

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, November 22, 2021, 6 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 22, 2021 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6:09 p.m.

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

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

Motion by Michael and seconded by Rezac to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 25, 2021. Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Schneider to approve the October Finance Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$890,058.84, deposits were \$1,379,620.19, and transfers were \$730,000. Comments on the report included a payment of \$4,066.79 to Top 20 Training for staff development, a payment of \$19,828.50 to 2-Way Radio of Minnesota, Inc. for radios in the buses and school buildings, a payment of \$22,027.85 to Renaissance Learning, Inc for elementary software, and a payment of \$14,000 to Abdo, Eick & Meyers, LLP for auditor services.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no comments.

RECOGNITION

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approve the following donation: \$300 from Elysian Auto to the WEM Volleyball program.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Congratulations to June Rezac for being placed on the MSBA's Honor Roll for completing all four phases of School Board Training.

REPORTS

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

District

- Quarter 2 began on November 9. Junior high quarter classes finalized and new quarter switch classes were underway. Positive feedback from students regarding our new classes, specifically wildlife (junior high) and outdoor education (high school),
- Parent-Teacher Conferences are November 22-23. Students have school a half day both days.
- Thanksgiving break is November 25-28. Students will return for 3.5 weeks before winter break.
- On November 2, we welcomed Willow Sweeney from Top 20. Willow's message focused on social-emotional development, learning and meeting students where they are in their development post-pandemic. The responses from staff included positivity and a request to bring her back. All staff were invited to attend.
- Special thanks to WEM staff members. They show up each day, in the toughest of circumstances at times to give their best to our students. It has been a more difficult start to the year than years past, but we know we see your hard work and appreciate all you do.

PreK-6 Grade

On Nov. 11, kindergarten and third grade students participated in the high school hosted Veteran's Day Program. Kindergarten students led the program participating in the Pledge of Allegiance and third grade students shared their music talent with a song. Fifth and sixth grade students were able to live stream the event as well.

PreK-6th grade student conferences will begin today and continue into tomorrow.

On Nov. 24, the Ned Show returns to WEM K-4 students, in a live stream event. The theme of the Ned Show this year is "Kindness Adventure" which supports our Kindness Initiative this year.

5-8th grade students participated in Coin Wars. This was an all Morristown event which challenged grades to bring in the most coins. Winning grades received a fun prize. Proceeds went to purchase books for students and classroom libraries. This event coincided with the 5-8 Scholastic Book Fair which is currently running in Morristown.

7-12 Grade

- The high school hosted a Veteran's Day Program on November 11 at 2 p.m. Members of our local Legion chapters attended. A special thank you to the color guard for being with us, the WEM 3rd graders for participating in singing a patriotic song, the kindergarteners and their teachers for preparing and leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Larson and Mrs. Kreinbring for their musical direction, and Mr. David Wollin for giving the keynote address.

On November 1 two members of MN Teen Challenge (adult program) came to WEM and presented to the high school student body. The message was well received and students have asked to have them back to further talk and educate. This is a no-charge program that promotes chemical free lifestyles and provides insight and options to avoid peer pressure.

On November 4 members of the junior class took the ASVAB Test. The proctors from the MN National Guard reported back to us, "They were a great group of students. You should be proud of them and thank you for all you do for your students!"

On November 5 the freshmen attended the annual Career Navigator Program at SCC in Faribault. Mrs. Reuvers (school counselor) reported it was a great day and a fun experience.

A group of juniors and seniors attended the Construct Tomorrow Event at Civic Center in the morning and SCC (Mankato) in the afternoon on November 17. There have been a fair number of students showing interest in the welding program at SCC so it was a great opportunity for the group to enjoy visiting and engaging with instructors from the program in-person.

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran presented the following report:
Athletics:

- Volleyball - 2021 3rd place in the Gopher Conference, South Subsection Champions & Section 2AA Runner Up to Southwest Christian. –Alex Heuss, Sr. was named 1st Team All-Gopher Conference, with Riley Sammon Sr. 2nd Team, and Claire Bohlen, 10th 3rd Team, Josie Volkmann Honorable Mention. Senior Grace Petersen is the 2021 Gopher Conference Sportsmanship Award winner for WEM.

Football - WEM players earning Mid-Southeast Football All-District Football Honors. Seniors Domanik Paulson, Damon Tolzman Sam Rezac and Sophomore Dylan Holicky were named All- District. Juniors Tytan Larson and Ethan Greenwald were Honorable Mention.

Cross Country – The 2021 WEM/JWP Grizzly Cross Country Boys and Girls teams captured the Gopher Conference Championships! WEM/JWP students recognized by the Conference are: 1st Team – Landon Dimler (JWP), Michael Adams (WEM), Caleb Quast (JWP), Ashlin Keyes (JWP), Madison Kunst (JWP), Kwynn Krause (JWP) 2nd Team - Jasper Morris (WEM), Memphis James (JWP), Honorable Mention – Josh Bengtson (JWP), Faith Olson (JWP) and the Grizzlies Sportsmanship awards – Zach Groh (JWP) & Elizabeth White (JWP)

Girls Basketball begins the season with a game this Saturday night November 27 home vs. Waseca 15 – 7-8 GBB players 27 – 9th – 12th GBB players. Wrestling's first meet is December 2. Quadrangular with Waseca, Medford and LSH in Waterville. 29 – WEM/JWP wrestlers in coop. (7 – 12) (WEM – 12, JWP – 17)

Basketball's first game is Saturday December 4 at LeSueur-Henderson. 26 – 7/8 BBB players 28 – 9th - 12th BBB players.

Eight WEM students grades 7th – 10th participated in the "Gopher Conference Team Up" event held in United South Central HS this year on October 29. The guest presenter was Rick Rassier again this year. Rick's focus is making good life choices, staying positive, being good teammates and "taking it to the next level". This is the 5th year the Gopher Conference has had Rick come to deliver his inspirational message.

Community Education:

- o Preschool Conferences are this week.
- o Currently 6 people are enrolled in a beginning quilting class held Mondays for 4 weeks.
- o 24 students will be finishing up Driver Education Classroom early next week.
- o 24 parents attended the "Point of Impact" Parent Driver Ed classroom this past Wednesday 11/17.

- o Currently 7 3rd-6th grade Bucketeer teams have secured practice time in our gyms. The wrestling club will also get started with practices in the wrestling room.
- o We continue to provide Childcare services for nearly 25 children in WEM SACC.
- o 52 WEM students participated in the PFCT "The Wizard of Oz" the week of October 25- 30, and had two performances on October 29 and 30. 375 people attended the performances.

WEM Board Member Reports

There were no reports given.

WEM Board Committee Reports

- The Communications Committee met with board members Rezac and Schneider meeting with Margo Kulseth, Jeff Boran, Dan Lemcke, and Joel Whitehurst. Discussed a school logo, the school website, and other communication issues.

WEM Superintendent Joel Whitehurst presented the following:

- Whitehurst said the district had a bus inspection and there were no outstanding issues. He recommends the board keeps the busses at this time. He also reported there was a sewer smell in the elementary and it was cleaned up and fixed at the end of October.

Information/Discussion

- The Minnesota School Board Association Conference will be held January 13 and 14, 2022. Contact Pegi Wolff if attending. Confirmed to attend so far are board members Schneider, Rezac, Bakken, Michael, and Stangler, and Superintendent Whitehurst.

Action

- Motion by Bakken and seconded by Stangler to approve Fiscal Year 2021 Fund Balance Transfer of \$50,304 from the Community Ed ECFE Fund to the General Fund.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

PERSONNEL

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Bakken to approve the following letter of retirement from Julie Hayford, effective the end of the 2021-22 school year. Hayford has been with the district since the fall of 1986.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Stangler to approve the resignation letter from Jason Roemhildt as 2nd Assistant Boys Basketball Coach.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

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

Boys basketball: Matthew Van Houdt - 2nd Assistant (\$3,004), Owen Casteel - Junior High (\$2,261), Blake Seesz - Junior High (\$2,261), Jason Roemhildt, Brian Nutter, and Carrie Brown - volunteers.

Girls basketball: Tobin Pope - volunteer.

Wrestling: Shaun Murphy - volunteer.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest Jay Schneider, Attest