

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, October 26, 2020, 6 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, October 26, 2020 at the Waterville Building in the Board Room. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Pam Baker at 6:07 p.m.

Present were Board Members Baker, Jay Schneider, and Travis Bowman. Board member Jeff Stangler participated in the meeting via teleconference. Also present were Superintendent Joel Whitehurst, Principals Dr. Jennifer Wilson and Bobbie Jo Bastian. Business Manager Margaret Jewison and Activities Director Jeff Boran participated in the meeting via teleconference,

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approve the agenda. Four members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Baker to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from Sept. 28. Four members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Baker and seconded by Schneider to table the approval of the special meeting minutes of October 8 due to lack of board members present.

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

Motion by Baker and seconded by Schneider to approve the October Finance report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$3,150,077.43, deposits were \$1,102,112.55, and transfers were \$3,100,000. Comments included a payment of \$16,579 to Hoglund Bus Company, Inc for a transportation vehicle, a payment of \$7,584.60 to Virco, Inc. for elementary equipment, a payment of Waseca Glass, Inc for \$4,500 for custodial supplies, a payment of \$9,655.81 to Minnesota Comfort Solutions for long-term facilities maintenance, and a payment of \$31,236 to Envirobate for construction services.

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

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

REPORTS

WEM Principal Bobbie Jo Bastian and WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson (PreK-12th Grade) presented the following report:

PreK-6 Grade

* PreK-6 grade staff are very happy to have our students here five days a week and are utilizing every minute to maximize learning. A thank you to all staff for working so hard to meet student needs during these difficult and complicated times.

* We had our first late start Oct. 6 and will have our second late start next week. The focus of PLCs is on activities to support student learning for students in person and distance. Staff

have identified this time as essential to successfully meeting the needs of all students.

- * K-6 students participated in homecoming dress up days during homecoming week.

- * Our next preschool screening will be held Friday, Nov.6.

- * Fall conferences are scheduled for the evenings Nov. 19 and Nov. 23. Information for conference sign-up will be shared in the coming weeks.

- * Thank you to Affinity Plus Credit Union employees for the baskets of goodies. Special thanks to the Velske and Wendel families for keeping WEM Schools in mind with this awesome pay it forward project from Affinity Plus Credit Union.

7-12 Grade

- * Thank you to Mrs. Kelley for the planning and replanning for Homecoming. After having to postpone we were happy to host Oct. 19-23. Congratulations to our 2020 Homecoming King Griffin Atherton and Queen Kylie Pittmann.

- * Our staff polled students earlier in the month and we have a list generated of those who requested a locker for their backpacks due to weight. With early winter weather administration knows students need a place for their belongings. I have worked with the Le Sueur County Public Health on guidance for locker assignments for all. On Thursday of this week we will be allowing all students to access lockers.

- * Since October 1st we have needed additional substitute teachers. When we came up short with substitute availability our staff came up big for us to fill in hours when they would have otherwise had their scheduled prep. Thank you to all staff that are stepping up and doing whatever it takes. We also appreciate our substitutes more than ever during this time.

- * November 9 will be the last day of Quarter 1. Conferences are coming up within a month and the administration will be discussing how conferences will be held. Like many things COVID related, we plan to plan and spending numbers in the county we will be flexible with those plans.

- * Counseling Services of Southern Minnesota reached out and asked for input on how best to use their CARES dollars. Administration suggested support groups for staff, students, and parents. Videos and support groups are completed and set up. Just today we sent out information to staff and requested our counselors send out invitations to students. The groups are time to connect regarding mental health concerns and stressors.

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran's presented the following report:

ATHLETICS

- * WEM/JWP Cross Country -The Section Meet was held Tuesday October 14th in Montgomery. Kwinn Krause (JWP 7th Grader) qualified for this Saturday's State Tournament that will not happen in 2020. The WEM/JWP Girls won the Gopher Conference meet for the 3rd straight year.

- * The WEM varsity volleyball team (#2 ranked in Class A) will host 2 games this week, Tuesday vs. Blooming Prairie and Thursday vs. Medford. The Bucs are currently undefeated. Volleyball Playoffs will begin Nov. 30. Currently 2 spectators per participant are allowed to attend VB games. WEM has sold passes for attendance at all home and away games. All levels of home VB games are being live streamed on the WEM NFHS site. There may be different providers for away games.

- * The WEM varsity football team played their first game this past Friday after very few practices over the past few weeks. The Bucs will travel to Cleveland this Friday. Playoffs begin

Tuesday November 17, culminating with section championship games on November 28. Currently 250 spectators are allowed in person to attend games. The District has decided on 170 home and 80 away will be granted access. All tickets for both home and away games have been sold. Currently home varsity Football games are being streamed using the NFHS site. All varsity games are covered by KRUE radio.

* Winter seasons have been defined with a limited number of contests for each. Boys basketball may begin practices Monday, November 23 and may play 18 games by February 27. Wrestling practices begin November 30 and may compete in 16 two or three team events through February 13. Girls basketball practices may begin December 7 with 18 games played by March 13. Sub Section and Section playoffs will be played after the regular season.

* WEM coop activities with Waseca. Boys hockey may begin November 23, girls hockey November 30 each playing up to 18 games. Gymnastics may begin December 7. Registration information should be coming out soon.

* I am still awaiting guidelines for spectators etc. for winter seasons from the MSHSL.

* Spring Sports seasons and the number of contests have been defined and practice may begin March 22, 2021.

* I plan to open registration sometime next week. (Week of November 2)

* Currently it doesn't appear that the MSHSL will offer any State Tournament opportunities.
COMMUNITY SERVICES

* WEM Driver Education class will begin November 10. Currently 21 students are registered for the in-person classroom. The number will be limited to 24.

* SAC has now moved into its new room (formerly Mrs. Michael's classroom). Jennifer Holicky continues to do an awesome job coordinating this service.

* School Readiness has been moving along very well. We do have some ECFE opportunities beginning in January.

* Some requests for facility use this winter have begun and we will follow guidelines set up by MDH with groups intending to use the facilities.

WEM Superintendent Joel Whitehurst presented the following:

* Whitehurst asked the board for some guidance on updating electrical panels. The cost for updating the main electrical panel is \$67,000. To update all the electrical panels would cost \$127,000. This update is not part of the building project. The board will make a decision on this at their November meeting.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. First Reading of the following policies:

Policy 419 - Tobacco-Free Environment

Policy 516 - Student Medication

Policy 607 - Organization of Grade Levels.

The board will vote on these during their November meeting.

B. Establish date and time to canvass the school board election after November 12, 2020. Preferably November 13, 2020. The board will look at times on Nov. 13.

ACTION

Motion by Baker and seconded by Schneider to approve changing of 2-hour late start from Tuesday, Nov. 3rd to Wednesday, Nov. 4th, 2020.

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

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Stangler to approve 2020 short-term radon testing contract with IEA.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Baker to approve the annual resolution establishing combined polling places.

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

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Stangler to approve the 2019-21 contract of Business Manager Margaret Jewison. The 2019-20 total package increase is 2.56 percent with a salary of \$68,805. The 2020-21 total package increase is 4.19 percent with a salary of \$71,471.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bowman to approved the 2019-21 contract of Building & Grounds Supervisor Scott Allen. The 2019-20 total package increase is 2.56 percent with a salary of \$43,053. The 2020-21 total package increase is 4.19 percent with a salary of \$44,766. The district boiler license will increase from \$100 to \$200 per month.

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

Motion by Baker and seconded by Schneider to approve the 2019-21 contract of Food Service Director Nancy Culhane. The 2019-20 total package increase is 2.56 percent with a salary of \$42,536. The 2020-21 total package increase is 4.19 percent with a salary of \$44,000.

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

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

1. Cole Long, Custodian, B22/Step 5, \$15.15/hour.
2. Terry Whitaker, Custodian, B22/Step 5, \$15.15/hour.
3. Joan Steinhaus, 0.5 FTE School Nurse, \$131/day (funded by CARES Grant).
4. Anna Meschke, Administrative Assistant, B23/Step 3, \$14.12/hour.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approve the 2020-21 additional assignment roster. See attachment.

Four member voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bowman to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Pam Baker, Board Chair Jay Schneider, Board Clerk