

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, November 28, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 28, 2022 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Michael, June Rezac, Travis Bowman, Jon Velishek, Jon Bakken, Jay Schneider, and Jeff Stangler attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Superintendent Ryan Jensen and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

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

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Stangler to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 24, 2022. 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 \$1,568,114.67, deposits were \$2,439,771.55, and transfers were \$600,000. Comments on the report included a payment of \$1,357.41 to North Central Blue Bird for transportation repairs, a payment of \$25,012.07 to School Outfitters for lockers and desks, a payment of \$504 to Randy Shaver Cancer Research Fund, a payment of \$1,100.39 to Driessen Water, Inc. for custodial supplies, a payment of \$184.35 to First National Bank Omaha for custodial supplies, a payment of \$434.15 to Menards for custodial supplies, a payment of \$76.60 to Nordmeier Bros., Inc. for custodial supplies, a payment of \$16.98 to Waterville Hardware Hank for custodial supplies, and a payment of \$591.91 to Waterville Building Center LLC for custodial supplies, and a payment of \$20,500 to James Bros. Construction for the FFA Concession Stand.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. Approve the following hires -

Lorina Stover, Paraprofessional, Step 2, \$13.35/hour

Debra Lamont, Paraprofessional, Step 6, \$14.43/hour.

B. Approve the following 2022-23 Coaches:

Girls Basketball

Tanya Jensen, Junior High Girls Basketball Coach - \$2,336

Kristalyn Morris, Junior High Girls Basketball Coach - \$2,336

Jennifer Craig, Junior High Boys Basketball Coach - \$2,336

McKenzie Kuball, Junior High Boys Basketball Coach - \$2,336

Seven members voting in favor - motion declared passed.

RECOGNITION

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Stangler to approve the following monetary donations:

A donation of \$2,000 from the Waterville Lions Club to the Elementary Eagle Bluff donation.

A donation of \$500 to Southwest West Central Service Coop for Elementary PBIS donation.

A donation of \$5,000 from the Waterville Lions Club to the FFA.

A donation of \$25 from Lake Country Community Bank to the FFA.

A donation of \$500 from Southwest West Central Service Coop to Junior High PBIS donation.

A donation of \$1,592 from Ella Bettner to the WEM School District two help with No Tummies Left Behind.

Seven 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

On November 4 we had our first early release day. Staff appreciated the additional time to devote to end of quarter grades and conference reports in addition to team planning. We had our second early release on Wednesday, November 23 for all students and staff. The feedback on early releases vs. late starts has been positive.

PreK-6 Report

PreK-4th grade conference were held Nov. 17 and 22, 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Attendance was very good. Great to see families in the building.

Kindergarten and 3rd grade students participated in the Veteran's Day program in the Waterville building. Kindergarten students led the Pledge of Allegiance and 3rd grade students shared their musical talent by singing America the Beautiful.

5th and 6th grade students attended the Veteran's Day program in Morristown.

7-12 Report

On November 3, WEM juniors took the ASVAB Test. The ASVAB Test stands for Armer Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. A test that helps predict academic and career potential in the military. It is an optional exam, but the results help students navigate their strengths not just related to the military but post-secondary skills in general. More than 90 percent of our juniors took the ASVAB this year.

Senior high students went on a multiple stop field trip to explore colleges and potential career options. Students made visits at Gustavus Adolphus College, Bethany Lutheran College, and South Central Technical - Mankato earlier this month. In addition we've had a number of college reps visit WEM this month including both 2 and 4 year schools. Some highlights of the trip were crossing paths with current seniors taking PSEO on-campus classes and recently graduated WEM students.

Mr. Cooley and a group of FFA members went to South Central College November 18 for the Soil, Poultry, and Milk Quality Contest. 20 WEM students represented the local FFA Chapter. The soil team placed 8th as did the milk quality team.

Veterans Day programs were held at the high school and in Morristown on Friday, November 11. The program at the high school was well attended with the Elysian American Legion Color Guard and many members of the community present. The guest speaker was Staff Sargeant Zachary B. Allen. Staff Sargeant Allen has been in the United States Army for nine years and has been newly assigned to the Mankato Area as a recruiter. He has done tours in Korea and Morocco. Seniors Daelyn Judd and Emma Woratschka were our student masters of ceremony. The high school band and choir presented along with a song from the third graders. Our kindergarten students led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Morristown program had members of the Morristown American Legion to present the colors. Grace Bartz and Dawson Slechta were our student readers. WEM wishes to thank our local American Legions for providing patriotic presence and honors for our programs.

One goal the high school had for 2022-2023 was to cut down on the amount of unexcused tardies. Last year, at this point in the school year, we had 695 unexcused tardies amongst our high school student body. Today this year, we have 321 unexcused tardies (numbers as of Nov. 22, 2022). This is a decrease by 54 percent. Accredited to this decrease are the changes we made to our schedule with five minute passing between classes, detention consequences for more than three tardies per quarter, and an added mid-day break from core instruction with every day advisory to increase relationships with students.

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran submitted the following report:

ACTIVITIES

Volleyball: 2022 3rd place in the Gopher Conference, South Sub-section Champions, and Section 2AA Runner-Up to Belle Plaine. Claire Bohlen was named 1st Team All-Gopher Conference with Alayna Atherton 2nd Team, Josie Volkmann 3rd Team, and Jordan Green Honorable Mention. Sophomore Tatum Richards is the 2022 Gopher Conference Sportsmanship Award winner for WEM.

Football: WEM players earning Mid-Southeast Football All-District Football Honors were senior Gabe Androli and sophomore Keegan Kuball. Junior Dylan Holicky and senior Ethan Greenwald were Honorable Mention.

Cross Country: The 2022 WEM/JWP Grizzly cross country boys and girls teams All Conference runners - 1st team was seventh grader Mackenzie Westphal, 2nd Team was seventh grader Madelyn Miller and freshman Kwynn Krause. Honorable Mention were seniors Madison Kunst, sophomore Luke Cahill, and eighth grader Wyatt Jans. Sportsmanship Awards went to Lydia Huelsnitz and Alex Kleve.

Girls Basketball: Begins the season with a game tomorrow night at Sleepy Eye-St. Mary's with their first home game Dec. 9 vs. Triton. (12) 7th and 8th grade players and (19) 9th grade through 12th grade players.

Wrestling: Their first home meet is Dec. 1. Quadrangular with Waseca, Medford, and Le Sueur-Henderson in Medford. The first home meet is Dec. 13 in Waterville vs. LCWM and BEA. (34) WEM/JWP wrestlers in co-op 7th through 12th grades (WEM - 18 and JWP - 16).

Boys Basketball: Their first game is Dec. 2 vs. Le Sueur-Henderson. (19) 7th and 8th graders, (30) 9th through 12th grade players.

Eight WEM students grades 7th through 10th participated in the "Gopher Conference Team Up" event held in Triton Central High School Oct. 28. The guest presented was Rick Rassier again this year. Rick's focus is making good life choices, staying positive, being good teammates, and "taking it to the next level". This is the 6th year the Gopher conference has had Rick come to deliver his inspirational message.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Preschool conferences concluded last week.
- 24 students will be finishing up Driver Education Classroom early next week.
- Currently six 3rd-6th grade Bucketeer teams have secured practice time in our gyms. The wrestling club will also get started with practices in the wrestling room.

WEM Board Member Reports

There were no board members reports.

WEM Board Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

WEM Superintendent Ryan Jensen presented the following:

- Jensen discussed attending a couple of superintendent meetings, parent-teacher conferences, congrats to the volleyball team, strategic planning Le Sueur County Collaborative, holiday band concert, and the Eagle Bluff Breakfast Fundraiser in Morristown Dec. 18.

ACTION

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bowman to approve the resolution authorizing the conveyance of land from the district to the City of Elysian. See attachment.

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

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to amend the calendar revision due to the designation of January 2 as a holiday. There was much discussion about this revision which included January 2 as a return to school day. The motion was to make Jan. 2 no student contact day.

Motion by June and seconded by Bowman to amend this initial motion to add a contact day March 27 instead of having a teacher-only day. This amendment was passed 5-2, with Michael and Stangler voting against.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest