

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, September 22, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 22, 2025 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Gary Michael at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Gary Michael, June Rezac, Jon Bakken, Jay Schneider, Brenda Heuss, Troy Tolzman, Jeff Stangler, Grace Bartz, and Jocelyn Brown attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting was Superintendent Mark Winter and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

Motion by Tolzman and seconded by Michael to approve the agenda with the elimination of one item. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Stangler to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from August 14 and Regular Meeting Minutes from August 25 meeting. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the August-September Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$776,019.13, deposits were \$788,345.68, and transfers of \$667,262.05. Comments included a payment of \$11,044.40 to Renaissance Learning, Inc for Star Testing software.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Rezac to approve a payment of \$21,450 to TnT Flooring. Six members voted in favor - Tolzman abstained - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Stangler to accept gifts and donations. They included a donation of \$1,000 from WEM Youth Football for football field sign.

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

VISITOR COMMENTS

Jill Vollbrecht had comments including asking for a layout of the school next year and asking what is the timeline for next year's school layout.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approve the following 2025-2026 coaches:
Ashley Bauer, junior high volleyball coach - \$2,575.
Sam Stier, head baseball coach - \$6,008.
Haley Bleess, 1st assistant speech coach - \$2,434.
- Approve the following resignations:
Eric Gerst, speech co-head coach.
Kiki Erdman, paraprofessional.
Kelci Halvorson, high school yearbook advisor.
- Approve the following hires:
Marisa Gonzalez, paraprofessional - Step 4, \$16.21/hour.

Milayna Watzek, paraprofessional - Sept B, \$16.54/hour.
Jared Harris, food service - Band A-1-3, Step H, \$15.20/hour.

- Approve the following request for land change:
Allysa Bruns, BS to BS10 effective September 15, 2025.
- Approve the following 2025-2026 school year overload - see attachment.
- Approve the additional assignment roster for the 20205-2026 school year - see attachment.

Seven members voting in favor - motion declared passed.

REPORTS

WEM K-4 and Junior High Principal Myles Knutson submitted the following reports.

Greetings School Board Members,

I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer! Here are a few updates from the Middle School:

- **FACS is Back:** At the middle school we offer FACS to 7th/8th grade students every other year. This year is a year where all 7th/8th grade students will have FACS class for one quarter. Mrs. Heinz is doing a wonderful job of bringing this class back to our students and everyone in the building is really excited to have it offered once again. Students have already been practicing their measuring, cutting, and recipe following skills. Their first creations of salsa and cowboy caviar were a big hit amongst the students and staff. We are all happy to have FACS back and can't wait to see what they cook up next!

- **PBIS Exemplar School:** Just as safety is our number one priority here at school, it's an essential priority everywhere we go. Last week, our 5th graders had the opportunity to see this in action during a field trip to the Waseca County Fairgrounds for the Waseca County Farm Bureau's Farm and Home Safety Day. Throughout the day, students rotated through a variety of hands-on stations covering topics such as farm, chainsaw, tractor, chemical, ATV, boat, and other important safety practices. These experiences helped reinforce the importance of staying alert, making safe choices, and thinking ahead skills they can apply at school, at home, and in the community.

- **BUCS Pride Expectations:** Our amazing PBIS team put together thoughtful lessons to teach our BUCS Pride expectations for all areas of our school. Throughout the first week of school students are taught these essential expectations through engaging lessons and discussions. Students get their BUCS Pride Passports stamped for each lesson they complete and enter it into a "raffle" to get to participate in a fun competition during our all school PBIS assembly. It was a great way to kickoff our school year and laid the foundation for our students and staff to have a successful school year.

Greetings School Board Members,

I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer! Here are a few updates from the Elementary School:

- **All Hands on Deck:** All of our staff members have been doing a wonderful job of working together to make our lunch and recess times run smoothly. We tweaked a little bit of supervision during this time to allow for more staff members present during lunch and recess and it has made a huge difference. Lunch and recess can sometimes be a chaotic time, but this year we feel like it is off to a great start. Hats off to everyone for working together to make this time of our day a great experience for the students!

- **PBIS All School Assemblies:** Our PBIS team decided to schedule monthly all school assemblies to recognize positive behavior we are seeing throughout the school year. Each month we will be picking an area of focus like; recess, hallway, lunchroom, and other specific classroom behavior/expectations to focus on as a school. Staff will then hand out specific BUCS Pride tokens to be collected in a jar. At our

monthly assemblies tokens will be drawn from the jar and those students will be recognized and receive a prize or reward at our all school assembly that month. We are excited to implement these assemblies this year and can't wait to celebrate all the positive behavior we are seeing from the students!

- READ Act Training: Most of our K-6 teachers in the district are participating in OL&LA Read Act Training this year. Teachers completed the first part of the training this summer and will continue throughout the year during our professional development days laid out in our district calendar. This is a lot of work and intense training to complete. Everyone is doing a fantastic job of working through it and will appreciate the days we have in the calendar to continue to navigate through the training.

Thank you

Myles Knutson

WEM Senior High Principal Brandon Tagg submitted the following report.

What an exciting few weeks it has been for our high school students, teachers, staff and myself as we started a new school year together for the first time. Staff week started with the reshuffling, redistributing, and reforming of storage spaces into classrooms as we tried to reset from the construction over the summer. From Catalyst training to leadership/PBIS meetings, we were reprogramming what we had settled on in the Spring to fit the form of what the Fall was now offering us. Open House and 9th Grade Orientation were a success as students came to claim their chromebooks, set up their lockers and meet their new teachers for the upcoming semester.

As the week ended, staff were set up with desks, computers, curriculum in place and internet that was hit or miss depending on the wind. Overall, we were ready and able to see the students for the first day!

From the green carpet greeting to our PBIS presentation, staff were welcoming students on the first day by name and offering a plethora of wisdom and advice as the new school year started. Mr. Winter and myself, along with one new choir teacher Mr. Benz, were introduced to the students and expectations were given at a high level. Classrooms were then a buzz over first day/week introduction projects and a hint of excitement as

we were learning what this new year would look/act like. By the end of the week, students were memorizing schedules, understanding the new Advisor time, and meeting for lunch in their prospective spots. The week ended with a football victory on Friday that had the cheers of students in camouflage, parents standing next to their sons, and a community ready for the fall to truly begin. With the pronouncement of Jon Bakken Field, it seemed like a great time to celebrate the community as a whole.

As the second week started, we met the kids at the door every morning to greet them with a hello or check-in with the answer to their questions. We now wind into class projects, assignments and expectations to keep grades up and promising. We are supporting each other at events and getting ready for Homecoming in the next few weeks. Hallways are clear, students are learning and staff are settling into another great school year.

I look forward to getting to know the students each and every day a little bit more, supporting staff in whatever they may need and hoping that each day we make the choice to have a great one!

Brandon Tagg

WEM High School Principal

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

School Age Care is up and running before and after school with 35 enrolled WEM students.

Currently 55 enrolled in the Little Bucs Preschool program, with 3 classroom options.

The Childsplay Theatre is in town this past week and this week, with Performances of "The Mad Adventures of Mr. Toad" this Friday Sept. 26 at 6:30 p.m.

54 elementary students (1st – 4th grades) participating in Flag FB with another 37 playing 5th & 6th Grade FB! (81 total!)

60 students are participating in 3rd- 6th Volleyball!

Activities

Football & Volleyball – We are currently at about the halfway point in the regular season.

Homecoming is the week of Sept. 29 - Oct. 3. Playoffs will begin the week of October 20.

Cross Country – This week (Thursday) the Grizzlies host our annual “Pie Run” at Prairie Ridge Golf Course in Janesville. Races start at 4:30 pm. The Conference meet is at Hayfield on October 14, with the Section meet Oct. 23 in Norwood Young America (Baylor Park)

Winter Activities are right around the corner, with registration available beginning early-mid October.

WEM Board Member Reports

There were no Board Member reports.

WEM Board Committee Reports

There were no Board Committee reports.

WEM Superintendent Mark Winter presented the following:

- Superintendent Winter commented on construction in the WEM School almost completed, Phase II construction meeting is Oct. 9, MSBA Conference is Jan. 15 and 16, June and Mark have attended meetings on SW School 288, timeline to vote on possible building sale is being pushed back to November, public hearing on closing the Morristown School is October 14, start of year has gone very well, and the principals and staff have been doing a good job to start the year.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

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

211 Criminal of Civil Action Against School District, School Board Member, Employee, or student

401 Equal Employment Opportunity

417 Chemical Use and Abuse

420 Students and Employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases and Certain Other Communicable Diseases and Infectious Conditions.

ACTION

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Schneider to approve certifying “maximum” on Pay 2026 Levy Preliminary Levy Certification. Truth in Taxation meeting to be conducted at 6:30 p.m. on December 15, 2025 in the Board Room.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Michael to approve the Foster Care Transportation Services Agreement Between Rice County and WEM Public Schools.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Tolzman to approve the 2025-2026 Agreement concerning Instructional Staff Sharing Between ISD #829 Waseca and #2143 WEM Public Schools.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Schneider to approve the following policies (see attachments):

502 Search of Students Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student’s Person

506 Student Discipline

506 Student Discipline Form

722 Public Data and Data Subject Requests

722 Public Data and Data Subject Requests Form
806 Crisis Management
Approve the following Substantive Policy Updates and Corrections (June 2025).
414 Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse
418 Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School
501 School Weapons Policy
503 Student Attendance
516 Student Medication and Telehealth
516.5 Overdose Medication
524 Internet, Technology, and Cell Phone Acceptable Use and Safety
534 School Meals
602 Organization of School Calendar and School Day
621 Literacy and the Read Act
707 Transportation of Public School Students
709 Student Transportation Safety
802 Disposition of Obsolete Equipment and Material
806 Crisis Management
Approve the Following Non-substantive Policy Updates and Corrections:
416 Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis Testing
425 Staff Development and Mentoring
606.5 Library Materials
613 Graduation Requirements
620 Credit for Learning
624 Online Instruction
Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Heuss to approve the 2025-2026 Professional Development Handbook (see attachment).
Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.
Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest