

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, February 23, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 23, 2026 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair June Rezac at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Gary Michael (Arrived at 6:38 p.m.), Jon Bakken (on line), Jeff Stangler, Troy Tolzman, Jay Schneider, and Grace Bartz, attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Superintendent Mark Winter, Principal Myles Knutson, 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 Stangler and seconded by Rezac to approve additional agenda item, placing the whole board on the policy committee instead of just three.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Rezac to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 26, 2026. Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the Jan. 27-Feb. 23 Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$985,371.62, deposits were \$1,170,570.16, and transfers of \$800,000. Items discussed included a payment of \$16,772.42 to South Central Service cooperative for pupil support services

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

RECOGNITION

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approve the following monetary donation.

- Partners in Education donated \$100 to the Junior High.
- American Legion Auxiliary Post 149 donated \$25 to the Elementary.
- The Minnesota Vikings donated \$5,000 to Flag Football.
- CrystalValley donated \$500 to the FFA Student Activity Account.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

A thank was given to Chris Dahle, Industrial Tech, and his students for making the beautiful new board room table.

PRESENTATION

Business Manager Margaret Jewison presented the revised 2025-2026 budget. See attachment.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approve the consent agenda which included the following items:

Approve the following resignation.

- Christine Austin, Kitchen Asst/Baker - Waterville, effective February 27, 2026

Approve the following new hires.

- Shelby Strouth - Paraprofessional/Step B, \$16.54/hour.
- Alexys Engel - Kitchen Asst/Baker - Waterville/Band A-1-3/Step H, \$15.20/hour.

Approve the following Community Ed/Summer SACC 2026 Employees:

- Students Helpers
- Raelyn Eich - \$11.54/hour
- Isabelle Bauer - \$11.54/hour

Approve the following retirements:

- Jeffrey Boran, Activities Administrator/Community Education Director, effective the end of the 2025-2026 school year.
- Thomas Walker, High School Spanish and Social Studies Teacher, effective the end of the 2025-2026 School Year

Approve the following 2025-2026 Spring Coaches:

Softball

- Crystal Lamont - Head Coach, \$6,008
- Madysson Dufault - 1st Assistant, \$4,283
- Kelci Halvorson, Junior High Coach, \$2,575
- Kelsey Bauer - Volunteer

Baseball

- Mark Thompson - 1st Assistant, \$4,283
- Blake Seesz - Junior High Coach, \$2,575
- Boys/Girls Track and Field
- Mike Richards - Head Coach, \$6,008
- Harold Nielsen - 1st Assistant, \$4,283

Clay Target

- Doug Androli - Co-Coach, \$1,000
- Tyson Cooley - Co-Coach, \$1,000

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

REPORTS

WEM K-4 and Junior High Principal Myles Knutson submitted a report during the meeting

WEM Senior High Principal Brandon Tagg submitted the following reports:
9-12 February Board Minutes

The second quarter is alive and well. We are checking in with kids daily to make sure they are staying on top of things and making sure their grades are going up. Conferences are tonight, February 23rd, so hopefully you will see parents checking in with teachers as well as supporting our boys basketball team. We would love to find ways to get these conference nights to be more attended, so looking into some ideas to present to all of you at a later date.

9th graders went on a Career Navigator field trip on Friday, February 20th. Students were led to different stations at the college campus and given information on what it takes for certain occupations to exist and how much schooling is needed to make a position like this come to fruition. Students were also given a tour of the college where the event happened as well.

A band and choir concert is happening on Tuesday, February 24th. All groups will present what they

have learned so far this quarter including a few musical numbers from the jazz band that meets before school. We are looking forward to this night of song.

I took a day this month to meet with the principal at JWP to discuss issues that we both find challenging and compare/contrast how their school is set up for grades 7-12, and how that could correlate with how we will bring the 6-12 grades together here at WEM. We shared schedules and ideas we want to combine on including some classes they currently have and ideas of things we can share with them. This seems like a good way to build on what we can offer students to make our school a place to be.

On our recent professional development day, middle school teachers came over and looked into their new classrooms. It was an excitement felt by all with plans of how to decorate and set up for next school year. We are all excited about them coming over.

Brandon Tagg

WEM High School Principal

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran submitted the following reports:

Activities : Winter Tournament Time!

Girls Basketball:

At the deadline for this the girls season record is 8-17 overall and finished with an 5-7 record in the Gopher Conference, good for 6th place in the 10 team conference (Only 10 teams for 2025-26 as Medford did not field a Varsity Girls team.) The Section 2AA tournament begins tonight (Monday 2/23/26) at 7:00 pm. WEM the #11 seed travels to Belle Plaine the # 6 seed. If we win the quarter final game we would play the winner of Central (Norwood YA) #3 and Waseca #14 at the high seed site on Thursday February 26 at @7:00 pm. The Section Semifinals will be Monday March 2 at MSU and the Section Championship Friday March 6 at MSU. The All- Gopher Conference Selection meeting will held Sunday night (2/22/26).

Boys Basketball:

The Boys regular season is coming to an end this week with a game tonight vs. Nicollet. Currently the boys are 9-14 overall (as of this deadline) with a 7-6 conference record, good for 5th best to date in the conference! Section 2AA seeding is this Wednesday 2/25/25. The first game for playoffs will be Tuesday March 3 at 7:00 pm at the high seed! Section Quarterfinals will then be Thursday March 5 again at @ 7:00 pm. at the high seed. The Section Semifinal will be Monday March 9 at MSU and the Section Championship Friday March 12 at St. Peter H.S. The All-Gopher Conference Selection meeting was held Sunday night (Sunday 2/22/26).

Wrestling:

The Grizzlies finished the dual meet season 12-13 on the season, 4-2 in the Gopher Conference. The Grizzlies battled to a 2nd place finish in the Section 2A Team Tournament held here in Waterville on February 14. The Section 2A Individual Tournament was held in Janesville this past weekend Feb. 21. The All-Conference selections will also occur Sunday Feb. 22. The state wrestling tournament will begin this Wednesday Feb. 25 at Grand Casino Arena (formerly known as The Xcel Center) St. Paul!

Big Shout Out!

WEM One-Act Play Team - The cast performed "Nellie" by Robby Steltz, in an exhibition performance on Saturday, January 17 in Blooming Prairie. They then competed in the Subsection 5 competition January 24 here in Waterville placing 2nd advancing to the Section Contest held in Waseca on January 31. Team members are: Isabelle Bauer, Jerimy Bohlmann-Little, Abby Crosby, Madalyn Hackney, Sophia Harvey, Ryley Henning, Leah Meschke, Emma O'Brien, Lacey Reysack, Jenessa Wilmes, and Jaelyn Wilmes.

WEM Band and Choir - On February 7, 2026 WEM Band and Choir students participated in the 7th Gopher Conference Honors Band and Choir and Visual Arts event in New Richland at NRHEG HS.

Band - Grace Bartz, Miley Anderson, Emma O'Brien, Brendan Snestrud, Nick Allen, Leah

Meschke

Choir - Liza Baker, Ryley Henning, Ellie Schlie,, Jerimy Bohlman-Little, Abby Crosby, Kayla Bronk, Clare Landum, Grace Norton, Gavin Atherton, Cash Wenker, Gage Bliss, Marco Dorantes, Miley Roemhildt

Art – Shelby Christianson, Morgan Flohaug, Dominic Ungaro, Sophia Harvey, Ashley Morrow
Spring Activities

WEM Subsection 5 Choir Large Group Contests is next Monday March 2 at NRHEG HS in New Richland.

The Band will perform in their Large Group Competition on March 16 at Maple River HS. In Mapleton.

The Solo/Ensemble Contest is Saturday March 221 at MSU.

7-12 Boys and Girls Track practice begins Monday March 9.

Softball begins practice Monday March 9. JH (7&8) Sb March 17.

Baseball begins practice Monday March 16. JH (7&8) Bb March 17. Baseball pitchers and catchers can begin Monday March 9 for arm strengthening programs as per MSHSL rule.

WEM Trap (Clay Target) is getting started in March as well.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Spring/ Summer Activities are beginning and we are getting primed for a busy summer!

Summer 2026 School Age Childcare registration is currently registering students with a limited availability based on our licensure..... The 2026-2027 school year registration will also begin soon.

2026-2027 “Little Bucs Preschool” registrations are open and accepting registrations.

Driver Education - Summer Behind the Wheel sign up beginning in April for the 2026 summer. Planning the next classroom session

WEM Board Committee Reports

There were no Board Committee reports.

WEM Superintendent Mark Winter presented the following:

- Superintendent Winter spoke about the following items: retirees will be missed, Education Week and FFA Week, five individual wrestlers to State and 2nd in Section 2A, no change with the purchase of the Morristown School, upcoming band and choir concert, 9th graders learning about careers, Legislative session began last week, worries about upcoming funding, one act play to Sections finals, and spring sports start March 19.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

IEA completed short-term radon testing in all three buildings with all buildings being within the acceptable range.

The board had the first readings of the following policies (See attachments):

205 Open Meetings and Closed Meetings

207 Public Hearings

401 Equal Employment Opportunity

714 Fund Balances

A work session has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 10 to discuss the budget and possibly cuts.

ACTION

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Tolzman to approve the following policies:

511 Student Fundraising.

612.1 Development of Parent and Family Engagement Policies for Title 1 programs redline.

615 Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students redline.

619 Staff Development for Standards redline.

See attachments on these four policies.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to approve the 2025-2026 agreement concerning instructional staff sharing between ISD #2835 JWP and #2143 WEM Public School for Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) teacher.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Schneider to approve the unpaid leave request for Tujwana Byers for March 30 - April 10, 2026.

Six members voting in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Michael to rescind Policy 215 Gratuity as an Allowable Expense (2007 revision). This is covered under Policy 412 Expense Reimbursement.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to rescind Policy 236 Polling Places (1995 revision). This is covered by Resolution approved October 23, 2023.

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

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the 2026-2027 staff calendar - See attachment.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Rezac to approve the 2027-2028 staff calendar - See attachment.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approve the 2025-2026 revised budget - See attachment.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

June Rezac, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest