

**W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
Monday, July 26, 2021, 6 p.m.**

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, July 26, 2021 at the Waterville Building in the Board Room. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6 p.m.

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

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

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Michael to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 24, 2021. Five members voted in favor by roll call vote - Bowman abstains - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Schneider to approve the June Finance report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,363,200.16, deposits were \$1,779,097.18, and transfers were \$704,000. Comments on the report included a payment of \$7,839.50 to Mavo Systems, Inc. for asbestos removal. Six members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Schneider to approve the July Finance report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,498,853.17 deposits were \$61,020.13, and transfers were \$700,000. Six 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 Bowman to approve the following donations:

A donation of \$3,000 from Jason Zimmer for the Jim Velishek Memorial Scholarship.

A donation of \$100 from the Waterville Lions Club to the FACS Department.

A donation of \$5,000 from the Waterville Lions Club to the Lions Club Scholarships.

A donation of \$2,422.81 from the Travis's Trades Scholarship to the scholarship of the same name.

A donation of \$1,422.81 from the Class of 2021 to the Class of 2022.

A donation of \$500 from the Waterville Lions Club to the track and field team.

A donation of \$4,000 from American Legion Post #149 to Community Education.

A donation of \$100 from American Legion Post #311 to the WEM band.

Six 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:

District

- A team of seven teachers attended MTSS Training last week. We are excited to continue expanding the capacity to serve students in academic interventions within the classroom. Ongoing professional development and teach-backs will occur throughout the upcoming year.

PreK—6 Grade

- Elementary teachers and students wrapped up the year with a variety of fun activities the last week of school. A special thank you to many WEM families for the water and Freeze Pop donations and to PIE for organizing the efforts. All were greatly appreciated on those hot days.

- Summer School will begin July 6, students will attend four days a week for the month of July. We are very excited to have students attending from grades K through 6.

7-12 Grade

- Graduation was held on May 28 for the Class of 2021. The in-person event was well attended and featured some notable speakers including Mr. Cooley, senior class advisor, along with board chair, Mr. Gary Michael. Thank you to board members Travis Bowman and Gary Michael for being willing to join in the celebration with helping to award diplomas.

- This week I am hopeful to finalize the hiring process for current open positions. The position currently vacant is for high school math/business ed/AVID. I hope to have the position finalized within the week.

- Summer administration is underway and a primary focus has been reviewing the staff and student handbooks. The code of conduct with our student handbook will be receiving a facelift allowing for a more clear direction for teachers in the classroom and expectations for 7-12th graders to emulate BUCS Pride.

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran presented the following report:

SPRING ACTIVITIES

Spring 2021 Gopher Conference All-Conference recognition.

Baseball: Kolin Rients was named All-Conference Honorable Mention and the WEM Sportsmanship Award Winner.

Softball: Lindsay Condon and Brielle Bartelt were named 1st Team All-Conference. Autumn Taylor and Allison Rients were named 2nd Team All-Conference. Ellie Ready was Honorable Mention and Emma Woratschka was named the WEM Sportsmanship Winner. Congratulations to the Section 1A Runners-Up and the Gopher Conference Champions. Allison Rients and Lindsay Condon played in the State All-Star Game. All-State recognition for Class A Softball went to Brielle Bartelt (1st Team), Lindsay Condon (2nd Team), and Autumn Taylor (Honorable Mention).

Track and Field: The girls track and field team won the Gopher Conference 2021 Team Championship. Toryn Richards was named the 2021 Gopher Conference Girls Track and Field Athlete of the Year. She was the 200-meter, high jump, and pole vault champion. Richards teamed with Madison Zimbrich, Riley Sammon, and McKenna Schuster to win the 4 x 100-meter relay. Josie Volkmann was the Conference Champion in the 1,600-meter run. The foursome of Ella Duenes, Jaiden Williams, Tatum Richards, and Addison Condon also picked up All-Conference Honors by winning the 4 x 200-meter relay. Congratulations to Toryn Richards for also placing 2nd at the MSHSL Class A State High Jump and by being the 2021 Class A Girls Pole Vault State Champion.

• Fall Activity registrations will be open the second week in July.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

• Softball (Southern Star League) WEM has six teams participating in the league this year 8U-18U. There are 86 participants.

• Baseball (SCYB) We do have a 15U team participating and 14 players.

• T-Ball - Finishing up this week and had 54 participants.

• Summer Camps: Youth basketball camp last week had 25 participants. Volleyball camps are this week and July 19-22 with 65 currently registered and planning to participate.

• Swimming lessons in Le Center scheduled for Monday - Friday, July 12-23. Currently 41 registered.

• Driver's Education: 40 students currently registered this summer for Behind the Wheel Training. I suspect we will have more based on the number of blue cards done this month. 24 students completed the classroom training session in June. There is currently another classroom session scheduled in late October into November 2021.

• 2021 Summer School Age Care - 42 kids registered and attending.

• Weight room and gym usage. Currently coaches have been allowed to work with students however at this point very little in person has taken place.

WEM Superintendent Joel Whitehurst presented the following:

* Whitehurst provided information about funds to be received from the state the next two years (\$140,000 and \$105,000), gave an update on a break-in at the Morrystown building which Rice County is currently handling, introduced Claudia Roesler who was watching the meeting as part of her superintendent internship, thanked the board for meeting virtually due to the school construction, gave an update on the legislative session, reported there will be no new academic standards until at least 2022-23, and school districts are no longer state mandated to wear masks.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A update on the superintendent search showed nothing has been completed yet because the board is waiting for the seventh member to be elected in August.

Times and dates were established for a special work session Thursday, Aug. 12 at 6 p.m. for a building tour and Friday, Aug.13 at 7 a.m. to canvass the special election votes.

ACTION

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Bowman to approve contracted services from South Central Service Cooperative to provide Instructional Services FY 2021-2022 - \$507 per student per high school semester credit.

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

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Rezac to approve the contracted services for 2021-2022 with Minnesota Valley Education District - Teacher of Physically Impaired/Other Health Disabilities, \$43.60/hour

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bowman to approve the contracted services for 2021-2022 with Minnesota Valley Education District - Teacher of Deaf/Hard of Hearing, \$7,051.

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

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Stangler to approve the contracted services for fiscal year 2022-2024 for Environmental, Health, and Safety Management Services with IEA.

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

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Schneider to approve the following memberships:

• MREA 2021-22 membership dues (\$1,945);

• 2021-2022 Resolution for Membership in the Minnesota State High School League;

• Minnesota School Boards Association Dues, Boardbook Subscription, and Policy Services Renewal (\$6,946).

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

PERSONNEL

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Stangler to approve the following resignations:

- Karlane Jensen, Paraprofessional - effective May 28, 2021
- Rebecca Lang, Speech Language Pathologist Assistant - effective June 2, 2021.
- Julie Splett, Cook - effective June 3, 2021.
- Sheryl Reed, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher - effective July 30, 2021.
- Carrie Hackney, Cook - effective immediately.

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

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Rezac to approve FMLA (Family Medical Leave of Absence) request from Tyler Kaus, Elementary Teacher - beginning on or around September 1, 2021 and continuing up to 10 school days.

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

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

- Clark Taynton, AVID/Math/Elective Teacher - BS30/Step 5, \$40,188.
- Daniel Forcelle, Industrial Technology - BS/Step 9, \$42,402.
- Amber Karels, School Nurse - BS/Step 14, \$49,045.

Six members voting in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve Summer School staff:

- Angela Dahlberg, Speech/Special Education - \$33.43/hour.
- Deb Wollin, Administrative Assistant - \$15.47/hour.

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

Motion by Michael and seconded by Bowman to hire Mike Richards as head football coach (\$5,277). There was a great deal of discussion about Richards, who has been the coach for the last three years. After approximately 24 minutes of discussion, which included comments from five of the six board members and Activities Director Jeff Boran, the vote was taken.

Four members voted in favor of Richards returning as coach by roll call vote - Bowman and Michael voted against - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approve 18 other coaching positions for the 2021-22 school year.

The positions included:

Football: 1st Assistant Doug Androli (\$3,761), 2nd Assistant Harold Neilsen (\$3,004), 2nd Assistant Bob Ross (\$3,004), Junior High Dan Lemcke (\$2,261), Junior High Maurice McCabe (\$2,261), and Junior High Chad Atherton (\$2,261).

Volleyball: Head Coach Crystal Lamont (\$5,277), 1st Assistant Ken Trnka (\$3,761), 2nd Assistant Haley Schaaf (\$3,004), and Junior High Pam Heinz (\$2,261).

Cross Country: Head Coach Jon McDonough (\$5,277).

Cheerleading: Head Coach Tiffany Schmidtke (\$3,049).

Girls Basketball: Head Coach Tyler Kaus (\$5,277).

Boys Basketball: Head Coach Jeff Wagner (\$5,277).

Wrestling: Head Coach Bob Ross (\$5,277).

Baseball: Head Coach Josh Smith (\$5,277).

Softball: Head Coach Crystal Lamont (\$5,277).

Boys and Girls Track and Field: Head Coach Mike Richards (\$5,277).

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Gary Michael, Board Chair Jay Schneider, Board Clerk