WEM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 28, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 28, 2026, at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair June Rezac at 6:30 p.m.

Board members June Rezac, Gary Michael, Jeff Stangler, Brenda Heuss, Troy Tolzman, Jon Bakken, Jay Schneider, Grace Bartz and Miley Anderson attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting was Superintendent Mark Winter.

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

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Tolzman to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from August 24, 2026. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the August 14 through September 18, 2026 Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were $857,561.44, deposits $688,569.71, and transfers of $4,400,017.99. Bills discussed included a payment of $13,530.43 to South Central Service Cooperative for Special Education Contract, a payment of $10,438 to SFM for Transportation, a payment of $6,309 to Madison National Life for Payroll Liabilities, and a payment of $12,050 to Nexgen Home Services LLC for Long-Term Facilities Maintenance. It was also noted that there was a large amount of money transferred due to construction bills.

Seven members voted in favor – motion declared passed.

RECOGNITION

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Bakken to approve the resolution for acceptance of gifts and donations from the following:

$300 from Laurie and Larry Krause to the Football Student Activity Account

$250 from Helen Dale to the Football Student Activity Account

$325 from Rochester Minnesota Sports to the Volleyball Student Activity Account.

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

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

• Approved the following lane change:

Allysa Kueker, BS10 to MS, effective September 15, 2026

• Correction to new hire Bennett McCollow salary, BS/Step A, $43,657 is the correct amount

• Approve the following new hires:

Anna Hanson, Health Office Assistant, $20.36/hour

Jennifer Holicky, Social Media Manager, $28.00/hour

Lyndsay Carlson, Long-Term Substitute Teacher PE/Health, effective Sept. 3, 2026 through November 23, 2026

Chelsea Wollin, Paraprofessional/Kindergarten Assistant, Step J - $19.65/hour

Mattison Bartholomew, Paraprofessional/Kindergarten Assistant, Step B - $16.54./hour.
Katie Slechta, Food Service, Band B-2-2, Step D - $15.90/hour.
Sharon Linde, Paraprofessional, Step A - $16.21/hour
Gary Manty, Licensed Route Bus Drive - $21,740.

• Approve the following resignation:
Marisa Gonzalez, Paraprofessional, effective August 28, 2026

• Approve the following 2026-2027 School Year Overload:
Anna Skidmore, $6,342.40 and Mike Richards, $5,833.36

• Approve the Additional Assignment Roster for the 2026-2027 School Year. See attachment
• Approve the following Request for Leave of Absence:
Approve FMLA (Family Medical leave of Absence) request from Middle School teacher - beginning on or around February 22, 2027 to March 15, 2027.
Seven members voted in favor – motion declared passed.

REPORTS
Principal Reports: Sara Ertl, Pre-K – 5 Principal and Brandon Tagg, Grades 6-12 Principal.
September Updates
We welcomed students with a warm welcome and the famous green carpet. This is a fantastic tradition!
The elementary school has implemented a four-day rotation for specialist classes to ensure equitable access to learning experiences for all students. This schedule minimizes the impact of non-school days, such as scheduled Mondays off, so students do not consistently miss the same specialist class. This has been a successful implementation.
Our First PBIS Assembly: Elementary students and staff gathered for our first schoolwide PBIS assembly! We introduced new staff and welcomed familiar faces in new roles, including our 5th-grade teachers who have joined the elementary building. We also revisited our BUCS Pride expectations and celebrated what it means to be safe, kind, positive, responsible, and respectful. Our students were exceptional! It was a wonderful opportunity to come together as one elementary school, build connections, and celebrate our Buccaneer pride!
WEM Reads!: Elementary students and staff had school pictures taken on September 16, but this year, we added a fun literacy twist! Staff members were invited to bring their favorite picture books and pose for a special photo in addition to their traditional school picture. These photos will be featured in a WEM Reads staff display in the school hallway and in the elementary yearbook. This initiative is a fun way to share book recommendations, spark conversations about reading, and promote a love of literacy throughout WEM! We thank Lifetouch for their support of this initiative!
Homecoming Spirit Week: Elementary students and staff will celebrate Homecoming with a fun-filled Spirit Week! Our dress-up days have been coordinated with the secondary school wherever possible to build school-wide unity and Buccaneer pride across WEM!

Brandon Tagg
WEM Secondary (6-12) Principal
September 2026 Board Minutes
Well the summer planning is over and now we see that the schedule we have been working on is in full effect and working well. After a couple of hiccups the first week, we are now operating at full potential as

students remember their lunch codes, are following their schedules, remembering their locker location and
understanding the movements of the building. The staff and students did a great job to show routes, plan alternatives, and be flexible in how the start of the school began. It was a great couple of weeks, with a lot to be proud of.

We had school pictures on September 22nd, and it seemed to go well as we planned our day around the middle school schedule and the smaller classes of the quarter classes, allowing us to fill in time/spots with our high school students. The plan went well and pictures/I.D. 's are now set for JMC and the yearbook.

Homecoming week is this week with a lot of new and updated pieces to our celebration. We went back to having “Meet the Candidates” on the Friday before, where we had some fun with students as they made their claim to the King/Queen of our school. After the event, students went back to their Advisory rooms and voted for their selections. At this press time, we did not know who won their prospective spots. The rest of the week we will have Advisory classes working on their door designs; we will interrupt class periods from time to time as the different grades will take each other on in Volleyball. By Friday, we will decorate our floats, have finals in all activities and get ready to have a Pep Fest and Parade to end our week of celebration. It will be another great time at WEM as students and staff alike enjoy the days of getting dressed up, showing school spirit and showing the type of school spirit we all want.

Hopefully the sporting events will go in our favor as the girls take on Belle Plaine on Tuesday and the boys will take on Maple River on Friday. We will finish our week with our Homecoming Dance on Saturday, October 3rd from 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. It will be a great week of fun, excitement and a continued love of all things WEM!

Brandon Tagg
WEM Secondary (6-12) Principal

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

- The 2026-2027 Fall Activities are off and running
  - Football has 48 V/JV and 33 Junior High players
  - Volleyball has 33 F/JV/C players and 27 Junior High players
  - Cross Country has 5 WEM boys and 4 WEM girls participating
  - Cheerleading has 7 participants
  - The pep band is scheduled to play at 4 home football games and 4 home volleyball games.
- The new Bound program has been running fairly smoothly after the initial roll out. Families are starting to get used to it and I think it will be a positive change for our school and the conference.
- Part of our Bound agreement is to do cashless ticketing. There have been a few complaints, but overall it going well. It gets people in the event quickly and our workers like not having to handle the cash. Passes are run through the Bound app. We did still do printed passes for senior citizens who requested them and elementary students who don’t have a phone.
- Homecoming is Sept 28-Oct 3rd. The Homecoming Volleyball match is Tuesday, September 29th versus Belle Plaine. The Cross Country will host their annual Pie Run at Prairie Ridge Golf Course on Thursday, October 1st. The football Homecoming game is Friday, October 2nd versus Maple River.

Community Education

- We have three classes of Preschool offered. Our 4 day/full day for 4-5 year olds is full at 20 students. Our 4 day/half day for 4-5 year olds has 15 students, and our 3 day/half day for 3-4 year olds has 14 students.
- We have 27 students registered for SACC. We started wrap-around care for preschool

students this year. Preschool students can come before school if they have class in the morning/all day and can come after school if they have class in the afternoon/all day. We also offer Friday care for our preschool students and we currently have four students participating in this option. We have it staffed by SACC coordinator, Jennifer Holicky and preschool paraprofessional, Vicki Gregor so it isn't any additional cost to the district.

● Youth Volleyball started. We have a 5th & 6th grade program that practices twice a week and plays in a traveling league with other communities. We also have a 3rd & 4th grade program that practices twice a week and plays some modified volleyball games on Saturdays in a league at the Faribault Rec Center.

● Youth 1st-4th grade Flag Football got started despite the Saturday rain out. Practices/Intramural games are on Saturdays and they will end with a Monday Night
Under the Lights event on Monday, October 12th.

● Youth 5th & 6th grade tackle football practices at WEM and plays in a traveling league. WEM hosted on Sept. 12th.

WEM Superintendent Mark Winter presented the following:

Phase 2 construction is 95 percent complete, waiting on some door frames and outside doors. Start of school started fairly well. Lunch we are serving another 200-250 students in five minutes longer time - all in all pleased. Homecoming is this week. Choir will be performing at Minnesota State Music Convention. Lunch is currently served from 10:50 a.m. to 12:38 p.m.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

An enrollment update was presented and the numbers reported at the last meeting were similar.

A female Buccaneer mascot was discussed but nothing was finalized.

The board had the first readings of the following policies:

506 Student Discipline redline
635 Responsible Use of artificial Intelligence (NEW)
722 Public Data and Data Subject Requests redline
806 Crisis Management redline

A short discussion was held regarding a nonresident enrollment cap. The school district currently takes all students who enroll. No action was taken.

The Strategic Plan Update was quickly analyzed but not action taken

ACTION

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve the Following Policies:

507.5 School Resources Officers redline
509 Enrollment of Nonresident Students redline
520 Student Survey redline
524.5 Personal Electronic Communication Devices - new policy
Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

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

• Approve July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2029 Educational Support Professionals Contract.
Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Bakken to approve the 2026-2027 Cooperative Adult Basic Education (ABE) Agreement.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Tolzman to approve South Central Service Cooperative to Provide Instructional Services FY 2026-2027 for $567.00 per Student per High School Semester Credit (Socrates Online).
Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the Corrections to the 2026-2027 Elementary Student Handbook.
Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to Certify the Maximum on the Pay 2027 Levy. Truth in Taxation Meeting to be Conducted at 6:30 p.m. on December 21, 2026, in the WEM Board Room in Waterville. See attachment
Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to Approve the Following Application for Dissolution of Girls Gymnastics Cooperative Sponsorship beginning with the 2026-2027 School Year. see attachment.
Seven members voting in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Tolzman to Approve the agreement for Cooperative Sponsorship of Girls Gymnastics for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 School Years and Consent to the Addition of St. Clair Public Schools. See Attachment
Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Stangler to Approve the following Application for New Girls Gymnastics Cooperative Sponsorship beginning with the 2026-2027 School Year. See attachment
Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.. Seven members voted in favor – motion declared passed.

June Rezac, Attest
Jay Schneider, Attest