

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 28, 2020, 6 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 28, 2020 at the Waterville Building in the Board Room. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Pam Baker at 6:02 p.m.

Present were Board Members Baker, Jay Schneider, Jon Velishek, and Travis Bowman. Board members Dan Houlihan, Jeff Stangler, and Gary Michael participated in the meeting via teleconference. Also present were Superintendent Joel Whitehurst, Principals Dr. Jennifer Wilson and Bobbie Jo Bastian. Business Manager Margaret Jewison participated in the meeting via teleconference,

There was a motion and a second to approve the agenda. Four members voted in favor - three opposed - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from July 27. Five members voted in favor by roll call vote - Baker and Velishek abstained - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Schneider to approve the September Finance report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$3,332,363.61, deposits were \$755, 514.63, and transfers were \$4,280,000. Comments included a payment of \$20,073.58 to Auto-Owners Insurance for auto insurance, a payment of \$16,500 to Minnesota Comfort Solutions for long-term facilities maintenance (HVAC), a payment of \$9,960.25 to Presidio Networked Solutions Group for sewer repair and maintenance, a payment of \$122,400 to Nieman Roofing Company, Inc. for roof repairs, a payment of \$7,500 to Waseca County Auto Sales for a transportation van (COVID grant money was used), a payment of \$20,536.94 to Shilling Paper Company for custodial supplies (COVID grant money was used), It was also noted the district received a number of state aid payment sin the amount of \$800, \$245,537.09, and \$430,539.13.

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were visitor comments.

RECOGNITION

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Baker to approve the following monetary donations:

- * Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union donated \$500 to the school district.
- * Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric donated \$500 for a scholarship.
- * Bertha Dyer donated student masks.

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

The board thanked Bertha Dyer for her donation of student masks.

REPORTS

WEM Principal Bobbie Jo Bastian and WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson (PreK-12th Grade) presented the following report:

PreK-6 Grade

- * Students are back and we couldn't be happier!
- * Prek-6 students have been in school daily since September 14. Things have been running relatively smoothly. Students are doing a great job of social distancing and wearing their masks! We've worked out some bugs and have hit our stride.
- * Pre K-4 classrooms are finished! They look amazing! Students and teachers alike are enjoying their new accommodations! We anxiously await the completion of the addition for new classrooms, our new entrance and our new office.
- * 5-6 grade students are enjoying the many improvements in Morristown!
- * Preschool screening took place Sept., 11th & 16th. Our next screening will be Nov. 5.
- * School photos will take place Oct. 2 for Prek-4 students and Morristown will do photos on
- * Prek-4 Leadership team is meeting Oct. 1, focus of discussion will be on how daily school operations are going and areas of improvement as well as professional development needs to maintain.
- * All staff have worked incredibly hard to get us to this point. A huge thank you to all for the positive attitudes and flexibility! We are all in this together!
- * A warm welcome to new elementary staff Sarah Westad, long term sub in fourth grade, Sara Gorski our new music teacher, Brooke Nattress 5th, 6th and adaptive PE teacher and Patty Salmon 5th & 6th Art! All have already made a great impression on students, staff and families! So happy to have them on board!

7-12 Grade

- * We are so excited and happy to have students and staff back in our buildings!

* We are underway with the 2020-2021 school year! The first days had a few glitches in them, but all were minor and we are off to a great start!

* The Morristown building is beautiful. There are still updates that need to happen, but the JH side of the building is striking, modern and warm. Thank you to the community for supporting the effort! We are excited to see the difference in the HS a year from now.

* Southern MN Counseling Services is beginning a series of videos on mental health and links to mental health. September's video was focused on school staff and students of trauma related to the pandemic, civil unrest, school disruption. In the recent past we have welcomed counseling services into the district to lead professional development around mental health. Three therapists from Southern MN Counseling Services also offer sessions to students K-12.

* JH and HS leadership teams met during the week of September 14. Topics of discussion were centered around what is working, what needs tweaking and how can we best communicate what is/isn't to staff so that we can operate fluidly.

* JH and HS staff meet in PLCs. We are dedicating our next several PLC meetings to collaboration and shared practices of how to meet, juggle and address instruction to the highest possible level while service students in and out of the building.

* Hybrid has posed a few challenges with room size. To make it work a few teachers have been relocated for various hours of the day in order to make student capacities work. During Hybrid it isn't the 6 ft. social distancing that is the problem it is the 50% capacity after the 6 ft. social distance that has caused some relocation of classes. All in all staff has been willing to be flexible when this has come up.

* It took an army of staff to make Day 1 possible. From the administration side we appreciate everyone's hard work, willingness to do what is needed and continued flexibility as we go.

* Our newest staff members: Ms. Nattress, Mr. Gavin, Patty Salmon and Mr. Boran have been great additions to the staff. Positive observations, feedback from colleagues and students. All four have made a mark on building relationships with students and making a home here at WEM.

* With all fall sports back in action we have started the initial planning of homecoming. While this year's homecoming will look different from previous years the student council is dedicated to providing opportunities for students and the community to celebrate and join in on the school spirit. We will celebrate homecoming on October 9, the first home football game. Other

activities will include a coronation and dress-up days.

- * Paul Moe from Josten's was here for Group A and will be back tomorrow for Group B students. He is selling class rings to the sophomore class. Paul will be back in a few weeks to meet with seniors as well.

- * ACT Prep class is being offered by Mrs. Janet Jones with the focus on math. Seniors who wish to take the ACT will do so on October 6. The prep class meets in coordination to the A/B hybrid schedule. A total of 15 seniors are taking the course.

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran's presented the following report:
COMMUNITY SERVICES

- * School Age Care is up and running before and after school with over 30 registered students

- * Currently 52 enrolled in the Kindergarten Connection (Pre-School) program. Classes began Monday

Activities

- * On Monday October 21, the MSHSL Board of Directors changed directions and has opened the Football and Volleyball season. Prior to that practice seasons had opened Sept. 14 for FB & VB. Practice seasons for SB, Bb and Track are opened beginning next Monday Oct. 5 - 24. They will remain open, however with fall sports taking place we expect very few to participate.

- * Practices for JH & HS levels of FB and VB begin tonight. Between FB, VB & Cheerleading 7-12 we have just over 140 students registered to participate.

- * Varsity FB will play 6 games between Oct. 9 & Nov. 11 with a two week Section playoff scenario, yet TBD. JV & JH FB will play 4 or 5 games. 250 spectators are allowed to come to games. For Varsity WEM will be able to allow 170 for home games and 80 for away games. All teams in our District will be afforded the same. Tickets will be sold. That plan is expected to come out later this week. Spectators do not include, players, coaches, managers, game workers, or media however Media must get permission to attend.

- * Varsity VB will play 14 games between Oct. 8 and Nov. 24 with a two week Section playoff scenario yet TBD. JV & JH will also play the 14 games. No spectators will be allowed into games.

- * I am also making arrangements to live stream as many games (all levels) as possible through the NFHS site WEM has used for the past few years. No concession stand or locker room use will be allowed.

- * The MSHSL Board of Directors is scheduled to meet again

this Thursday Oct. 1 to make decisions regarding playoff seasons and winter and spring 2021 activities.

* Plans are ever evolving, as it seems the norm, for our Covid times. We will do the best to communicate with parents and participants as decisions are made.

WEM Superintendent Joel Whitehurst presented the following:

* Whitehurst reported there was potential of bringing 7-12 students back to school if the COVID counts from the county Thursday are low enough. A decision would be made Oct. 1 or 2.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. The district fall student enrollment is 756 and the 2020-21 budget was built upon 767 students.

ACTION

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Stangler to approve the 2020-21 Assurance of Compliance with the state and federal law prohibiting discrimination.

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Michael to approve Superintendent Joel Whitehurst as designated identified official with authority for education identity access management (Iowa).

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Baker to approve certifying "Maximum" on Pay 2021 levy - Truth in Taxation meeting to be conducted at 6 p.m., December 21, 202 in the board room

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Michael to approve second reading of Policy 522 - Title IX Sex Discrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure and Process.

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to approve the following 2019-2021 contracts (Business Manager, Margaret Jewison; Community Education & Activities Director, Jeff Boran; Technology Coordinator, Jon Jahnke; Building and Grounds Supervisor, Scott

Allen; Food Service Director, Nancy Culhane; 2019-21 Food Service Workers; and 2019-21 Custodial Staff). Michael then rescinds that motion which is seconded by Houlihan.

Six members voted in favor by roll call vote - Stangler voted against - motion declared passed.

Motion by Houlihan and seconded by Michael to table the contracts of Business Manager, Margaret Jewison; Community Education & Activities Director, Jeff Boran; Building and Grounds Supervisor, Scott Allen; and Food Service Director, Nancy Culhane. Reasoning behind the tabling were questions about contract language.

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Schneider to approve the contract of Technology Coordinator, Jon Jahnke. 2019-20 total package increase of 2.56% (\$55,940) and 2020-21 total package increase of 4.19% (\$58,762).

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Baker and seconded by Bowman to approve the 2019-21 Food Service Workers Contract. 2019-20 total package increase of 3.50% and 2020-21 total package increase of 3.50%

Six members voted in favor by roll call vote - Velishek abstained - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Houlihan to approve the 2019-21 Custodial Staff. 2019-20 total package increase of 3.50% and 2020-21 total package increase of 3.50%.

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Baker to approve FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) request from Joshua Cluever, math instructor - beginning on or around December 2, 2020 and continuing for up to 15 school days.

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Baker and seconded by Bowman to approve Janet Jones for ACT Prep Class - \$33.43/hour for a total of up to 13 hours.

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Schneider to approve the following coaches:

Junior high volleyball coaches Pam Heinz and Lois Masberg, with salary of \$2,261.

Junior high football coaches Dan Lemcke and Blake Boran, with a salary of \$2,261.

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed..

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Houlihan to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Seven members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

ATTEST:

Pam Baker, Board Chair

Jay Schneider, Board Clerk