

## **West Bath School Administrative Unit**

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

October 16, 2024 at 6:00 PM

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

**Members Absent:** Casey Whorff

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mr. Hinds. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Mr. Hinds welcomed everyone to the meeting. He recalled that the first meeting of the WBSAU board of directors, and his first meeting was April 8, 2015. He commented that it has been fun ride, the seas have not always been calm, but he's proud of what the board has accomplished during his tenure. He thanked the staff, board members, and community members, and commented that his last meeting feels bittersweet and that he looked forward to the next chapter.

#### **Approve/Amend Minutes of 8/21/24**

Ms. Powers made a motion to approve the minutes of 8/21/24 as presented. Ms. Werner seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

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

None

#### **Public Comments:**

Mr. Weir stated that he wished to thank Mr. Hinds for nearly 10 years of service and stated that his leadership has been exceptional.

#### **Committee Reports**

1. Finance Committee
  - a. Payroll Warrants – Mr. Hinds signed payroll warrants on 8/13, 8/30, 9/13, 9/26, and 10/8.

- b. AP Warrants – The AP warrants were signed by Mr. Hinds and Mrs. Whorff on 9/4, 9/18, and 10/1 and by Mr. Hinds, Ms. Powers, and Mr. Briggs on 10/16.

## Superintendent's Report

1. Financial Report – Mrs. Thompson reported that with 67% of year remaining, 81.9% of the budget remained. She commented that tuition payments for September and October have not yet been made and that will cause the report to be closer to expected. She said that all lines are tracking as anticipated at this time.

Mrs. Thompson shared that the 22-23 audit is actively being conducted.

2. District Updates

- a. Opening of School Update – Mrs. Thompson commented that the school had suffered a terrible loss of an important community member. While it has been a really good start to the year, this start has been challenged by the community's loss and grief, and the staff and students continue to work through that grief together each day.

She said that school wise, all is running well. Classes are attending fieldwork, 5th grade has had their Chewonki encampment, is participating in rowing instruction in PE with Kennebec rowers and Mrs.H, and has started boat building at the Maritime Museum. She said that school-based committees are all up and running, and they've merged the GT, RTI, SAT committees into a new organized process called multiple tiers of student supports, or MTSS.... Allowing the staff to better work as a team to make sure they are responding to needs of students.

She commented that enrollment has increased slightly, with new students at each grade level, and 17 adorable new kindergarten students. She encouraged board members, if they are ever in need of a smile, to come to visit the kindergarten classroom.

- b. October Professional Development Day – Mrs. Thompson said that the year's professional development plan, is as always, is driven by the school work plan, which is developed through a data review from the prior year. Having just completed credentialing, the staff and school also are in the place where they are feeling ready to layer on significant new learning.

She said that the staff is digging into the science of reading, and while the school's data shows they have strong readers, the staff recognizes that as a whole they do not all speak the same language, and lean heavily on the expertise of the special education reading teacher, who at some point does want to retire. Therefore, the staff is working on universally developing their understanding of how to teach the 5 components of beginning reading in a systematic way.

Mrs. Thompson said that they also continue to work on the goal of developing the students' and staff sense of belonging, the concept of #wearecrew, and are focusing on consistent use of crew structures in classrooms, and developing further opportunities for vertical interaction.

- c. Fall Testing/MEAs - Universal screenings have been completed at K-2 with NWEAs, and fall MEA/NWEA testing has been completed as well. Just that day, the staff was able to begin to work with the student data to begin goal setting for staff and students.
- d. 5th Grade Chewonki Experience – Mrs. Thompson said that the 5th grade students will present at the November board meeting, but she wanted to let the board know that they had an incredible 4 day, 3 night encampment experience at Chewonki. Like in the past, they participated in group challenges, high elements, farm and food studies, estuary studies, and the owl program. The weather was beautiful, which certainly helps, but by all accounts, the students had a terrific experience. She said, she would like to thank Mrs. Moore for all of the work and time she put into preparing and attending. Learning from some experiences of homesickness last year, she had preliminarily surveyed families to better understand concerns, and pre-think how families might want homesickness to be handled. She also proactively had families write a letter from home with thoughts and encouragement, which were given to students on the second to last day. Mrs. Thompson said she would also like to thank Garrett Olson, who chaperoned as well. He was the perfect fit for the group. She extended her appreciation to the Sagadahoc County Sheriff’s Department as well, as he was scheduled to work that week, but was granted paid leave to accompany the students. She said it was a lovely example of #wearecrew.
- e. Quarter 1 Attendance – Mrs. Thompson shared the quarter 1 attendance with the board, and discussed truancy and chronic absenteeism data.
- f. RSU1 School Start Time – Mrs. Thompson let the board know that at this time RSU1 is no longer anticipating any changes to their start times unless there is further directive from the state Department of Education.

## **New Business**

### **1. Public Communications - Discussion**

Mr. Hinds shared that in the board packets there is an email thread. He said that as the school board knows, when we receive emails addressed to the full school board they can not “reply all” as it constitutes an online meeting. He wanted to be sure that the full email thread was available to the full board and be sure that board members had the opportunity to offer up any points if they so chose to.

There was no comment.

Mr. Hinds mentioned that in the board packet was also information about the board’s policy on Freedom of Access and board members were encouraged to review both the policy and the training.

### **2. Withdrawal Agreement Update**

Mrs. Thompson provided the board with information regarding the process of developing tuition agreements. The board discussed what could be done prior to a town meeting which would grant the board permission to negotiate a tuition agreement and the need for

public input after the board has been granted permission to negotiate.

Mr. Hinds made a motion to empower the superintendent to explore interest in a tuition agreement with neighboring districts to help to inform future negotiations. This was seconded by Mr. Briggs. Vote (4-0).

### **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,F. of the M.R.S.A. for the purpose of discussing confidential records at 6:41 PM. This was seconded by Mr. Briggs. Vote (4-0).

The board returned to regular public session at 6:58 PM.

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

1. November 20th - Regular Meeting of the WBSAU School Board of Directors @ 6 PM

### **Adjourn**

Mr. Hinds made a motion to adjourn at 6:58 PM. This was seconded Mr. Briggs. 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