

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Monday, January 6, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in special session on Monday, January 6, 2025 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, Jeff Stangler, June Rezac, Jay Schneider, Brenda Heuss, Troy Tolzman, and Jocelyn Brown attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting was Superintendent John Regan.

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

PRESENTATIONS

The board received a presentation by Ehlers Public Finance Advisors on a pre-sale report for the \$12,165,000 General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds, Series 2025A. The proposed issue will finance health and safety/indoor air quality projects included in the District's 10-year facilities plan approved by the Commissioner of Education.

The bonds are being issued for a term of 20 years. Principal on the bonds will be due on February 1 in the years 2026 through 2045. Interest will be due every six months beginning February 1, 2026.

Because the District is issuing more than \$10 million in tax-exempt obligations during the calendar year, the District will not be able to designate the bonds as "bank qualified" obligations.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Election of Officers:

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to nominate Michael for Board Chairperson. Rezac moves for nominations to cease. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Bakken to nominate Rezac for Board Vice Chair. Bakken moves for nominations to cease. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Rezac to nominate Schneider for Board Clark. Rezac moves for nominations to cease. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Heuss to nominate Bakken for Board Treasurer. Stangler moves for nominations to cease. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Set Meeting Dates and Times:

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approve the meeting dates and times for the 4th Monday of each month for regular meetings with the 3rd Monday as an alternate if 4th Monday is a holiday. Meeting times will be 6:30 p.m.

Corresponding dates for the regular meetings in 2025 include: January 27, February 24, March 24, April 28, May 19, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, October 27, November 24, December 15, January 5, 2026 Organizational Meeting (tentative).

Corresponding dates (all tentative) for work session meetings in 2025 include: February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Designate Official Banks(s) Depository:

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Bakken to designate official banks for school district funds. They include Frandsen Bank in Waterville, The Elysian Bank, Lake Country Community Bank of Morristown, and Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund are named depositories, with Frandsen Bank processing the checking accounts. The superintendent and business manager have the discretion to distribute the funds electronically as needed and invest in short term CDs on the Board's behalf.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Payment of Salaries:

The chairperson and clerk are authorized to issue order upon the treasurer in payment of salaries when they come due.

Designate Official Newspaper:

The LifeEnterprise Newspaper has been named the official school district newspaper.

Set Board Member Compensation:

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Michael to raise meeting compensation \$15 per month and per special meeting. This motion was voted down 7-0. Motion by Michael and seconded by Schneider to amend the previous motion and increase

monthly stipend to \$75 per month, \$75 for each special meeting, study session, or committee meeting, \$100 per day for workshops, and officers receive an additional \$200 per year except the clerk receives \$400 additional per year, and the IRS approved rate for school district approved mileage.

Six members voting in favor - Bakken voted against - motion declared passed.

Set Compensation for Negotiating Team:

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Michael to increase meeting compensation to \$75 per meeting and keep other compensation the same, including \$100 per day for mediation/arbitration,, and the chief negotiator receives \$500 in addition to other compensation.

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

Designate Legale Counsel:

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approve Squires, Waldspurger & Mace, P.A. as the Legal Counsel. The board chair, superintendent, and business manager may contact Legal Counsel. Authority is also granted to the administration to employ any other attorney/law firm as deemed necessary.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Committee Assignments:

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Heuss to approve the following WEM School Board Committee Assignments:

Minnesota State High School League/Athletic Council - Schneider and Tolzman.

Negotiations/Chief Negotiator - Bakken (Chief), Stangler and Rezac.

Meet and Confer - Superintendent, Building Administrator, and Bakken.

Community Service - Schneider.

Ag Education - Stangler.

Students Attendance and truancy Issues - Stangler and Michael.

Impartial Hearer for Student Expulsions - Michael and Tolzman.

Legislation - Rezac and Heuss.

Finance - Bakken and Michael.

Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness - Heuss.

Facilities/Strategic Planning - Heuss, Schneider, and Tolzman.

Policy - Heuss, Rezac, and Schneider.

Communications Committee - Rezac and Schneider.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee - Heuss and Michael.

Grievance Committee - All 7 Board Members.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

ACTION

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Heuss to approve the resolution Directing the administration to Make Recommendations Regarding the Reduction and/or Discontinuance of Programs and Positions and Reasons Thereof.

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

Motion by Michael and seconded by Schneider to approve bids in the amount of \$4,137,269 for general construction, fire suppression, mechanical, and electrical work.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest Jay Schneider, Attest