

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

Monday, September 25, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 25, 2023 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, Brenda Heuss, June Rezac, 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 Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve the agenda. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Tolzman to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from August 28, 2023. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the September Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$923,979.09, deposits were \$770,780.06, and transfers were \$950,000.00. Comments on the report included a payment of \$16,858.21 to School Outfitters for classroom chairs and a payment of \$30,536.40 to Wenger Corporation for acoustic shell for band and choir.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

### **VISITOR COMMENTS**

There were no visitor comments.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

A. Approve the Additional Assignment Roster for the 2023-2024 School Year. See attachment

B. Approve the following 2023-2024 School Year Overloads

Joshua Smith, Music History, \$3,736.40

Pamela Heinz, Physical Education, \$4,793.44

Bridgette Reuvers, Workbase Learning, \$4,013.92

Sam Stier, Psychology, \$4,705.44

Cameron Jensen, Chemistry, \$2,959.52

Anna Skidmore, \$5,161.20

Jennifer Graham, \$5,073.20.

C. Approve Instructional Staff Sharing Agreement with Southern Plains Education Cooperative. See attachment

D. Approve the Following Hires:

Jasmin Kurt, Elementary Teacher - MS30/Step 3, \$43,461

Melissa Dwyer, Paraprofessional - Step 6, \$15.16/hour

Aimee Quiram, Food Service, Cook Assistant (Schedule 2) - Step 11, \$15.20/hour

Erin Villwock, Paraprofessional - Step 6, \$15.16/hour

Milayna Watzek, Paraprofessional - Step 6, \$15.16/hour

Nicole Volk, Art (1.0 FTE) - BS20/Step 20, \$60,015

E. Approve the following Resignation:

Sheri Velishek, Head Cook effective Sept. 5, 2023

Six members voted in favor - Michael voted against - motion declared passed.

### **RECOGNITION**

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Schneider to approve the following monetary donations:

A donation of \$1,850.22 from No Tummies Left Behind to Food Service.

A donation of \$1,295.26 from the WEM Moving Forward Foundation to the Elementary School.

A donation of \$50 from Ralph and Shirley Kern for the FFA Memorial.

A donation of \$100 from Alan and Laurie Schmidtke for the FFA Memorial.

A donation of \$50 from Tim and Joan Steinhaus for the FFA Memorial.

Seven 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**

We experienced a smooth and exciting start to the 2023-2024 school year. A big thanks to our teachers, academic support staff, custodial staff, and food service staff for helping to make the start fantastic.

We welcomed eight new staff members to the district this year and many have extended their talents and time to work with our students in extracurricular activities and assisting with referring and line judging. Our new staff members receive a peer mentor to assist in transitioning to WEM.

This fall we are hosting four graduate level interns assisting with our school psychologist team. The interns are working under Dr. Shawna Petersen-Brown which is our school psychologist and has affiliations with Minnesota State University-Mankato. We are excited to partner and be a collaborative partner.

### **PreK-6**

K-4 welcomed students and parents to Entrance Conferences on Sept. 5. Students and their families met their teacher and teachers had the opportunity to get to know their new students.

Students in Grades 5 and 6 had orientation on the evening of August 30. Teachers met with small groups of students and their families to learn about each grade's teachers and their expectations for the school year.

Students PreK-6 have had a great start to the year. Much time has been spent establishing routines and relationships. We are off to a great start.

K-6th grade students attended kick-off assemblies to meet all teachers and to review Bucs pride expectations for different areas of our schools.

On Sept. 12 5th graders attended the Farm and Home Safety Day at Farm America. Students had a great time while learning about safety.

On Sept. 22 kindergarten students will be headed to the Montgomery Apple Orchard to continue learning about the life cycle of a plant.

WEM 6th graders are tentatively scheduled to go to Target Field for a tour and educational activities (Depends on Minnesota Twins Playoff run) Oct. 17.

### **7-12**

Our open house events on August 30 were very well attended, some of the best attended in recent years. Students were eager to be back in the building, ready to pick-up their chromebooks and get settled into the year.

Our high school student council members are busy planning for Homecoming in a few weeks. The annual Homecoming parade and pep fest will be held on Thursday, Oct. 12 after lunch. Last year's Homecoming dance was quite popular and again will be the conclusion to the week's festivities.

Congratulations to Tyson Cooley, Ag/CTE Teacher at WEM High School. Tyson was nominated and selected for the South Central Service Cooperative's SPOTLIGHT Employee Recognition Award. Tyson will be honored in a few weeks and his recognition will be SCSC's media. Tyson was submitted for the recognition due to his strong connection with students, dedication to empowering students to make positive contributions to the community, and reinforces strong character for students through modeling.

**Jeff Boran, Community Education & Activities Director submitted the following report:**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

School Age Care is up and running before and after school with 32 enrolled WEM students.

Currently 40 enrolled in the Little Bucs Preschool Program, with two classroom options.

The Storybook Theatre is in town this week with performances of "Rapunzel" Sept. 29 and 30.

More than 50 elementary students are participating in flag football with another 30+ playing 5th and 6th grade football.

Nearly 50 students are playing 3rd through 6th grade volleyball.

## ACTIVITIES

Football and Volleyball: We are currently at about the halfway point in the regular season. Homecoming is still two weeks away Oct. 9-13. Playoffs will begin the week of October 23.

Cross Country: This week the Grizzlies host our annual "Pie Run" at Prairie Ridge Golf Course in Janesville. The conference meet is at Blooming Prairie Oct. 16 and the Section Meet is Oct. 26 at Norwood Young America Baylor Park.

Cheerleaders: Coach Tiffany Schmidtke and the cheerleaders have been a great support for the Buccaneers.

Winter activities are right around the corner, with registration available beginning early in October.

### **WEM Board Member Reports**

There were no Board Member reports.

### **WEM Board Committee Reports**

There were no Board Committee reports.

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

- Superintendent Regan asked if board members were planning on attending the MSBA Conference, discussed Meet and Confer, and said the energy has been great and it is good to see everyone back.

## **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

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

424 License Status

425 Staff Development

605 Alternative Educational Services

801 Equal Access to School Facilities

## **ACTION**

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approve the memo of Understanding for Tri-Valley Opportunity Council - see attachment.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Rezac to approve "Certifying" Maximum on Pay 2024 Levy. Truth in Taxation meeting to be conducted at 6:30 p.m. December 18, 2023 in the board room. See attachment.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Tolzman to adopt the following policies (2nd reading of these policies)

102 Equal Educational Opportunity

418 Drug-free Workplace/Drug-free School

419 Tobacco-free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction

516.5 Overdose Medication

806 Crisis Management Policy

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Heuss to approve the 2023-2024 Professional Development Handbook - see attachment.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest