

## **West Bath School Administrative Unit**

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

April 5, 2023 at 6:00 PM

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**Members Present:** Keith Hinds, Joanne Powers, Izabella Werner, and Casey Whorff

**Members Absent:** Alexandra Jungbluth

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

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

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

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

Mr. Hinds welcomed the board to the meeting, and thanked them for all of the time they had put into the budget process thus far.

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

None

#### **Old Business**

##### **1. Second Reading and Vote of 2023-2024 School Budget**

Mr. Hinds read the cover sheet of the proposed budget for the board's consideration. He opened the floor to discussion.

Mr. Hinds made a motion to increase the salary-administrators lines in both the school administration cost center and the system administration cost center by 3%. This was seconded by Mrs. Whorff. Vote (4-0).

Mrs. Thompson said that since the first reading a fifth grade student had moved, and she had learned on Thursday that another was moving at the end of the school year. Therefore she proposed the board remove 2 students from the tuition-elementary, public line. This is a reduction of \$25,722.44. Mr. Hinds made that motion. Mrs. Whorff seconded it. Vote (4-0).

Ms. Powers said that she was concerned about the burden on the tax payers. She said that a lot was out of the board's control, but it does concern her, and she hopes it does not create a burden on some of the tax payers. She stated that she had asked a lot of

questions of the superintendent, because it seems like there are a lot of staff for the number of students. She expressed that the needs of the students are currently significant, and the amount of resources and time needed to tend to special education is also significant, and she felt that was a necessary position. She felt that there would be value added to the staff and students to have outside perspective and support. She asked why the position had been cut.

Mr. Hinds commented that the board was concerned about the impact to the tax payer and needed to make some hard choices. Mrs. Thompson said that she was asked to prioritize and she prioritized ensuring the students had the support they needed and that there would be staff available to respond to those needs. Mrs. Whorff stated that she had not voted to support the cut. The board discussed whether or not they should reinstate the position. Mrs. Thompson said that she would be concerned about that given the Budget Advisory Committee had already approved the budget, and that she's really careful to only budget and ask for what she feels is necessary and needed. Mrs. Whorff stated that she had asked for it and budgeted for it and she felt that that position should be reconsidered.

Mr. Hinds requested a recess to review the financials with the superintendent.

Upon return, Mr. Hinds made a motion to transfer the funds the board had just captured through the reduction in tuition to special education contracted services to allow the superintendent to work within the budget and with potential grant funds to fund a director or similar position within the scope that was initially presented. Mrs. Whorff seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

Mr. Hinds said that the total proposed budget is \$4,402,942.37 and the total local contribution is \$3,857,113.86.

Mr. Hinds made a motion to adopt the budget. Mrs. Whorff seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

### **Public Comments**

None

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

1. April 12, 2023 at 6 PM - Regular Meeting of the School Board of Directors – Approval of Warrants

### **Adjourn**

Mrs. Whorff made a motion to adjourn at 6:38 PM. Mrs. Werner seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Thompson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emily Thompson