

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 24, 2021 at the Waterville Building in the Board Room. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6:06 p.m.

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

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

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Stangler to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from April 26, 2021. Five members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Schneider to approve the May Finance report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,295,758.16, deposits were \$1,140,561.47, and transfers were \$2,438,000. Comments on the report included a payment of \$14,251.94 to the City of Waterville for Safe Schools contract with Officer Bob Petrasek, a payment of \$70,998.82 to ISD #829 Waseca for the special education contract, a payment of \$13,406.58 to South Central Service Cooperative for health and safety safe environment (asbestos and radon tests), and a payment of \$3,062.16 to Dave's Body Shop for transportation repairs and maintenance to a bus which had an accident. mention was also made about the April 30, 2021 CD interest earned of \$17,364.92. Five members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

RECOGNITION

Motion by Michael and seconded by Rezac to approve the following monetary and non-monetary donations:

A donation of \$225 from Partners in Education to the elementary.

A donation of \$12.90 from Casey's to the school district.

A donation of \$1,500 from NuChekPrep for the NuChekPrep Scholarship.

A donation of \$500 from Deborah Kuball for the Bob Kuball Scholarship.

A donation of \$12,155 from Travis' Trades Scholarship for the Travis' Trades Scholarship.

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:

District Items

- MCAs are officially completed. Scores are expected to be embargoed until July 1, 2021. When score reports are received, the administration will finalize plans for moving forward with professional learning communities and the work that needs to be done for the 2021-2022 school year to assure continued student achievement.

Bill Dappen, former boss of senior student Travis Van Houdt, donated materials and labor for a patio and bench. The work started on Monday, May 17 and was completed last week. Thank you to Bill and his crew along with Henry and Julie Van Houdt for such a great addition to the front entrance of the high school.

Congratulations to the WEM School District for being recognized as a PBIS Exemplary District. Congratulations as well to Morristown JH/Elementary and Waterville Elementary for also being recognized as PBIS Exemplar schools. Thank you to the teams in both building sites for their hard work in the application process.

May 7 was School Lunch Hero Day! Thank you to our food services employees who do a phenomenal job of supplying the very best nutrition to all of our students. We appreciate you.

PreK-6 Report

- Kindergarten Round up was held May 6th. 35 new kindergarten students and their parents attended a night of fun activities and information. We are so excited to see them again next fall.

- M-W Preschool students participated in Preschool graduation on May 20. Congratulations to those students and their teachers on a successful year.

- Elementary students will be celebrating the end of the school year this week with a variety of activities in each building. K-4 will be participating in Buccaneer Fun Day on Tuesday with a variety of outdoor activities. Thank you to Crystal Lamont and her introduction to education students for organizing and directing the outdoor fun! 5th and 6th grade students will be participating in the Native Pride performance and other exciting activities on Thursday.

- Summer School registration is nearly complete. 60+ students are registered to Join us during the month of July!

7-12 Report

- The career fair was held on April 29 and was outstanding. We received very positive feedback from students and staff. Moving forward we will plan for another fair, but host in the fall to allow more discussion with seniors and future life planning. Presenters included discussion and information on industry demands, requirements and how movement occurs based upon on-the-job training, 2 year and 4 year degrees along with certifications.

- Wednesday, May 19 we hosted our first music department concert since December 2019. The event was awesome. Congratulations to Mrs. Kreinbring and Mr. Larson for doing a great job throughout the year with guidance and restrictions that truly put a hardship on having traditional instruction. The student performers were outstanding and we are excited to have the opportunity to host the event for our students and community.

- Native Pride will be performing in Morristown in conjunction with our Achievement and Integration Grant. Native Pride will bring a dance and drum line with authentic Native American performers. The event will be held on Thursday, May 27.

- The Night of Excellence is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26. We are looking forward to honoring our seniors as well as a few juniors for their academic and extra-curricular achievements. The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. Last day of school for 2020-2021 is coming up at the end of the week. A traditional day for high school students while junior high students will have an altered schedule to allow for some last year BUCS Pride activities.
- The Class of 2021's Commencement is Friday, May 28 beginning at 7:00 p.m. The ceremony will be livestreamed as well. Thank you to board member Travis Bowman and board chair Gary Michael for working with administration and being a part of the evening.

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran presented the following report:

Spring Activities

- WEM Night of Excellence is Wednesday May 26, beginning @ 6:30 pm.
 - Baseball, Softball & Track regular seasons wrap up this week. Despite a two week later start our spring activities got to play full seasons!
- Baseball Subsections begin next Monday May 31. (Yes - Memorial Day in Region 1A!) Dates & Locations TBD Friday 5/28.
- Softball playoffs begin Tuesday June 1 Dates & Locations TBD Friday 5/28. If all goes as planned the girls will play for a Gopher Conference Championship this Thursday at home!

Track – Conference Meet tomorrow night in Hayfield. Subsection meet in Janesville Thursday June 3. Section Saturday June 12 at Mankato West HS. This year state will be at St. Michael Albertville HS June 17-19.

- The Football schedule for Fall 2021 is nearly complete as the MSHSL reclassified all teams again this year and redistricted Football teams. WEM will be Class AA in Football, Volleyball, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Baseball for 2021-2023. The Bucs will compete in Class A in B & G Cross Country, Wrestling, Girls Softball and B & G Track for 2021-2023.
- Fall Activities are scheduled to begin August 16, 2021.

Community Ed

Summer School Age Care Program will begin Tuesday June 1 and currently we have 42 registered to attend.

- Driver Education update:

The June classroom session will begin Thursday June 3 at 8:00 am in Morristown. Currently 22 enrolled.

Behind the Wheel will also begin Thursday June 3. 34 student drivers currently scheduled for June and July.

- Summer Youth Sb & Bb are currently getting started and geared up for a busy summer! T-Ball currently has 50 kids registered and will get started early in June. Swimming lessons and Camp Little Bucs will get started in July. Basketball and Volleyball Camps will also get started in mid/ end of June and in July.
- Other activities and offerings are also in the planning stages as we hopefully experience a more “normal” summer.

WEM Superintendent Joel Whitehurst presented the following:

* Whitehurst spoke about the PBIS honors, the Le Sueur County Collaborative, and the legislative session. He said there are a lot of unknowns with the Legislative funding.

WEM Board Member reports

* Chairman Gary Michael met with the food service staff.

WEM Committee Member reports

* The Superintendent Search Committee met. They reported an administrative structure needs to be finalized, need to decide which search firm should be hired, and should the search begin without a seventh board member. The seventh member will be added in August after a special election.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

* The board received an update regarding the latest Governor's order and impact upon the district including graduation. The mask mandate will continue in school and on school busses until June 2nd. Masks will not be needed at graduation or Night of Excellence. Anything after school hours does not require a mask. Graduation will be open to the public with no masks, social distancing, and no attendance numbers.

Travis Bowman made a motion to lift all mandates eliminating mask wearing and social distancing but the motion dies for lack of a second.

ACTION

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approve the resolution calling for a special election to fill a school board vacancy. Polling hours have been set for the August 10 election from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. See attachment.

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

• Motion by Rezac and seconded by Stangler to approve the 2021-22 calendar change - Grades 5 and 6 will have entrance conferences on September 7th. September 8th will be the first day of school for grades 5 and 6.

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

PERSONNEL

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Schneider to approve the following letters of resignation:

• Joshua Cluever, Mathematics Teacher, effective at the end of the 2020-21 school year.

• Blake Boran, Physical Education and Health Teacher, effective at the end of the 2021-21 school year.

• Brooke Nattress, Physical Education/Health/DAPE Teacher, effective at the end of the 2021-21 school year.

• Grace Roeker, Paraprofessional, effective at the end of the 2020-21 school year.

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

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Rezac to approve the Communication Coordinator's hourly rate to increase to \$21.35/hour (3.5 % package increase). See attachment.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approve the School Age Children Coordinator's 2020-2023 contract: 2020-21 - 3.45% increase to \$15.00/hour, 2021-2022 - 5% increase to \$15.75/hour, and 2022-2023 - 4.50% increase to \$16.46/hour. See attachment.

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

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

- Rebecca Lang, Speech Language Pathologist Assistant - BS/Step 6, \$38,075.
- Sam Gavin, Social Studies Teacher - BS/Step 2, \$33,744.
- Bridgette Reuvers-Slinger, Guidance Counselor - MS/Step 8, \$46,950.
- Haley Schaaf, Physical Education/Health Teacher - BS/Step 3, \$34,291.
- Shanelle Froehle, Elementary Music Teacher - BS/Step 3, \$34,291.
- Approve Shawna Peterson Brown, 2021-22 School Psychologist - \$475/day, up to 44 days.
- Approve Elizabeth Kinsey Hawley, 2021-22 School Psychology Intern - \$24.98/hour, up to 15 hours per week.
- Approve Dan Lemcke, Summer Tech - \$33.43/hour up to 25 hours/week (ESSR II Funds).
- Tiffany Schmidtke, Preschool Paraprofessional - \$13.28/hour.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve non-tenured teacher contracts:

- Kelsey Schiefelbein, BS/Step 3, \$34,291.
- Kaitlin Vetsch, BS/Step 3, \$34,291.
- Katherine Brown, BS/Step 3, \$34,291.
- Austin Nagel, BS/Step 3, \$34,291.
- Mary White, BS/Step 7, \$39,524.
- Carrie Brown, BS/Step 5, \$37,111.

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

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Rezac to approve Summer School Age Care Workers:

Adult supervisors (\$11/hour): Susan Bliss, Vicki Gregor, Stephanie James, Isabel Weller, Akalie molitor, and Tori VanRyn.

High school student worker (\$8.50/hour): Tanna VanRyn,

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Gary Michael, Board Chair

Jay Schneider, Board Clerk