

## **West Bath School Administrative Unit**

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

May 17, 2023 at 6:00 PM

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**Members Present:** Keith Hinds, Alexandra Jungbluth, Joanne Powers, Casey Whorff

**Members Absent:** Izabela Werner

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Mr. Hinds. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Mr. Hinds thanked the West Bath residents for overwhelmingly supporting the school budget at town meeting. He thanked Sheriff Joel Merry for moderating. He commented that it is the last board meeting before the end of the school year, and he wished to thank the staff for persevering through a challenging year in challenging times. He said that he had deep appreciation for them and the work they do.

#### **Approve/Amend Minutes of 4/12/23**

Mrs. Jungbluth made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mrs. Powers seconded the motion. Vote (3-0).

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

Mr. Hinds said that there would be no staff report due to illness, no executive session, and therefore no return to regular session as listed on the agenda.

Mrs. Whorff arrived at 6:03 PM.

#### **Public Comments:**

None

#### **Committee Reports**

1. Policy Committee – Mr. Hinds said that the policy committee had met and reviewed the public comment policy as recommended by MSMA. It did not need changes and no policies are being brought forward.
2. Facilities Committee – No Report

3. Finance Committee
  - a. Payroll Warrants – Mr. Hinds signed payroll warrants on 4/14 and 5/5.
  - b. AP Warrants - Mr. Hinds and Mrs. Werner signed AP warrants on 5/2 and 5/16.

### **Superintendent's Report**

1. Financial Report - Mrs. Thompson said that with 12 % of the year remaining, 23% of the budget remains. When the amount to be applied to the next budget is removed, 21% of the budget remains. She pointed out the negative lines in special education on page 1 and 2, and reminded the board that there were funds in the special education teacher line to offset the ed tech line. She also pointed out the over-expenditures in contracted services, but commented that it is offset by the “other” line as well as special education tuition
2. District Updates -
  - a. Better World Day – Mrs. Thompson commented that May 5th was better world day - a day of service for EL schools. The school’s theme this year was Kids Helping Neighbors. The 3rd-5th grade students were deployed in the community to conduct spring clean up and weeding in neighbors' yards, helping them to prepare for the change of seasons. Kindergarten, first, and second grade students planted planters, painted rocks, and made cards of appreciation for our neighbors. The second grade students delivered the gifts of kindness that afternoon. Additionally in the afternoon, all staff and students worked on cleaning up our school yard, weeded and mulched our gardens, and planted our planters, and a small group built a new compost system with parent volunteers! The kid captains, Laney and Alice, shared our project with the EL Network in the community circle, and represented us all so well: By the end of the day, the students and staff had raked and picked up more than 1,000 pounds of winter debris - a measurable impact on the community! It was a wonderful day, and the school is grateful to have the opportunity to give back to the West Bath community which supports the school so much. She gave special thanks to Lexie and Fred Jungbluth, Catherine Larsen, Caylee Racioppi, Whitney Taggart, Camille Kauffunger, and Sarah Garant for their help and support that day.
  - b. MEA/State Assessment – Mrs. Thompson let the board know that there had been a change in the state assessments that they should be aware of. She said the state merged the MEAs with the NWEAs, which are our local assessment. The school has been pleased with that merger, because the NWEAs are a tool that the staff finds to be valuable, and is utilized to set goals and monitor growth and progress all year. She said that this spring, the state has made some changes to the testing, and have adjusted the NWEA test that we have used in the past - calling it the through year assessment. It is no longer adaptive, and instead uses of bank of grade level questions. The results are not instantaneous. The state is going to take our results, benchmark them to do standard setting, and then report those standards back out to us in August. They say that the RIT scores will still be able to be compared to prior scores. Mrs. Thompson said that there is some concern for the school, as students are accustomed to knowing their scores, understanding the growth, and the data has been useful. Once data becomes available in August, the staff will have to determine how much value in the data there still is for instructional purposes, and make a plan to move forward.

- c. Water Quality Assessment – Mrs. Thompson followed up on recent water quality assessment results, that found that with first water testing, there was evidence of lead in the water in the handwashing sinks and in the kitchen sink. The water filling station had no signs of lead. She explained that prior testing had been flush testing, and had shown that there were no concerns in the lead levels of the drinking water. She said that flush testing is considered to be a better example of what is experienced during a school day, while first draw testing identifies the worst case scenario. She told that board that since sending out notice to families, confirmation flush testing confirmed that results in all but two hand washing sinks were testing within the normal limits with those two sinks following in the “consider mitigation” range. She explained the action plan to the board, stating:
  - 1. We will continue to encourage students to bring a water bottle to school each day, which can be refilled at our water fountain/filling station as needed. If a student does not have a water bottle, they will be given one as often as is necessary so they always have access to water.
  - 2. Classroom sinks will continue to be used for handwashing only, and will be posted as such so there is no confusion for anyone in the building. Antiquated drinking spickets in classrooms will be removed to also eliminate any possibility of confusion.
  - 3. We will be conducting confirmation testing before this week ends, and will run both flush testing and first draw testing, along with source testing to isolate where the contamination is coming from to better support mitigation efforts.
  - 4. I met with the school plumber to look at filtering options for the kitchen, and we will be looking to install a filtration system in the kitchen as soon as possible so there is no question about the safety of our cooking water.
  - 5. All drinking and cooking water will come from the filtered water fountain until other filtration methods are in place and tested to be normal.
  - 6. Individual filtration systems will also be installed in the staff room and nurse’s space as the next priorities after the kitchen. Until that time, water will be accessed through the filtered bottle filling station.
- d. End of Year Events – Mrs. Thompson reviewed the end of year schedule with the board.
- e. Bus Contract – Mrs. Thompson notified the board that she has received confirmation about the upcoming sale of Bath Bus Service and therefore she is ready to move forward to with the new contract as planned.

## **Old Business**

### **1. Comprehensive Planning Ad-Hoc Committee Request**

Mrs. Thompson said that she had received a request from the town to formally review the education component of the comprehensive plan by June 30<sup>th</sup>. She recommended that she meet with the adhoc representatives to review the draft and the updates, and then present it back to the board for feedback at the June meeting.

## **New Business**

1. Approval of Probationary Teachers

Mrs. Thompson shared the slate of probationary teachers with the board, recommending them for professional certification.

Mr. Hinds made a motion to approve slate as presented. Mrs. Jungbluth seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

2. Enrollment Projection

Mrs. Thompson said that when the budget was created, there was the intention to fill the need the school had in special education with a classroom teacher, as a teacher on assignment, as they were exiting 2 5<sup>th</sup> grades and entering 1 kindergarten class. She said that in the last three weeks, enrollment had climbed from the 14 projected to 19, and possibly, 20. They screened 17 on Monday at kindergarten screening, and two more are scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup>. She explained that the class size policy says that the range of a kindergarten class should be 11-18, with a recommended size being 16. Depending on the decisions made by families, the school may need to move toward having two kindergarten classes - which ultimately is a good thing, as we want increased numbers, and thankfully we retained all of our teachers through the budget process.

3.

Mrs. Thompson expressed concern with going that route in that the school still needs to have the special education needs be addressed. She asked for permission to post an anticipated special education teaching position so that they can begin the process of finding potential candidates in the event there are two kindergarten classes. If they find that we do not need to have two kindergarten classes, we will remove the posting and go back to the original plan.

The board showed consensus to allow for Mrs. Thompson to move forward with a posting. Mrs. Jungbluth stated that the class size policy should be reviewed to take another look at the recommended class sizes.

**Public Comments**

None

**Set Next Meeting Dates and Locations**

1. June 21 – WBSAU School Board of Directors Meeting at 6 PM

**Adjourn**

Mrs. Whorff made a motion to adjourn at 6:41 PM. Mrs. Jungbluth 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