

West Bath School Administrative Unit

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Members Present: Nathan Briggs, Keith Hinds, and Joanne Powers,

Members Absent: Izabela Werner and Casey Whorff

Others Present: Emily Thompson and Bob Weir

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Mr. Hinds. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Comments from the Chair:

None

Adjustments to Agenda:

None

Public Comments:

None

Old Business

1. Second Reading of the School 2024-2025 School Budget

Mr. Hinds facilitated the second reading of the budget, sharing the cost center amounts, any increases, decreases, and percentage increases or decreases.

Mr. Hinds made a motion that the budget include 4% increases for non-union positions. Mr. Briggs seconded that motion. Vote (3-0).

Mr. Hinds said that the board had assumed that custodial contracts would have come in close to what is currently being paid now, and that is not what happened. Therefore, the board is underbudget from the lowest proposal. He recommended that the board pause on the two shelving projects, and move \$9,496 from the maintenance line to the cleaning line to help to offset costs. Ms. Powers said that the board is between a rock and hard

spot, and they do not have a lot of leeway.

Mr. Hinds made a motion to move \$9,496 from the maintenance line to the cleaning line. Ms. Powers seconded the motion. Vote (3-0).

Mr. Hinds said that would like to make a motion to add \$25,000 from the current budget to the carry forward line. Ms. Powers seconded that motion. Vote (3-0).

Mr. Hinds completed a final reading of the budget, which included:

- 01 - Regular Instruction - \$1,025,173.65/increase of \$49,249.00 or 5.05%
- 02 - Regular Instruction Tuition - \$1,698,141.31/increase of \$47,507.18 or 2.88%
- 03 - Special Education Instruction - \$791,892.49/increase of \$124,294.16 or 18.62%
- 04 - Special Education Tuition - \$28,000/no change
- 05 - Other Instruction - \$4,500/no change
- 07 - Student & Staff Support - \$328,953.77/increase of \$37,971.03/ or 13.05%
- 08 - System Administration - \$110,280.75/increase of \$9,478.33 or 9.4%
- 09 - School Administration - \$217,147.64/increase of \$7,966.87 or 3.81%
- 10 - Transportation - \$180,625.00/decrease of \$7,456.38 or -3.96%
- 11 - Operation/Maintenance - \$232,840.00/decrease of \$4,398.00 or -1.85%
- 13 - Food Service - \$50,000/no change

This creates a total proposed budget of \$4,667,554.56/increase of \$264,612.19 or 6.01%

The proposed revenue includes:

- State Subsidy - \$298,342.59
- Carry forward - \$25,000
- Carry forward from the undesignated fund balance - \$0

The local contribution is \$4,344,211.97/increase of \$487,098.11 or 12.63%

Ms. Powers said that she is worried about how we can sustain and keep “our little school”. She said that it is hard to deal with what we have now, but we have pending legislation for ed techs and CDS, and what kind of increases are those going to bring? She worries that tax payers cannot afford it.

Mr. Hinds said he hears what she is saying and improvements in how special education is funded, and changes to the school funding formula are going to be crucial. He said that he watched a recording of the Budget Advisory Committee’s meeting and at that time it did not seem that there was going to be in increase in anyone’s taxes due to the amount of new housing in the community. Ms. Powers said that made her feel better, as “West Bath is not a wealthy district by any means.”

Mr. Weir commented from the audience that he wanted to come back to the point that he

does serve on the investment committee and there are funds for long-term capital projects, and that West Bath is a debt free town.

Mr. Hinds made a motion to approve the school budget. Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. Vote (3-0).

Public Comments

None

Set Next Meeting Dates and Locations

1. April 24 – Special Budget Meeting of the WBSAU School Board of Directors
2. May 9 - Public Information Session @ 6 PM @ Fire Hall
3. May 15 – Regular Meeting of the WBSAU School Board of Directors
4. May 16 - Annual Budget Town Meeting @ 6 PM @ West Bath School

Adjourn

Mr. Briggs made a motion to adjourn at 6:45 PM. This was seconded Ms. Powers. Vote (3-0).

Submitted by,

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

Emily Thompson