

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 24, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 24, 2023 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6:32 p.m.

Board Members Michael, Brenda Heuss, June Rezac, Troy Tolzman, Jon Bakken, Jeff Stangler, and Jay Schneider attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Superintendent Ryan Jensen, Principal Bobbie Jo Bastian, Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Tolzman to approve the agenda with one correction and one addition. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Bakken to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 27, 2023. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the April Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$923,295.06, deposits were \$1,079,114.26, and transfers were \$900,000. Comment on the report included a payment of \$96,897.94 to ISD #829 Waseca for special education services.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were comments from six different individuals: Kindergarten teachers Sara Anderson, Kaitlin Zellar, and Karen Marzahn, Pam Baker, Sue Krienke, and Ruth Ann Olson.

The kindergarten teachers were asking the board to consider adding a fourth kindergarten class next year. There is scheduled to be 58 kindergarteners in 2023-24.

Baker asked the board to not stop looking at the facilities and look at trying to keep quality teachers. She pointed out salaries are \$10,000 less than other schools.

Krienke spoke to the board about the upcoming graduation and the way the top students in the class are designated.

Olson, President of the WEM Education Association, told the board they need to address teacher salaries or the district will lose teachers at a greater rate than they already are. She also said respect is a problem at WEM.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Approve the following hires:

Patty Pettis, High School Student Council Advisor for 2023-2024.

Lana Adermann, Food Services Director, \$11,576 through June 30, 2023.

Sam Stier, Social Studies, BS50/MS/Step 13, \$58,818.

Cameron Jensen, Chemistry and Physical Science, BS10/Step 4, \$36,994.

B. Approve the following resignations:

Ryan Jensen, Superintendent, effective June 30, 2023.

Steve Lansing, Physical Education, effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Maurice McCabe, Mathematics, effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Sheri Velishek, Cook, effective April 28, 2023.

C. Approve the following 2022-2023 coaches:

Junior High Baseball - Head Coach Jeff Boran, \$2,336 and Chad Atherton, Head Coach, \$1,168 (less hours).

Junior High Softball - McKenzie Kuball, Head Coach, \$2,336 and Mariah Boyd, Head Coach, \$2,336.

D. Approve the following 2023-2024 fall and winter coaches:

Volleyball - Crystal Lamont, Head Coach, \$5,450.

Football - Sam Stier, Head Coach, \$5,450

Cheerleading - Tiffany Schmidtke, Head Coach - \$3,150.

Boys Basketball - David Schuster, Head Coach, \$5,450.

Girls Basketball - Tyler Kaus, Head Coach, \$5,450.

Wrestling - Skyler Petry, Head Coach, \$5,450.

E. Approve the following Community Education Summer Staff:

Susan Bliss, SAC, Vicki Gregor, SAC, Emma McGraw, SAC, and Mandi Schutte, SAC - \$11.96/hour and Brody Holicky, SAC - \$9.96/hour.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

RECOGNITION

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

A donation of \$2,000 from Jerry and Karen Marzahn for the kindergarten program.

A donation of \$8,000 from Jerry and Karen Marzahn for the FFA program.

A donation of \$1,050 from American Legion Post 311 for the FFA program.

A donation of \$2,000 from After Prom for the Class of 2024.

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

MCA testing is underway. All high school tests are completed. Morristown has nearly completed all reading testing and will begin math this week. The elementary school has also wrapped up testing for the MCA season. All district MCA testing will conclude the first week in May.

WEM participated in the state-wide severe weather drill on April 20.

PreK-6 Grade

The 5th grade Math Masters team has worked hard and prepared well for the competition that was held April 21. Students did a great job representing WEM! Special thanks to Mrs. Sammon and Mr. Svendsen who have done a great job preparing these students for this big event.

Fifth Grade students are preparing for DARE graduation which will take place May 4.

We are preparing for Kindergarten round up which will take place May 5, 2023. We are very excited to meet our new Buccaneers!

We are looking forward to a variety of field trips, picnics and all school activities that will be taking place during the month of May throughout the district.

7-12 Grade

We hosted Le Sueur County To Zero Deaths on Monday, April 17. Our guest speaker was Matt Maas (and Julie Maas), parents of Logan Maas (senior at Triton) who tragically lost his life due to reckless driving. More information on their story can be viewed through the link below, a story featured in The Land of 10,000 Lakes several years ago. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIX-qtBxk2E> It was a touching and eye-opening presentation.

Congratulations to seniors Shelby Krienke, Emma Woratschka and Daelyn Judd who were selected as KEYC's Best in the Class in conjunction with sponsorship from Bethany Lutheran College. Students are selected based on their educational experience, overall achievements and display of life-long learning. The clip with WEM students can be viewed through the link: <https://youtu.be/6ih47FnJB5w>

On April 25 a group of students from 9th-11th grade will attend the spring YEA Data Summit. This spring the summit is hosted by our A&I collaborative school, Faribault. Next year WEM will host both the winter and spring meetings.

Juniors took the ACT on April 5. We are awaiting district results but overall the morning of testing was well done and smoothly executed. A large thank you to school counselor Mrs. Bridgette Reuvers for heading up the testing and being our ACT coordinator.

May is right around the corner, we have a number of yearly events planned such as the Night of Excellence, Pops Concert, Senior Class Trip, Senior Class Breakfast and Commencement. Our middle school students are planning a trip to Valley Fair for a hands-on science day.

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

ACTIVITIES

- CONGRATULATIONS & GOOD LUCK to the WEM Speech team members on qualifying for the State Tournament this weekend (Saturday 4/29) at Eastview HS. Maddie Heuss (10) in "Discussion" was the Section 2A Champion, Claire Elness

- (10) "Great Speeches" Section 2A 2nd place and Madeline Balfe (11) "Creative Expression" Section 2A 2nd place. Also congratulations to all speech team members for another excellent season. (Team members include Shelby Briggs, Jocelyn Brown, Natalie Elness, Grace Bartz, Auston Holicky and Macy Anderson along with Maddie, Claire and Madeline). The team is coached by Eric Gerst and Rachel Wendlandt.

- CONGRATULATIONS to WEM Visual Arts team Charles Tenhoff, Courtney Carlsen & Haley Buss for receiving "Excellent" and Haylee Samlaska and Avery Hughes for receiving "Superior" recognitions at last week's Region 2A Visual Arts Event held at TCU HS April 12.

- 2022 Spring Activities, Baseball, Softball, Track & Field and Clay Targets have begun! We've been dodging snowstorms and fighting sunburn here at the start of the Spring Sports season but are ahead of where we were last year at this time! Good Luck and Go Bucs!

- CONGRATULATIONS to WEM's Academic All-State Softball Players: Seniors Hannah Bruns, Daelyn Judd, Jordan Green, Jenessa Baumgarten and Emma Woratschka. Team members must be seniors and carry a 3.75 or better cumulative GPA!

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- Registrations are open for Summer 2023 swimming lessons, camps, youth sports, behind the wheel training, driver education classroom, summer school age childcare, etc. on the new WEM On-Line Class Registration Site

- Registration for 2023-2024 Little Bucs Preschool is open with spots still available!
- Plans for Preschool Summer School are being prepared and will be open for registration very soon.

WEM Board Member Reports

Rezac talked briefly about the Waterville Parks Board and the possible pickle ball courts at Lions Park in Waterville.

WEM Board Committee Reports

There were no Board Committee reports.

WEM Superintendent Ryan Jensen presented the following:

- Jensen reported on Region 2 Superintendents at the Capitol, Dr. Teri Priesler and the MSU Teacher Fellowship Program, Career Day at the Morristown School, Carnival at the high school, and WEM Junior-Senior Prom.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

The board briefly discussed the Nexus Solutions proposal.

Policy 426 Substitute Teacher Compensation was tabled until the May 11 special meeting.

Amy Jordan of the Minnesota School Board Association discussed the upcoming superintendent search process.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Michael to approve the 2022 Pay Equity Report. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Schneider to decide the honor of Valedictorian and Salutatorian by grade point average. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Stangler to approve the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar. See attachment. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approved the second reading of the following policies - See attachments:

413 Harassment and Violence

516.5 Overdose Medication

709 Student Transportation Safety

711 Video Recording on School Busses.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

PERSONNEL

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Stangler to approve Joyce Mace, Speech Clinician/Case Facilitator - request to change full-time position to part-time position and maintain role as Case Facilitator effective starting 2023-2024 school year.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest Jay Schneider, Attest