

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, May 23, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 23, 2022 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Michael, Jon Bakken, Travis Bowman (arrived at 6:41 p.m.), June Rezac, Jay Schneider, and Jeff Stangler attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Superintendent Joel Whitehurst, Principals Dr. Jennifer Wilson and Bobbie Jo Bastian, and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

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

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Rezac to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from April 25, 2022. Five 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 \$1,073,228.26, deposits were \$1,524,000.32, and transfers were \$840,000. Comments on the report included a payment of \$9,674.56 to Wenger Corporation for chairs, a payment of \$29,375 to Minnesota Comfort Solutions for long-term facilities maintenance, a payment of \$5,337.50 to NAC for long-term facilities maintenance, and comment was made that deposits were higher than bills this month.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

RECOGNITION

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

- \$500 from Deborah Kuball for the Bob Kuball Memorial Scholarship.
- \$1,000 from NuChekPrep for the NuChekPrep Scholarship.
- \$1,500 from Choose Kindness Foundation to Morristown Elementary and Junior High.
- \$3,800 from multiple donors to the Travis' Trades Scholarship.
- \$500 from the Mike David Family for the Greased Lightning Scholarship.
- \$250 from Elysian Auto for the Elysian Auto Scholarship.
- \$1,000 from the Waterville Lions Club to PBIS.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Congratulations to the WEM Education Association Teachers of the Year:

- Julie Hayford, Mark Meyer, and Sara Quiram - Waterville Elementary.
- Jared Larson - Morristown Elementary/Junior High.
- Ruth Ann Olson - High School.

REPORTS

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

All District

MCA Testing is concluded in all three campuses. Thank you to the staff and our awesome WEM students for working hard over the last 3 weeks as we interrupted regular instruction for the administration of the MCAs.

Quite a number of field trips are and have taken place throughout the last few weeks of the year. Some include trips to the zoo, Quarry Hill, MN State Capitol, Twins Game, Mystery Cave and more.

PreK-6 Report

Kindergarten Round Up was held May 5th. 48 new kindergarten students and their parents attended a session of fun activities and information. We are so excited to see them again next fall.

May 10th 5th & 6th grade students shared their musical talents with their families! It was a great night of musical fun with the band and choir students! Thank you Mr. Larson and Mrs. Kreinbring for leading this fun night!

May 12th K-4th grade students had their first annual ice cream social and art show! We had a huge turn out and are excited to make this fun activity a yearly tradition! Thanks to the teachers that volunteered their time to scoop!

M-W Preschool students participated in Preschool graduation on May 18. Congratulations to those students and their teachers on a successful year.

Summer School registration is nearly complete. 50+ students are registered to join us for two weeks in June and two weeks in July!

Many field trips returned this year!
1st Grade went to MN Zoo
2nd Grade went to the River Bend Nature Center

3rd	Grade	went	to	the	MN	Zoo	&	Farm	America
4th	Grade	went	to	Quarry	Hill			Nature	Center
5th	Grade	went	to	Quarry	Hill			Nature	Center

6th Grade went to the State Capital & Twins Stadium Tour

Each Grade celebrates the end of the year in a variety of ways with picnics and other fun activities.

May 25th students first through 4th will participate in Specialists day with a variety of activities led by our special area teachers. Thanks to the specialists for organizing a fun day!

May 27th Fifth and Sixth grade will participate in the last day of school activity fun!

7-12 Report

Congratulations to our best of class nominations, seniors Alex Heuss and Kiri Kerekes.

The FFA held their annual banquet on Wednesday, May 4. Congratulations to a year of many celebrations for the FFA and WEM's advisor, Mr. Cooley. The group will miss the seniors and their leadership but the skills and attributes learned from their FFA tenure will last a lifetime and serve them well.

The junior high student council led by advisor, Pam Heinz, held their spring dance on Wednesday, May 11. The event included music, dancing, games and food.

Four WEM seniors (Kiri Kerekes, Grace Peterson, Alex Heuss and Paige Atherton) participated in TCU's Tri-Fest with performances on April 28-29. The performance was well done and WEM was represented extremely well.

The annual FFA Banquet was held the first week in May. The FFA named their new officers. Newly appointed officers are President Daeyln Judd, Vice President Emma Woratschka, Secretary Josie Volkmann, Treasurer Hannah Bruns, Reporter Desirae Domonoske and Sentinel Ethan Muellerleile. At the State Convention in late April senior Emma Kuball was named MN State FFA President for the upcoming year. This is a huge honor for WEM's FFA program, advisor Mr. Cooley and a testament to Emma's fortitude and engagement in FFA. For the year the WEM FFA had 51 students in grades 9-12.

On Friday, May 13 the FFA presented throughout the day for junior high students in Morristown. Education and engagement activities were offered including live animals, dairy and pork exercises as well as a virtual demo of welding. This is a tradition for the FFA and the kids had a blast working together and learning more about agriculture and all FFA offers.

On May 18 a mixed group of 20 sophomores and juniors attended the YEA Data Summit at St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield. Within our Achievement and Integration Grant, WEM partners with TCU, Northfield and Faribault to get together and allow for student voice. This year's meeting looked at district data pertaining to attendance and credit achievement while identifying the gaps between white vs. SOC and economically disadvantaged vs. non-economically disadvantaged students. Our student group did a fantastic job representing WEM. The group brought forth excellent ideas. Their voices sparked discussion topics for meaningful change on how we as leaders and planners of WEM education can do things better to meet the needs of high school students.

On May 18 WEM HS hosted the annual Night of Excellence. A sincere thank you to all of our area donors and scholarships awarded to the Class of 2022. In total there were just over \$32,000.00 awarded to seniors from local scholarships, not including the tuition based merit scholarships and grants from individual entities where students will be continuing their education at. A special thank you to the Waterville Lions Club for their generous donation for dessert and refreshments. In addition, thank you to Cool Wave of Waterville for supplying the dessert and Nancy Culhane, food service director for working with the Night of Excellence team to provide all the additional refreshments and tableware. Traditionally, our local greenhouse, Greenwalds, has provided the floral decorations for the event (along with graduation commencement). They did this year as well and the stage looked very sharp as a result.

Commencement will be held on Friday, May 27. The day will begin with the senior breakfast and rehearsal before seniors depart for the day. Commencement will begin at 7:00 and feature our valedictorian Alex Heuss and salutatorian Kiri Kerekes. Our keynote speaker for the Class of 2022 will be Mrs. Abby Butzer. Thank you and notes of appreciation to our senior class advisors; Mr. Walker, Mrs. Olson, Mr. Taynton and Mrs. White as well as Mr. Boran and Mr. Whitehurst for their support and accommodations for commencement and to Margo Kulseth, Dan Lemcke and Jay Schneider who help promote and give press in ink, the yearbook and on social media.

Wednesday, May 25 all are welcome to attend the final band and choir concert. The event is fun filled with dancing and moving parts. The students along with Mrs. Kreinbring and Mr. Larson have been working exceptionally hard each day to prepare for the concert. We hope you can attend and support our music programs!

Congratulations to our 2022 Salutatorian Kiri Kerekes and Valedictorian Alexandra Heuss. Kiri will finish her time at WEM with a 3.919 Cumulative GPA and will have obtained 26 credits. Kiri is the daughter of James and Katherine Kerekes. Alex will finish with a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade point average and obtained 27 credits. Alex is the daughter of Shawn and Brenda Heuss. Both girls have taken numerous PSEO classes and are involved in many extra curricular activities.

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran's report was presented:
ACTIVITIES

Spring Activities

- WEM Night of Excellence was Wednesday May 18. It was awesome to see the students and hear the achievements!
 - Baseball, Softball & Track post seasons get started this week.
 - o Baseball Subsections begin next Thursday May 26
 - o Softball playoffs began tonight with WEM hosting K-W in a first round match up. Potential additional games will be May 24, 26, 28, 31 and June 2.
 - o Track –Subsection meet at Sibley East HS (Arlington) is this Thursday May 26. Sections Saturday June 4 at Mankato West HS.

Community Ed

- Summer School Age Care program will begin Tuesday June 1- August 26, 6:30 a.m. – 5:30 pm and currently we have 46 registered to attend.
- Driver Education update:
 - o The June classroom session will begin Wednesday June 1 at 8 a.m. in Morristown. 27 enrolled.
 - o Behind the Wheel will also begin Wednesday June 1. 38 student drivers currently scheduled for June and July. Currently the schedule is full!Summer Activities are currently taking shape.

WEM Board Member Reports

No reports

WEM Board Committee Reports

No reports

WEM Superintendent Joel Whitehurst presented the following:

- Whitehurst commented on the Legislative Session (Ag to School Credit going from 70 percent to 85 percent), Night of Excellence, well damage, land transfer in Elysian, and a newspaper article dated May 23, 2022 which had his hiring in it.

Information/Discussion

Motion by Michael and seconded by Bakken to reinstate recently discovered loss/deduction of 66 vacation hours from 2018-19 school year for Superintendent Whitehurst. The reinstated hours would be utilized in June 2022.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Action

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Bowman to approve Ryan Jensen as designated Identified Official with Authority for education identity access management (IOWA).

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Schneider to approve the second reading of the following policies:

101 Legal Status of the School.

102 Equal Education Opportunity

103 Complaints - Students, Employees, Parents, Other Persons

104 School District Mission Statement

204 School Board Meeting Minutes

521 Student Disability Nondiscrimination

See all attachments.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Rezac to approve the 2022-23 academic calendar. See attachment.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

PERSONNEL

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

Pamela Malecha, Clerical, Effective at the End of the 2021-22 School Year.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Rezac to approve the following resignation:

Pegi Wolff, Administrative Assistant, Effective on May 10, 2022.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Bakken to approve the resolution (Roll Call Vote) on the Termination and Non-renewal of the Teaching Contract of Robert Ross, probationary teacher:

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

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to approve the July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023 Contract for Custodians - Total Package Increase 3.5 percent Each Year and One-Time Stipend of \$0.75 per Hour Worked During 2020-2021 School Year.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Stangler to approve July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023 Contract for Food Service - Total Package Increase 3 percent Each Year and One-Time Stipend of \$0.75 per Hour Worked During 2020-2021 School Year.

Six members voting in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bowman to Approve Continuing Contract Teachers (Tenure):

1. Kelsey Schiefelbein, BS/Step 5, \$37,246
 2. Kaitlin Vetsch, BS/Step 5, \$37,246
 3. Katherine Brown, BS/Step 5, \$37,246
 4. Austin Nagel, BS/Step 5, \$37,246
 5. Joshua Smith, BS75/Step 7, \$46,705
 6. Maurice McCabe, BS75/Step 19, \$63,218
- Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Rezac to Approve Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts:

1. Britta Robran, BS/Step 4, \$36,057
 2. Haley Schaaf, BS/Step 4, \$36,057
 3. Samuel Gavin, BS/Step 4, \$36,057
 4. Carrie Brown, BS/Step 7, \$40,789
 5. Max Haakonson, BS10/Step 9, \$44,861
 6. Clark Taynton, MS10/Step 6, \$46,081
 7. Dan Forcelle, BS/Step 11, \$46,761
 8. Tyson Cooley, BS/Step 12, \$48,350
 9. Bridgette Reuvers-Slinger, BS50/Step 9, \$50,174
 10. Anne Joubert .432 FTE, BS50/Step 10, (\$51,850) \$22,399.20
 11. Amber Karels, BS/Step 16, \$52,100
 12. Alyssa Schmidtke, MS10/Step 10, \$53,234
- Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Stangler to Approve Following Hires:

1. Madysson Dufault, Elementary Teacher - BS/Step 4 - \$36,057
 2. Skylar Petry, Math Teacher - BS50/Step 3 - \$40,830
 3. Kelci Halvorson, Student Success Coordinator BS/Step 10, \$47,709 - Salary Based on Teacher Master Agreement with 193 Duty Days
- Five members voted in favor - Schneider voted against - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to Approve 10 Days Extended Year Contract for Bridgette Reuvers, High School Counselor.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Bowman to Approve Summer School Staff:

1. Pam Heinz, Paraprofessional - \$13.35 per hour
 2. Anamika Kanne, Paraprofessional - \$13.35 per hour
 3. Amy Petry, Paraprofessional - \$17.46 per hour
 4. Susan Kreinke, Clerical - \$14.41 per hour
 5. Kaitlin Vetsch, Teacher - \$34.53 per hour
 6. Kelsey Schiefelbein, Teacher - \$34.53 per hour
 7. Karen Marzahn, Teacher - \$34.53 per hour
 8. Patty Whitehurst, Teacher - \$34.53 per hour
- Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approve the following Summer School staff:

9. Susan Michael, Teacher - \$34.53 per hour
- Five members voted in favor - Michael abstains - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Schneider to Approve the Following Community Education Summer Staff

1. Susan Bliss, SAC - \$11.29
2. Vicki Gregor, SAC - \$11.29
3. Stephanie James, SAC - \$11.29
4. Akalie Molitor, SAC - \$11.29
5. Isabel Weller, SAC - \$11.29
6. Blake Seesz, SAC - \$11.29
7. Kyleigh Duffy, SAC - \$8.28
8. Brody Holicky, SAC - \$8.28
9. Dennis Androli, Youth Baseball - Volunteer
10. Trista Hering, T-Ball - TBD
11. Maddy Meskan, T-Ball - TBD

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Five members voted in favor - Rezac voted against - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest Jay Schneider, Attest

