

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 27, 2020, 6 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 27, 2020 at the Waterville Building in the Board Room. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Pam Baker at 6:17 p.m.

Present was Board Member Jay Schneider. Board members Pam Baker, Travis Bowman, Dan Houlihan, Gary Michael, Jeff Stangler, and Jon Velishek participated in the meeting via teleconference. Also present were Superintendent Joel Whitehurst, Principals Dr. Jennifer Wilson and Bobbi Jo Bastian, Activities Director Jeff Boran, and Business Manager Margaret Jewison,

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

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to approve the April Financial Transactions. The bills and payroll for the report were \$1,408,755.99, deposits were \$1,055,970.30, and transfers were \$10,600,000. Comments included a payment of \$16,704.23 to North Central Blue Bird for bus repairs, a payment of \$17,500 to the City of Waterville for the school's portion of the school resource officer, a payment of \$17,550.50 to Nieman Roofing Company, Inc. for roof repairs, and a payment of \$11,235.35. Rochester Community & Technical College for PSEO Tuition.

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

VISITOR COMMENTS

None

RECOGNITION

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

* A donation of \$500 from the Le Sueur County Sheriff's Youth Project for elementary playground equipment.

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

REPORTS

Bobbi Jo Bastian presented the following report:
PreK-6 Grade

* We continue to support distance learning in PreK-6.

Teachers are connecting with students daily. They have worked hard to stay aware of individual student situations to allow for flexibility in expectations. We continue to work with families to problem solve technology needs, support learning, and meet student needs.

* We are currently working on plans for Kindergarten Round-up, including a contingency plan should an in person round-up not be possible this spring. We are also working to plan alternate date for preschool screening. We will solidify a date as soon as Governor Walz announces the plan for schools moving forward.

* We are planning for summer school as well. Tentative plans include summer school to begin Monday, July 6 and end on Thursday, July 30.

WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson presented the following report:
7-12 Grade

* We made it halfway through Quarter 4 as of last Wednesday. During this time I facilitated conversations around grading options for 9-12. Staff continue to be flexible and show great resilience to the demands of distance learning, technology hiccups, and the meeting the needs of the students.

* The senior advisory team and I met last week to talk through ideas for graduation. Administration has been connected weekly on ideas. No definitive plans have been set due to the unknowns from our political leaders and CDC, however the priority to host graduation on May 15 in some creative capacity remains high.

* Margo Kulseth and I have connected on several occasions over the last month to increase social media campaigns for seniors and the greater school community. Action on social media include senior spotlights, staff graduation photos, and continued volunteering from staff to read bedtime stories.

* The deadline for senior scholarships has passed. Mrs. Wold is organizing this. Mr. Boran, Mrs. Wold, and I have discussed alternative options for Night of Excellence. Once we have more directives from our political leaders we will make definitive plans.

* The ACT has been moved to June 2. We will host at the Morristown Community Center. We will continue to follow CDC guidelines. A letter was recently sent home to juniors and their parents about the ACT held on June 2.

* Mrs. Bastian and I met with staff who may be affected in the changes for 2020-21. We are looking forward to hearing more from the board on a financial direction. From that point we will get started on creating schedules and assigning staff to specific courses.

* It is that time of year that KEYC reaches out to area

schools to honor the Best in the Class in conjunction with sponsorship from Bethany Lutheran College. Representing WEM for the Class of 2020 are Kelsey Kuball, Akalie Molitor, and Grant McBroom. Students are nominated based on their educational experience, overall achievements, and display of life-long learning.

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran's presented the following report: Due to the shut down the 202 WEM Annual Night of Excellence will be streamed Wednesday, May 13, 2020, beginning at 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

* All spring 2020 activities have been cancelled. WEM had approximately 135-140 students 7-12 registered and planning to participate.

* The MSHSL has announced that they will be sending trophies and medals to the girls basketball teams, which were still in contention, saying "State Finalists." We hope later this summer we will be able to properly celebrate the accomplishment of our team and recognize the athletes and coaches.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

* MN DPS has allowed driver education classroom programs to be online until facilities are opened back up. The current March class where students still need to complete 15 hours is beginning today, Monday, April 27. The May 18 scheduled classroom session start date may change...students and parents will be notified. Behind the wheel services are still on hold.

* Summer Recreation Programs are currently on hold and in doubt due to the Corona Virus pandemic. Based on safety and recommendations from the MDH, CDC, etc. every effort will be made to have some activities. Swimming lessons are scheduled for July 13-24 tentatively.

* The WEM Clay Target Team was "officially" cancelled. However, many students did pay registration fees to belong to the USA Clay Target League and with that league continuing some students from WEM may continue to participate as gun clubs are open for business and students are able to record scores.

* We are planning to continue School Age Care services this summer, with many questions regarding essential workers, etc.

* There was a long discussion on how to proceed with spring sports coaches pay for the 2020 season. It was determined to get a recommendation from the school district attorney on how to proceed.

Board Committee Report:

*The negotiations team will hold a meeting May 4.

WEM Superintendent Joel Whitehurst presented the following:

* Whitehurst reported the Governor's Order for Distance Learning the remainder of the school year, conference calls twice a week with the State of Minnesota, summer school being allowed in July, questions about school returning in the fall, construction is in full swing, staff looking at different options for medical insurance, and teachers and staff working great through the pandemic.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

* Bids for the FFA ag land are due May 8th.

* Financial considerations were discussed for the 2020-21 school year. No action was taken.

ACTION

* Motion by Houlihan and seconded by Michael to approve the following building contracts (R.A.Morton sought clarification after bid opening).

1. Base Bid 17 Terrazzo, Waterville - Grazzini Brothers and Company, \$189,900

2. Base Bid 18 Signage, Waterville and Morristown: North Star Signs and Engraving, Inc, \$16,350

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

* Motion by Bowman and seconded by Stangler to approve the proposal for commissioning services from Hallberg Engineering, \$80,000. Hallberg, IEA, and KFI each provided bids.

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

* Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to approve the proposal from American Testing and Engineering for special inspections and construction testing, \$12,346.50

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

* Motion by Stangler and seconded by Houlihan to approve Mavo Systems for asbestos removal in Morristown, \$77,500 and EnviroBate, Inc. for asbestos removal in Waterville, \$132,000.

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

* Motion by Michael and seconded by Schneider to approve the audit engagement proposal from Abdo, Eich and Meyers.

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

* Motion by Schneider and seconded by Michael to approve the revised band and choir trip dates to November 18-23, 2020.

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

Personnel

* Motion by Michael and seconded by Baker to approve the revised Letter of Request for Leave of Absence from Stephanie Houlihan.

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

* Motion by Michael and seconded by Bowman to approve non-renewal of Yvette Randall a probationary ECFE teacher.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Houlihan to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Pam Baker, Board Chair

Jay Schneider, Board Clerk