

West Bath School Administrative Unit

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

December 21, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Members Present: Keith Hinds, Alexandra Jungbluth, Joanne Powers, and Izabela Werner

Members Absent: Casandra Whorff

Others Present: Patrick Bowdish and Emily Thompson

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Mr. Hinds. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Comments from the Chair:

Mr. Hinds said that he wanted to wish the staff and community happy holidays. He hoped everyone would have opportunity to rest and recharge. He acknowledged that the board had received a letter regarding a personnel matter that the board will review at a later time.

Approve/Amend Minutes of 11/16/22

Mrs. Jungbluth made a motion to approve the minutes of 11/16/22. Ms. Powers seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

Adjustments to Agenda:

None

Public Comments:

None

Committee Reports

1. Policy Committee - Mr. Hinds said that the policy committee met a few times since the last board meeting, and have revised policies on the agenda for consideration.
2. Facilities Committee - No report
3. Finance Committee
 - a. Payroll Warrants – Mr. Hinds signed payroll warrants on 11/18, 12/2, and 12/16
 - b. AP Warrants - Mr. Hinds signed the AP on 11/29. And Mrs. Jungbluth and Mrs. Whorff signed the warrant on 11/30. Mr. Hinds and Mrs. Werner signed the AP warrant on 12/13.

Superintendent's Report

1. Financial Report - Mrs. Thompson reported that with 50% of the year remaining, 60.99% of the budget remains. She explained that there are expenses in the substitute line on page 1 that need to be moved to the special education line. It's still an expense that will be overdrawn, but it is an expense the board has discussed and it will be moved to the correct line. She also said that another area the board has previously discussed that is going to be overdrawn is contracted services in special education. She explained that this is an area that is determined by IEPs, and contains contracts for speech, OT, and psychological examination services. These costs are determined by IEP needs, and the needs of the district are significantly more than what was anticipated and budgeted for. She said that overall, special education is still tracking appropriately within the overall cost center, and that she has no concerns with other lines within the budget, including oil and electricity at this time.
2. District Updates -
 - a. Service Crews – Mrs. Thompson said the school had recently completed the first round of service crews. As part of the schoolwide crew meetings on Friday, they had built in an element of service, and students worked in vertical crew groups focused on “giving back” and making a difference. One of these crew groups was the newspaper group, and under Ms. Goulet’s guidance, they published the first newspaper the school’s had in more than 15 years - the EPIC times. She said that in January through February they’ll reorganize again to have vertical crew groups based on kindness initiatives leading up to Valentine’s Day
 - b. Celebration of Learning – The school had held their winter celebration of learning that day, and enjoyed a full house. Mrs. Thompson said that the program was in the board packet so the board could review the guiding questions, and she stated that she appreciated the West Bath community, as they continue to show up and support the children and the school.
 - c. Bath Suburu – Mrs. Thompson said she was pleased to announce that through their adopt a classroom program, Bath Suburu has recently gifted West Bath classrooms 3,000. Each grade level classroom is in the process of ordering \$500 of supplies from the adopt a classroom website offerings to use in their rooms. She said she would like to thank Bath Suburu for this amazing gift and their support.
 - d. Cross Country Skiing - Cross Country Skiing will begin for 4th graders on January 4th as part of their PE program. Again, Chuck Mainsville and his volunteers will be providing equipment and instruction at no charge and working with Mrs. Houghton on Wednesdays.
 - e. WinterKids Winter Games – Mrs. Thompson reported that the WinterKids Winter Games will also take place in January. However, this year the school has opted to participate in the play-along version of the games. They won’t be competing, but will still integrate winter activities into our ongoing school events and PE classes as it makes sense to do so. She said she is looking forward to embracing the winter weather and activities.
 - f. Health and wellness – Mrs. Thompson stated that like most schools in the state, they have struggled with respiratory illnesses. She said she had communicated with the board that December 7th greater than 15% of our school community was

absent due to illness, and that needed to reported to the CDC. The number slowly declined and improved. She said they have had 3 cases of COVID since the last board meeting, but had no cases during the period of time of 15% absenteeism. She again stated that she is grateful for this staff who continues to be flexible and supportive of one another so that school is able to remain in session.

Mr. Hinds commented that he attended the Hour of Code event that Ms. Goulet and Mr. Bowdish had hosted and it was very enjoyable. Mrs. Jungbluth said that the Celebration of Learning was great and her child and his classmates took it very seriously, but that she wished it was longer so that she was able to visit multiple classrooms. She also commented that even though her son was not part of the newspaper club, he took great pride in the newspaper. Ms. Powers commented that she was glad that the school was moving to the play-along track of the winter games.

Old Business

1. Review of Board Policy
 - a. BID – Board Member Compensation

Mr. Hinds stated that in preparation for providing stipends that the committee realized too late that the policy had not been updated, as stipends had not been given in several years. The policy committee is recommending to remove language that determines the amount of the stipend, and to remove language around attendance, as that is antiquate practice and the role of a board member reaches far beyond attending a monthly meeting. Stipends will be paid in two installments.

Mrs. Jungbluth made a motion to approve the policy as revised. Mrs. Werner seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

2. Review of Standing Committee Assignments

Mr. Hinds explained this was on the agenda to ensure that Ms. Powers was comfortable with continuing her role on the committees as they had been listed in prior years. Ms. Powers commented that she would like to bow out of being on the negotiations committee, that it was challenging for her to be a teacher in a neighboring district and also negotiate on the board's behalf for West Bath.

Mr. Hinds said that he would make a motion to remove Ms. Powers from the negotiation committee at her request. Mrs. Jungbluth seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

The board members discussed whether any members would like to move to that committee, and the decided they would revisit the topic at a later date.

New Business

1. Annual Certification of Superintendent Requirement

Mr. Hinds said that the school system is required to have a relationship with a superintendent. He made a motion to continue the current relationship and add an additional year to keep the contract a three year contract. Mrs. Jungbluth seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

Public Comments

None

Executive Session

Mr. Hinds made a motion at 6:25 PM to request to enter into 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 matters. Ms. Powers seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

Return to Regular Session

The board returned to regular session at 7:06 PM.

Set Next Meeting Dates and Locations

1. January 18, 2023 - WBSAU School Board of Directors Meeting @ 6 PM

The board discussed a conflict with this date, and Mr. Hinds made a motion to move this meeting to January 11, 2023. Mrs. Jungbluth seconded the motion. Vote (4-0). Mr. Hinds asked Mrs. Thompson to check with Mrs. Whorff to see if that date change would work.

Adjourn

Ms. Powers made a motion to adjourn at 7:08 PM. Mrs. Jungbluth seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

Submitted by,



Emily Thompson