

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, July 22, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, July 22, 2024 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Vice Chairman June Rezac at 6:35 p.m.

Board Members Gary Michael (arrived at 6:48 p.m.), Rezac, Jon Bakken, Jay Schneider, and Troy Tolzman attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Superintendent John Regan and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

A public hearing was held to consider granting the renewal of an expiring operating levy. There were no comments at the meeting or in writing.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Tolzman to approve a resolution authorizing the renewal of an expiring referendum. Four members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approve the agenda. Four members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Tolzman to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from June 24, 2024. Four members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the June Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$791,781.02, deposits were \$550,401.52, and transfers of \$200,000. Specific items discussed were a payment of \$5,933.46 to Volkman Electric for long-term maintenance, \$16,000 to Castle Gardens Landscaping for work on the football field, and mention was made on how the district will work on the deficit spending which is currently taking place. Four members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

ISC, a construction management services company, made a presentation - see attachment.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve the request for a lane change for Patricia Pettis, BS50/MS to MS10 effective September 1, 2024.

Approve Robyn Schwichtenberg, Community Education Summer 8U Softball Coach - \$20/student registered - \$420.

Approve the following 2024-2025 coaches:

- Bill John as a volunteer varsity football coach.
- Kelci Halvorson as a 2nd assistant volleyball coach - \$3,420.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

RECOGNITION

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

A donation of \$2,000 from Gerald Miller to the Linda Miller Memorial Scholarship.

A donation of \$500 from Lake Elysian Watershed Association from the Lake Elysian Watershed Scholarship.

A donation of \$700 from the Waterville Lions Club to the Travis Trades Scholarship.

A donation of \$1,000 from the American Red Cross for American Red Cross Scholarship.

A donation of \$150 from Hudson Insurance Agency to the elementary school.

A donation of \$1,125 from the Waterville Lions Club to the elementary School.

A donation of \$57.40 from Casey's to the high school.

A donation of \$17.90 from Box Tops For Education to the elementary school.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

REPORTS

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

Waterville Campus Information

Planning and scheduling for Workshop Week 2024-2025 is occurring. We have speakers coming as well as routine employee education sessions mixed with time for teacher collaboration and work time schedule. The full schedule for workshop week will be sent out to staff early August.

I have met with nearly all of our new teachers throughout the summer as they prepare to join the WEM staff in August. I'm proud of the excitement and energy as well as the forward thinking our new staff will bring to the district.

Student success coordinator, Mrs. Kelci Halvorson, has moved into the Waterville campus and is gearing up for the upcoming year. We met as a team last week to connect with the elementary PBIS team and the planning for the upcoming year is underway with fun events and data collection.

We've hosted Le Sueur County 4Hers linked to WEM to work with our SAC students. The opportunity to link arms and bring activities from the county and farm level to our students is outstanding. A big thank you to Jen Holicky for scheduling.

We have a number of students who are Le Sueur County Ambassadors and participants in area county fair competitions. Best wishes to all our students competing and participating in contests. WEM traditionally has an outstanding reputation for livestock and projects, our students lead the way and come out of our county fairs highly decorated. While not associated with the district sponsored events it is definitely a reflection and connection to the robust FFA program, ag-based community and connections our students have in the area that give back in many facets.

Work on the mural continues. We have pockets of student volunteers coming in throughout the last few weeks to assist our artist in residence.

K-4

Summer school wrapped up its second session on Thursday, July 18. Despite having to cut the first session short in June due to the flooding we had high retention levels coming into the second session. Thank you to our summer school staff for making summer school a fun atmosphere for kids to continue learning and growing. Our summer school staff includes Melissa Dwyer, Susan Michael, Susan Krienke, Patty Whitehurst, Britta Robran, Deb Wollin and a special thank you to Deneen Schulz and team for helping with breakfast and Tauston Lamont and team for transportation services.

I have been diving in and getting acquainted at a deeper level with elementary summer needs and preparing for a smooth transition in the fall.

Return to school events such as the annual back to school letter and entrance conferences will go out to families early August.

9-12

Within our collaboration and partnership with Waseca Area Alternative Center to assist students who fall behind in credit attainment we are excited to bridge the offering for credit recovery to allow more accessibility to students. In the upcoming year we will be offering credit recovery after school in-house vs. having to have our students travel to Waseca. We are excited to launch this to our students who need it and the barriers and financial burden will make credit recovery possible on a higher level.

Planning is underway for Homecoming 2024. Administration plans to increase communication, expectations and partner with local entities to assist in communication and expectations. Our desire to have a school spirit filled day with an experience the entire community can take part in and be proud of is the ultimate goal for this year.

WEM Community Education and Activities Director Jeff Boran submitted the following report:

ACTIVITIES

The 2024-25 Activities Registration site is currently open for Fall Activities Registration!

The First official date for all the 2024 Fall HS Athletic practices begins August 12, 2024. (Volleyball, Cheerleading, Boys & Girls Cross Country and Football)

Community Education Summer Activities:

Most Summer 2024 Activities are completed. Participation numbers : Elem./JH/JV & Varsity VB Camp – 65, Youth FB Camp – 22, Southern Star Softball – 80, T- Ball – 27, Swimming Lessons – 48, Shout out to the “Elysian Little League Baseball” with over 70 participants again!

WEM has had 40 students attend the Spring and Summer classrooms with a Fall classroom scheduled for late October and early November. To date, 41 students have completed or are scheduled to complete Behind the Wheel this year. WEM 2024 Summer School Age Childcare, has 54 students, the last day of service is Friday August 23, 2024.

WEM was able to share facilities with the couple Library Events; July 2nd – Native American Dance event & July 18 – Puppet Show. Both events enjoyed by our SACC Children! This coming Wednesday July 24th the MS Ride Across Minnesota will be using the South Parking lot as a rest/ water stop for the projected over 300 riders between 7:00 am and 10:00 am.

The 2024-2025 School Year School Age Childcare begins Wednesday September 4, 2024. Currently 26 students are registered for the School Age Childcare program for the 2024- 2025 school year. I expect this to increase.

Currently 50 students are registered for WEM Little Bucs Preschool for the 2024-2025 school year! Due to strong registrations we were able to shift a bit in early Summer and now will have 3 Classroom sessions. A 3-Day 1/2 day morning session (for 3 yr. olds), a 4-Day 1/2 day afternoon session (for 4 yr. olds) and a new 4-Day “all day” session for 4/5 yr. olds.

WEM Board Member Reports

Rezac commented on a Title IX Documentary.

WEM Board Committee Reports

The Diversity Committee held their first meeting.

WEM Superintendent John Regan presented the following:

- Superintendent Regan commented on having a WEM junior serving on the school board, draft strategy round-up, our desired daily experience, flood water in the school tunnels, football field may not be able to get sod in time for the season, and the Morristown parking lot area work is beginning.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

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

104 School District Mission Statement

204 School Board Meeting Minutes

609 Religion and Religious and Cultural Observances

802 Disposition of Obsolete Equipment and Material.

ACTION

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approved the resolution relating to the election of school board members and calling the school district general election. See attachment.

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

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Michael to approve the bid for dairy products. See attachment.

Five members voting in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the contracted services from South Central Service Cooperative to provide instructional services FY 2024-2025 for \$535.50 per students per high school semester credit.

Five members voting in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approve the following contracts:

- 2024-2025 School Psychologist, Shawna Peterson-Brown. Daily rate increase from \$540.75 to \$557.
- 2024-2025 School Psychologist Intern, Allison Hunstad. Hourly rate \$29.59/hour up to 15 hours/week.
- 2024-2025 School Psychologist Intern, Danielle German. Hourly rate \$29.59/hour up to 15 hours/week.
- 2024-2025 School Psychologist Intern, Kaylee Engle. Hourly rate \$29.59/hour up to 15 hours/week.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve the following Minor Policy Updates:

102 Equal Educational Opportunity

207 Public Hearings

413 Harassment and Violence

416 Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis Testing

418 Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School

419 Tobacco-Free Environment, Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco- Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction

425 Staff Development

503 Student Attendance

506 Student Discipline

507 Corporal Punishment and Prone Restraint

509 Enrollment of Nonresident Students

513 Student Promotion, Retention, and Program Design

514 Bullying Prohibition

516 Student Medication and Telehealth

521 Student Disability Nondiscrimination

524 Internet, Technology, and Cell Phone Acceptable Use and Safety

532 Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds

601 School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals

602 Organization of School Calendar and School Day

604 Instructional Curriculum

606.5 Library Materials

613 Graduation Requirements

620 Credit for Learning

624 Online Instruction

707 Transportation of Public School Students

708 Transportation of Nonpublic School Students

709 Student Transportation Safety

806 Crisis Management

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Tolzman to approve the following policies (See attachments

404 Employment Background Checks

427 Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers

603 Curriculum Development

616 School District System Accountability

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Schneider to approve the motion to rescind Policy 535 Violence Prevention and Weapons (1995).

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest