

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Thursday, January 8, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in special session on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6:31 p.m.

Board Members Michael, Jon Bakken, Jeff Stangler, June Rezac, Jay Schneider, Grace Bartz, and Jocelyn Brown attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting was Superintendent Mark Winter.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Stangler to approve the agenda with the additional item (closed session).

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Election of Officers:

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to nominate Rezac for Board Chairperson. Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed. Rezac then takes over the meeting.

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Bakken to nominate Michael for Board Vice Chair. Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Michael to nominate Schneider for Board Clerk. Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Michael to nominate Bakken for Board Treasurer. Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve the following eight items in a consent agenda vote.

Set Meeting Dates and Times:

Approve the meeting dates and times for the 4th Monday of each month for regular meetings with the 3rd Monday as an alternate if 4th Monday is a holiday. Meeting times will be 6:30 p.m. December meeting is on the 3rd Monday.

Corresponding dates for the regular meetings in 2026 include: January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 18, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, November 23, December 21, January 7, 2026 Organizational Meeting (tentative).

Corresponding dates (all tentative) for work session meetings in 2026 include: February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, and December 10.

Designate Official Banks(s) Depository:

Designate official banks for school district funds. They include Frandsen Bank in Waterville, The Elysian Bank, Lake Country Community Bank of Morristown, and Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund are named depositories, with Frandsen Bank processing the checking accounts. The superintendent and business manager have the discretion to distribute the funds electronically as needed and invest in short term CDs on the Board's behalf.

Payment of Salaries:

The chairperson and clerk are authorized to issue order upon the treasurer in payment of salaries when they come due.

Designate Official Newspaper:

The LifeEnterprise Newspaper has been named the official school district newspaper.

Set Board Member Compensation:

Board members monthly stipend is \$75 per month, \$75 for each special meeting, study session, or committee meeting, \$100 per day for workshops, and officers receive an additional \$200 per year except

the clerk receives \$400 additional per year, and the IRS approved rate for school district approved mileage.

Set Compensation for Negotiating Team:

Negotiating team compensation is \$75 per meeting and other compensation the same, including \$100 per day for mediation/arbitration, and the chief negotiator receives \$500 in addition to other compensation.

Designate Legale Counsel:

Squires, Waldspurger & Mace, P.A. will be Legal Counsel. The board chair, superintendent, and business manager may contact Legal Counsel. Authority is also granted to the administration to employ any other attorney/law firm as deemed necessary.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Committee Assignments:

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Michael to approve the following WEM School Board

Committee Assignments:

Minnesota State High School League/Athletic Council - Schneider and Tolzman.

Negotiations/Chief Negotiator - Bakken (Chief), Stangler and Rezac.

Meet and Confer - Superintendent, Building Administrator, and Bakken.

Community Service - Schneider.

Ag Education - Stangler.

Students Attendance and Truancy Issues - Stangler and Michael.

Impartial Hearer for Student Expulsions - Michael and Tolzman.

Legislation - Rezac and Heuss.

Finance - Bakken and Michael.

Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness - Heuss.

Facilities/Strategic Planning - Heuss, Schneider, and Tolzman.

Policy - Heuss, Rezac, and Schneider.

Communications Committee - Rezac and Schneider.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee - Heuss and Michael.

Grievance Committee - All 7 Board Members.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

ACTION

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the resolution Directing the Administration to Make Recommendations Regarding the Reduction and/or Discontinuance of Programs and Positions and Reasons Thereof.

Five members voting in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Stangler to close the meeting to discussion negotiations.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to open the meeting after the closed session.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest