

West Bath School Administrative Unit

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2026 @ 6 PM

Members Present: Nathan Briggs, Kayla Hughes, Joanne Powers, Robert Weir, Casey Whorff

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Patrick Bowdish, Emily Thompson

Call to Order:

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

Comments from the Chair:

There were no comments.

Approve/Amend Minutes of 12/17/25:

Mrs. Whorff made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/17/25. Mr. Weir seconded the motion. (Vote 5-0).

Adjustments to Agenda:

None

Public Comment

None

Committee Reports:

1. Policy Committee: Mrs. Thompson reported that the policy committee had met the week prior and discussed updates to JFABA and JCLDB which will be later in the agenda. We also continued to talk about staff cell phone policies and updating the network agreement policies to make them more relevant for the current age, but those are not ready to come forward to the board for discussion at this time. There's more work to do be done in committee still.
2. Finance Committee:
 - a. Payroll warrants were signed by Mr. Weir on 12/19 (both the 12/24 and 1/7 payroll) Mrs. Whorff on 1/15.

- b. AP warrants were signed by Mr. Weir and Mrs. Whorff on 1/6, and Mrs. Whorff and Mr. Briggs on 1/14 and Mr. Weir on 1/15.

Superintendents' Report

Financial Report – Mrs. Thompson stated that with 38.4% of the year remaining, 50% of the budget remains, and that lines are tracking well. She reminded the board that there is a special education tuition payment that has not been paid that will bring the line closer to expected, but she said she was pleased with how things are tracking overall.

1. District Updates:

- a. Mrs. Thompson provided school updates, saying they were in the midst of testing windows and that updated MTSS/intervention meetings would be held the following week. She said they are seeing lots of great mid-year progress.
- b. WinterKids – Mrs. Thompson said that the school is again participating in the playalong track of WinterKids Winter Games, allowing them to pick and choose the activities to participate in. Being a part of the playalong track allows for less of a time commitment, but still promotes outdoor opportunities. She commented that they've loved the amount of snow this winter, and it's allowed for the 4th graders to cross country ski each week of winter so far.
- c. Quarter 2 Attendance – Mrs. Thompson shared the quarter 2 attendance.
- d. School Choice Update – Mrs. Thompson said that school choice applications had been sent out, and she will continue to collect them through 2/14.

Old Business

ECSE Transition - Mrs. Whorff made a motion to take this agenda item off the table. Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. Vote (5-0).

Mrs. Thompson said that she had completed the district's self-assessment and continuous quality improvement tool to identify the districts' readiness for assuming FAPE for 3 and 4 year olds. She said that in most areas, everything is in place or well established with the current programming for preK. The one area in initial stages was that the district does not offer transportation. She reviewed the areas of strength and the opportunities for growth. She recommended that the board sign on for option – assuming the responsibility for 4-year olds during the 26-27 school year. This would allow for another year to review and study the 3 year old programming and needs, survey the community, and part of the professional development support that is being offered by the DOE for the next year. This feels like a more supportive process than jumping all in with FAPE for both 3 and 4 year olds the following year with little to no support.

Mr. Briggs made a comment about staffing and the potential of hiring a special education director.

Mrs. Hughes made a motion to approve the motion of commit to option 1, providing FAPE for 4 year olds beginning in 26-27. Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. Vote (5-0).

1. Review of Board Policies

- a. JFABA – School Choice – Mrs. Thompson explained the changes to the policy, stemming from the new tuition agreement with RSU1 and a change needed to support state testing.

Mrs. Whorff made a motion to approve the policy as presented. Mrs. Hughes seconded the motion. Vote (5-0).

2. Board Goals

Mrs. Whorff made a motion to take the agenda item off the table. Mrs. Hughes seconded the motion. Mrs. Whorff asked if board members had any recommended revisions to the goals presented the prior meeting. Mrs. Hughes shared goals that she had drafted with the board.

The board discussed the goals as presented, discussing whether or not items that are already happening should be a goal, and what the process for revisiting goals throughout the year should be. Mr. Weir commented that he liked they way they were written and made a motion to approve the goals as presented. Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. Vote (5-0).

New Business

1. First Reading of Board Policies

- a. JLCDB – Administration of Naloxone Hydrochloride

Mrs. Whorff gave a high level overview of the policy JLCDB for a first reading.

- b. Budget Calendar

Mrs. Thompson shared the budget calendar, noting that there was room to add more meetings if the board felt there was a need to do so, and showing tentative dates for the budget advisory workshops and public hearing.

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

Public Comments

There were no public comments. Mrs. Whorff spoke into the cameras and encouraged those who are watching on line to come to future meetings.

Set Next Meeting Dates and Locations

- 1. February 25, 2026 - Regular meeting of the WBSAU School Board of Directors @ 6 PM

Adjourn

Mr. Briggs made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 PM. This was seconded Ms. Powers. Vote (5-0).

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Emily Thompson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emily Thompson