

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

Monday, November 25, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 25, 2024 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 (left meeting at 7:01 p.m.), Jeff Stangler, June Rezac, Jay Schneider, Brenda Heuss, Troy Tolzman, and Jocelyn Brown attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Superintendent John Regan and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

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

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

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the Oct. 19-Nov. 15 Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,283,457.07, deposits were \$1,669,507.54, and transfers of \$600,000. A specific item discussed was a payment of \$40594.38 to MEI Total Elevator Solutions for building repairs and maintenance. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

### VISITOR COMMENTS

There were numerous comments from the public dealing with the possible closure of the WEM Middle School Building in Morristown. Those speaking to the board were asked to fill out a comment card with their name and phone number and either the board chair or superintendent would be getting back to them to discuss their concerns.

### CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve the following resignations:

- Darwyn Slechta, Transportation, effective November 30, 2024.

Approve the following 2024-2025 Coaches:

- Brady Ayers - Volunteer Wrestling Coach.
- Colin Ayers - Volunteer Wrestling Coach.
- Kari Roth, Girls Basketball Varsity Second Assistant Coach, \$3,420.
- Jeff Wagner Volunteer Girls Basketball Coach.
- Dennis Androli, Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach.
- Sarah Carroll, Volunteer Junior High Basketball Coach.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

### RECOGNITION

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Tolzman to approve the following monetary donations.

- Bucketeers donated \$8,050.86 to the Basketball Program.
- Waterville Lions Club donated \$675 to Travis' Trades.
- Waterville Lions Club donated \$2,025 to the Eagle Bluff Trip.
- WEM Football donated \$547.81 to Tackle Cancer.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

### REPORTS

**WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson submitted the following report:**

#### ***Waterville Campus Information***

Fall parent-teacher conferences were hosted earlier in the month for the high school and currently at the elementary. High School's dates for conferences were October 28 and November 4. Elementary hosted on November 21 and 25.

Catalyst coaches returned to WEM on November 12. We had some great coaching opportunities on this day!

We are underway in quarter 2, which began on November 4.

Our annual Veteran's Day program was held on Monday, November 11. Our keynote speaker was James Nielsen, grandfather of senior Anna Nielsen. Anna and fellow senior Claire Elness were our masters of ceremonies. We were honored to have American Legion Post #311 and their color guard with us. Rounding out the program were musical performances by our high school band and choir and third grade. Special guest appearance was made by our kindergarteners who helped lead the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were over 40 community members in attendance in addition to our high school student body and staff.

Thanksgiving break for all district staff and students is Thursday, November 28 and 29.

#### K-4

With funding from a grant through Prairie Lakes Art Council our whole elementary school was able to attend How The Grinch Stole Christmas at the Children's Theatre on November 13. The play received rave reviews from students and staff. We are so very thankful and grateful for this experience and for Mrs. Whitehurst, who led the work to submit the grant and organize the trip. Thank you Mrs. Whitehurst!

The third grade took a field trip to explore US Bank Stadium. Mrs. Wendlandt submitted the grade for the Vikings Voyage experience which is a STEM based field trip. Students were able to see behind the scenes parts of the stadium as well as learn about STEM-based curriculum. The whole experience expense was paid through the submission made by Mrs. Wendlandt and the MN Vikings!

Planning and practice is beginning for our third and fourth grader's holiday music concert scheduled for December 16.

#### 9-12

Junior students took the ASVAB on Thursday, November 7. Students will receive and go through their score results in December.

Mrs. Reuvers and Mrs. Stanton-Nutt took students on a college and career field trip to SCC and MSU on November 19. Students were able to explore and experience programming at both college campuses and even ran into and connected with former WEM grads. A great experience had by all.

Winter activities are underway and our fall play, Little Women, had two performances on November 21 and 22.

The high school choir and band will have their holiday performances the first two Mondays in December (December 2 and 9). The practice sessions are fantastic and all are invited to ring in holiday cheer at either concert.

#### **WEM Principal Myles Knutson submitted the following report:**

Greetings School Board Members,  
Here are a few updates from the Middle School:

- **Student Council Expansion:** 7th and 8th graders have always had the opportunity to be part of the Junior High student council. Now that we have combined our 5th and 6th grades with our 7th and 8th grades to form one middle school, we will be expanding our student council to consist of 5th and 6th graders as well. Mr. Svendsen has done a wonderful job with our student council this year and we all look forward to the future 5th/6th grade members who will be elected next week to join our middle school student council!

- **Conservation Crew:** Conservation Crew is a student-led extracurricular school program for middle schoolers. Rooted in service learning, students develop leadership skills by designing and implementing conservation projects to impact their schools and communities. It was very exciting to see 40 plus students show interest and sign up to be part of this program that will be led by Mr. Androli. There was a lot of excitement in the air about possible ideas for their project this month which consisted of partnering with the Waterville Fish Hatchery, trapping and relocating squirrels to a more natural habitat, building bird houses, snow removal in the community, and many more! I'm excited to see what route the Conservation Crew will take this year.

- **Spreading Kindness:** During this time of the year many of us give thanks and gifts to the people in our lives. We believe one of the best gifts you can give is to spread kindness to one another. During our half day next week we will have a "Kindness Kickoff" that will set the stage for a month filled with spreading kindness throughout our school and community. Throughout the month of December, students and staff will participate in a variety of activities where they will have the opportunity to commit acts of kindness for one another and the members of our community. Thank you, Myles Knutson

#### **WEM Community Education and Activities Director Jeff Boran submitted the following report.**

##### **Athletics :**

Volleyball - 2024 3rd place in the Gopher Conference and lost in the 2nd round to Glencoe-Silver Lake of the Section 2AA Tournament. Ashlyn Pelant, Sr, Addison Condon, Jr. and Liza Baker, Jr. were named All-Gopher Conference, with Tatum Richards, Sr. Honorable Mention. Junior Alenka Jans is the 2024 Gopher Conference Sportsmanship Award winner for WEM. Gopher Academic All-Conference (Varsity member with a 3.50 or higher quarter GPA) Liza Baker, Addison Condon, Alenka Jans, Bryella Pope, Tianna Pope, Tatum Richards, Miley Roemhildt, Robynn Schwichtenberg, and Alix Velzke.

Football – The WEM Football Team was the Mid-Southeast West Sub-District Champion and the Section 2AA Runner-up. Buccaneer players earning Mid-Southeast Football Honors were Keegan Kuball (Sr.) Player of the Year, Gavin Atherton (10th) Underclassman of the Year. All-District Players are Keegan Kuball (Sr), Gavin Atherton (So), Jacob Androli (Jr), Brady Murphy (Jr), Talon Taylor (Jr), Tarek Tolzman (Jr), Avery Breyer (Jr), and Cole Bartz (Fr). Zach Quast (Jr), Kaden James (Jr), Cody Akemann (Sr), and Brody Holicky (Sr) were named All-District Honorable Mention. WEM Head Coach Sam Stier was named the West Sub-District Coach of the Year. The 2024 Buccaneer FB Team also earned Silver Academic All-State Honors! Individual Academic Honors - Jacob Androli, Gavin Atherton, Cole Bartz, Avery Breyer, Ben Root, Reed Sammon, Dawson Slechta, and Brendan Snesrud.

Cross Country – The 2024 WEM/JWP Grizzly Cross Country Boys and Girls teams All-Conference runners 1st Team – Mackenzie Westphal, Fr (Conference Champion), Wyatt Jans, So., 2nd Team Teagan Mulder, 8th and Madalyn Miller, Fr. Honorable Mention – Wesley Heinz, 8th, Onika Herme, Sr, Emma Huelsnitz, 10, Lydia Cousley, 8th, and Madeline Hoehn, Sr. The Grizzlies Sportsmanship awards – Kwynn Krause and Alex Kleve. WEM/JWP Girls were the Gopher Conference Team Champions and the Boys were 3rd. Mackenzie Westphal (JWP Freshman – 2nd trip) qualified for the State Cross Country Meet held at the University of MN on November 2nd! Academic recognition also went to Lydia Cousley, Wesley Heinz, Abby Crosby, Auston Holicky, Madalyn Miller, Ellie Schlie, and Jaelyn Wilmes.

Girls Basketball began the season last Friday at Sleepy Eye St. Mary's with their first home event tomorrow night (11/26) vs. Maple River.

15 – 7/8 GBB players, 20 – 9th - 12th GBB players.

Wrestling's first meet is Thursday, December 5, a triangular with Waseca and LSH in Waseca. The first home meet is Friday, December 20 in Janesville.

WEM/JWP wrestlers in coop. (7th – 12th) (WEM – 21 Boys & 3 Girls) (JWP – 20 Boys & 3 Girls)

Boys Basketball's first game is this Tuesday, Dec. 3 home vs. Bethlehem Academy. 20 – 7/8 BBB players, 17 – 9th - 12th players.

Coops w/ Waseca – WEM Students - 4 Boys Hockey, 1 Girls Hockey & 2 Girls Gymnastics.

Eight WEM students grades 7th – 10th participated in the "Gopher Conference Team Up" event held in Janesville at the HS this year on October 25th. 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 8th year the Gopher Conference has had Rick come to deliver his inspirational message. Tori Bruns (7), Bentley Kikier (7), Dakotah Blasidell (8), Harper Wilker (8), Paetyn Judd (9), and Hunter Tonn (9)

Twelve WEM High School students will be attending the "Together in Partnership" Statewide Conference on November 19 in Rochester. Talen Taylor (11), Addison Condon (11), Robynn Swichtenberg (11), Alix Velzke (10), Dawson Slechta (10), Brady Murphy (11), Tarek Tolzman (11), Bryella Pope (10), Liza Baker (11), Gavin Atherton (10), Jacob Androli (11), Trey Richards (10).

Eleven (11) WEM students performed this past week "Little Women" from the Louisa May Alcott Novel, adapted by Scott Davidson. Abby Crosby, Claire Einess, Jaelyn Wilmes, Lacey Reysack, Isabelle Bauer, Madalynn Hackney, Emma O'Brien, Natalie Einess, Nic Allen, Maddy Smith, and Ryley Henning. Directed by Andrew Velishek.

#### **Community Education:**

22 students finished up Driver Education Classroom this last week. Currently six 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.

#### **WEM Board Member Reports**

There were no Board Members reports.

#### **WEM Board Committee Reports**

There were no Board Committee reports.

#### **WEM Superintendent John Regan presented the following:**

- Superintendent Regan commented the December 10 work session, the WEM School Play, and acknowledged everyone with a Happy Thanksgiving.

#### **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

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

346 Administrator Code of Ethics redline

519 Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies redline

533 Wellness redline

901 Community Education redline

See attachments on these four policies.

#### **ACTION**

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approve the Foster Care Transportation Services between Rice County and WEM Public Schools. See attachment.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Tolzman to rescind Policy 301 Superintendent Job Description (2011) - See attachment.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

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

342 Superintendent

343 Superintendent Selection

344 Superintendent Contract, Duties, and Evaluation

345 Policy Implementation

See attachments.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Heuss to approve Commissioning and Technical Service Agreement with ICS.

Six member voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.  
Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest