

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

Monday, January 22, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, January 22, 2024 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Vice Chairman June Rezac at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Rezac, Jon Bakken, Brenda Heuss, Troy Tolzman, Jeff Stangler, and Jay Schneider attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Superintendent John Regan and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

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

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Stangler to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from December 18, 2023. Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the December Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,332,072.87, deposits were \$1,485,251.87, and transfers of \$2,500,000. Comments on the report included A payment of \$41,379 to Harry Brown's for a special education vehicle and a payment of \$124,652.54 to North Central Blue Bird for a bus purchase.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Tolzman to approve School Age Care employee pay rate retroactive to September 1, 2023 - Adult (18+) = \$13.54/hour and Student (16 & 17 years old) = \$11.54.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

### **VISITOR COMMENTS**

There were no visitor comments.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Approve hiring Kathryn Swenson, Kitchen Assistant (Band A-1-3)/Step 11, \$15.20/hour.

Approve hiring Kimberly Miller, Long-Term Substitute Teacher in 4th Grade.

Approve the following 2023-2024 Coaches:

- Junior High Girls Basketball Coach - Kristalyn Morris, \$2,336.
- Junior High Girls Basketball Coach - Tanya Jensen, \$2,336.
- Boys Head Track and Field Coach - Matthew Thomforde, \$5,450.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

### **RECOGNITION**

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Tolzman to approve the following monetary donation:

A donation of \$22,000 from the Moving Forward Foundation which will be used on the softball field.

A donation of \$675 from the Waterville Lions Club to the Elementary School.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

### **REPORTS**

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

#### **All District**

The end of Quarter 2/Semester 1 was Friday, January 19. Students were released early while staff took the afternoon for grading and wrapping up the grading/instructional time period.

Staff engaged in Professional Development on January 15. There were rich conversations and breakout sessions.

Mrs. Bastian and Dr. Wilson met once in December and again on January 11 with a small group of staff (a teacher representative and para from each building along with the student success coordinator) to discuss discipline across the district. The direction of this focus exercise is to continue working with staff based on district survey results from Spring 2023. More meetings will take place with the projection to solidify further training, support, and consensus on discipline within the district from classroom management to student expectations and beyond.

**PreK-6**

Fourth grade students took a field trip to the Bell Museum, Minnesota’s Official Natural History Museum and Planetarium in St. Paul on January 5. Students spent the day exploring and learning.  
The sixth grade Math Masters team has begun to train for the upcoming Math Master’s Competition. The fifth grade Math Masters team will begin training in the coming weeks.

Grade 5 students have begun DARA classroom lessons. Lessons will continue through April and will culminate with DARE Graduation at a future date.

Fifth grade students will be attending the third annual Eagle Bluff Field Trip February 7-9. Thanks to many in the community for your support in making this trip a reality. Students, teachers, and chaperones are excited to attend.

Big thank you to teachers Andi O’Neil and Britta Robran who organized and hosted our first Literacy Night on December 7. Title 1 students and their families were invited to participate in fun activities around literacy. The night was well attended and we are looking into doing more nights like this.

Planning and preparations for the upcoming state testing have begun for students in grades 3-6.

**7-12**

Planning for standardized testing (MCAs and ACT) is underway. We will also be registering for 2023-2024 in February.

On January 30 we will host Cory Greenwood at the high school. Cory and his team came to us 2 years ago as a motivational speaker with anti-bullying messages. His message this visit is a 2.0 version with emphasis on decision making evaluations, growth, and maturation. fostering healthy relationships in and out of school focusing on what can be changed.

Mrs. Reuvers along with representatives from MN State University-Mankato hosted a FAFSA night on Monday, January 8. This event was geared towards our current senior class as they financially plan for post-secondary opportunities.

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

**Activities :**

- The 2023-2024 WEM Triple A Award (Arts, Athletics, Academics) winner is senior Izabela Slechta. This MSHSL special multi-level recognition award recognizes high school seniors active in league sponsored fine arts and athletic activities and show success in the classroom.
- WEM One-Act Play Team: Sub-Section 8 meet is this Saturday 1/27/2024 at Maple River High School. This year’s play was entitled “Bus Stop”, by Kendra Thomas. The Director is Andrew Velishek. The Gopher Conference event was this past Saturday here at United South Central HS in Wells. This event is not scored and teams are not ranked. Teams receive input from judges. A very good lead up to the Subsection meet!
- The Gopher Conference Honors Music (Band & Choir) Concert and Visual Arts Display will be hosted by Kenyon-Wanamingo HS in Kenyon on Saturday February 3, 2024. The Concert will begin at 1:30 PM. Conference student artwork will be on display beginning around 12:30 pm. Anyone is invited and welcome to attend. There will be an admission charge of \$6 adults and \$4 for students (K-12). Students from all conference schools have been selected and have begun practicing. All Conference schools will have a combined practice on Friday Feb. 2 along with Saturday.
- Section Tourney time just around the corner!

Wrestling	gets started	February 15	with	Team Wrestling.	Section Ind.	is the	Feb. 24	(WEM/JWP	Coop)
Girls	Gymnastics	will	begin	February	17.	(Waseca	Coop)		
Girls	Hockey	Team	will	begin	February	9.	(Waseca	Coop)	
Boys	Hockey	team	will	begin	February	20.	(Waseca	Coop)	
Girls	Basketball		will	begin	February	26.			

Large Group Choir March 4 (at Loyola) & Band March 18 (at Maple River). o Boys Basketball will begin March 5.

Spring Activities Registration will be opening soon with practices beginning in March. Clay Targets, Baseball, Softball, Boys & Girls Track.

**Community Education:**

ECFE night classes will be getting started again in February. School Age Childcare continues to operate safely. Summer 2024 Registration has begun. School year 2024-2025 registrations in March.

Little Bucs Preschool registrations for the 2024-2025 school year will begin in late February or early March.

Driver Education Classrooms for 2024 date are TBD depending on finding an available, licensed instructor.

The WEM School is open to those wanting to walk during winter months in the mornings and evenings.

### **WEM Board Member Reports**

Bakken reported on two foreign teachers currently at WEM.

Rezac presented a Legislative Platform for 2024. She also reported on renting out a room in the school for in-home daycare, which she saw at the MSBA Convention.

### **WEM Board Committee Reports**

There was brief discussion on negotiations - with a with cooks and janitorial going to mediation.

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

- Superintendent Regan commented on the School Resource Officer close to coming to the school, NEXXUS asked for facility information, school survey will go out between Feb. 5 and Feb. 12, art grant meeting for art work going on the elementary outside wall, and parking lot abatement in Morristown.

### **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

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

507 Corporal Punishment and Prone Restraint.

514 Bullying Prohibition Policy.

532 Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds.

709 Student Transportation Safety Policy.

### **ACTION**

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Rezac to approved the following policies (See attachments):

509 Enrollment of Nonresident Students

604 Instructional Curriculum

618 Assessment of Student Achievement

620 Credit for Learning

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approve a petition for vacation of Ann Street in the City of Morristown. See attachment.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Rezac to approve the Construction Management Contract between WEM Public Schools and Robert W. Carlstrom Co. Inc. for three special education room remodels. See attachment.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Rezac to approve the July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025 Master Agreement. See attachment.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Tolzman and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

June Rezac, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest