

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, February 24, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 24, 2025 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 (on-line), June Rezac, Jay Schneider, Brenda Heuss, Troy Tolzman, and Jocelyn Brown attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting was Superintendent John Regan and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

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

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Heuss to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from Jan. 27. Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the January-February Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$2,184,926.62, deposits were \$973,475.54, and transfers of \$1,000,000.00. Bakken commented on the new format in the financial report dealing with the expenditure comparison report. Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

RECOGNITION

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Heuss to accept the following the monetary donations.

Waterville Lions Club donated \$1,575 to Travis' Trade Scholarship.

Waterville Lions Club donated \$900 to Eagle Bluff Field Trip.

Southern Lakes Angling & Spearing donated \$350 to Junior High Science.

Le Sueur County farm Bureau donated \$372 to FFA (Student Activity Account).

Choosing Kindness Foundation donated \$750 to PBIS (Student Activity Account).

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

VISITOR COMMENTS

WEM head football coach Sam Stier talked about the opportunity for girls to play in the new flag football league.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Tolzman to approve the consent agenda which included the following items: - This motion was amended to take out the Flag Football Coaches from the consent agenda.

- Approve the following 2024-2025 Spring coaches:

Speech co-head coaches - Eric Gerst and Rachel Wendlandt, \$2,953/each.

Softball - Crystal Lamont, head coach, \$6,008 and Madysson Dufault, 1st assistant, \$4,283.

Baseball - Josh Smith, head coach, \$6,008, Mac Lemcke, 1st assistant, \$4,283, Blake Seesz, junior high coach, \$2,575.

Boys and Girls Track - Mike Richards, head coach, \$6,008 and Harold Neilsen, 1st assistant, \$4,283.

- Approve request for Family Medical Leave of absence for Madysson Dufault, 1st grade teacher, beginning on or around August 25, 2025 through Oct. 17, 2025.

- Approve the following resignations - Erin Hoepner, Paraprofessional, effective January 30, 2025 and Amber Karels, Waterville School Nurse, effective until replacement is found.

- Approve the following retirements - Joyce Mace, Special Education Case Facilitator, effective June 2, 2025 and Patty Whitehurst, Elementary School Counselor, effective June 3, 2025.

- Approve the following Community Education Summer SACC Staff:

Adults - Susan Bliss, Vicki Gregor, Christine McCoy, Kyleigh Duffey, and Kylie LaFrance, \$13.54/hour.

Students - Auston Holicky and Sara Jeffries, \$11.54/hour.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Tolzman to approve Community Ed Activity - Girls Flag Football Coaches - Jon Bakken, head coach, \$3,000 and Chad Atherton, 1st assistant, \$1,500.

Five members voted in favor - Bakken abstains - motion declared passed.

REPORTS

WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson submitted the following report:

Waterville Campus Information

PreK-12th grade teachers participated in a professional development day on Monday, February 17. We had a speaker from Marzano Resources to speak and work with staff on to address:

- Develop an understanding of the HRS framework and hierarchy.
- Apply an understanding of Leading and Lagging Indicators, Quick Data, Prove and Improve, and Defined Autonomy
- Discover new ways to use collaborative teams to address common issues regarding curriculum, assessment, instruction and achievement of all students.

February 3-7 was Counselor Appreciation Week. Thank you to our school counselors: Mrs. Whitehurst, Mrs. Roethler and Mrs. Reuvers for the work they do, the dedication to our student body and all the spirited activities they foster.

K-4

Kindergarten Round-Up will be held on February 24, 2025. We will also be hosting a Literacy Night with Minnesota Author, Megan Maynor. A big thank you to Britta Robran and Andi O'Neil for helping to plan literacy activities as well as our kindergarten teaching staff for their hard work to host the round-up.

9-12

Snow Week Coronation will be Tuesday, February 18, 2025. It will coincide with National FFA Week (February 17-21). Mr. Cooley and our FFA Officers have fun weekday events planned for the student body.

High School Concert Choir and Wind Ensemble performed on Monday, February 11. The concert was a performance practice for the community. Selections were well done. Our fine arts showed fantastic talent. Congratulations to our students and directors, Mr. Larson and Mr. Stumbo!

Juniors met with US Army National Guard Recruiter, Miranda Grewe, to receive, review and understand ASVAB results. The ASVAB was taken before the holidays.

Freshmen will attend the Career Navigator held at South Central College on Friday, February 21.

Congratulations to math teacher Cory Immerman and his wife on the birth of their third child, a girl. Congratulations to social studies teacher Josh Smith and his wife on the birth of their second child, a boy. All reports indicate moms, dads and siblings are adjusting to the new arrivals and babies are thriving!

WEM Principal Myles Knutson submitted the following report:

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

- **Eagle Bluff:** 5th grade took their annual field trip to Eagle Bluff during the first week of February and enjoyed the long days and nights exploring and learning with one another. I was even able to head down there for a day to see some rock climbing, survival skills, archery, and students navigating through the ropes course. I will never forget seeing students overcome their fears and try new things with the encouragement of their friends, parent volunteers, and teachers as they climbed high, built a fire, or traversed way up in the air on the ropes course. It was something special to see first hand. A huge thank you goes out to Mrs. Landru, Mr. Svendsen, and Mrs. Heinz, and all the parent volunteers for organizing this extremely meaningful field trip!

- **Novel Studies:** Our ELA department has been doing a phenomenal job teaching standards through engaging novel studies over the past few months. I am impressed with our teachers and their ability to take a rich novel and utilize it to develop student vocabulary and knowledge of literacy concepts. Teaching through the novels has helped improve student stamina, love for reading, and reading comprehension. Students are excited about reading and I love stopping by to hear their conversations centered around the novel they are diving into together as a class.

- **PBIS Response to Data:** Data informed decisions is something we emphasize in all we do. Recently, our PBIS team saw an opportunity for growth while reviewing Quarter Two behavioral data. In response to an uptick in hallway behavior, the team put together some resources and lessons to reteach our existing hallway expectations and also gather student input on what our hallways should look like, sound like, and feel like. 5th and 6th grade classrooms created some anchor charts together and hung them in our hallways to remind us all that we have collective agreements on how we want our hallways to operate.

Thank you,
Myles Knutson

WEM Board Member Reports

Rezac attended a negotiations seminar.

WEM Board Committee Reports

There were no Board Committee reports.

WEM Superintendent John Regan presented the following:

- Superintendent Regan commented on the the Legislators are back in session, six wrestlers qualify for State, all polices from the 1990s have been updated, and 28 children attended kindergarten Round-Up Feb. 24.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

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

210 Conflict of Interest - School Board Members.

409 Employee Publications, Instructional Materials, Inventions, and Creations.
412 Expense Reimbursement.
501 School Weapons Policy.
See attachments on these five policies.

Single Site Update - The Board is still waiting on these results from Dr. Wornson.
South West Metro #288 - Dr. Jeff Horton gave a short presentation on this organization.

Summer School - Summer school will be held in Morristown this year due to the construction project in the Waterville building. There will be two classrooms used with up to 20 students in each room.

South Central Service Coop Superintendent Search. Harold Remme and Jeff Bertrang gave a presentation on what they will provide for the superintendent search. See attachment.

ACTION

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Schneider to approve the contract for the superintendent search through South Central Service Coop.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Heuss to rescind 522 Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance procedure, and Process (2024 revision).

Five voted in favor - Schneider stepped away from the meeting - motion declared passed.

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

415 Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults
522 Title IX Sex nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure, and Process (Based upon 2020 Final Rule).
527 Student Use and Parking Motor Vehicles; Patrols, Inspections, and Searches.
527 FORM Student Parking Permit Request
528 Student Parental, Family, and Marital Status Nondiscrimination
614 School District Testing Plan and Procedure
See attachments on these five policies.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Heuss to approved the 2025-2026 academic calendar. (See attachment).

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Heuss to approve the last student day of the 2024-2025 school year to be Thursday, May 29, 2025 at noon.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Heuss to approve the following non-substantive policy updates and corrections (see attachments):

503 Student Attendance.
507.5 Student Resource Officers.
606 Textbooks and Instructional Materials.
606.5 Library Materials (FORM).
613 Graduation Requirements.
615 Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Tolzman to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest