

## W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 24, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 24, 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, June Rezac, Jeff Stangler, Jay Schneider, Brenda Heuss, Troy Tolzman, and Jocelyn Brown attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting was Superintendent John Regan.

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

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Stangler to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 24. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the February-March Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,113,244.12, deposits were \$13,312,278.94, and transfers of \$1,530,000.00. Bakken commented on a check in the amount of \$110,698 to I & S Group, Inc. which was voided and sent again, a payment of \$109,667.84 to MN Piep for insurance, a payment of \$23,547.05 to CDW Government, Inc. for chrome books, a payment of \$42,261.45 to Flagship Recreation for playground grant equipment, and there was some discussion on the bond sale.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

### RECOGNITION

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Rezac to accept the following monetary donation.

Make It Waterville donated \$500 to the WEM Elementary Art Program.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

### PRESENTATION

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Tolzman to accept the superintendent profile report presented by Jeff Bertrang.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Rezac to offer interviews for the WEM Superintendent positions to Darren Kern, Jennifer Wilson, Mike Neubeck, Michelle Mortensen, and Mark Winter.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

### VISITOR COMMENTS

Harry Tolzman of Waterville commented on the volunteers who installed the new bleachers at the football field and asked if hand rails could be installed. Tolzman also asked if the blacktop sidewalk from Hoosac to Common Street is dark and iced over.

### CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approve the following 2024-2025 Spring coaches:

Softball - Kelsey Bauer, 2nd assistant, \$3,420 and Trista Hering, junior high, \$2,575.

Baseball - Bill John, 2nd assistant, \$3,420 and Sam Stier, junior high, \$2,575.

Boys and Girls Track - Andrew Strumbo, junior high, \$4,823.

- Approve the following hires:

Jamie Reuvers, Waterville Nurse - \$77,010 (for the 2024-2025 school year, paid at a prorated rate based on the number of days worked of the 183 days scheduled on the school board approved calendar).

Kayla Bronk, Peer Tutor - \$12/hour.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

## REPORTS

WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson submitted the following report:

### Waterville Campus Information

Students and staff were off for spring break March 17-21.

Standardized testing will be held in the month of April for all students grades 3-11. Teacher prep, review of instructions and testing schedules will be completed before the end of March.

### K-4

Parent-teacher conferences will be held on two different nights, March 31 and April 3.

The PE department hosted SkateTime again this year. Families were also able to enjoy an evening of skating earlier in the month. Thank you to our PE Department for offering SkateTime again this year.

The elementary school has been dabbling with UFLI, an early literacy program and curriculum through the University of Florida for at least a year. In ongoing conversations with Title I/Interventionist Britta Robran we decided in-house professional development could assist in the promotion of the curriculum as well as increase the confidence using the tools through the UFLI program. Together, Mrs. Robran and elementary special education teacher Hillary Hebl, presented to elementary staff on March 6. It was a well attended hour of professional development with excitement for implementation moving forward.

Third grade teacher, Ms. Bruns, held a publishing party in her classroom on March 14. The class created and published a book and held an open house for other students/classes to stop and see their work. Students learned about the writing and publishing process over the last few weeks. A fun event to showcase their hard work and knowledge gained!

The High School BUCS Pride team celebrated the efforts of Quarter 3 with students and staff on Pie Day, March 14. We served an assortment of pies from Lolli-Pops Bakery in Elysian.

### 9-12

Parent-teacher conferences were held on March 3. Spring conferences at the high school have a single date.

On March 7 all juniors met in the auditorium for a presentation from Dr. Wilson and Mrs. Reuvers. Information presented included ACT, MCA and early bird study classes for preparation of the exams. Post Covid, many 2-year schools are reviewing MCA scores for entrance levels so emphasis on performance and effort were stressed.

Mr. Richards and Mr. Petry will be offering early bird test prep classes in late March and April in subject areas of math and science. The classes are offered at no-charge to students and funding for class expenses is approved in our Achievement and Integration grant.

Juniors attended a career fair on March 12 during the morning hours at Minnesota State University-Mankato. Students completed a career interest form ahead of the event and attended informational sessions based on their top interests. Reports from staff and students attending were raving and informative.

Quarter 3 will end on Friday, March 28.

WEM Principal Myles Knutson submitted the following report:

Greetings School Board Members,

Here are a few updates from the Middle School:

- Catalyst Coaching: I have been extremely impressed all year long with our staff's commitment to professional development and continuous improvement. We just finished up another round of 1 on 1 coaching from our Catalyst trainer. After visiting with Nicole(trainer), she once again had so many amazing things to say about the staff and students she worked with that day. Our biggest takeaways from the day of coaching were how eager our staff is to learn and try new things, the teachers are taking small steps that are making a huge difference in their classrooms, and what our next steps could be this spring, summer, and beyond.

- Preparing for MCA's: Teachers and students have been doing a variety of things all year long to prepare for state testing coming up over the next month of school. One thing recently our teachers did was create some common test taking strategies that each teacher can display and practice in their classrooms, no matter what subject they teach. We hope this consistency of expectations along with showing the students that we are all bought in and invested in our Math, Reading, and Science results will pay off starting next week. We look forward to having an MCA kickoff event in the gym next week to have some fun and get pumped up to start testing!

- Math Masters: Teachers/Coaches Mrs. Sammon and Mrs. Skidmore along with a selection of 5th and 6th grade students have been working extremely hard for months to prepare for their Math Masters competitions. The 6th grade team competed earlier this month and represented WEM with brilliance and teamwork on full display both individually and as a team. We look forward to hearing how our 5th grade Math Masters team does at their upcoming competition in April. Thank you coaches Mrs. Sammon and Mrs. Skidmore for working so hard to prepare our "Mathletes"!

Thank you,  
Myles Knutson

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

Winter – Congratulations to the following Winter Activities All-Conference Individual Honors:

Boys Basketball – Talen Taylor (11) Gavin Brown (12) –All-Conference 1st Team; Nathan Boese (12) – Sportsmanship Award

Girls Basketball – Addison Condon (11) Ashlyn Pelant (12) –All-Conference, Tianna Pope (12) – Gopher Conference Honorable Mention; Tatum Richards (12) – Sportsmanship Award

Wrestling – Keegan Kuball (12) Gopher Conference Wrestler of the Year Keegan Kuball & Carson Petry (12) – All-Conference; Avery Fall (12), Maddox Moreno (12), Brady Murphy (11) – Gopher Conference Honorable Mention; Trey Richards (10) - Sportsmanship Award

CONGRATULATIONS :

- Keegan Kuball the 2025 Class A Hwt. State Champion (3X HWT. State Champion!!)
- Carson Petry 2025 Class A 133 lb. State Champion. (3X All-State)

- Other State wrestling state qualifiers were Maddox Moreno (172#), Brady Murphy (139#), Avery Fall (215#) & Brenden Masso (114#).

Boys Hockey – Griffin Storey (10) Big South All-Conference

Band & Choir (MSHSL Section Large Group Choir Contest. The WEM Choir received a Superior Rating! The band participates March 26th.

Spring – Practices got started the past two weeks:

Boys Track: Currently 23 Participants 7th – 12th.

Girls Track: Currently 12 Participants 7th -12th.

o Both Boys & Girls first event is April 3 at MSU (hosted by BEA)

Softball – Currently 21 girls V & JV and 11 7th & 8th Grades.

o First Games: HS & JH – April 3 home at Hayfield

Baseball – Currently 21 boys registered V & JV and 21 7th & 8th Grades.

o First Games: HS & JH – April 3 vs. Hayfield

Clay Target Team – 71 participants.

Girl's Flag Football – 17 participants

#### COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Driver Education Classroom Mar. 6 – April 7 has 14 students attending in person.

Summer Activities Baseball, Softball, Swimming Lessons, Camps and other spring activities are currently being organized.

Summer Behind the Wheel will begin scheduling in early April.

Summer School Age Childcare registration is up and running. 2024-2025 SACC Registrations will soon.

2025-2026 Preschool Registrations has begun.

#### WEM Board Member Reports

Tolzman thanked Building and Grounds Supervisor River Henry for his work on the WEM locker room floor.

#### WEM Board Committee Reports

There were no Board Committee reports.

WEM Superintendent John Regan presented the following:

- Superintendent Regan commented the survey for staff went out today and students in grades 7-12 next week, attended an event at the State Capitol with more information provided in May, and update Spring break work which included auditorium half completed, locker room floors work, and second floor gutter. Regan also commended the two WEM State Wrestling Champions, Keegan Kuball and Carson Petry.

#### INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

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

01 Legal Status of the School Board

202 School Board Officers

203 Operation of the School Board - Governing Rules

203.1 School Board Procedures; Rules of Order

203.2 Order of the Regular School Board Meeting

203.5 School Board Meeting Agenda

20-3.6 Consent Agendas

Single Site Update - The Board will receive more information in April - in-house interviews were completed last week.

#### ACTION

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

210 Conflict of Interest - School Board Members.

409 Employee Publications, Instructional Materials, Inventions, and Creations.

412 Expense Reimbursement.

501 School Weapons Policy.

See attachments on these four policies.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Michael to approve the following non-substantive policy updates and corrections (see attachments):

503 Student Attendance.

507.5 Student Resource Officers.

606 Textbooks and Instructional Materials.

606.5 FORM Library Materials.

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

621 Literacy and the Read Act.

906 Community Notifications of Predatory Offenders.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Bakken to rescind Policy 617 School District Insurance of Preparatory and High School Standards (2023).

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest