

WEM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, July 27, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, July 27, 2026, at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair June Rezac at 6:35 p.m.

Board members June Rezac, Gary Michael, Jeff Stangler, Brenda Heuss, Troy Tolzman, Jon Bakken, Grace Bartz and Miley Anderson attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Mark Winter and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

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

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Michael to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from June 22, 2026. 6 members voted in favor – motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Tolzman to approve the June 13 through July 17, 2026 Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$2,722,233.13, deposits \$581,001.60 and transfers of \$750,000.00.

Six members voted in favor – motion declared passed.

Board Chair, June Rezac administered the Oath of Office to Student Board Members Grace Bartz and Miley Anderson.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Stangler to approve the Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts and Donations. Donations included; Waterville Lions Club \$1875 to Travis' Trades Scholarship and \$1000 to Student Fees, American Legion #311 \$500 to the High School Choir and \$500 to the High School Band, Nu-Check Prep \$100 to High School PBIS (student activity), Rice County Deputies Association \$500 to High School PBIS (student activity).

The resolution passed with all six members voting in favor.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve the following resignations

- Kortney McKenna, Paraprofessional, effective July 16, 2026
- Hannah Fessel, Paraprofessional, effective July 14, 2026
- Tiffany Schmidtke, Head Cheerleading Coach, effective June 24, 2026
- Patty Pettis, FCCLA Advisor, effective June 25, 2026
- Sam Gavin, Jr. High Football Coach, effective July 20, 2026
- Kelci Halverson, V Volleyball 1st Assistant/JV Coach, effective July 20, 2026

Approve the following 2026-2027 Coaches

- Milayna Watzek, Head Cheerleading Coach - \$3,576
- Eric Spiekerman, Head JH Football Coach - \$2,652
- Bruce Velzke, Volunteer JH Football Coach

- Ryan Witte, Volunteer JH Football Coach
- Allison Sellers, Head JH Volleyball Coach - \$2,652

Approve the following Extended School Year (ESY) Staff

- Susan Michael, Teacher - \$39.63/hr
- Milayna Watzek, Paraprofessional - \$16.54/hr
- Melissa Dwyer, Paraprofessional - \$16.88/hr

Six members voted in favor – motion declared passed.

REPORTS

Principal Reports: Sara Ertl, Pre-K – 5 Principal and Brandon Tagg, Grades 6-12 Principal. Both Principals were present and the Board was introduced to Sara Ertl as the new elementary principal.

Elementary Board Updates: July 2026 First communication went out to the elementary staff on July 3 with principal introduction, Google appointment link and encouragement to sign up for a 1:1 meeting. As of this board meeting, there have been 14 staff members who have engaged in these opportunities with more scheduled into August.

It has been wonderful to get to know the staff and students involved in the School-Aged Child Care (SACC) and ESY (Extended School Year special education programming). Morning Meetings are a great way to meet WEM students and start the day!

We have 3 more staff members enrolled in MN Read Act OL&LA training which will begin this fall. This training will be provided both synchronously (3 hours) and asynchronously (50+ hours).

There will be an update made to the WEM Website. When a person clicks on the school link for both elementary and secondary, a viewer will see a photograph of the principal with a warm welcome. This message will also be found in the introductory to the student and family handbook.

Principals are planning a meet and greet for families entitled Popsicles with the Principals. The purpose of this event is to both introduce Sarah Ertl to the community and provide an opportunity to also engage with Brandon Tagg for new and returning families. We are very excited for this opportunity. Date to be determined.

Both principals are busy collaborating and planning for workshop week being mindful of the needs of staff and making considerations to make the transition a positive experience for all.

Activities/ Community Education Director, Crystal Lamont WEM School Board Report July 2026:

I have started my new role as Activities/Community Education. I look forward to doing my best to create ways to positively impact our activities/community education programs and school. If you would like to meet with me or have some ideas of how to help promote or make positive impacts to our school please reach out!

Activities

- The 2026-2027 activities handbook is on the agenda for approval.
- Fall sports registration and the calendar are live. We have a new program we are using for our Activities Programs and school calendar. It is called Bound. Mr. Boran started the process of switching us over and I have been working hard to get things finalized and ready to go for the new school year. The whole conference and much of the state will be using this program. It is still a work in progress.

- Activities Sponsorship letters are out to local businesses. I also asked businesses if they had any new ideas of ways we could partner with them to benefit our students, the school, and their business.

Community Education

- Summer Softball is wrapping up. We had 88 participants. The girls had a lot of fun and we are thankful for all our volunteer coaches who make it possible.
- Football hosted some summer camp options for their players.
- Swimming Lessons took place July 13-24 in LeCenter. We had 50 participants.
- Jennifer Holicky is doing an awesome job with summer SACC. They have 55 students registered. They have been out and about in our community and supporting some of our local businesses while providing fun experiences for the kids.
- 2026-2027 Preschool update: Our full day preschool for 4-5 year olds is full. We still have openings for our two half day programs for 4-5 year olds and 3-4 year olds.
- I have reached out to some community members about new community education programming we can offer throughout the school year.

WEM Superintendent Mark Winter presented the following:

Construction at the school is on schedule, set to end on 8/21. Student handbooks will be approved at the next regular school board meeting. Athletics start 8/17. There is a teacher workshop on 8/31 with the first day of school 9/7, elementary is 9/8.

No other reports

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Discussion regarding Student Handbook Updates, Presented by HS Principal Brandon Tagg. There were brief discussion on Dress Code policy, cell phone policy and grading policy in the handbook.

The board discussed the Coverage needs for the Health Office. Motion by Michael and seconded by Heuss to approve recommendations by the administration to increase Health Office coverage to acceptable levels. Six members voted in favor – motion declared passed.

The board had the first readings of the following policies:

- 208 Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies
- 503 Student Attendance redline
- 504 Student Dress and Appearance redline
- 524 Internet, Technology, and Cell Phone Acceptable use and Safety redline

ACTION

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Michael to approve the following policies:

- 425 Staff Development and Mentoring
- 426 Substitute Teacher Compensation
- 427 Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers
- 501 School Weapons
- 513 Student Promotion, Retention, and Program Design

Six members voted in favor – motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to approve a resolution relating to the election of school board members and call the school district general election. Six members voted in favor – motion declared passed.

Motion by Tolzman and seconded by Stangler to approve the dairy products winning bid from Prairie Farms for White and Chocolate Milk. Six members voted in favor – motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Heuss to approve membership to the 2026-2027 Minnesota School Board Association Dues, Policy Services, and Boardbook Subscription's Renewal for \$8,173. Six members voted in favor – motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Michael to approve General Work Agreement between Waseca Public Schools and WEM for the Position of Summer Special Education Occupational Therapy. Six members voted in favor – motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Rezac to approve the Foster Care Transportation Services Agreement between Le Sueur County and WEM. Six member voted in favor – motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Heuss to approve the 2026-2027 Activities Handbook. Six members voted in favor – motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Tolzman to adjourn the meeting at ??? p.m. Six members voted in favor – motion declared passed.

June Rezac, Attest

Gary Michael, Attest