

West Bath School Administrative Unit

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Members Present: Nathan Briggs, Joanne Powers, Izabela Werner, Casey Whorff, and Bob Weir

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Patrick Bowdish and Emily Thompson

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:042PM by Mrs. Whorff. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Comments from the Chair:

No Comments

Approve/Amend Minutes of 12/18/24

Mrs. Werner made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/18/24 as presented. Mr. Weir seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

Adjustments to Agenda:

None

Public Comments:

None

Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee
 - a. Payroll Warrants – Payroll was signed by Mrs. Whorff on 12/20 and 1/2/25.
 - b. AP Warrants – The AP warrants were signed by Mrs. Whorff on 12/30 and 1/15 and by Mr. Weir on 12/26 and 1/15

Superintendent's Report

1. Financial Report – Mrs. Thompson reported that with 25% of year remaining, 61% of the budget remained. She expressed that including the warrant that was signed prior to

the meeting, 61% of the budget remained. She said that everything is tracking as expected at this point. She explained that tuition rates for this school year have been received. They board had budgeted for a 4% increase with 2 additional students per level. In actuality, 6-8 was a 1% increase and 9-12 was a 5.4% increase, with enrollment exactly as anticipated. With the number of students who enrolled in voc programming, and the known tuition costs, there's an estimated savings of \$65,000, which, Mrs. Thompson said is a better situation than the board was in at this time last year.

2. District Updates

- a. School updates – Mrs. Thompson reported that the school was in the midst of their testing window, and updated MTSS/intervention meetings would be held the following week. Hour of Code that was postponed in December, and hosted by Mrs. Moore and Mr. Bowdish, is rescheduled for the following evening.
- b. WinterKids – Mrs. Thompson said that this year the school would not be participating in the Winterkids Wintergames, and instead will be a part of the play along track, allowing them to pick and choose the activities that make sense for the school's programming allowing for less of a time commitment and more flexibility, but still promoting outdoor opportunities.
- c. Quarter 2 Attendance – Mrs. Thompson shared the quarter 2 attendance
- d. School Choice Update – Mrs. Thompson shared with the board the intentions for school choice applications. She said that she was far enough in the process of negotiations that she felt that she could send out application for school choice, with decisions to be made later in March.

Old Business

1. Board Goals

Mrs. Whorff made a motion to take board goals off of the table for discussion. This was seconded by Mr. Briggs. Vote (5-0).

Ms. Powers said that she's been thinking about the board goals and having something fresh and new. She was thinking about following the lead of RSU1, banning cell phones in schools. She questioned whether teachers inadvertently are promoting social media usage and feeding into that culture. She said that she recognizes that teachers are using it to share information with families, but when pictures are posted are they contributing to social media culture? She shared that she had read a good book about the topic, and that every time a picture of a student is taken and it is posted it sends a subtle message. The board discussed the pros and cons of photos being taken and shared on social media, and decided rather than updating goals, the policy committee would review their relevant policies and go from there.

The board did make an adjustment to the language of K-12 students, and altered it to say Pre-K to 12 students.

Mrs. Whorff made a motion to approve the updated board goals. Mrs. Werner seconded that motion. Vote (5-0).

2. Tuition Agreement Discussion

Mrs. Thompson asked the board for their general ideas of what they wished for in a tuition agreement. The consensus was that having the maximum amount of time (10 years) for the agreement would be preferable, so families would be able to plan. They also wished to keep the 75/25 ratio for school choice. Mr. Weir commented that when collecting signatures to run for the board, many community members commented on how important that was to them. Mrs. Whorff said that it was important to her that there was a school of guarantee, and she's seeking stability. There was consensus within the board that a survey of the community was not needed.

Given the time of evening, Mrs. Whorff made a motion to continue the agenda. Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. Vote (5-0).

New Business

1. Personnel Item – Announcement

Mrs. Thompson announced that Katie Yeatts had been hired as the new office manager, and had begun on January 6th. She shared Mrs. Yeatts' qualifications and reference information with the board.

2. Budget Calendar

Mrs. Whorff shared the budget calendar with the board, to ensure that the dates/times worked for enough members of the board that there would be a quorum for each meeting.

Mrs. Whorff made a motion to approve the budget calendar. Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. Vote (5-0).

Public Comments

None

Set Next Meeting Dates and Locations

1. March 12 @ 6 PM – Regular Meeting of the School Board of Directors

Adjourn

Mrs. Whorff made a motion to adjourn at 7:48 PM. This was seconded Mr. Briggs Vote (5-0).

Submitted by,

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

Emily Thompson