

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 22, 2021, 6 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 22, 2021 at the Waterville Building in the Board Room. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6:02 p.m.

Board Members Michael, Jay Schneider, Jeff Stangler, Travis Bowman, and June Rezac, participated in the meeting. Also present were Superintendent Joel Whitehurst, Principals Dr. Jennifer Wilson and Bobbie Jo Bastian, Business Manager Margaret Jewison, and Activities Director Jeff Boran participated in the meeting via teleconference,

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Stangler to approve the agenda. Five members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from Jan. 25. Five members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Michael to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from Feb. 11. Five members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Schneider to approve the February Finance report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,183,037.06, deposits were \$884,922.03, and transfers were \$1,000,000.00. Comments on the report included a payment of \$6,682.40 to ISD #829 Waseca for special education contract, a payment of \$17,500 to School Management Services for payroll services, a payment of \$579.17 to T-Mobile for hot spots, a payment of \$20,400 to CDI Computer Dealers, Inc. for iPads and tablets which will be paid for by COVID dollars, and a number of payments which were made to companies working on the building project.

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

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

RECOGNITION

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve the

following donations:

A donation of \$100 from Partners in Education to the elementary school.

A donation of \$250 from the Elysian Bank for the Elysian Bank Scholarship.

A donation of kolackies and coffee from the Woratschka family.

Various donors provided Frosty Bingo prizes.

Le Sueur County Public Health donated masks.

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

REPORTS

WEM Principal Bobbie Jo Bastian and WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson (PreK-12th Grade) presented the following report:

PreK-12th Grade

* K-4 students have been celebrating I Love to Read Month with a calendar of activities including "Hats off to books," and "Beaching it with books." We will culminate with an all school read.

* Teachers are gearing up for conferences March 11 and March 15.

* Third through sixth grade teachers are working to prepare students for the upcoming MCA Assessments.

* On Monday, February 15 WEM welcomed back Kim Campbell. Kim led staff through professional development surrounding student engagement, professional environments, and touched on mental health/trauma. This was the third time Kim has worked with the staff. It was a great morning of development.

* The high school hosted the first annual Snow Week Coronation last Friday. Congratulations to the following royalty: Freshmen - Lindy Caldwell and Ahmad Alladin, Sophomores - Jessica Hilpipe and Gavin Krantz, Juniors - Paige Atherton and Kyle Schmitz, and Seniors - Lindsay Condon and Kolin Rients.

* Candidates included three males and three females from each grade. Candidates were selected by staff and voted on by grade levels. Candidates were selected based on the pillars of BUCS Pride: Safe, Positive, Respectful, and Responsible.

* As a result of COVID, several items in the Achievement and Integration Plan were unable to occur. I've worked with Margaret (Jewison) on reallocating and assigning dollars within the grant offer extended time for students who failed last semester with 40-59 percent. Core areas (math, science, English, and social studies) are offering credit rehabilitation after school this week (Monday-Thursday) and next week (Monday-Thursday). This is a wonderful opportunity and we are pleased that students are taking advantage of it to avoid credit recovery through the Waseca Area ALC.

* National FFA Week is underway. There are many activities planned at the high school along with dress-up days throughout the

week. A special thank you to our senior class advisors and FFA advisor Mr. Cooley for working together and planing some fun at WEM.

* Registration is underway and will wrap up in the next few weeks for current 6-11th graders. Thank you to our counselors, Mrs. Wold and Mrs. Roethler for their work on planning and coordinating with teachers and students.

* In new hires you will find Maurice McCabe's name. Mr. McCabe is a Minnesota native who has years of experience teaching in Minnesota and Iowa. He is coming back to his roots in our area and is excited to join the mathematics department at the high school. Mr. McCabe is able to teach CollegeNow math courses as well. We are excited to have him join the WEM staff in the fall.

* Morristown received a \$15,000 grant from Casey's. Mrs. Landru wrote the grant for gaga pits and a refresh on playground options. Way to go Mrs. Landru and thank you to Casey's. Morristown's grant was selected out of more than 200 applications.

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran's presented the following report:
ATHLETICS

* Basketball: The boys and girls teams continue working through the regular season. The regular season lasts for another three weeks and then we will begin the Sub-Section Playoffs the week of March 15. High seeds will host each game through the Section tournament, which will conclude March 26. The State Tournament is scheduled for April 6-10, venues and details are yet TBD.

* Wrestling: The wrestlers have two weeks remaining in the regular season. The Section Team Tournament will be held on March 8 and 10. The top two finishers will advance to the Section Championship and State Quarterfinals on Saturday, March 13 at St. James Area High School. The Individual Section Tournament will be held on March 16 at Blue Earth Area High School. The top four individuals in each weight class will qualify for a "Super Regional" on Saturday, March 20 at Windom Area High School. Each class (A, AA, AAA) will have a State Tournament March 25-27, site and details yet TBD.

* Status on Spectators: Beginning this week, up to 25 students that register will be allowed to attend games at no cost. Because of this I have made changes to where we will allow spectators (home and visiting) to sit in the gym to accommodate. We will see how this week goes and perhaps make more plans for additional fans next week.

BIG SHOUT OUT

* Alex Heuss, daughter of Shawn and Brenda Heuss, has been selected by the MSHSL as State ExCEL Award Winner. (1 of 36 across

the State of Minnesota) She will be honored during the State Boys and Girls Basketball Tournaments April 6-10 on 45TV. On MSHSL social media sites beginning mid-March and on the MSHSL Website and publications this spring. Alex is the fourth WEM student ever selected for this honor. Meghan Houlihan in 2008, Jared Pavek in 2018, and Allison Rients in 2020 are the others.

* Toryn Richards was selected the Sub-Section 5 recipient of the Region 2A Triple A Award.

SPRING ACTIVITIES

* Currently all spring activities are open for registration on-line.

* Speech has begun competitions. We currently have seven participants.

* 7-12 boys and girls track and field practice begins Monday, March 29.

* Softball begins practice Monday, March 29.

* Baseball begins practice Monday, March 29. Baseball pitchers and catchers can begin Monday, March 22 for arm strengthening programs.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

* Spring/summer and plans for next school year are beginning.

WEM Superintendent Joel Whitehurst presented the following:

* Whitehurst recognized the Board of Education during School Board Recognition Week.

WEM Committee Member reports

* Negotiations Committee has been meeting with the paras and they are getting close to a contract settlement.

* The Communications Committee met and an E-Newsletter will be on the school website.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

* There was an update regarding the Rice County Police Service in Morristown. The current contract with the City of Morristown will remain the same until 2023.

* There was an update on the ag land which is adjacent to the William J. Grose Baseball Field in Waterville. The WEM FFA receives the profit on the rent and also pays the taxes. There has not been any renter or land purchaser yet.

* The School Board vacancy special election will be held August 10th, not in May as previously announced. There was not adequate time for filing before the May date.

* The board was presented with a number of 2020-21/2021-2022 financial considerations. There will be a work session Thursday, March 11 at 6 p.m. to further discuss these considerations. See attachment.

ACTION

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Stangler to approve the agreement with SOCRATES Telecom Services for FY 2022 through 2026.

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

PERSONNEL

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve the resignation of Kortney McKenna, paraprofessional, effective February 12, 2021.

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

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Bowman to approve Matthew Van Houdt, paraprofessional, B21/Step 2, \$11.80/hour, 7 hours/day.

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

Motion by Michael and seconded by Rezac to approve the hiring of Maurice McCabe, secondary math teacher, BS50/MS Step 18, \$61,415.

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

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Stangler to approve the 2019-21 agreement with clerical employees. Salary and benefit increase of 3.5 percent in 2019-20 and 3.5 percent in 2020-21.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Gary Michael, Board Chair

Jay Schneider, Board Clerk