

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 28, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 28, 2025 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Michael, Jon Bakken, June Rezac, Jeff Stangler, Jay Schneider, Brenda Heuss, Troy Tolzman, and Jocelyn Brown attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting was Superintendent John Regan and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

Motion by Tolzman and seconded by Heuss to approve the agenda. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Stangler to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 24 and Special Meetings from March 27, April 3, and April 10. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Rezac to approve the March-April Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,820,386.76, deposits were \$1,506,550.55, and transfers of \$979,000.00. Bakken commented on a check in the amount of \$505,786.45 which was costs which were paid before the bond sale was finalized.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION

Band Teacher Jared Larson gave a presentation on the Spring 2026 Band/Choir trip to Washington D.C.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Tolzman to approve the band/choir trip.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Rezac to approve the consent agenda which included the following items:

- Approve the following 2024-2025 Spring coaches:

Clay Target - Tyson Cooley and Doug Androli, Co-Coaches, \$1,000.

Flag Football - Tanya Jensen and Krystal Quamme, Assistants, \$500.

Boys and Girls Track - Macy Anderson, Junior High, \$2,575 and Volunteers David Harriman and Matthew Van Houdt.

- Approve the following hires:

Claire Elness, Peer Tutor, \$12/hour.

Loryn Caldwell, Peer Tutor, \$12/hour.

Tatum Richards, Peer Tutor, \$12/hour.

Kayla Bronk, Peer Tutor, \$12/hour.

Marshaun Brown, Student Custodian, \$14.41/hour.

Deanna Thibedeau, Assistant Cook/Baker, Band A-1-3/Step H, \$15.20/hour.

Adelia Atherton, Elementary Counselor, BS50/MS Step A, \$48,140.

- Approve the following resignations.
Tiffany Schmidtke, Elementary Teacher, effective June 2, 2025.
Sara Jeffries, SACC, Effective April 11, 2025.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

REPORTS

WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson submitted the following report:
Waterville Campus Information

74 students are showcased at the Paradise Center for the Arts in downtown Faribault. Art pieces are from students K-12 and will be on display through April 12. Mrs. Kelly and her art classes work hard on each piece throughout the year. Many other pieces are displayed near the fine arts area of the high school.

We celebrated our administrative assistance (Deb Wollin and Becky Taylor) on April 23 for National Administrative Assistance Day. Thank you to Deb and Becky for their years of service to the district and for helping maintain the flow of the building starting in the front office.

We completed our final drill for the year with the severe weather awareness day on April 10.

Students and staff participated in a severe weather drill which coincided with the statewide prevention and practice.

WEM's Catalyst Coach was in-district on April 7 and spent time in classrooms working with staff on student behavior management and instructional strategies. Their time shared in the district was hosted in the afternoon at Waterville Elementary.

K-4

MCA Testing was completed during the weeks of April 7-11 and April 14-18. Elementary students testing math and reading MCAs are Grades 3 and 4.

The American Legion and Auxiliary helped to sponsor Purple Up day with elementary students. This day honors the families and children of servicemen and women. Thank you to Patty Whitehurst for being a contact between the school and Legion/Auxiliary programs of Elysian.

Enrollment for summer school continues through the month of April. Planning with enrollment numbers and staff hiring for summer school will take place in May.

9-12

MCA testing was held on April 23 and 30th. Sophomores tested in Reading, Juniors were assessed in Math and Science. During our testing morning on April 23 freshmen students participated in the annual Respect Retreat hosted by Youth Frontiers. This program is supported with funds through the district's Achievement and Integration Grant. Our seniors ventured out to help clean up the exterior of the campus area including the playground, parking lot and softball fields. They also extended their trash pick-up radius to parts of Waterville and the Sakatah Trail.

Juniors who elected to take the ACT earlier in the month experienced unforeseen circumstances. The administration sent communication to families and provided alternatives for testing if students elect to do so in June. Score results take approximately two weeks to be shared with students and WEM. Scores are expected to be sent to students and WEM on or around the week of April 28. The next testing deadline for registration is May 9 allowing students to retest if they wish based on their known score results.

Congratulations to physical education/health teacher: Connor Scharf. Connor and his fiancé welcomed their first child, a son on April 22!

Planning and preparation is taking place for May events: Prom, Data Summit, Senior Class Trip, Graduation Rehearsal/Commencement, Night of Excellence, Pop's Concert and Last Day of School.

WEM Principal Myles Knutson submitted the following report:

Greetings School Board Members,

Here are a few updates from the Middle School:

- Catalyst Coaching: I am proud to announce that Ashley Landru and Laura Sammon are the first two teachers in the district to become Catalyst Foundational Skills certified teachers. They have worked extremely hard all year and took advantage of multiple professional development and Catalyst coaching opportunities to get where they are today. This is a huge accomplishment that impacts our whole school community! Way to go Ashley and Laura!

- D.A.R.E Graduation: 5th graders completed the D.A.R.E program with Rice County Sheriff Deputy Lisa Arens over the past 10 weeks. Students went through lessons and activities that will provide them with life skills to make good decisions as they begin their young adult journeys. We celebrated their accomplishment with a graduation ceremony in the gym along with family members present. I am very thankful we have the D.A.R.E program here at the middle school and look forward to continuing that relationship with Rice County for years to come.

- Conservation Crew Update: Mr. Androli and his 7th/8th grade Conservation Crew have been hard at work on their upcoming Spring projects. Currently they are building 30-40 Wood Duck houses that will be spread out through the surrounding areas. I saw a lot of great teamwork and problem solving happening as they first attempted to assemble the houses this week. Thank you to the Elysian "Silver Lakers" for donating all the supplies for the Wood Duck houses. Our Conservation Crew couldn't have made it happen without them!

Thank you,

Myles Knutson

WEM Activities and Community Education Director Jeff Boran submitted the following report

ACTIVITIES

CONGRATULATIONS to the WEM Speech team members on qualifying & participating in the State Tournament (Friday April 25, 2025 in Shakopee HS). Maddie Heuss (12) qualified Extemporaneous Speaking . She placed 3rd in Section 2A. & Claire Elness (12) qualified in Great Speeches was the Section 2A. This was e 3rd trip to state!

CONGRATULATIONS to WEM Visual Arts participants: the Region 2A Visual Arts Event was held at TCU HS,

Superior Medals and Certificates:

Halle Fessel, Drawing * Spotlight* STATE bound!

Clara Neutzman, Ceramics *Spotlight* STATE bound!

Madison Foster, Drawing *Perfect Score* (1 of only 6 in the Section event)

Randi Selbrade, Painting

Morgan Flohaug, Drawing and Sculpture

Sophia Harvey, Mixed Media

Noah Lanham, Drawing

Simon Lohry, Graphic Design

Grace Norton, Painting

o Excellence Certificates:

Lilly Henson, Sculpture

Owen Frodl, Ceramics

Madison Smith, Mixed Media

Derek Weeks, Drawing

Jaelyn Wilmes, Sculpture

Maddison Wilker, Sculpture and Mixed Media

Sections Participant:

Cody Akemann, Crafts

A special Congratulations to Halle Fessel and Clara Nuetzman who were selected to participate in the State Visual Arts Festival on May 10 at the Perpich Center.

2025 Spring Activities, Baseball, Softball Track & Field, Clay Targets and Girls Flag Football are all currently in the midst of the regular season

Community Education

Registrations are open for Summer 2025 swimming lessons, camps, youth sports, behind the wheel training, driver education classroom, summer school age childcare, etc. are on-line for registration or will be very soon when all arrangements have been made.

Little Bucs Preschool is registration is open with spots still available! 41 students currently registered.

WEM Board Member Reports

There were no Board Member reports.

WEM Board Committee Reports

There were no Board Committee reports.

WEM Superintendent John Regan presented the following:

- Superintendent Regan commented on State Speech entrants, working on student board member for next year. gave appreciation to the staff, newly hired Superintendent Mark Winter has been in touch with Regan and they are working on the transition, gave a construction update on the HVAC and the work in the auditorium.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

The board had the first readings of the following policies (See attachments):

704 Development and Maintenance of an Inventory of Fixed Assets and a Fixed Asset Accounting System.

706 Acceptance of gifts

710 Extracurricular Transportation

721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources.

Single Site Update - The Board will be holding a special meeting May 8 to present the results of the study.

ACTION

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Stangler to approve a memo of Understanding Between ISD #2143 and Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Education Association Local #7281 Union.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Heuss to approve the following policies:

01 Legal Status of the School Board

202 School Board Officers

203 Operation of the School Board - Governing Rules

203.1 School Board Procedures; Rules of Order

203.2 Order of the Regular School Board Meeting

203.5 School Board Meeting Agenda

203.6 Consent Agendas

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Heuss and seconded by Michael to approve the 2024-2025 contracted agreement with Minnesota Valley Education District - Teacher of Deaf/Hard of Hearing, \$2,273.40

Seven member voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Rezac to rescind Policy 537 Student Pregnancy and Parental Status (1994).

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Tolzman to rescind Policy 538 Anti-Discrimination (1994)

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Rezac to rescind Policy 539 Title IX Grievance Procedures (1994).

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Tolzman and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest