

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, February 26, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 26, 2024 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Vice Chairman June Rezac at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Rezac, Brenda Heuss, 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 Tolzman to approve the agenda. Four members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Rezac to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 22, 2024 and the Organizational Meeting from January 2, 2024. Four members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Heuss to approve the January Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$2,423,775.53, deposits were \$928,763.23, and transfers of \$2,050,000. Comments on the report included a payment of \$19,115 to Palmer Soderberg, Inc. for Elysian Building Ceiling Asbestos Abatement, a payment of \$16,845.94 to Teach Town for Special Education Software, a payment of \$29,723.56 to CDW Government, Inc. for I-Pads, a payment of \$29,340 to Nieman Roofing Company, Inc. for roofing work from the summer, and a payment of \$93,765.22 to Volkman Electric, Inc. for long term facilities maintenance.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve the termination of Scott Allen, Building and Grounds Supervisor, effective January 23, 2024.

Approve the following hires:

- Steve Anderson, Boiler Operator, \$25/hour
- Hannah Fessel, Paraprofessional, Step 6. \$15.16/hour

Approve the following 2023-2024 Coaches:

- Mac Lemcke, 1st Assistant Baseball, \$4,283.
- Maddyson Dufault, 1st Assistant Softball, \$4,283
- Kelsey Bauer, 2nd Assistant Softball, \$3,420.
- Carrie Richards, 1st Assistant Girls Track and Field, \$4,283.
- Matthew Van Houdt, 1st Assistant Boys Track and Field, \$4,283.
- Harold Nielsen, Junior High Boys and Girls Track and Field Coach, \$2,575.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

RECOGNITION

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Tolzman to approve the following monetary donation:

A donation of \$250 from the Elysian Bank to a Scholarship Donation.

A donation of \$275 from the WEM Moving Forward Foundation to Elementary Donation.

A donation of \$500 from the Silver Lakers Sportsman Club for the FFA Program.

Five 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

Many staff members from across the district signed up to read at SAC for I Love to Read Month. Because of the high interest level, additional spots were opened to read to our students in the SAC program. Being able to read and share some of our staff's favorite books with our youngest students is a joy.

Dr. Wilson and Mrs. Bastian completed 6 sessions of literacy education in February. Each session, three hours in length and all held virtually for MDE, began earlier this fall. Each session built on literacy topics, allowed for district planning, and shared instructional components of best practice and strategies to effectively plan instructional leadership within literacy education.

PreK-6

Feb. 7-9 fifth grade students went to Eagle Bluff for the annual field trip. Students, chaperones, and teachers had a great time. A huge thank you to the chaperones that attended and to those in the community who helped support this trip by participating in the various fundraisers. An even bigger thanks to Mrs. Landru, Dr. Kurt, and Mr. Svendsen for their leadership and organization to make this trip happen.

PreK-4th grade students have been celebrating I Love to Read Month throughout the month of February with a variety of reading activities. These include weekly building wide reading goals, reading with buddy classrooms, read aloud activities, and special Friday reading activities. Thank you Mrs. O'Neil for organizing our all school I Love to Read Month activities. School Age Care students celebrated with guest readers all month as mentioned. Thanks to Mrs. Holicky for organizing this fun activity.

PreK-6th grade teachers are excited to welcome parents for conference March 14 and 19th.

7-12

Cory Greenwood, Minnesotan motivational speaker, came to WEM and presented to high school students on January 30. Cory's program, Your Story Matters 2.0, shared the key to decisions and how they impact your life, ways to minimize distractions, and why it is important to own your decisions. On tour with Cory is American Idol's Top 20 Finalist, Hannah Nicolaisen. Hannah performed several songs for students and staff. WEM also hosted Cory in 2021, his message in his 2.0 program was well received.

On February 1 a group of 22 high school students gathered to discuss what a desired daily experience from a student's perspective looks like. The group was selected intentionally to hear voices from different pockets of interests. The group work was facilitated by Sheri Allen, consultant from TeamWorks. When asked how she felt it went, Sheri reported, "Your kids were amazing, respectful, and super polite." Sheri was excited to be with the group.

ACT registration is completed. 53 students from the junior class registered to take the test which will be administered in early April.

Congratulations to our Snow Court Royalty. Royalty is selected by teachers and the student body based on our BUCS Pride pillars:

Senior King and Queen - Kymin Morsching and Nora Ell
Junior Prince and Princess - Gavin Brown and Halle Fessel
Sophomore Prince and Princess - Jacob Androli and Jocelyn Brown
Freshman Prince and Princess - Kavan Sheehy and Alix Velzke.

National FFA Week is held February 19-23 at WEM. The FFA hosted noon activities and Winter Olympics where all high school students had opportunities to participate. We are proud of the education, outreach, and positive messages the FFA shares. Congratulations and thank you to our FFA members and advisor, Mr. Cooley, for their hard work and planning for a fun week.

On February 12 the high school band and choir performed their winter concert. Music selections were in preparation for competition coming up in March. The concert was excellent, congratulations to Mr. Larson, Mr. Thomforde, and their musical groups.

Coming up on March 1st, freshmen students will attend the Career Navigator hosted at South Central Technical College.

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

ACTIVITIES – Winter Tournament Time!

Girls Basketball:

The girls finished the season 15-11 overall and 10-6 in the Gopher Conference, The Section 2AA South Subsection tournament begins tonight (Monday 2/26/24) at 7 p.m. WEM the #4 seed hosts LCWM the #5 seed. If we win the quarter final game we would play at Mankato East, Thursday February 29 at 6 p.m. or 25 minutes after the first game depending on the seeds. The Sub Section Championship will be Monday, March 4 at MSU and the Section Championship Friday, March 8 at MSU. The All-Gopher Conference Selection meeting was held last night (Sunday 2/25/24). By Conference rule results are not released until all teams are finished competing in playoffs.

Boys Basketball:

The Boys regular season is coming to an end this week with games Thursday at home in the "Battle of the Buccaneers" as we host Blue Earth Area. We then travel to New Ulm to play Minnesota Valley Lutheran on Friday. Currently the boys are 10-12 overall with a 9-6 conference record! Subsection 2AA seeding is this Friday 3/1/24. The first game for playoffs will be Tuesday March 5 at 8:01 p.m. at the high seed! If we win the quarter final game we would play at Fairmont, Thursday March 7 at 6 p.m. or 25 minutes after the first game depending on the seeds. The Sub Section Championship will be Monday, March 11 at MSU and the Section Championship Friday, March 14 at MSU. The All-Gopher Conference Selection meeting

was held last night (Sunday 2/25/24). By Conference rule results are not released until all teams are finished competing in playoffs.

Wrestling:

The Grizzlies finished the dual meet 18-12 on the season. 4-2 in the Gopher Conference tied for 2nd place. They battled to a 4th place finish in the Section 2A Team Tournament held in Lake Crystal on February 17. The Section 2A Individual Tournament was held in Blue Earth this past weekend Feb. 24. The Grizzlies qualified 3 wrestlers to the State Tournament. The #127 lb. Champion Carson Petry (WEM) and the Hwt. Champion Keegan Kuball (WEM) and #189 lb. runner-up Avery Fall (JWP). The All-Conference selections occurred last Wednesday Feb. 21, and again results not released until after the State Wrestling Tournament this coming weekend in St. Paul. Our wrestlers will begin 9:00 am on Friday March 1.

Competition

Completed their first season with some success bringing home 3 banners and a couple team trophies for events they participated in.

Cheer:

Big Shouts Out!

WEM One-Act Play Team qualified for the Section Event for the 2nd time in school history and first since 2001! The team consisted of the following students Emma Smith, Jaelyn Wilmes, Anna Nielsen, Myles Geyer, Ryley Henning, Natalie Elness, Abby Crosby, Megan Miller, Maddie Heuss, Nicole Allen and Claire Elness. Claire Elness, Jaelyn Wilmes and Abby Crosby were named Gopher Conference All-Conference performers.

WEM Band and Choir - On February 3, 2024 WEM Band and Choir students participated in the 5th Gopher Conference Honors Band and Choir and Visual Arts event. WEM participants in Choir & Band this year included Anna Voegele, Kaedyn Judd, Lilly Henson, Clare Landrum, Redzel Priebe, Cody Culhane, Luke Michael, Bryce Gagnon, Aric Williams, Gage Bliss, Angelina Dornquast, Lauren Lamp, Ian Krantz, Brendan Snesrud, Claire Elness, Dylan Holicky, Ainsley Schieffer and Madeline Heuss. Students whose art work was displayed in Kenyon were Travis Flohaug, Angelina Dornquast, Maddison Wolker and Randi Selbrade.

MSHSL State ExCEL Award - Congratulations to Maddie Heuss (WEM Junior) for being named one of the State ExCEL Award Winners!

Spring Activities

- The Choir perform in the Subsection 5A Large Group Contests next Monday March 4 at Loyola H.S. The Band will perform in their Large Group Competition on March 18 at Maple River HS. The Solo/Ensemble Contest is Saturday, March 23 at MSU.
- The spring School Play "The Tale of Snow White" by Barbara Lennon, directed by Andrew Velishek are busy preparing for performances on Friday, March 15 & 16 - 7 p.m.
- Over 20 students, grades 7-11 are participating in the spring play.
- The Knowledge Bowl teams are also busy competing this late winter/ spring.
- Speech has begun competitions.
- 7-12 Boys and Girls Track practice begins Monday, March 11.
- Softball begins practice Monday, March 11. JH (7&8) Sb TBD.
- Baseball begins practice Monday, March 18. JH (7&8) Bb TBD. Baseball pitchers and catchers can begin Monday March, 11 for arm strengthening programs as per MSHSL rule.
- WEM Trap (Clay Target) get started in March as well. COMMUNITY EDUCATION
- Spring/ Summer Activities are beginning and we are getting primed for a busy summer!
- Summer 2024 School Age Childcare registration is currently registering students with a limited availability based on our licensure..... The 2024-2025 school year registration will also begin soon.
- 2024-2025 "Little Bucs Preschool" registrations look to begin in March
- Driver Education will be having another Classroom session beginning March 6, with Summer Behind the Wheel sign up beginning in April for the 2024 summer.

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 commented on the three wrestlers advancing to State, Maddie Heuss' Excel Award, two quotes to remove the tennis court, and Frandsen Bank paying for students college tuition.

• Board Member Brenda Heuss commented it was nice to see teachers attend the One Act Play Section Competition.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

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

513 Student promotion, Retention, and program Design

601 School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals

606 Textbooks and Instructional Materials

606.5 Library Materials and Formal Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials Form

613 Graduation Requirements

ACTION

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Rezac to approve the 2023-2025 Food Service contract. See attachment.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Heuss to approve 2023-2024 Special Education Agreements Concerning Staff Sharing Between ISD #829 Waseca and ISD #2143 Waterville-Elysian-Morristown. See attachment.

Five members voting in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Schneider to approved the following policies (See attachments):

507 Corporal Punishment and Prone Restraint.

514 Bullying Prohibition Policy.

532 Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds.

709 Student Transportation Safety Policy.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

June Rezac, Attest Jay Schneider, Attest