

## **W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, May 22, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 22, 2023 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6:31 p.m.

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

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Stangler to approve the agenda with one correction and one addition. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Stangler to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from April 24, 2023. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the May Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$767,720.33, deposits were \$697,613.29, and transfers were \$900,000. Comments on the report included a payment of \$3,616.33 to NAC (Honeywell) for long-term facilities maintenance, a payment of \$10,600 to Zeptive, Inc. for vaping recognition detectors in the bathrooms, and a payment of \$20,680 to Steinbrecher Painting company for long-term facilities maintenance in the Elysian building, Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

### **VISITOR COMMENTS**

There were no visitor comments.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

#### **A. Approve Continuing Contract Teachers (Tenure):**

Carrie Brown, BS/Step 7 - \$40,789

Samuel Gavin, BS/Step 4 - \$36,057

#### **B. Approve Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts:**

Max Haakonson, BS10/Step 9 - \$44,861

Bridget Reuvers-Slinger, BS50/MS/Step 9 - \$50,174

Haley Schaaf, BS/Step 4 - \$36,057

Britta Robran, BS/Step 5 - \$38,160

Alyssa Schmidtke, MS10/Step 10 - \$53,234

Amber Karels, BS/Step 15 - \$52,100

Madysson Dufault, BS/Step 4 - \$36,057

Kelci Halvorson 193 Duty Days, BS/Step 10 - (\$45,237) \$47,709

Andi O'Neil, MS/Step 7 - \$46,705

Mary Anne Eich, BS/Step 16 - \$52,100

Tyson Cooley, BS/Step 12 - \$48,350

Skyler Petry, BS50/MS/Step 3 - \$40,830

#### **C. Approve the following resignations:**

Katherine Brown, Art - Effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year

Rachael Wetzal, 5th Grade - Effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year

#### **D. Approve the following hire:**

Alyssa Hanson, Early Learning Coordinator/Lead Teacher, BS/Step 7 - \$27.27/hour

#### **E. Approve the following termination**

Margo Kulseth, Communications Coordinator, effective May 12, 2023

#### **F. Approve the following Summer School Staff:**

Patty Whitehurst, Teacher - \$34.53/hour

Kaitlin Zellar, Teacher - \$34.53/hour

Max Haakonson, Teacher - \$34.53/hour

Bobbie Jo Bastian, Principal - \$55.75/hour

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Tolzman to approve Susan Michael, teacher - \$34.53/hour  
Six members voted in favor - Michael abstains - motion declared passed.

## **RECOGNITION**

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to approve the following monetary donations:

A donation of \$5,000 from the Morristown Firemen's Relief Association for lights on the Morristown football field.

A donation of \$1,000 from Pat and Don Kelm for Travis's Trades Scholarship.

A donation of \$250 from Le Sueur Incorporated for Travis' Trades Scholarship.

A donation of \$6,000 from Football Boosters to the football program.

A donation of \$1,000 from IWealth for IWealth Scholarship.

A donation of \$1,000 from Nu Chek Prep for Nu Chek Prep Scholarship.

A donation of \$600 from Elysian Auto for Elysian Auto Scholarship.

A donation of \$1,250 from the Waterville Lions Club for Night of Excellence.

A donation of \$1,000 from the Waterville Lions Club for Class of 2024 Prom donation.

A donation of \$250 from Mary and Jon Bakken for the Track and Field program.

Seven 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**

Congratulations to WEM's Class of 2023 seniors. Commencement will be held on Friday, May 26, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the WEM High School Gym.

The last day of school for all K-11th grade students is Thursday, June 1.

Graduation rates from across the state were recently published. WEM's graduate rate increased to 96.2 percent from 95.8 percent in 2021. This is a four-year high for WEM.

The WEM Education Association hosted the annual Retirement Social on Monday, May 22 with refreshments. This year we congratulate Mrs. Ruth Ann Olson, a staple teacher in the WEM District. Mrs. Olson has been a high school English teacher, a mentor, a part of the play directing, a leader amongst the union, and overall an outstanding educator to all. Congratulations to Mrs. Olson on her retirement.

### **PreK-6 Grade**

We welcomed around 30 incoming kindergarteners and their families during our Kindergarten Round-Up May 5.

On Tuesday, May 9, the 5th and 6th grade students put on amazing band and choir performances under the direction of Jared Larson and Megan Kreinbring. Thank you to them for leading this fun night and sharing their love for music with us all.

On May 11, K-4 students welcomed the community in for the second annual ice cream social and art show. This event was well attended with more than 350 bowls of ice cream served.

K-6 Summer School registrations continue to come in. We are looking forward to classes that will be held June 19-29 and July 10-20 from 8:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., Monday through Thursday.

May 19, K-4 for the second year students participated in Specialists Day Students worked through rotations with the specialist doing fun, outdoor, team building activities.

Students K-6 grade have been and will continue to participate in a variety of field trips and fun activities in the last days of the year.

### **7-12 Grade**

Seniors enjoyed a day at Valley Fair May 19 for their class trip.

The last full day for seniors is May 25. Seniors will have rehearsal and senior breakfast May 26.

Congratulations to Emma Woratschka and Shelby Krienke, Class of 2023 valedictorians and Jenessa Baumgarten, Class of 2023 salutatorian.

The Class of 2023 will have 47 graduates with 35 members having earned and received honor cords.

Junior high students will attend Physics Day at Valley Fair May 24.

7-12th grade band/choir presented their Pops Concert. The choir "Rock and Roll Revival" will perform a dress rehearsal May 23 at 9 a.m. before performing for the public the evening of May 24.

On May 17 WEM hosted the annual Night of Excellence. Scholarships, academic, and extra curricular awards were announced. A special thank you to all those in attendance and the generous donations of many. Since COVID, WEM has not hosted a Night of Excellence with a full meal as tradition had, but this year the event included a full meal. Extended appreciation and thanks to the Waterville Lions for their donation to cover the cost of the meal and special thank you to Lana Adermann and Nancy Culhane along with WEM's food service for helping prepare the meal. Last, but not least, Jason Eller, a custodial staff team member, went above and beyond to help with set-up and clean-up. He picked up some big tasks for the event and his attention to the details is applaud worthy. In total, \$248,023 was awarded in the form of scholarships to be used for post-secondary education and career-based training.

**Jeff Boran, Community Education & Activities Director submitted the following report:**

**SPRING ACTIVITIES**

- WEM Night of Excellence was May 17. It was awesome to see the students and hear the accomplishments.
- Baseball, softball, and track post seasons get started this week.

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

- Summer School Age Care Program will begin June 12 and run through August 25 from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and currently there are 40 registered to attend.
- Driver education update:

The June classroom session will begin June 5 and 19 are currently enrolled.

Behind the Wheel will also begin on June 5. 47 student drivers currently scheduled for June, July, and August. Currently the schedule has one spot open through August

- Summer sports activities are currently taking registrations and shape. Camps, softball, t-ball, and babysitter training, etc.

**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 DARE Graduation, Region 2 Superintendent meetings in St. Cloud, May 19 webinar on bills, Education Funding Bill increases four percent in 2024 and two percent in 2025, discipline of students, teaching licenses and upcoming concert and graduation.

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

The board discussed Superintendent candidate information with MSBA's Barb Dorn. After discussing the candidate pool, Bakken motioned and Rezac seconded to interview three candidates Thursday, June 1. The candidates are Bradley Johnson, John Regan, and Jennifer Wilson.

Five members voted in favor - Michael and Stangler voted against - motion passed 5-2.

**ACTION**

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Schneider to approve the following contracted services:

2023-2024 Contracted agreement with Minnesota Valley Education district - Teacher of Deaf/Hard of Hearing, \$4,488.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approve SAC Grant Stipend based on hours worked during the 2022-2023 School Year (for compliance with grant requirement):

Coordinator - \$1.19/hour, Assistants - 79 cents/hour, and High School Assistants - 66 cents/hour.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Stangler to approve the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar - see attachment.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve the Nexus Solutions quote.

Six members voted in favor - Stangler voted against - motion passed 6-1.

**PERSONNEL**

Motion by Michael and seconded by Heuss to approve the resolution on the termination and non-renewal of the teaching contract of Andrew Seiffert, probationary teacher.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approve the resolution on the termination and non-renewal of the teaching contract of Clark Taynton, probationary teacher.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest