org), by 4:00 PM of the day of the meeting. Public comments submitted should use, "Public Comment," in the subject line of the email.
- Those who wish to comment or ask questions about what is heard during the meeting should submit his/her comment by email to [publiccomment@westbathschool.org](mailto:publiccomment@westbathschool.org).
- Those making public comments are required to sign the email with their full name to ensure the board knows who is addressing them.
- The board chair will pause the session prior to the closing of the session to ensure that all public comments/questions are received.

The following school budget articles will be considered at a Town referendum election to be held on June 8, 2021:

**ARTICLE 42 -School Budget.** Shall the Town appropriate the sum of **\$3,962,584.33** and raise the sum of **\$3,434,748.45** for the 2021-2022 school budget?

**School Board of Directors Recommends a "Yes" Vote.**

<b>VOTER INFORMATION FOR ARTICLE 42</b>	
The Town’s school budget submitted in this Article totals \$3,962,584.33. It includes locally raised funds in the amount of \$3,434,748.45. The locally raised amount exceeds the state’s Essential Programs and Services spending model by \$1,238,808.93. This budget includes these expenditure category cost centers:	
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Proposed Amounts</b>
Regular Instruction	\$ 2,340,385.95
Special Education	\$ 688,332.41
Career and Technical Education	\$ 0.00
Other Instruction	\$ 4,500.00
Student and Staff Support	\$ 265,429.27
System Administration	\$ 97,954.95
School Administration	\$ 212,324.55

Transportation	\$ 156,022.80
Facilities Maintenance	\$ 162,634.40
Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$ 0.00
Other Expenditures, including Food Service	\$ 35,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,962,584.33</b>

**ARTICLE 43- Cost Center Transfers.** Shall the School Board of Directors be authorized to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, provided that transfers shall not be permitted to increase the authorized total school budget?

**School Board of Directors Recommends a “Yes” Vote.**

**ARTICLE 44- Aid for Other Programs.** Shall the School Board of Directors be authorized to accept and expend any state, federal, and other grants, aid, and receipts during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 for school purposes, provided that such grants, aid, and receipts do not require the expenditure of other local funds not previously appropriated?

**School Board of Directors Recommends a “YES” Vote.**

**ARTICLE 45- Additional State Subsidy.** In the event that the Town receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, shall the School Board of Directors be authorized to use all or part of the additional state subsidy to increase expenditures for school purposes in cost center categories approved by the School Board of Directors, increase the allocation of finances in a reserve fund approved by the School Board of Directors, and/or decrease the local cost share expectation, as defined in Title 20-A, section 15671-A(1)(B), for local property taxpayers for funding public education as approved by the School Board of Directors?

**School Board of Directors Recommends a YES vote.**

**ARTICLE 46- Continuing School Budget Validation Referendum.** Do you wish to reinstated the school budget validation referendum process for three years?

**VOTER INFORMATION FOR ARTICLE 46**

A “YES” vote will require the Town to conduct a referendum to validate its annual school budget for the next three years.

A “NO” vote will discontinue the school budget validation referendum for at least three years and provide instead that the annual school budget shall be finally adopted at an annual meeting of the Town voters.

**School Board of Directors Recommends a NO vote.**