

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, February 27, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 27, 2023 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6:32 p.m.

Board Members Michael, Brenda Heuss, June Rezac, Troy Tolzman, Jeff Stangler, and Jay Schneider attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Superintendent Ryan Jensen and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approve the agenda. Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Tolzman to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 23, 2023. Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Schneider to approve the February Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,124,232.36, deposits were \$966,304.72, and transfers were \$850,000. Comments on the report included a payment of \$16,533.18 to South Central Service Cooperative for work in the Elysian Building, a payment of \$3,093.91 to Timm's Trucking & Excavating for snow removal and clearing parking lots, a payment of \$1,250 to the University of Wisconsin business office for scholarships from the Lions Club and Bob Kuball, a payment of \$24,687.37 to Deml Ford for a transportation van, a payment of \$44,268 to Leisure Time Tours for the band and choir trip to Texas, and a deposit of \$37,800 in insurance funds from wind damage to the front of the Waterville building.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

PRESENTATION

There was a presentation by Special Education Director Heather Harms. This is her seventh year as director and she oversees the special education departments at WEM, Waseca, JWP, and NRHEG. A total of 149 students at WEM receive special education services. 100 percent of the special education teachers are licensed and the caseload is 17 to 1.

There was also a presentation by Ashley Landru and Rachel Wetzel on the 5th grade Eagle Bluff Trip. A total of 50 students took part in this trip.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Approve the following 2022-2023 Coaches -

Baseball: Joshua Smith, Head Coach - \$5,450; Macullen Lemcke, 1st Assistant - \$3,885.

Softball: Crystal Lamont, Head Coach - \$5,450; Kelsey Bauer, 1st Assistant (60%) - \$2,331; Madison Dufault, 1st Assistant (40%) - \$1,554.

Boys Track and Field: Jonathan McDonough, Head Coach - \$5,450; Matthew Van Houdt, 1st Assistant - \$3,885.

Girls Track and Field: Mike Richards, Head Coach - \$5,450; Carrie Richards, 1st Assistant - \$3,885.

Clay Target: Doug Androli - \$750 and Tyson Cooley - \$750.

B. Approve the following hires:

Madeline Balfe, Peer Tutor - \$12/hour.

Andrew Velishek, Junior High Play Director - \$1,216.

C. Approve the following Request for Leave of Absence:

Jeanne Bronstad, Assistant Cook - Beginning April 10, 2023 and continuing until doctor approves return to work.

Tricia Slayton, Paraprofessional - beginning March 14, 2023 and effective possibly eight weeks.

D. Approve the following resignation:

Hanna Richardson, Early Learning Coordinator/Teacher effective the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

RECOGNITION

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Tolzman to approve the following monetary donations:

A donation of \$1,500 from the Le Sueur County Sheriff's Youth Project for the school district.

A donation of \$600 from the Waterville Lions Club for the elementary school.

A donation of \$1,000 from Jerry Miller for the Linda L. Miller Scholarship.

A donation of \$500 from Debbie Kuball for the Bob Kuball Scholarship.

Donations of \$8.40 and \$9.80 from the Casey's Loyalty program for the elementary school.
Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

REPORTS

WEM Principal Bobbie Jo Bastian and WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson submitted the following report:

All District

In celebration and to honor all U.S. Presidents, district students and employees did not have school on Monday, February 20. The week also included a few weather impacts to traditional, in-person learning.

PreK-6 Report

Earlier this month fifth grade students went to Eagle Bluff for the annual field trip. Students, chaperones, and teachers had a great time. A huge thank you to the 26 chaperones that attended and to many throughout the community who helped support this trip by participating in the various fundraisers. An even bigger thanks to Mrs. Landru, Mrs. Wetzell, and Mr. Svendsen for their leadership and organization to make this trip happen.

PreK-4th grade students celebrated I Love to Read Month with a variety of reading activities concluding with an all school Read & Feed Friday, Feb. 24. School Age Care students celebrated with guest reader all month. Thanks to Mrs. Holicky for organizing this fun activity.

PreK-6th grade teachers are excited to welcome parents for conferences March 9 and 16.

PreK-6th grade students are participating in FFA/Snow Week dress up days alongside the high school.

7-12 Report

The high school band and choir performed for a winter concert on February 6. Performances were stellar! In addition to the concert the Fine Arts Boosters hosted a bake sale which again was a huge success. A BIG BUCS thank you to the WEM Fine Arts Boosters and all those parents/students who provided sweet treats for the event.

Juniors and seniors participated in a Reality Day Event. The event took place at the high school in the morning of February 8. Local volunteers from a variety of businesses took part in helping to create the event. The reality event was similar to The Game of Life where students were given an occupation and an average salary expected with their occupation to live on while creating a budget and paying typical bills. At some points of the event a student may have received a speeding ticket or an unexpected vet bill for their pet. To complete the event students needed to have a balanced budget and bills paid before exiting. A big thank you to our community for supporting this event as well as Mrs. Reuvers (high school counselor) and Kelsey Rose (South Central Service Cooperative) for helping to organize the event.

WEM is continuing their partnership with To Zero Deaths, a program Le Sueur County has developed. Last year we hosted a rotation of simulations including driving impaired and seatbelt/airbag deploying. This year, on April 17 we will host a speaker, Mr. Maas, to speak on the importance of safe driving. The date was selected in lieu of prom shortly thereafter.

All freshmen students attended the career navigator on February 17. The event was held at South Central College-Mankato. The primary purpose of the event is to expose students to career fields, educational needs within those fields and develop an introduction to post-secondary options.

Snow Week Coronation was held on February 21. Candidates included freshmen Kaitlyn LaFrance and Auston Holicky, Clare Landrum and Spencer Nordstrom & Jocelyn Brown and Brenden Snesrud. Sophomore candidates Anna Nielsen and Ivan Pratt, Ashlyn Pelant and Brody Holicky & Loryn Caldwell and Nathan Boese. Juniors Kylie LaFrance and Dylan Holicky, Izabela Slechta and Tim McGraw & Katrina Brekke and Luke Michael. Senior candidates Emma Woratschka and Ethan Greenwald, Daelyn Judd and David Lamp & Alexa Gleasen and Eddie Crosby. Our 2022-2023 royalty are king and queen: Ethan Greenwald and Emma Woratschka, junior prince and princess: Luke Michael and Izabela Slechta, sophomore prince and princess: Anna Nielsen and Ivan Pratt and freshmen prince and princess: Auston Holicky and Kaitlyn LaFrance.

National FFA Week was February 20-24, but due to inclement weather student activities were postponed for the week of February 27-March 3. The WEM FFA will host dress-up days, lunch activities, and the finale of the week: Students vs. Teachers with gym activities.

High school art teacher, Ms. Katie Brown has worked with students to enter art pieces in the Minnesota Senate Art Display. Artwork from students across the state are submitted and selected by senators. Once submitted the art pieces are put on display for the rest of 2023. The following student submissions were selected: Addison Condon (9th grade) to represent District 22, Madison Foster (10th grade) to represent District 44, Clayton Jans (11th grade) to represent District 20, Caleb Caron (11th grade) to represent District 23.

Joe Miske made a visit to WEM on February 16. Joe is the regional AVID representative for our area in Minnesota. Joe's visit was to discuss future goals of the WEM AVID program and touch base on various pilot programs AVID is exploring not just in Minnesota but across the country. WEM's AVID program has been in place for many years with part of the program's goals assisting and promoting post-secondary options, exposure to college and career readiness as well as academic guidance.

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran submitted the following report:

Girls Basketball:

The girls finished the season 16-8 overall and 11-4 in the Gopher Conference. The girls are the #3 seed in the Section 2AA South Subsection. The Bucs will host St. Clair (#6 Seed) tomorrow night Tuesday February 28 at 7 p.m. If we win the quarter final game we would play at Mankato East, Thursday March 2 at 6 p.m. The Sub Section Championship will be Monday March 6 at MSU and the Section Championship Friday, March 10 at MSU. The All-Gopher Conference Selections will be made this Wednesday (3/1/23) and not released until all teams are finished competing.

Boys Basketball:

The boys regular season ends this week with games tonight (vs Minnesota Valley Lutheran) and Thursday at Blue Earth Area. Currently the boys are 4-18 overall and 3-12 in the Gopher Conference. Subsection 2AA seeding is Friday, 3/3. The first game for playoffs will be Tuesday March 7 at the High Seed site. Further rounds follow the same format and locations as the Girls tournaments. The All-Gopher Conference Selections were made Wednesday (3/1/23) and not released until all teams are finished competing.

Wrestling:

The Grizzlies finished the dual meet 13-12 on the season. They battled to a third place finish in the Section 2A Team Tournament held in St. Clair on February 18. The Grizzlies managed 11 placewinners in this past weekend's Section 2A Tournament at Maple River HS

highlighted by Brady Murphy (WEM 9th Grade - 106# Champion), Jack Cahill (JWP Senior - 220# Runner-up) & Keegan Kuball (WEM 10th Grade - Heavyweight Champion). His second straight Hwt. State Championship. These three have now qualified for the MSHSL State Individual Tournament scheduled for this Friday & Saturday at the ExCEL Center in St. Paul. All-Conference selections occurred last Wednesday Feb. 22, not released until after the State Wrestling Tournament. Big Shout Out!

On February 11, 2023 WEM Band and Choir students participated in the fourth Gopher Conference Honors Band and Choir and Visual Arts event. WEM participants in band this year included Angelina Dornquast, Reyna Dornquast, Ashley Zimmerman, Claire Elness, Shelby Krienke, Dylan Holicky, Alex Roemhildt and Madeline Heuss. WEM Choir representatives were Alayna Atherton, Daelyn Judd, Janessa Baumgarten, Milayna Watzek, Jordan Green, Avery Wetzel, Cree Groehler, Ahmad Alladin, Cameron Murphy, Timothy Jasperson, Jasper Morris and Cody Culhane.

Spring Activities

- The Band and Concert Choir perform in the Subsection 5A Large Group Contests next Monday, March 6 at Waseca HS.
- The spring School Play "The Fearsome Pirate Frank", by Pat Lydersen and directed by Andrew Velishek are busy preparing for a performance on Friday March 17 at 7:00 PM. Over 20 students, grades 6-10 are participating in the spring play.
- The Knowledge Bowl teams are also busy competing this late winter/ spring.
- Speech has begun competitions.
- 7-12 Boys and Girls Track practice begins Monday March 13.
- Softball begins practice Monday March 13. JH (7&8) Sb March 27.
- Baseball begins practice Monday March 20. JH (7&8) Bb March 27. Baseball pitchers and catchers can begin Monday March 13 for arm strengthening programs as per MSHSL rule.
- WEM Trap (Clay Target) get started in March as well.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- Spring/ Summer Activities are beginning and we are getting primed for a busy summer!
- Summer 2023 School Age Childcare registration is currently registering students with a limited availability based on our licensure..... The 2023-2024 school year registration will also begin soon.
- 2023-2024 "Little Bucs Preschool" registrations look to begin in March
- Driver Education will be having another Classroom session, with Summer Behind the Wheel sign up beginning in April for the 2023 summer.
- OTHER:
- The WEM Moving Forward Foundation will be hosting its 11th "Buc's Night Out" Saturday April 22 in Morristown at the Community Center. This is a recent change from April 1. I hope you are all able to attend!

WEM Board Member Reports

There were no Board Member reports.

WEM Board Committee Reports

There were no Board Committee reports.

WEM Superintendent Ryan Jensen presented the following:

- Jensen reported on a Le Sueur County Safety Workshop dealing with Narcon, a SCSC Professional Development meeting for superintendents, another meeting with Southwest Metro South Division Superintendents, a meeting with Rob Brown about a possible facilities study, and third quarter ending the middle of March.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

The board discussed the 2022-2023 calendar and the amount of school days students needed to attend in order to graduate from their classes. With the number of snow days and early release days on the calendar, the hours seniors have to attend are getting close to the minimum needed. The administration will keep a close eye on these hours and weather-related

closures. The district may need to add minutes to the school day or days at the end of the school year in order to accumulate the number of days students need to attend school. At this time there is no action being taken.

ACTION

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approve the sale of ag land. See attachment.

Six members voted by roll call vote - Heuss abstains, Rezac voted against, Schneider, Stangler, Michael, and Tolzman voted for - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest