

## **West Bath School Administrative Unit**

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2024 at 6:00 PM

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**Members Present:** Nathan Briggs, Keith Hinds, Joanne Powers, Izabela Werner, and Casey Whorff

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Patrick Bowdish, David Hennessey, 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 reminded the group that there was a special town meeting the next night to vote on the lease for the communications tower. He encouraged the board and public to attend if they are able to.

He thanked the community and staff for their tremendous turnout at the benefit the prior week.

#### **Approve/Amend Minutes of 1/17/24**

Mrs. Whorff made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/17/24. Mrs. Werner seconded the motion. Vote (5-0).

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

None

#### **Public Comments:**

None

#### **Committee Reports**

1. Finance Committee
  - a. Payroll Warrants – Mr. Hinds signed payroll warrants on 1/9, 2/2, 2/16, and 3/1.
  - b. AP Warrants – The AP warrants were signed by Mr. Briggs on 1/3, by Mrs. Whorff and Mrs. Werner on 1/21, by Ms. Powers, Mr.Hinds, and Mr. Briggs on 2/14, and by Mr. Hinds and Mrs. Whorff on 3/6.

## Superintendent's Report

1. Financial Report – Mrs. Thompson reported that with 33% of the year remaining, 36.65% of the budget remains. She said that her biggest concern is that very little, if anything, is going to be available to carry forward, which leads to a challenging budget season.
2. District Updates –

Mrs. Thompson reported that the school had wrapped up the WinterKids WinterGames with a 3rd place finish, earning another \$1,500 for our school to support outdoor education.

She stated that on February 14th, the school celebrated kindness day, which is the school's spin on Valentine's Day. The K-2 students made pins of appreciation for grocery store workers. They also made heart and rainbow posters for area pediatricians' offices. 3rd grade reprised a past kindness day activity and made paper flowers, and went to downtown bath to pass out flowers and notes of kindness to people on the street and business owners. 4th grade continued their partnership with Winship Green, making cards and writing letters to the residents. And 5th graders surprised all other classrooms in the school with a scavenger hunt, that led them back to their classroom and into a quick but joyful movement break/dance party.

Following winter break, the staff and students reentered to a school spirit week, which once again was designed to be literacy based to recognize Read Across America week. Each themed day was matched with a book, which was read aloud in class, and the week ended with community readers coming to read to classrooms. Special thanks to readers: Jessica Bollinger, Katherine Larsen, Caylee Racioppi, Sarah Garant, Jessica Walker, Trent Vellella, Grace Cooney, and Lexie Jungbluth!

Mrs. Thompson said that she would also like to thank the Bath Freemasons, who have selected West Bath School as their school this year to sponsor the bikes for books program. Students are encouraged to complete an entry slip for every book they read between February 16th and April 10th, and entry slips are then added to a bucket in their classroom. On April 10th, they'll draw two tickets from each classroom - one for a boy, and one for a girl to win a new bike and helmet! That's 14 bikes the masons are donating to West Bath students!

Mrs. Thompson reported that the school choice window opened in January, and closed February 14th for school choice applications in grades 6-12. Letters were sent out to applicants approving their requests, equaling 24% of 6-12 students accessing school choice. She reported that she had had a conversation with a neighboring district that day regarding the difficulty they are having with having some families paying the difference between what West Bath pays for tuition and what the district charges. She said they had raised the question of what our responsibility to them if the family does not pay their portion. She suggested that the policy committee review school choice again and add language with clearer expectations for families.

She said that kindergarten enrollment has started, pre-k MOUs are in place and registration is about to begin.

Mrs. Thompson shared the letter regarding the waiver that the DOE sent in response to the board's request. The student days have been waived. Mrs. Thompson requested that the board also waive the requirement of having the faculty make up those days, consistent with what other districts are deciding, and said she had had a meet and consult with the association who agreed to this being non-precedent setting. Mr. Hinds requested that Mrs. Thompson add this as an agenda item to a future meeting.

Mrs. Thompson shared the change in CDC guidance regarding COVID, which was released on the Friday prior. She explained that covid is now grouped with respiratory virus guidance, along with the flu and RSV. Their recommendations are to stay up to date on vaccines, practice good hygiene, clean frequently touched surfaces, and take steps to have cleaner air through purifiers or meeting outdoors. They ask students and staff to stay home when sick, and until at least 24 hours after both symptoms are better overall and you've not had a fever. We'll continue to connect our nurse with families when talking about reintegrating back to school.

## **New Business**

### 1. Out of State Field Trip Request

Mrs. Thompson shared an out of state field trip request for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Boston trip. They discussed the agenda and fundraising.

Mrs. Whorff made a motion to approve the field trip request. Mrs. Werner seconded the motion. Vote (5-0).

## **Old Business**

### 2. Board Goals

Mr. Hinds shared last year's board goals with the board members. The general consensus was that they liked the intent of the goals. Ms. Powers questioned the word "standards" and suggested that they name habits of character instead. Mr. Hinds made a motion to approve the updated goals. Ms. Powers seconded the motion. Vote (5-0).

### 3. Approval of Contract with Bath Bus Service

Mrs. Thompson shared the proposed three year contract with the board. They discussed the benefits of a three year contract, but also had concerns about the upcoming school of guarantee determination, and potential changes to the start times in RSU1 that may impact future bus runs. The favored approving a 1 year contract due to the unknowns a year from now. Ms. Powers also asked for a professional development clause to be added to the contract.

Ms. Powers made a motion to empower the superintendent to rewrite the contract with Bath Bus Service to allow for a 1 year contract, and containing a professional development clause, and then to sign it. Mrs. Whorff seconded the motion. Vote (5-0).

4. Budget Calendar

Mr. Hinds shared the proposed budget calendar with the board. He made a motion to approve the calendar. Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. Vote (5-0).

**Public Comments**

None

**Set Next Meeting Dates and Locations**

1. March 20, 2024 – WBSAU School Board of Directors Meeting at 6 PM.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Hinds made a motion to adjourn at 6:37 PM. This was seconded Mrs. Whorff. Vote (5-0).

Submitted by,

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

Emily Thompson