

## **West Bath School Administrative Unit**

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

June 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM

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

**Members Absent:** Izabela Werner

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

#### **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 expressed congratulations to everyone for successfully finishing up the school and wished the class of 2024 well wishes. He gave appreciation to the superintendent and staff for all that they accomplished in the last few weeks of school with so many successful activities and family events.

#### **Approve/Amend Minutes of 5/15/24**

Mrs. Whorff made a motion to approve the minutes of 5/15/24. Ms. Powers seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

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

None

#### **Public Comments:**

Mr. Weir commented that he attended with joy the celebration of learning, and it was impressive what each of the classes presented, and the EL program is outstanding. He commented that West Bath provides an amazing school experience, and he applauds the superintendent and staff for a great day and a great year.

#### **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 6:04 PM. Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

The board returned to regular session at 6:36 PM.

## **Committee Reports**

1. Finance Committee
  - a. Payroll Warrants – Mr. Hinds signed payroll warrants on 5/24 & 6/7.
  - b. AP Warrants – The AP warrants were signed by Mr. Hinds and Mrs. Whorff on 6/5.

## **Superintendent's Report**

1. Financial Report – Mrs. Thompson reported that with 3.8% of the year remaining, 4.655 of the budget remains. She stated that there was one more payroll and one small AP remaining.

She commented that substitute costs for the year were \$15,000 more than usual, course reimbursements were \$10,000 more than usual, all contractors and supplies were twice as much, and with the increase in tuition costs, and absorbing a kindergarten classroom, she was happy to see this fiscal year coming to a close.

2. District Updates
  - a. Celebration of Learning – Mrs. Thompson said that the COL on June 12<sup>th</sup> had been well attended. She expressed that she had placed a copy of the program in the board packet.
  - b. Field Day – She stated that field day on 6/13, organized by Mrs. Houghton the PE teacher, was outstanding. She thanked the numerous parent volunteers who devoted their day to help to make it such a fun event, including Katherine Larsen, Kate Nicholson, Crystal Streevey, Danyelle Layton, Heidi Fowler, Sydney Perkins, Jessica Bollinger, Caylee Racioppi, Michael Dunning, Roxanne Wyman, Becky Gilmore, Morgan Vigue, Audrey Patterson, and Zach Sewall.
  - c. Boat Launch/Step Up Ceremony – On June 14<sup>th</sup> the 5<sup>th</sup> graders successfully launched the two beautiful skiffs that they had built this year at the Maine Maritime Museum. She said that the rowing instruction that had been provided through PE in the fall definitely improved the launching experience, and the students did quite well. She said that that same afternoon the school held the 5<sup>th</sup> grade step-up award ceremony, recognizing the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. She commented that this was a special group of kids, as every child who began at WBS in kindergarten remained all the way through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. She also commented that this was the one class who had experienced WBS both before the pandemic and after-the pandemic. She said they are a close knit group and she looks forward to watching them continue to support one another as they move forward.

## **Old Business**

1. Approval of Probationary Teachers

Mr. Hinds made a motion to take this agenda item off the table and consider it for approval. This was seconded by Joanne. No discussion. Vote (4-0).

Mr. Hinds made a motion to approve the approve the state of probationary teachers as presented. Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Vote (4-0).

## **New Business**

### 1. Approve Labor Contracts

Mr. Hinds made a motion to consider the approval of the West Bath Education Association 24-27 and West Bath Education Association for Secretaries and Educational Technicians 24-27 Contracts together. Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

Mr. Hinds stated that there were two contracts in front of the board for consideration, commenting that this had been the longest negotiation process they've had thus far, but they reached a tentative agreement for consideration. He said that the contracts had a few minor changes, such as gender neutral language, changes to parental leave, cash in lieu of benefits, and there was language tightened up around absenteeism and unpaid leave. He discussed the financial impact of the 3-year contracts.

Mr. Hinds made a motion to approve the contracts as presented. Ms. Powers seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

### 2. Personal Items (Report)

- a. Mrs. Thompson announced the retirement of educational technician, Elena Desjardins, and read her letter aloud to the board. Mr. Hinds thanked Mrs. Desjardins on behalf of the board for her decades of dedication to the school and community, and wished her a happy retirement.
- b. Mrs. Thompson announced the resignation of educational technician, Kristina Barnett, who is leaving to accept a teaching position. Mr. Hinds thanked Ms. Barnett for her service and wished her well in her new role.

## **Public Comments**

None

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

1. August 21 - Regular Meeting of the WBSAU School Board of Directors @ 6 PM

## **Adjourn**

Mr. Briggs made a motion to adjourn at 7:51 PM. This was seconded Ms. Powers. 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