

West Bath School Administrative Unit

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2025 @ 6 PM

Members Present: Nathan Briggs, Joanne Powers, Izabela Werner, and Robert Weir

Members Absent: Casey Whorff

Others Present: Patrick Bowdish & Emily Thompson

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Ms. Powers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Comments from the Chair:

Ms. Powers commented that as the school year winds down, she hopes there's fair weather for all of the end of year events, graduation, field day, and field trips. It would be nice to have the weather cooperate.

Approve/Amend Minutes of 4/2/25 and 4/16/25:

Mr. Briggs made a motion to approve the minutes of 4/2/25. Mr. Weir seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

Mr. Briggs made a motion to approve the minutes of 4/16/25. Mr. Weir seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).

Adjustments to Agenda:

None

Public Comment

None

Committee Reports:

1. Finance Committee:

- a. Payroll warrants were signed by Mrs. Whorff on 4/11 and 4/18 and by Mr. Weir on 5/9.
- b. AP warrants were signed by Mr. Weir and Mrs. Whorff on 4/16 and 4/30, ad by Ms. Powers, Mr. Briggs, and Mr. Weir on 5/14 and 5/21.

Superintendents' Report

1. Financial Report – Mrs. Thompson said that with 12% of the year remaining, 17.80% of the budget remained. She commented that as expected, the special education expenses are overextended, due to an out of district placement, special education transportation, and unexpected long-term sub expenses. She said that the district is making up for that a bit because the K-12 contracted expenses were slightly less than anticipated. But as they prepare to pay the final bills of the year, if the district needs to access the special education reserve account to offset the out of district expenses, she'll be prepared to do that. The other area that will be overdrawn is maintenance, but that was known going into the year because we settled on a contract that was more than the board had budgeted for, and contractor and supply costs are so much higher than budgeted. Right now it looks like there will have about a 2% margin at the end of the year.

Mrs. Thompson stated that she had received word from the department of education that next year's federal funding has arrived in Maine, and while allocations have not been received yet, they are forthcoming and districts can start to plan for their federal funding. This does not apply to school nutrition federal funds.

She shared two bills that were currently in legislation, including LD 577: An Act to Maximize Federal Funding and Protect Maine's Universal Meal's Program and LD 1103: An Act Regarding Unallocated Fund Balances in a School Administrative Unit Budget. She also mentioned LD 318 which requires the continuation of reviewing the funding formula. She commented that with the notes, there's no mention of looking at the impact on minimum receivers and the board should continue to pay attention to this.

Mr. Weir stated that Paul Coombs was trying to pick up the baton and work with legislators and create energy around the issue, but the big problem is with the way the state allocates money. If they were to give minimum receivers more it means other districts are going to get less.

2. District Updates:

Mrs. Thompson commented that May is the busiest time of the year!

She said that since the board had last met they've had our final round of student-led conferences, two spring concerts, and lots of experts visits and fieldwork to support the spring expeditions - including a tour along the Freedom Trail in Boston, at the Franco Center, The Holocaust and Human Rights Center, and Old Fort Western. Upcoming field work is at the Southworth Planetarium, and Jillson Farm for the 3rd Graders to release the salmon they've raised. The spring Celebration of Learning is June 11th at 1:45. She encouraged all board members to attend. She said that Mrs. Fuller had traveled with the math team to participate in the middle level math league, and celebrated that every member of the team scored! She also supported the 4th and 5th grade students at RSU1s Battle of the Books. Mrs. Ouellette brought two students to the elementary honors music festival on May 3rd, where they participated in a full day of music and movement instruction, and then performed with the rest of the honored district 3 students.

Kindergarten and first grade students have learned to ride bicycles in adventure PE, with some kindergarten students already at the expert level and able to teach others. And the school has had kindergarten screening for next year's kindergarten.

Mrs. Thompson shared that during the April break she had met with Mr. Jim Atherton and members of the Bath Rotary Club, as they wanted to discuss a grant opportunity that they offer that helps to create connections between the Rotarians and local organizations. She said they had drafted a proposal to fund and plant a native shrubbery fence line behind the garden to create a natural safety barrier and to help to improve pollination of the garden. Even if the grant does not get funded, there's likely to be a newfound connection between the school and the Rotarians that she is looking forward to.

She commented that the school had celebrated Better World Week the week following spring break. Our overall goal was to help to support the concept of reducing, reusing, and recycling, and that items that we may no longer have use for may be beneficial or bring joy to others. To that extent, the school hosted a yard sale on Saturday, May 3rd with clothing and children's items donated from staff, students, and the community, and resold by donation. The event was well attended and well received.

The school is currently in the midst of spring testing window for the state assessments in reading in math for grades 3-5, science for grade 5, and local assessments for K-2. Most should be finished by the end of the week, and the staff will be able to begin to look at the data to determine how we've done with meeting our goals. Additionally, the staff had taken the implementation review today, which is the self-assessment of how the school is doing with meeting the criteria of the EL education expectations, and spent the day conducting learning walks to collect observational data measuring moves adults make to increase students' sense of belonging. All of these data points, along with the high-quality work that comes out of the expeditions helps the staff to measure our success and set goals for next year.

Upcoming events:

- 5/22 - 5th Grade Sea Dogs Trip @ 9 AM-2:15 PM
- 5/27 - 1st Grade Fieldwork @ Southworth Planetarium @ 9-11:30 AM
- 5/30 - Talent Show @ 2 PM
- 6/4 - Parade of Graduates @ 11 AM
- 6/10 - 4th Grade Fieldwork @ Edward Ginoux US Courthouse @ 8:45-11:15 AM
- 6/11 - Celebration of Learning @ 1:45-2:15 (K-2) and 1:45-2:30 (3-5)
- 6/12 - 5th Grade Boat Launch @ 11 AM @ Sawyer Park, Brunswick
- 6/13 - Field Day
- 6/16 - step-up ceremony
- 6/17 - Last Day of School

Old Business

1. Public Hearing/Town Meeting Discussion

Ms. Powers shared that on May 6th the town had their public hearing, to have residents

and tax payers go through the town warrants and school budget.

She said that tomorrow would be the annual town meeting at the school at 6 PM. She hoped that tax payers would come and support the school budget.

New Business

1. Personnel Item(s): Report
 - a. Resignation:
 - i. Elizabeth Jarvis, Classroom Teacher
Mrs. Thompson shared the resignation of Elizabeth Jarvis after 11 years of service.
2. Personnel Item(s): Action
 - a. Hiring:
 - i. Meredith Post, Classroom Teacher
Mrs. Thompson shared the nomination of Meredith Post. Mr. Weir made a motion to approve the nomination. Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).
 - ii. Sarah Gagnon, Classroom Teacher
Mrs. Thompson shared the nomination of Sarah Gagnon. Ms. Werner made a motion to approve the nomination. Mr. Weir seconded the motion. Vote (4-0).
3. Set 2025-2026 Board Meeting Dates and Times

Ms. Powers shared the proposed board calendar for 25-26. She 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 22 - Annual Budget Town Meeting @ 6 PM @ West Bath School
2. June 11 – Regular meeting of the WBSAU School Board of Directors @ 6 PM

Adjourn

Mr. Briggs made a motion to adjourn at 6:28 PM. This was seconded Ms. Werner. Vote (4-0).

Submitted by,



Emily Thompson