

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, January 23, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, January 23, 2023 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Rezac to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from December 19, 2022. Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Bakken to approve the Organizational Meeting Minutes from January 9, 2023. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the January Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$2,119,059.49, deposits were \$1,200,870.04, and transfers were \$2,220,000. Comments on the report included a payment of \$1,006,911.25 to Bond Trust Services Corporation for a bond payment, a payment of \$29,055.00 to Johnson Building restoration for roof damage repair, and a deposit of \$2,000 for restitution for damage in the Morristown building. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

PRESENTATION

There was a presentation by Tom Olinger of ABDO, CPA Firm which featured the 2021-22 financial audit. See attachment. Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

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:

A. Approve the following request for leave of absence -

Melissa Wencil - Certified Nursing Assistant/Health Assistant/Administrative Assistant beginning January 4, 2023 through March 27, 2023.

B. Approve the following hires:

Madeline Michael - Long-term Substitute Teacher , 1st Grade.

Terri Van Houdt - Cook, Part-time B2-2/Step 1, \$13.96/hour.

Darrell Koteck, Sr. - Substitute Bus Driver.

Joan Steinhaus - Long-Term Substitute Nurse.

C. Approve the following 2022-2023 School Year Overload:

Haley Schaaf, Health - \$2,884.56 per semester.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

RECOGNITION

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

A donation of \$250 from William Struve, DDS for the athletics department.

A donation of \$8,000 from the WEM Moving Forward Foundation to be used on the FFA Concession Stand.

A donation of \$1,000 from the Kilkenny Firemens' Relief Association to be used on the FFA Concession Stand.

A donation of \$500 by the Rice County Deputies Association to be used by the high school PBIS.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

REPORTS

WEM Principal Bobbie Jo Bastian and WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson presented the following report:

All District

Staff engaged in Professional Development on January 2 and 16. A part of the professional development included professional learning communities with work dedicated to learning standards and proficiency scales. In addition, the district

teachers are doing a book read, "The Energy Bus" by Jon Gordon. Overall we are hearing positive feedback and observing growth.

The end of December and into January was busy in terms of weather related changes. We went into winter break with flexible learning and have had a few late starts and flexible learning days to kick off the new year.

This week Jan. 23-29 is Paraprofessional Appreciation Week in the State of Minnesota. Fun activities and treats have been planned for each day this week in all three schools. Thank you to all of our district paraprofessionals for all they do to support WEM students.

PreK-6 Report

K-6th grade students did a revisit on Bucs Pride expectations upon return from our winter break.

The Great Kindness Challenge takes place this week. Students in grade PreK-4 are challenged to show kindness in a variety of ways this week.

The sixth grade Math Masters team has begun to train for the upcoming Math Master's competition. The fifth grade Math Masters team will begin training in the coming weeks.

Grade five students have begun DARE classroom lessons. Lessons will continue through April and will culminate with DARE Graduation at a future date.

7-12 Report

All secondary students and staff have completed semester one on January 13. New semester classes started on January 17. We are off to a great start for the second half of the year.

The FCCLA group held a blood drive on Friday, January 6. As always the drive was well attended and supported by the community.

Planning for Snow Week, Career Navigator (9th grade only), Reality Day (junior and seniors only), and standardized testing (MCAs and ACT) is underway. We will also be registering for 2023-2024 in February. Registration in February is earlier than previous years, but will help us get a head start on creating a master schedule which will benefit our staffing alignment between buildings.

The junior high students went to Mount Kato for a winter activity. Students had the choice of skiing or snow tubing. Thank you to Doug Androli and Pam Heinz for helping to organize the event.

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran presented the following report:

ACTIVITIES

The 2022-2023 WEM Triple A Award (Arts, Athletics, Academics) winners are seniors Jordan Green and Eli Wetzel. This MSHSL special multi-level recognition award recognizes high school seniors active in league sponsored fine arts and athletic activities and show success in the classroom.

WEM One-Act Play Team: Sub-Section 8 Meet was Saturday, Jan. 28 at Medford High School. This year's play was entitled "The WhatsIT" by Jon Jory. The director was Andrew Velishek. The Gopher Conference event was this past Saturday here at WEM. The conference event had seven teams participate. It is not a scoring or ranking event but was judged and then judges met with teams to discuss things that went well and things needing improvement. A very good lead up to the Sub-Section meets. WEM All-Conference actors are Eddie Crosby and Maddie Heuss.

The Gopher conference honors Music (Band and Choir) Concert and Visual Arts Display will be hosted by Maple River Feb. 11. Students from all conference schools have been selected and have begun practicing. All conference schools will have a combined practice on Friday, Feb. 10 along with Saturday.

Section Tourney time is just around the corner.

- Wrestling gets started February 16 with team.
- Girls Gymnastics will begin February 18.
- Girls Hockey team will begin February 9.
- Boys Hockey will begin February 22.
- Girls Basketball will begin February 28.
- Large Group band and Choir is March 6.
- Boys Basketball will begin March 7.

Spring activities registration is currently open with practices beginning in March. Clay target, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track and field are offered.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

ECFE night classes will be getting started again in February.

School Age Childcare continues to operate safely. Summer 2023 registration will begin in early February. School year 2023-2024 registration is in March.

Little Bucs Preschool registrations for the 2023-2024 school year will begin in late February or early March.

Driver Education Classrooms for 2023 have been set for March, June, and October/November.

The WEM School is open to those wanting to walk during winter months in the mornings and evenings.

Open Gym on Sunday is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Pam Heinz has organized a Wednesday evening pickle ball and hallway walking in the Morristown building for Wednesday evenings.

WEM Board Member Reports

Bakken, Heuss, Rezac, and Tolzman gave reports about the Minnesota School Board Association Convention.

WEM Board Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

WEM Superintendent Ryan Jensen presented the following:

- Jensen acknowledged the Triple A Award Winners, discussed Professional Development Days, the book "The Energy Bus" by Jon Gordon, and the school year being halfway completed.

ACTION

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve the resolution that the school board supports WEM's application for MSHSL Foundation Form B2 Grant. See attachment.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approve the following contract: July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024 Paraprofessional Contract - total package increases are 5.32 percent in 2022-2023 and 3.01 percent in 2023-2024. Employees on Steps 5-13 will advance an additional step, included in package increase. Employees on Steps 2-4 will advance to Step A (6) (Steps 2-5 to be dropped from the contract and remaining steps, previously 6-15, will be renumbered A-J), addition of monthly District Health Insurance Contribution in compliance with ACA affordability requirements, additional language changes including increase of sick leave bonus to \$300 and commencement of longevity after 12 years of service. See attachment.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Bakken to approve the following contract: March 29, 2022 to June 30, 2025 contract for Transportation/Heavy Duty Bus Mechanic Tauston Lamont. Total package increases are 6.75 percent in 2022-2023, 6.33 percent in 2023-2024, and 3 percent in 2024-2025. Addition of \$764.51 monthly District Health Insurance Contribution included in package increases - See attachment.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Tolzman to approve the following contract: July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023 Laundry Workers - total package increase of 3 percent each year. See attachment.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approve lease agreement between Holy Trinity Catholic Church and Independent School District #2143. See attachment.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest