

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 18, 2020, 6 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 18, 2020 at the Waterville Building in the Board Room. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Pam Baker at 6:05 p.m.

Present were Board Members Jay Schneider and Jeffrey Stangler. Board members Pam Baker, Travis Bowman, Dan Houlihan, Gary Michael, and Jon Velishek participated in the meeting via teleconference. Also present were Superintendent Joel Whitehurst, Principals Dr. Jennifer Wilson and Bobbi Jo Bastian, Activities Director Jeff Boran, and Business Manager Margaret Jewison,

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Stangler to approve the agenda. Six members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Baker to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 23, 2020. Six members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to approve the April 9, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes. Five members voted in favor by roll call vote - Schneider and Houlihan abstained - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Baker to approve the April 27, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes. Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Schneider to approve the May Finance report. The bills and payroll for the report were \$602,723.81, deposits were \$702,932.64, and transfers were \$500,000. Comments included a payment of \$37,937 to Sports Technology, Inc. for a new sound system from money donated by the Moving Forward Foundation, a payment of \$16,500 to Southwest State University for PSEO Tuition, a payment of \$266.75 to Bev Comm Business Solutions for technology services, and a five payments were pointed out for construction services.

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

VISITOR COMMENTS

Amy Cyr sent a letter dated May 13 which was read by Board Chair Pam Baker concerning 2020 graduation.

RECOGNITION

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Baker to approve the following monetary donations:

- * A donation of \$37,937 from the Moving Forward Foundation for new sound systems.
- * A donation of \$180 from American Legion Post 311.
- * A donation of \$180 from American Legion Auxiliary Unit 311.
- * A donation of \$180 from the Sons of American Legion Elysian Squadron 311.

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

REPORTS

WEM Principal Bobbi Jo Bastian presented the following report:
PreK-6 Grade

* Surveys to evaluate our time in Distance Learning have been sent out to parents, certified staff, support staff, and students. The administrative team will use the information gathered to help inform any future Distance Learning plans. Construction is well underway at both the Waterville Elementary and Morristown buildings. There are visible changes daily.

* On May 13, K-4 grade teachers gathered at school to welcome students as they returned to distance learning materials. Students were greeted with signs and treats.

* On May 15, 5th and 6th grade teachers gathered at Morristown School to say goodbye to students as they returned their distance learning materials.

* Summer School plans are quickly evolving. With recent MDE guidelines, we are working to create a plan that will ensure student and staff safety. Students attending summer school will be receiving information in the mail soon.

* We have rescheduled our spring preschool screening for early September.

* Kindergarten Round Up will be rescheduled for late August. Date to be determined pending construction progress. We are working to stay in communication with incoming kindergarten families.

WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson presented the following report:
7-12 Grade

* Graduation plans continued to evolve the month of May. We have received approval with our graduation plan from Le Sueur County Public Health. Graduation is now planned for Friday, May 22.

* The Night of Excellence was held virtually Wednesday, May 13. In total there was over \$23,000 in scholarship awards from local entities and over \$20,000 from outside scholarships.

* I am proud to announce the Class of 2020 Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Kelsey Kuball is this year's valedictorian. She has achieved a 3.992 GPA and is the daughter of Nathan and Shannon Kuball. Akalie Molitor is this year's salutatorian. She has achieved a 3.963 GPA and is the daughter of Richard and Jackie Molitor. Both Kelsey and Akalie have been heavily involved in school and community activities.

* WEM celebrates 25 Honor Students. To earn this honor students must achieve a cumulative 3.0 GPA throughout their high school career. Each honor student received honor cords.

* On Thursday, May 14 many staff members attended a senior send-off along Common Street. We had all but two seniors attend the send-off and it was a truly wonderful time to see our seniors, allow them to personally receive their awards from the Night of Excellence, and provide a final WEM meal.

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran's presented the following report:
SPRING ACTIVITIES

* Thank you to Danielle Wold and Dr. Wilson on last Wednesday night's 16th Annual Night of Excellence (1st Virtual Night) as many thousands of dollars in scholarships and honors were announced.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

* Summer School Age Care program will begin tomorrow Tuesday, May 19th, 2020. We currently have 30 students registered and we are working hard to be sure that all CDC cleaning and screening recommendations and per room limits are being adhered to.

* Driver Education update:

The March classroom has been finishing up via zoom meetings as approved by the MN DOT.

The scheduled May classroom will begin Monday, June 1. Due to the limit of 10 people in a room Mr. Zicafoose will be teaching the classroom in a Hybrid model with up to nine students in class and the others virtually using Zoom teleconferencing. We have 16 that had registered for the classroom prior to the shutdown.

Behind the Wheel will also begin Monday, June 1. Students will be signing up for two hour slots. Only one student at a time will be in the vehicle. The instructor will be responsible to

disinfect the inside of the vehicle between students again using recommendations we have received from several departments.

* At this time other programming is on hold until we have more updates and recommendations from pertinent authorities.

Board Committee Report:

* Chair Pam Baker gave a shout out to Margo Kulseth for her work as communications coordinator for the school district.

* Board member Travis Bowman said he was very happy with the way the teaching staff handled negotiations.

WEM Superintendent Joel Whitehurst presented the following:

* Whitehurst reported on some Legislative issues.

ACTION

* Motion by Bowman and seconded by Houlihan to approve FFA land rental bid (8 1/2 acres) to Marzahn Brothers in the amount of \$850. There was some discussion as to other options for this land.

Six members voted in favor by roll call vote - Stangler voted against - motion declared passed.

Motion by Baker and seconded by Michael to approve advertising for dairy products, snow removal, vehicle fuel, and fuel oil for 2020-21 school year.

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

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to approve facility usage agreement with Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. See attachment.

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

Motion by Michael and seconded by Baker to approve memorandum of understanding and local education agency agreement with Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc./Elysian Area Learning Center. See attachment.

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

Motion by Houlihan and seconded by Bowman to approve the May 22 graduation date.

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion

declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Michael to approve the proposed May 22, 2020 graduation plan. See attachment.

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

Motion by Michael and seconded by Bowman to approve the Master Agreement, July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021 with WEM Education Association (teachers). Total package increase of 6.75 percent, 2.56 the first year and 4.19 the second year. Adjustments in insurance were made by the teaching staff. See attachments.

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

Personnel

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Baker to accept the letter of retirement from Deborah Byrne, special Education Paraprofessional, effective June 1, 2020. Byrne has been employed by the district for 21 years.

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

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Schneider to approve Brooke Nattress, 1.0 Physical Education/Health Teacher/DAPE, BS/Step 2, \$32,697 or BS/Step 2, \$33,744 if 2019-21 Master Contract was approved.

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

Motion by Baker and seconded by Stangler to approve the continuing teaching contract of Karen Marzahn, BS/Step 9.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Michael to approve the continuing teaching contract of Sheryl Reed, MS/Step 4

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Michael to approve the continuing teaching contract of Rachel Wendlandt, BS/Step 5.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Michael to approve the continuing teaching contract of Josh Smith, MS/Step 5.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Schneider to approve the non-tenured teacher contracts of:

- * Aaron Brown, BS/Step 5.
- * Danielle Wold, MS/Step 3
- * Kelsey Schiefelbein, BS/Step 3.
- * Kaitlin Vetsch, BS/Step 3.
- * Katherine Brown, BS/Step 3.
- * Austin Nagel, 0.5, BS/Step 2.
- * Tyson Cooley, BS/Step 10.
- * Mary White, 0.6, BS.Step 7.
- * Carrie Brown, BS/Step 5.

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

Motion by Michael and seconded by Baker to approve full pay for spring coaches.

Voting for were Baker, Michael, and Schneider - voting against were Stangler, Velishek, Bowman, and Houlihan - motion failed by a 4-3 roll call vote.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Stangler to approve 50 percent payment for spring sports coaches.

Voting for were Stangler, Velishek, Bowman and Houlihan - voting against were Baker, Michael, and Schneider - motion passed by a 4-3 roll call vote.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to approve the following school age care workers:

- * Adult supervisors (\$10/hour)

Blake Seesz, Susan Bliss, Vicki Gregor, Kaitlyn Haefemeyer, and Akalie Molitor.

- * High school student workers (\$8/hour)

Tori Van Ryn and Isabel Weller.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Michael to approve the letter of retirement from Barb Mader contingent upon school board approval of 2019-21 Teacher Master Agreement.

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion

declared passed.

Motion by Baker and seconded by Bowman to approve letter of resignation from David Schmitt, Elementary Music Teacher, effective end of 2019-20 school year.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Houlihan to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Pam Baker, Board Chair

Jay Schneider, Board Clerk

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Jay Schneider