

West Bath School Administrative Unit

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2022 at 6:00 PM

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Patrick Bowdish, Emily Thompson

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mrs. Randall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Comments from the Chair:

Mrs. Randall said that she had no comments, as the board had been meeting so regularly to discuss the budget.

Approve/Amend Minutes of 3/16/22 and 4/6/22

Mrs. Randall said that date in the minutes of 3/16 should reflect that the AP was signed on 2/28. Mr. Hinds made a motion to approve the minutes of 2/16/22 as amended. Mrs. Whorff seconded the motion. Vote (5-0).

Adjustments to Agenda:

None

Public Comments:

None

Committee Reports

1. Policy Committee - Mr. Hinds reported that the committee had met the week prior, and continued to work through policies that had legal changes in the last year. He said that there are policies later in the agenda that would reflect that work.
2. Facilities Committee - Mrs. Thompson reported that the facilities committee was scheduled to meet that day, but did not due to the board meeting also being scheduled. She distributed a solar proposal from Revision Energy for the committee to review, and said that the committee would be meeting with the project coordinator at their next meeting.

3. Finance Committee
 - a. Payroll Warrants - Mrs. Randall said that she had signed payroll warrants on 3/28 & 4/11.
 - b. AP Warrants - Mrs. Randall and Mr. Hinds said AP warrants were signed on 3/25 and 4/6.

Superintendent's Report

1. Financial Report -
 - a. Mrs. Thompson reported that with 20% of the fiscal year remaining, 32.9% of the budget remains. She said that after the amount that is planned for carry forward is removed, 29% of the budget remains. She stated that other than electricity and oil, budget lines are tracking appropriately.
2. District Updates -
 - a. Mrs. Thompson said that the board had spent a lot of time together in the last month, and therefore they are pretty well updated on the ongoings of the district. She did say that student-led conferences are scheduled for the following day, and it was the first time since November 2019 of holding in-person conferences. She also provided a list of upcoming events.
 - b. Mrs. Thompson reviewed the quarter 3 attendance report.
 - c. Mrs. Thompson announced the receipt of \$500 from Exxon Mobil for their math and science grant. She thanked New Meadows Market for their ongoing support.

Old Business

1. In-Person Instruction Updates

Mrs. Thompson said there has been 1 positive case since she had last reported to the board a month prior. She stated that there were no active cases currently.

Mrs. Thompson informed the board that she had received notification that the last round of pooled testing is scheduled for the week of May 9th. The CDC is feeling that this current variant is so contagious and moves so fast that pooled testing is less of a value as a mitigation measure than it was with earlier variants, and would rather see us encouraging repeated testing at home. The DOE and DHHS has 1.1 million at home kits that are now available for order by all Maine schools. She said they will order 1 kit per child/staff and provide that to families once pooled testing comes to an end.

She also said that schools have been notified that the SOP will be retired at the end of this year, and nurses will be provide training in how to handle COVID cases as part of an infectious disease protocol moving forward. She said the school is going to continue to emphasize washing hands, staying home when sick, proper ventilation, and spacing when possible. At this point, the school is mostly back to pre-pandemic practices.

Mrs. Thompson also said she wanted to be sure the board was aware of LD 993 - Act to Retroactively Grant Sick Leave Days to Public School Employees Affected by COVID-19. She explained that this act requires employers to restore up to 15 days of sick leave for employees who have taken sick leave for qualifying COVID-19 related reasons between January 1, 2021 and October 18, 2021. She informed the board that she is expecting for updated legislation that expands the dates, but that has not happened yet.

New Business

1. Approval of the 2022-2023 School Budget Articles

Mrs. Thompson provided the board with a copy of the warrant articles for the adopted school budget. She explained that they had been approved by the school's attorney.

Mr. Hinds made a motion to approve the articles as presented. Mrs. Whorff seconded the motion. Vote (5-0).

2. Second Reading of Board Policies

- a. GBE-R - Personal Protection Plan

Mr. Hinds said there had been no changes from the first reading. Mrs. Randall made a motion to approve the policy. Mr. Hinds seconded the motion. Vote (5-0).

3. Review Board Policy

- a. IHBAC - Child Find

Mr. Hinds stated that the update to this policy reflected law change and changes the age of the student from "until they turn 20" to "under the age of 22". Mrs. Randall made a motion to approve the policy as amended. Mr. Hinds seconded the motion. Vote (5-0).

- b. KE - Public Concerns and Complaints

Mr. Hinds stated that Mrs. Randall had asked the committee to review this policy following the work with Steve Bailey. The committee did not feel that anything needed to be changed. No action was taken.

4. Adjustment to the 2021-2022 School Calendar

Mrs. Thompson explained that the district had 3 snow days. Due to Juneteenth being a new federal holiday, this places the last day of school on June 21st. She proposed that beginning May 25th, Wednesday start times move to 8:25 instead of 9:25 for the remainder of the year, which would make up a day of school. This would make the last day of school be June 17th. Mr. Hinds made a motion to approve the adjustment in the calendar. Mrs. Randall seconded the motion. Vote (5-0). Mrs. Jungbluth commented that she hopes that the school will still recognize Juneteenth.

New Business

1. First Reading of Board Policies

- a. KDB - Public's Right to Know/Freedom of Access

Mr. Hinds said that in the review of the policies that are impacted by changed laws, the policy committee realized that KDB had not been adopted by the board. Mrs. Thompson said she was surprised it was not on the mandated list of policies, but that she and the committee felt that it needed to be included as part of the board's policy packet. Mr. Hinds reviewed the policy with the board.

- b. BHC - Board Relationships and Communication with the Staff

Mr. Hinds stated that this first reading came out of the meeting with Steve Bailey. He reviewed policy as written. Mrs. Jungbluth said that the policy does not reflect the board's desire to create opportunity for a structure of communication.

Mr. Hinds said that it is a first reading, and the policy committee can bring it back to the table for review.

c. 2022-2023 - School Calendar

Mrs. Thompson shared the proposed calendar with the board, and reviewed it in relation to how it corresponds with neighboring districts. Mrs. Randall made a motion to approve the calendar as presented. Mr. Hinds seconded the motion.

Vote (5-0).

Public Comments

Mrs. Randall said that she should have mentioned at the beginning of the meeting that she had received feedback from the budget advisory committee that they were appreciative of the board's work throughout the budget process this year.

Executive Session

Mrs. Randall made a motion to enter an executive session pursuant to Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405,6,A. of the M.R.S.A. for the purpose of discussing personnel issues at 6:37 PM. Mr. Hinds seconded that motion. Vote (5-0).

Return to Regular Session

The board returned to regular session at 7:09 PM.

Set Next Meeting Dates and Locations

1. May 12th - Public Information Session @ 6 PM @ Fire Hall
2. May 17 - Annual Budget Town Meeting @ 6 PM @ West Bath School
3. May 18 - WBSAU School Board of Directors Meeting @ 6 PM

Adjourn

Mr. Hinds made a motion to adjourn at 7:12 PM. Mrs. Randall seconded the motion. Vote (5-0).

Submitted by,



Emily Thompson