

## **West Bath School Administrative Unit**

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

May 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM

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

**Members Absent:** Nathan Briggs

**Others Present:** Patrick Bowdish, Emily Thompson, and Bob Weir

#### **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:**

None

#### **Approve/Amend Minutes of 4/10/24, 4/17/24, 4/24/24, and 4/30/24**

Mrs. Whorff made a motion to approve the minutes of 4/10/24, 4/17/24, 4/24/24, and 4/30/24. Mrs. Werner seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

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

None

#### **Public Comments:**

None

#### **Executive Session**

Mr. Hinds made a motion to enter into an executive session pursuant to Title 1, Chapter 13, Section 405,6,D. of the M.R.S.A. for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations between the WBSAU and the WBEA at 6:01 PM. Mrs. Whorff seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

The board returned to regular session at 6:39 PM.

#### **Committee Reports**

1. Finance Committee

- a. Payroll Warrants – Mr. Hinds signed payroll warrants on 4/12, 4/26, and 5/10
- b. AP Warrants – The AP warrants were signed by Mr. Hinds and Mrs. Whorff on 4/30 and 5/15.

## **Superintendent's Report**

1. Financial Report – Mrs. Thompson reported that with 12% of the year remaining, 17.82% not accounting for that day's AP, leaving 14.92% of the budget. She said that there is currently 2% of wiggle room as they enter the final month of payments.

She stated that an additional audit extension was sent for 22-23, and she'll reach out to request information on timing.

2. District Updates
  - a. EL Credentialing – Mrs. Thompson shared that the school had received their letter confirming that they had earned their full EL credential for the next 5 years, through August 2029.
  - b. Better World Day – Mrs. Thompson shared that Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> was Better World Day - a day that EL schools use to focus on acts of kindness and service.

This year, the school's Better World Day project focused on the ripple effect of kindness, which Miss Marco had orchestrated. Her third grade class created a video and organized the concept of the project which was then taken on schoolwide. Mrs. Marco's class also provided kindness stickers for all of the kindness cards, and made sure that all students and staff received stickers as well.

Mrs. Bosso's and Mrs. Harris' class made kindness cards and included some information about Maine for another kindergarten class in Ohio who was seeking some information about Maine. Mrs. Beal's first grade class planted forget-me-nots with Mrs. Streevey in honor of their beloved classmate to bring home. They also have started to make paper forget-me-nots that will be attached to their kindness cards to be distributed next weekend. Mrs. Jarvis' second grade students planted the garden beds, getting our spring vegetables planted and preparing for the garden festival, and made kindness cards to distribute to participants, encouraging the ripple. Mrs. Sawyer's fourth grade students made cards of appreciation and enclosed them in a package containing kindness cards and Kind bars for a navy pilot's squadron in the South Pacific. Ms. Goulet's fifth grade class read kindness books to the pre-k students at the Bath YMCA, and had some time to play as well. They distributed their kindness cards to pre-k staff to start their ripple.

- c. West Bath Garden Festival – Mrs. Thompson said she wished to take a moment to give appreciation and kudos to Beth Jarvis and Suzi Newton, who along with their garden committee orchestrated the most wonderful inaugural garden festival last Saturday. With numerous special guests including Bath Garden Club, The Food Corp, West Bath Composting Committee, the famous West Bath dahlia lady, Fred Jungbluth, local arborist, Ashlie Labbe from our food service program, and the Maine Cooperative extension to discuss pollination - there were numerous booths

for people to come and learn, games to play, face painting, pumpkin planting, seed and plant sharing, tool demonstrations, and more. Everyone who left left with huge smiles on their faces, and saying that this needs to happen again next year. She again thanked Beth, Suzi and the numerous volunteers.

- d. Library Author Visit – Mrs. Thompson announced that last week Mrs. Fuller, who with support from a grant from the Maine Literacy Fund organized an author visit, with local author Jennifer Richard Jacobson. Each classroom had the opportunity to participate in a workshop and learn about how your own life can help to influence your writing, how to develop stories, characters, and utilize research in your writing, as well as the importance of revision. The school ended the day in a schoolwide crew meeting with Ms. Jacobson, learning how to develop characters in a way that really showcased how well our students can infer information. It was a wonderful day! She shared that the students will utilize the information they gleaned from our expert as they create our spring products for our expeditions.
- e. End of Year Activities
  - i. spring concerts - 3-5 on 5/21, k-2 on 5/23
  - ii. Celebration of Learning scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>
  - iii. Field day scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup>
  - iv. Boat launch and 5th grade step up June 14<sup>th</sup>
  - v. Last day of school June 17<sup>th</sup>

## **Old Business**

### 1. Public Hearing/Town Meeting Discussion

Mr. Hinds commented that the public hearing on Thursday went well, and people were engaged and asking questions. He felt the sentiment of the room seemed supportive and understanding of the challenges that schools face and things that the school system does not have control over. He said that he spoke about what it meant to be a minimum receiver. Mrs. Whorff said that she felt the engagement of the community was great, and Ms. Powers commented that the questions from the community were more clarification questions rather than budget questions.

Mrs. Thompson commented that she appreciated having Suzanne read the articles, and it provided a nice give and take in the conversation and comments and clarifications between the two.

## **New Business**

### 1. Approval of Probationary Teachers

Mrs. Thompson presented the slate of probationary teachers, providing her recommendation to approve the slate. Mr. Hinds agreed, but said that he is concerned about only having a 2% budget and the next budget has not yet been approved. He would like to table the agenda item.

Mr. Hinds made a motion to table the agenda item. Ms. Powers seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

2. Set 2024-2025 Board Meeting Dates and Times

Mr. Hinds reviewed the calendar as proposed.

Mr. Hinds made a motion to approve the calendar. Ms. Werner seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

**Public Comments**

None

**Set Next Meeting Dates and Locations**

1. May 16 - Annual Budget Town Meeting @ 6 PM @ West Bath School
2. June 12 – Regular Meeting of the WBSAU School Board of Directors @ 6 PM
3. July 17 – Regular Meeting of the WBSAU School Board of Directors @ 6 PM
4. August 21 - Regular Meeting of the WBSAU School Board of Directors @ 6 PM

**Adjourn**

Ms. Werner made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 PM. This was seconded Mrs. Whorff. Vote (4-0).

Submitted by,



Emily Thompson