

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, October 25, 2021, 6 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, October 25, 2021 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6:03 p.m.

Board Members Jon Bakken, Travis Bowman, Michael, June Rezac, and Jay Schneider attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Superintendent Joel Whitehurst, Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson, and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

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

Motion by Michael and seconded by Bakken to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 27, 2021. Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Schneider to approve the September Finance Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,440,290.40, deposits were \$953,346.42, and transfers were \$2,228,000. Comments on the report included a payment of \$12,201 to SFM for one fourth of the workers' compensation premium, a payment of \$2,281.58 to Southwest Metro Educational Cooperative for special education tuition, a payment of \$784.08 to Trinity Lutheran School for non-public supplies, a payment of \$8,506.00 to AIM Electronics, Inc. for scoreboard score panels, deposit of \$3,032 from football gate receipts for the Medford football game, and interest deposits of \$21,029.79, \$51.79, and \$629.97 from the Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund - Building Account.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Ruth Ann Olson, high school teacher for the past 34 years, spoke with the board about concerns she has with a number of items including students behavior, having an individual trained to deal with behavior issues, too large class sizes in some classrooms, the possibility of adding Dean of Students or Assistant Principal.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bowman to approve monetary donation. The donation was:

- \$2,500 from Kamp Dels to the athletic department.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

REPORTS

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

District

- On November 2, we will host our second of three 2-hour late starts. We are excited to welcome Willow Sweeney from Top 20. Willow is known nation-wide and thankfully, she's a Minnesota resident and can meet for a few hours with our staff. Her message will connect and expand on Kevin Brennen and Kim Campbell's messages for our previous speaking engagements. All teaching and support staff will be in attendance.

* November 9 will be the end of Quarter 1 and midterm for Semester 1.

- Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for November 22-23.

PreK-6 Grade

- All new K-6 staff have had the first of three formal observations.

- We had our first late start Oct. 5 and will have our second late start next week. The focus of the first was on finalizing norms for each grade level/department PLC and finalization of at least one SMART Goal for each team.

- Fall conferences are scheduled for the evenings of Nov. 22-23. Information for conference sign-up will be shared in the coming weeks. Conferences will be in person.

- K-4 students had their school photos taken on Oct. 19, 5-8 has been delayed until Nov. 30.

- K-4 teachers shared a Fire Safety Prevention with students to recognize Fire Prevention Week. Students who choose are able to participate in a poster contest as well.

- This week Prairie Fire Theater will be working with WEM students ages 7-15 to put on a production of The Wizard of Oz. Thanks to Community Ed for bringing this excellent opportunity to our students.

7-12 Grade

- All non-tenured staff have received their first of three formal observations.

- On November 1 we will be hosting guest speakers at the high school. Speakers from MN Teen Challenge will be in-house to discuss avoiding substance abuse. In addition they will be talking about the importance of character, respect, and how decisions made impact the future. The speakers will share first-hand accounts and have a positive message for our student body.

- Parent-teacher conferences will be coming up the week of Thanksgiving. Grades 7-12 will hold conferences in each building's gymnasium.

- College and military recruiters have continued to host informational sessions at the high school. All sessions are well attended and generate great conversation around post-secondary options and experiences.
- Wednesday, Oct. 20 the high school PBIS team hosted a pastry, coffee, juice reward before school. In addition they hosted a mini fundraiser allowing students to wear a hat in the building for a dollar.
- Locker installation has been delayed from our previous timeline of MEA Break.
- Fall activities are coming to a conclusion. Extended congratulations for positive seasons and much growth made to our student-athletes and sincere thank you to our coaches for sharing their time and talents.
- Future college and career trips/events with students include:
Oct. 29 - College Careers Class/AVID to MSU and SCC (Mankato)
Nov. 4 - juniors will take the ASVAB test at WEM
Nov. 5 - All 9th graders to SCC (Faribault) for Career Navigator
Nov. 17 - Construct Tomorrow Event at Civic Center in the morning and SCC (Mankato) in afternoon, there have been a fair number of students showing interest in welding program at SCC.
- High school counselor is working on curriculum to target behaviors and place emphasis on working towards goals and completion. The group will hopefully start before winter break.

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran presented the following report:

Community Services:

- WEM Driver Education class will begin November 1. Currently 25 students are registered for the in-person classroom.
- Prairie Fire Theatre auditions are today with performances of "The Wizard of Oz" Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 1 p.m.

Activities:

- WEM/JWP Cross Country - The Section Meet will be held Friday, Oct. 29 in Blue Earth at Riverside Country Club. The Grizzly boys and girls won the Gopher Conference Cross Country Meet in New Richland on Tuesday, Oct. 19. Congratulations to the Grizzly CC teams.
- The WEM varsity volleyball team is playing their last regular season game tonight vs. Maple River. They will play Blue Earth Area at home Oct. 28 in the Section 2AA South Sub-Section Quarterfinals. The Bucs are the No. 1 seed in the South Sub-Section. If they advance the Sub-Section and Section dates are as follows: Nov. 1 at Mankato East, Nov. 4 at New Prague, and Nov. 6 at St. Peter. State volleyball will be four days this were after adding a 4th class. Nov. 10-13 at Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.
- The WEM varsity football team ended their regular season this past week with a 3-5 record. The Bucs travel to Blue Earth Oct. 26 for the Section 2AA Quarterfinal game. The Bucs are the 6th seed. If they advance the following dates would be possibilities: Oct. 30 at high seed, Nov. 5 at JWP High School, State Football Nov. 12 at Hastings High School, Nov. 19 at US Bank Stadium, and Nov. 26 at US Bank Stadium.
- Winter seasons - Girls basketball may begin practices Monday, Nov. 15. Boys basketball and wrestling practices begin Nov. 22. Co-op activities with Waseca include girls hockey which begins Nov. 1, girls gymnastics which begins Nov. 8, and boys hockey which begins Nov. 15.

WEM Board Member Reports

There were no reports given.

WEM Board Committee Reports

- The Negotiations Committee will meet Nov. 3 and Communications Committee will meet Nov. 9.

WEM Superintendent Joel Whitehurst presented the following:

- Whitehurst said there is currently one student case of COVID and one teacher case of COVID. He also discussed how meetings should be handled in the future. There was an agreement to have the meetings on-line the night of the meeting, taped, and put on website the following day.

Information/Discussion

- The Minnesota School Board Association Conference will be held January 13 and 14, 2022. Contact Pegi Wolff if attending.
- The City of Elysian is interested in taking over the tennis court and little league baseball field by the Elysian School. The Elysian Little League has plans to upgrade both fields to meet little league standards. No action was taken on this request. A meeting with Schneider and Michael along with Elysian representatives Tom McBroom and Ryan Knish will be set up.
- The first reading of the following policies:
102-Equal Educational Opportunity
406-Public and Private Personnel Data
413-Harassment and Violence
507-Corporal Punishment

Action

- Motion by Bowman and seconded by Rezac to approve annual resolution establishing combined polling places

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

PERSONNEL

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Rezac to approve the following letters of resignation:

Cole Long, Custodian, effective Oct. 1, 2021

Kaitlyn Schroer, Paraprofessional, effective Nov. 2, 2021

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and second by Bakken to approve the letter of request for family medical leave of absence from Josh Smith, beginning on or around November 30, 2021 and continuing through Dec. 19, 2021.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Bowman to approve the following hires:

Debra Lamont, 3-hour Cook, A13/Step 6, \$12.92/hour.

Sheryl Reed, Early Childhood Special Education Student Tester, \$27.41/hour.

Patty Whitehurst, Choices Instructor, \$33.43/hour.

Kiri Kerekes, Peer Tutor, \$10/hour.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve the following coaches:

Boys Basketball: 1st Assistant - Dan Forcelle, \$3,761 and 2nd Assistant - Jason Roemhildt, \$3,004.

Girls Basketball: 1st Assistant - Dan Lemcke, \$3,761, 2nd Assistant - Jared LaFrance, \$3,004, and Junior High - David Schuster, \$2,261.

Wrestling: 1st Assistant - Mike Richards, \$3,761.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest Jay Schneider, Attest