

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

Monday, December 16, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, December 16, 2024 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, Jeff Stangler, June Rezac, Jay Schneider, Brenda Heuss, Troy Tolzman, and Jocelyn Brown attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Superintendent John Regan and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

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

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Tolzman to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from Nov. 25 and the Special Meeting from Nov. 12. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the November Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,115,019.50 and deposits were \$1,113,719.43. Specific items discussed were a payment of \$219,011.70 to the City of Morristown for street improvements, a payment of \$253,746 to I & S Group, Inc. for indoor air quality construction, county tax payments of \$366,758.01 from Le Sueur County and \$82,244.40 from Rice County, a state aid payment of \$123,266.07, and a federal aid payment of \$341,846.85. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

There were two presentations. The first was for the 2023-2024 Financial Audit and the second was the Truth in Taxation Hearing, which reviewed the 2024-2025 Budget and allowing for public comment. See attachments. Business Manager Margaret Jewison presented much of the information.

Mark Morris and Steve Grey each asked questions during the Truth in Taxation Hearing.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approved the Financial Audit.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to Certify the Taxes Payable 2025 Levy in the amount of \$4,587,821.50, an increase of 22.8 percent.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

### **VISITOR COMMENTS**

Nick Morris presented some concerns about the lack of information pertaining to questions individuals have asked about the possibly closing of the Morristown School Building. "Has the board received answers to all the questions?" Morris asked. he feels the public is still being left in the dark and feels the Board should have the answers from the administration since it has been just shy of one month since the last week.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Approve request for Family Medical Leave of absence for Alyssa Gavin, Early Childhood Education Coordinator, beginning on or around April 14, 2025 through June 2, 2025.

- Approve FMLA (Family Medical Leave of Absence) request from Sam Gavin, Junior High Social Studies Teacher - beginning on or around April 14, 2025 to April 20, 2025 or 10 school days.

- Approve FMLA (Family Medical Leave of Absence) request from Connor Scharf, High School PE/Health Teacher - beginning on or around April 22, 2025 to may 2, 2025 or 10 school days.

- Approve FMLA (Family Medical Leave of Absence) request from Josh Smith, High School Social Studies Teacher - beginning on or around February 19, 2025 to March 5, 2025 or 10 school days.

- Approve the Credit Recovery Advisor (part-time), Bridgette Reuvers - \$38.48/hour contract rate.

Approve the following 2024-2025 additional assignment for Bridgette Reuvers - Minnesota Honor Society.

- Approve the seniority lists - see attachment.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

## RECOGNITION

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

- Anna and Charlie Stoltz donated \$25 to the WEM Elementary.
- WEM parents donated various Frosty Bingo Supplies.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

## REPORTS

**WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson submitted the following report:**

### ***Waterville Campus Information***

Our music department had a busy month with concerts. Congratulations on wonderful holiday programs for both Mr. Stumbo and the 3 & 4th graders and 9-12th grade choir and Mr. Larson with our senior high band. We consistently have large crowds attending our December concerts. The quality and talent of our students is topnotch.

Winter break will begin for students at noon on Monday, December 23. We will welcome students and staff back on Thursday, January 2, 2025.

### **K-4**

Frosty Bingo will be held on Friday, December 20. We are so thankful for the many donations that have come in from families and friends of the district. All K-4 students will participate. The event is planned by the BUCS Pride group.

### **9-12**

On December 11 Mr. Walker and Mrs. Eich joined efforts to offer authentic cooking experiences for our Spanish Class and Culinary students. Students learned and engaged in traditional Hispanic food preparation and dishes. Students were able to enjoy their creations once prepared.

High school students will head into winter break on Monday, December 23rd after a winter Bingo round. Donation prizes have been collected from community members, businesses, families and staff. We are humbled by the generosity of many. The event is planned by the BUCS Pride group.

Minnesota Honor Society advisor and current MHS students held the annual induction ceremony on Friday, December 13. Congratulations to our newest class of inductees: Grace Bartz, Natalie Elness and Kayla Bronk.

**WEM Principal Myles Knutson submitted the following report:**

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

- **Promoting Positivity and Kindness:** We have a variety of different activities, dress up days, and miscellaneous things we are doing to promote kindness this month. We have scheduled dress up days throughout the month and if the students dress up they write a kindness note to a classmate and put it in their homeroom's "Kindness Jar." At the end of the month the homeroom with the most kindness notes will win a prize for spreading the most kindness! Teachers are passing out Kindness tokens to students who can then turn around and use them at our "Kindness Kart" to purchase different prizes. We are all seeing the impact these things are having on the students and look forward to ending the 2024 year on a positive note!

- **Holiday Concerts:** Congratulations to Mr. Larson and the Middle School choir and band on two successful concerts this month. I was impressed with the preparation I have seen all year long, so it was wonderful to see it all pay off during the performances. I was able to supervise the choir concert on Monday and to say it was a "packed house" is an understatement. Families and community members really show up to support our students during performances, sporting events, and activities!

- **PBIS Data:** Our Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) team has diligently reviewed behavioral data to ensure we, as a staff, are accountable for creating systems that promote positive behavior. By implementing clear expectations and proactive strategies, we have fostered a culture where positive actions are consistently reinforced. This is evident in our distribution of BUCS Pride tokens, which staff have given out at a 12:1 ratio compared to office referrals and behavior infractions, highlighting our commitment to encouraging and recognizing positive student behavior. Thank you, Myles Knutson

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

### **Winter Activities:**

The winter sports activities have gotten off to a good start.

Basketball – The girls have had a busy start and will have played 11 games in 4 week before the break. This week the girls are scheduled to play at LCWM Thursday and host Medford Friday. The Boys are also in a busy stretch playing 8 games in 3 weeks to start the season. This week the Buccaneer boys host Le Sueur-Henderson tomorrow night, travel to Medford on Thursday and host St. Charles Saturday afternoon. Over the break the Boys and Girls HS teams (Boys V/J and Girls V/JV/C) will play at TCU (Montgomery) on Monday Dec. 30. We will begin the day at 1:00 pm with C-Squad Girls followed by JV Boys and then JV Girls. Approximately 5:45 p.m. the Varsity Boys will tip off followed by the Varsity Girls. This should be a great opportunity for WEM fans to see our teams in action.

The Grizzly wrestlers (WEM/JWP) have gotten off to a good start. By the end of this week the grapplers will have 9 dual meets and 1 individual tournament under their belts as they head into a busy January. The first home dual meet (in Janesville) is this Friday vs. Westfield!

One Act Play will be performing "We Are the Sea" by Laura Lundgren Smith. They will participate in the Gopher Conference Contest at Triton High School on January 18 and in the Subsection 5 contest at Maple River HS on January 25. The Section 2A One-Act will be held at Waseca High School on February 1 for those qualifying from Subsection.

**Community Education:**

SACC is closed this next week over break. Depending on interest it may open on early out (noon- 5pm) and no-school days (7 a.m. – 5 p.m.) coming up in the next couple months.

Pickle ball in Morristown will begin again in January. Winter Walking in Waterville continues in the evenings. This will be closed to the public over the break next week.

Preschool & ECFE Classes continue to run smoothly.  
Spring & Summer 2024 Activity scheduling & 2024 Driver Education preparations will begin with the new year!  
The school buildings and gyms continue to be very active over the winter months.

**WEM Board Member Reports**

Rezac reported she attended the Waterville Arts and Rec. meeting and discussed a grant which has been received.

**WEM Board Committee Reports**

There were no Board Committee reports.

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

- Superintendent Regan commented on the possible one-site building including transparency, the budget, finances, enrollment trends, student impact, and starting work sessions in February on this issue. The second Thursday of the month is February 13.

**INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

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

510 School Activities

517 Student Recruiting

607 Organization of Grade Levels

608 Instructional Services - Special Education.

See attachments on these four policies.

**ACTION**

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approve the following policies:

346 Administrator Code of Ethics redline

519 Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies redline

533 Wellness redline

901 Community Education redline

See attachments on these four policies.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest      Jay Schneider, Attest