

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
Monday, August 23, 2021, 6 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, August 23, 2021 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6 p.m.

Board Members Jon Bakken, Travis Bowman, Michael, June Rezac, Jay Schneider, and Jon Velishek attended the meeting. Jeff Stangler attended the meeting virtually. Also present at the meeting was Superintendent Joel Whitehurst. Principals Bobbie Jo Bastian and Dr. Jennifer Wilson and Activities Director Jeff Boran attended the meeting virtually.

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

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Stangler to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from June 28, 2021 and the Regular Meeting Minutes from July 26, 2021. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Schneider to approve the July Finance Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,621,608.49, deposits were \$732,324.73, and transfers were \$2,352,000. Comments on the report included a payment of \$319,311.25 to Bond Trust Services Corporation for building bond interest payment, a payment of \$85,692.00 to Liberty Mutual Insurance for the 2021-22 property insurance premium, and a payment of \$68,707.17 to ISD #829 Waseca for the second half of the special education contract. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the special education contracts with the Waseca School District. Heather Harms and Linda Hullopeter presented information about the contract and the program. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Velishek to approve monetary donations. The donations included: \$200 from the Elysian area Chamber of Commerce to the band program and a \$500 donation from the Elysian Firemens' Association to the football program. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

REPORTS

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

District

- We are excited to welcome our 13 new staff members to our Buccaneer family. Included are our newest hire, Mrs. Anne Joubert, who will be a speech and language pathologist.
- Back-to-School communications have been sent out with the exception of the high school open house. Construction details will be assessed and communication will be forthcoming to parents and students. Priority will be given to our incoming freshmen students and their orientation at the high school. K-6 graders will have entrance conferences again this year with their parents while junior high students will have a structured open house.
- New teacher inservice will kick-off our back-to-school events on Thursday, August 26. All staff will be back on Monday, August 30 for inservice meetings.
- A big thank you to Mary Ann Each and her team at The Village for an incredibly generous donation of school supplies for WEM students K-12. This donation will allow us to ensure that students lacking supplies will be taken care of. This donation included school basics like pencils, rulers, glue, paper, folders as well as backpacks, binders, and pencil cases. This donation will impact many students.

Elementary

- K-6th grade students are invited to entrance conferences/orientation on September 7th. Welcome back communications were sent to families last Thursday. Students and their families began signing up for conferences last week for 5th and 6th grade today K-4.
- PBIS teams in both Waterville and Morristown have met and worked on plans for the upcoming year.

Secondary

- Mrs. Reuvers, high school counselor, is working on preparation and planning for our college and career center. The space (formally known as the high school office) is going through transformation. The space will be welcoming to students who need to meet with college/career/military representatives, need assistance with scholarship and application forms, or a communal space for meeting areas. Mrs. Reuvers will manage the space throughout the day.
- Morristown's PBIS Team met this week to planned discuss the first day of school events along with grant award projects. The grant awards will be instrumental in PBIS programming for the year. Included in this will be several different in-house events focused on our pillars, kindness, and building community/school culture.

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran presented the following report:

Activities:

Volleyball - 7th & 8th Grades – 18 registered participants, 9th -12th Grades – 28 registered participants. First games are Sept. 7 at Cannon Falls. (HS & JH) First home games are Thursday September 9 vs. NRHEG.

Cheerleading 9th - 12th – 12 participants!

FB – 7th & 8th Grade 42 participants, 9th - 12th we have 38 participants.

First varsity home game is Friday September 3 vs. Randolph. First JV game is Tuesday September 7 vs. NRHEG. First JH game is Monday September 13 at home vs. Cleveland.

CC – First event is this Friday Aug. 27 at Fairmont. The next is this Thursday September 2 at Mankato Loyola HS.

WEM Participants – 3 Girls & 6 Boys, JWP Participants – 9 Girls & 12 Boys.

Coop Sponsorships – Currently: Boys & Girls Soccer & Hockey and Girl's Gymnastics w/ Waseca. Wrestling and Boys & Girls Cross Country w/ JWP.

Community Education:

Kindergarten Connection (Preschool) has 54 students registered! All three sessions are currently full with a waiting list.

Plans for ECFE classes are in the works.

School Age Childcare. The summer session will be wrapping up shortly as we approach school. So far for the Fall we have 24 registered for School Age Care.

The Driver Education Fall Classroom is set up for late October into November. Some Behind the wheel training will continue this Fall.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approve the 2021-22 Athletic Handbook - See attachment.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

WEM Board Member Reports

- Board Chair Gary Michael wanted to make a public apology to WEM football head coach Mike Richards for comments he made during a previous meeting. "Michael said it would have been better to close the meeting. He said he supports the staff as it is now.

WEM Board Committee Reports

- Board member Rezac sent an e-mail to Barb at MSBA requesting costs and timelines for help from the association on selecting a superintendent.

- Negotiations are being held off until enrollment numbers come in.

WEM Superintendent Joel Whitehurst presented the following:

- Whitehurst said school will start normally Sept. 7. He was told by the construction manager the school project will be ready by the start go school. Whitehurst is starting his 34th year in education.

ACTION

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve the bids for dairy products, snow removal, vehicle fuel, and fuel oil for the 2021-22 school year. See attachment.

Six members voted in favor - Bowman abstains - motion declared passed.

PERSONNEL

Motion by Michael and seconded by Bowman to approve the Letter of Resignation from Elena Mattson, School Bus Driver, effective August 5, 2021.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bowman to approve the following hires:

- Anne Joubert, Speech Language Pathologist, MS/Step 9, 0.432 FTE, \$21,000.

- Kortney McKenna, Paraprofessional, \$15.01/hour, 7 hours/day.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Schneider to approve additional assignment roster for school year 2021-22 - see attachment. There are seven positions yet to be filled.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Bowman to approve the following lane changes:

- Anna Skidmore, MS+10 to MS+20

- Ashley Landru, MS+10 to MS+20

- Laura Sammon, MS+10 to MS+20

- Jennifer Graham, MS+10 to MS+20

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.