

West Bath School Administrative Unit

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2025 @ 6 PM

Members Present: Nathan Briggs, Izabela Werner, Casey Whorff, and Robert Weir

Members Absent: Joanne Powers

Others Present: Suzanne Andresen, Patrick Bowdish, and Emily Thompson

Call to Order:

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

Executive Session:

Mrs. Whorff made a motion at 6:02 PM 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 personnel matters. Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

The board returned to regular session at 6:24 PM.

Comments from the Chair:

Mrs. Whorff expressed to the board that she had heard back from the Budget Advisory Committee in support of the proposed budget.

Approve/Amend Minutes of 3/12/25 and 3/26/25

Mrs. Whorff made a motion to approve the minutes of 3/12/25 and 3/26/25. Mr. Weir seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

Adjustments to Agenda:

1. Mrs. Thompson requested to have the board table the calendar conversation when they reach that item of the agenda. She said that the faculty's conversation was rich and out of the box and she'd like to continue that conversation for one more week before bringing the calendar to the board for review.

Public Comment

Mrs. Andresen said that she knows the board is working on the budget, and is still very concerned. She asked, if the school does not get federal funding, what the plans will be to phase in the costs? She asked if there would be a plan to allocate local funds now, and more later, to cover the cost of federal funds if subsidy is not provided.

Mrs. Thompson said that the subsidy is state funded, and is not at risk of not being funded. She gave an overview of the federal funds that are in question. Mrs. Whorff said that the board has not discussed alternatives to funding.

Mrs. Andresen asked about what the current cost per student was. Mrs. Thompson provided the information that the state had calculated. Mrs. Andresen said that her calculations are different than that and that she does not come up with the same number. They discussed K-12 special education costs.

Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee
 - a. Payroll Warrants – Mrs. Whorff signed payroll warrants on 3/14 & 3/28.
 - b. AP Warrants – Mr. Weir and Mrs. Whorff signed AP warrants 3/19 and 4/2.

Superintendent's Report

1. Financial Report – Mrs. Thompson stated that with 22% of the year remaining, 33% of the budget remains (29% after the AP warrant). Lines are tracking close, but as expected. Areas of overage are in special education, due to unanticipated substitute and tuition costs as the board has discussed.
2. District Updates
 - a. Emergency Waiver – Mrs. Thompson said that she had received notification from the commissioner's office that day that the request to have the December emergency day waived was denied, as expected. The deputy commissioner mentioned if there is a "hardship" to making up the day the board can apply again, but at this time it was not going to be considered.
 - b. Tuition Agreement – Mrs. Thompson notified the board that that tuition agreement with RSU1 has been signed, and filed with the Department of Education. The Deputy Commissioner has confirmed that it is in their possession and ready to be in effect beginning July 1 for the next 10 years.
 - c. Author Visit – Mrs. Thompson shared that last Wednesday WBS had a wonderful author visit with Chris Van Dusen. He spent the day in workshops with each grade level, and discussed what it is like to be an illustrator, where his illustrations might be seen other than in books, discussed several of his books, and discussed the book making process. He read to students, and also had in interactive illustration activity. The presentation was high energy and engaging. Mrs. Thompson said she would like to thank Mrs. Fuller for organizing this visit, and also for applying to the Maine Literacy Fund which help to fund a portion of this visit.

Old Business

1. Review of Contract between WBSAU and Bath Bus Service, LLC

Mrs. Whorff made a motion to take the contract off the table to allow for discussion and voting. Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

Mr. Briggs made a motion to approve the contract between WBSAU and Bath Bus Service, LLC. Mrs. Werner seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

2. Second Reading of the 2025-2026 School Board Budget and Board Vote

Mrs. Whorff requested that personnel items that were discussed in executive session be incorporated into the budget prior to a second reading, along with a shift of increasing substitutes and long-term substitutes by 2,500. She called for a recess at 6:38.

The board returned from recess at 7:19 PM.

Mrs. Thompson conducted a second reading of the budget, having incorporated the requested changes.

Mrs. Whorff made a motion to approve the budget as read. Mrs. Werner seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

With the budget having been adopted, Mrs. Whorff made a motion to eliminate 1 special education teacher. Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. Vote (4-0). Mrs. Whorff made a motion to eliminate 1 special education ed tech position. Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

New Business

1. 2025-2026 School Calendar

Mrs. Whorff made a motion to table the school calendar. Mrs. Werner seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

Public Comments

None

Set Next Meeting Dates and Locations

1. April 16, 2025 – Special School Board Budget Meeting - Approve Warrant @ 3:00 PM

Adjourn

Mrs. Werner made a motion to adjourn at 7:27 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