

WEM School Board Work Session February 11, 2021

The special meeting of the Board of Education of the Waterville-Elysian-Morristown School District was called to order at 6:00pm on Thursday, February 11, 2021 by Chairperson Gary Micheal.

Board members in attendance were Gary Michael, Travis Bowman, Jeff Stangler, and June Rezac. Also present were Superintendent Joel Whitehurst , Principals Dr. Jennifer Wilson, and Bobbie Jo Bastian .

Motion by Jeff Stangler, seconded by Travis Bowman to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Jeff Stangler , seconded by June Rezac to approve changing the March 2nd two hour late start to a full day of instruction.

Discussion: Superintendent Whitehurst recommended change due to the fact that Friday's are already ½ day due to staff preptime . Roll call vote: Unanimous. Motion Carried

#### INFORMATIONAL:

Information regarding issues surrounding the 2020-21 budget and the 2021-22 budget presented by Superintendent Whitehurst. The district is expected to incur a net budgetary loss for the 2020-21 school year of -\$236,928.00. In addition, there is a decrease in the basic skills revenue of \$100,000. Basic skills revenue are state funds received, from families qualifying for the free/reduced lunch program. Including this loss the total net budgetary loss for the 2020-21 school year would be -\$336,928.00.

Whitehurst also presented the federal ESSER I allocations (\$88,747 accounted for), ESSER II (\$372,393 not spent), and the State Cares Act (\$200,127 spent). These funds will be, one time use, to help alleviate additional costs affiliated with COVID-19. Will not be able to use for future budgetary planning.

The budgetary loss estimated for the 2021-22 school year is -\$630,017.00. This loss will occur for a number of factors: decrease in the basic skills revenue, additional 2% inflationary increase in spending, and enrollment loss. Current operating fund levy per student is \$1800, and will conclude in 2025. Budgeted 2020-21 student body count was 770 with actual count of 750.

Information was shared regarding a transportation update. Superintendent Whitehurst shared that applications were reviewed and interviews held regarding the light duty mechanic position. Only one viable candidate was found with the qualifications needed for the position. The job has been reposted. Jeff Stangler and Whitehurst advised that this candidate would also have the qualifications as a heavy duty mechanic. This could affect beginning salaries due to the additional qualifications, but may be offset by no longer needing to outsource those types of repairs to other vendors. This type of mechanical work could possibly require additional equipment such as an automotive scan tool or other diagnostic equipment that the district currently does not have.

Information was shared by Gary Michael, that he and Superintendent Whitehurst would like the board members to consider the effectiveness and necessity of the Work Sessions if they should continue monthly or move to every other month or to an as needed basis. Further discussion regarding the work sessions will continue at a later meeting.

Motion by Jeff Stangler, seconded by Travis Bowman to adjourn the meeting at 6:31pm. Roll call vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Prepared by: June A. Rezac