

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

Monday, May 19, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 19, 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 and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Heuss to approve the agenda with two additional items. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Stangler to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from April 28. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the April-May Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$643,961.30, deposits were \$782,584.99, and transfers of \$750,000.00. Bakken commented on a check in the amount of \$15,708 from Health Partners for athletics equipment. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Tolzman to accept gifts and donations. They included a donation of \$10,000 from the Minnesota Vikings for flag football, a donation of \$660.90 from the Minnesota vikings for the elementary school, a donation of \$100 from Jon and Mary Bakken for the FFA, and a donation of \$969 from American legion Auxiliary unit #311 for the FFA. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

## VISITOR COMMENTS

There were comments from Jill Vollbrecht, Nick Morris, Paige Morris, Tim Flaten, and Linda Vollbrecht concerning the possibility of moving all the students into one site in Waterville.

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approve the following resignations:

Andrew Stumbo, High School and Elementary Choir Music, effective May 30, 2025.

Deanna Thibedeau, assistant cook/baker in Morristown, effective May 7, 2025.

Abby Butzer Ireland, Junior High English Teacher who has been with the district for 11 years, effective May 30, 2025.

Patty Whitehurst, K-8 Yearbook Advisor who has been with the district for 30+ years, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

- Approve the following retirement:

Becky Vollbrecht, Paraprofessional for the past 25 years, effective May 29, 2025.

- Approve the following Community Ed/Summer SACC Hires:

Anna Nielsen, Student helper - \$11.54/hour.

Brody Holicky, Adult Helper - \$13.54/hour.

- Approve continuing contract teachers (tenure):

Madysson Dufault, BS/Step C- \$44,280

Kelci Halvorson, MS/Step G - \$57,480

Andi O'Neil, MS/Step E - \$54,180

MaryAnn Eich, BS/Step 1 - \$57,770

Skyler Petry, MS/Step B - \$49,590

Christopher Dahle, MS/Step E - \$54,180

Hillary Hebl, MS/Step N - \$70,710.

- Approve Non-Tenured teacher contracts

Cameron Jensen, BS10/Step B - \$44,230

Jennifer Bowen, MS20/Step G - \$60,850

Connor Scharf, BS/Step B - \$42,990

Kelly Stanton-Nutt, MS30/Step N - \$77,010

Allysa Bruns, BS/Step B - \$42,990

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

## REPORTS

WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson submitted the following report:

### Waterville Campus Information

All MCA and other standardized testing wrapped up by May 9 for both elementary and high school students. Thank you to Mr. Knutson for leading the district as assessment coordinator as well as all the support/flexibility in scheduling from our staff and students. Mrs. Kelly, high school and elementary art teacher, led the Arts and Ice Cream event in the district on Thursday, May 8. Student art pieces were displayed in the elementary and ice cream was served to all that attended. Other stops around the community displaying art pieces were included in the whole evening event. Thank you to Mrs. Kelly for her hard work to bring the talent of our students to the community lens for showcase. May 5-9 we celebrated all educators in the district for National Teacher Appreciation Week. The week also celebrated our school nurse, Jamie Reuvers for National Nurse Appreciation Week.

### K-4

Our first and second grade students performed for their spring concert on Friday May 9. There were two performances at 9:45 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Throughout the month of May elementary grades took field trips. Field trips included more local/regional days to the Kuball Dairy Farm and River Bend Nature Center to the MN Historical Center in St. Paul and Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley.

On Wednesday, May 28 the PBIS Team will host an event day for the elementary school with outdoor activities. Groupings were multi-age level to increase community amongst our student population.

We are saying goodbye to our elementary school counselor, Mrs. Patty Whitehurst. Mrs. Whitehurst has been a vital and integral organ of the WEM Elementary team and WEM District for many years. We wish her nothing but the very best in her retirement!

### 9-12

Saturday, May 3 WEM Juniors hosted prom. There were roughly 125 students who attended the grand march, dinner and dance with a larger number attending the after prom party. The grand march was held at the high school followed by festivities at The Mill in Waseca and later the party at the Morristown Community Center. Thank you to our junior advisors for the support in fundraising and guiding the students in planning throughout the year.

Wednesday, May 14 the WEM High School's Music Department hosted their annual Pop's Concert. All large and small groups performed.

The annual Night of Excellence will be held on Wednesday, May 21. The evening will include a meal provided by WEM Food Service with funding support from the Waterville Lion's Club. Senior scholarship and award recipients will be the feature presentations for the evening. Each year WEM continues to be appreciative and honored to accept the donations of such generous individuals, families, businesses and organizations.

Commencement for the Class of 2025 will be held at 7: p.m. at WEM High School Gymnasium on Friday, May 23. Mr. Tyson Cooley, senior advisor and Ag teacher will provide the class address. Student speaker, senior Claire Elness will address the Class of 2025 as well.

WEM Principal Myles Knutson submitted the following report:

Greetings School Board Members,

Here are a few updates from the Middle School:

- **Unplugged Day:** On Monday, May 12th we decided to "Unplug" from technology for the day. Students kept their chromebooks in their lockers and teachers designed lessons and activities that would not require any technology for the students to complete. Also, at the beginning of each hour teachers facilitated a 10 minute cooperative learning activity that retaught some technology expectations and recommendations for student use of technology at school and at home. Activities included, school email guidelines, a debate on playing games on devices during class, creating a nightly routine that limits screen time, and designing posters with technology expectations we all will follow. It was a great day with a ton of positive feedback from students and staff... Surprisingly the students really enjoyed it and said, "We should do this more often!"

- **BUCS Pride Tokens:** Throughout the year staff pass out "BUCS Pride Tokens" to students who display positive behavior. The students collect these and can turn them into the BUCS Swag Store throughout the year for prizes. This past week we had a BUCS Swag Store day and many students who have been saving their tokens all year for a big prize from the store like a pizza party, ice cream social, trip to Morris Mart with the principal, etc.. brought them out to count how many tokens they had from the year. Many students were reaching the 80's and even 100's of tokens. It was a quick reminder to me of all the positive, little things that happen on a daily basis in our school. Students have done a wonderful job of working hard this year and showing positive behavior in so many different ways and our staff does a wonderful job of recognizing those moments with BUCS Pride Tokens.

- **Band and Choir Concerts:** Mr. Larson and our talented band/choir students put on some terrific concerts during the first week of May. It was very apparent they have all been working so hard throughout the year because they sure blew us all away with their performances. Thank you band/choir students and Mr. Larson for an entertaining concert.

Thank you, Myles Knutson

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

WEM Night of Excellence is Wednesday May 21. All are invited! 21st Year of this program!

Baseball, Softball & Track post seasons get started this week. Good Luck Bucs! Girls HS Flag Football have wrapped up the regular season and will be participating in the playoffs in 2 weeks. The Clay target team continues to work their way thru their season.

Baseball Subsections begin Thursday May 22. Potential other dates are: May 27, 29, 31 June 3 & 5. First round is single elimination. Double elimination the rest of the way.

Softball playoffs begin tomorrow night, May 20. Potential additional games will be May 22, 24, 27, 29 and 31. First round is single elimination. Double elimination the rest of the way.

Track –Subsection meet at Norwood Young America is this Thursday May 22. The Section meet is Saturday May 31st at Mankato West HS.

The Gopher Conference meet was held in JWP HS in Janesville on Saturday May 10. (Beautiful day!)

All-Conference performers were:

Boys (Team placed 5th – 71 points )

Wyatt Jans – 1600-meter & 3200-meter Champion

Gavin Atherton – 200-meter Champion

Girls (Team Placed 5th place 71 points) \* not a typo!

Ashlyn Pelant – Shot Put & Discus Champion

Addison Condon – Triple Jump Champion

McKenna Schuster, Addison Condon, Loryn Caldwell & Rachel Mielke – 4 X 100-meter Relay  
Champion

Community Ed

Summer School Age Care program will begin Monday June 9 - August 22, 6:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and currently we have 53 registered to attend.

Driver Education update:

The Summer classroom session will begin Tuesday May 27, with 19 currently enrolled.

Behind the Wheel - 29 student drivers are currently scheduled for June, July & August. Currently the schedule has 17 spots open through August! 7 Students have completed BTW so far in 2025.

Summer Activities are currently taking registrations and shape.

WEM Board Member Reports

There were no Board Member reports.

WEM Board Committee Reports

There were no Board Committee reports.

WEM Superintendent John Regan presented the following:

- Superintendent Regan commented on Graduation is set for Friday, May 23 at 7 p.m., Night of Excellence was Wednesday, May 21 and the Frandsen Bank Scholarships, and gave kudos to River Henry and Jeff Boran.

## INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

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

101.1 Name of the School District

407 Employee Rich to Know - Exposure to Hazardous Substance

516 Student Medication and telehealth

518 DNR - DNI Orders

## ACTION

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Tolzman to approve 2025-2026 membership in the Minnesota State High School League.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

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

704 Development and Maintenance of an Inventory of Fixed Assets and a Fixed Asset Accounting System.

706 Acceptance of gifts

710 Extracurricular Transportation

721 Uniform Grant Guidance Policy Regarding Federal Revenue Sources.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

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

2025-2026 School Psychologist, Shawna Petersen-Brown

2025-2026 School Psychologist Intern, Janet Bechtold

Seven member voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approve lease agreement between Holy Trinity Catholic Church and Independent School District #2143.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to approve the termination and non-renewal of the teaching contract for probationary teacher, Lindsey Janssen.

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

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Bakken to approve an on-site town meeting in Morristown. which would be held before the vote pertaining to the possible closure of the Morristown School building.

Five members voted against, Bakken and Stangler voted for, motion failed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest