

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

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

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 28, 2022 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6:33 p.m.

Board Members Michael, Jon Bakken, Travis Bowman, June Rezac, Jay Schneider, Jon Velishek, and Jeff Stangler attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Superintendent Joel Whitehurst, Principals Dr. Jennifer Wilson and Bobbie Jo Bastian, Activities Director Jeff Boran, Business Manager Margaret Jewison, and incoming Superintendent Ryan Jensen.

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

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Bakken to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 28, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2022, and Organizational Meeting Minutes from January 20, 2022. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the March Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,186,865.12, deposits were \$1,092,131.89, and transfers were \$775,000. Comments on the report included a payment of \$ 22,266.25 to CDW Government, Inc. for 125 chrome books and state aid payments made to the school district in the amount of \$415,857.18 and \$437,423.09. Bakken also commented the expenditure comparison report for the month ended February is consistent with the money compared to last year. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

### **VISITOR COMMENTS**

Brenda Heuss, Shawn Heuss, Kathy Kerekes, and David DeMars spoke to the board about safety and harassment within the school district.

### **RECOGNITION**

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

\$400 from the Partners in Education to the WEM Elementary.

\$358.20 from the WEM JO Volleyball to the WEM Volleyball program.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

### **REPORTS**

**WEM Principal Bobbie Jo Bastian and WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson presented the following report:**

#### **All District**

Parent-Teacher Conferences March 22 for K-6 and March 24 for K-12. A large thank you to P.I.E. for sponsoring a meal for the district along with the National Guard who also provided food for 7-12.

March 2 we hosted Cory Greenwood. The performance was engaging and received many positive reviews from students and staff.

MCA Testing will begin across the district in April.

Quarter 3 concluded on March 24 with a professional development/workday on March 25.

#### **PreK-6 Report**

Sixth Grade students participated in the Math Masters Competition at Bethany College in Mankato, March 11. Students participating were Cole Bartz, Dylan Edelman, Madalynn Hackney, Emmitt Janda-Jones, Paetyn Judd, Carly Kratzer, Madalyn Miller, Braxton Ringhofer, Cale Snesrud, Hunter Tonn, Mason Waugh, Emily Wilmes. Thank you to Brian Svendsen and Laura Sammon for sharing their time and talents to prepare our students to compete!

Kindergarten students presented their music program March 4, 2022.

Kindergarten students took a field trip to the Children's Museum of Southern MN- Mankato on March 11.

Kindergarten Round Up will be May 6, 2022. Information will be mailed out in the next week to solidify times. We are excited to welcome new students!

The First & Second Grade students will perform their Dino Star music program on March 31.

MCA Preparation has begun for third, fourth, fifth & sixth grade students. Testing to begin in early April.

#### **7-12 Report**

MN Honor Society Induction was held on Thursday, March 24 for our new inductees. Bridgette Reuvers (school counselor) is the MN Honor Society Advisor. The event was a wonderful tribute to our honor students. In addition, those inducted last year were also honored as their induction ceremony was far less than previous ceremonies due to COVID guidance.

The Waseca Area Arts Center is hosting their annual high school art show. Art teacher, Ms. Katie Brown has encouraged her students to provide pieces for the event. There are 5 students entering artwork for the event held March 30-April 29 with a student workshop 29 for those entered. Mr. Brown will plan to take students over for the workshop to have further art specific skill development.

I am working with Le Sueur County's program Towards Zero Deaths (TZD). County Law Enforcement Officials and program organizers will be at WEM on April 11 for a program where each student will go through four different simulations. The program took a backseat due to COVID restrictions, but has rebounded, back up and pushing programming into schools. Road safety is critical with speed being a lead cause in vehicle deaths. Le Sueur's program is dedicated to make young drivers aware of the severity of impaired driving, poor judgment in driving and moving the death rate to zero.

The Class of 2022 decided on a class trip. A picnic and trip to Valleyfair is included in the day. The trip will be held on May 25.

ACT/MCA Test Prep has been brought back and offered to WEM Juniors. Both Science and Math prep is being offered. We are able to fund this program through our Achievement and Integration Grant. Science prep has been offered for four days (March 22, 24, 29 & 31) with Mr. McDonough. Math prep has been offered for five days (March 21, 23, 28, 30 & 1) with Mr. McCabe.

Margo Kulseth has recently begun our senior spotlights for WEM's social media. Students are asked to submit information about themselves along with a photo. Seniors will be featured throughout the spring leading up to graduation.

#### **WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran presented the following report:**

**ACTIVITIES**  
Winter – Congratulations to the following Winter Activities All-Conference Individual Honors:

Boys Basketball – Michael Taylor (12) Honorable Mention, Gabe Androli (11) Sportsmanship Award.

Girls Basketball – Alayna Atherton (10) 2<sup>nd</sup> Team, Claire Bohlen (10) 3<sup>rd</sup> Team, Addy Taylor (11) Honorable Mention and Rylee Pelant Sportsmanship Award.

Wrestling – Keegan Kuball (9) All-Conference, Gavin Krause (10) Sportsmanship Award. Also Congratulations to Keegan Kuball 9th (Hwt.) and Carson Petry 9th (113) for qualifying for the MSHSL State Tournament. Carson placed 6th at #113 Class A.

Speech – All-Conference - Madeline Balfe 10 - Creative Expression, Maddie Heuss 9 - Discussion, Alex Heuss 12 - Great Speeches. Madeline Balfe also won the Craftsmanship Award.

Spring – Practices got started the past couple weeks.

Boys Track: Currently 40 Participants 7 – 12.

Girls Track: Currently 36 Participants 7 -12.

Both Boys & Girls competed Saturday and tonight at MSU.

Softball – Currently 24 girls registered for 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, & 14 in grades 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades.

First Games: HS & JH – April 5 host Alden Conger / Glenville -Emmons

Baseball – Currently 21 boys registered 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> & 29 in grades 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Grades!

First Games: HS & JH – April 5 at Glenville. (A.C./G.E.) • Clay Target Team – 58 participants.

Congratulations to the students involved in the school play “Blather, Blarney & Balderdash” performed Friday, March 18.

Seniors - Alex Heuss & Emma McGraw, Sophomore – Sabrina Surret, Freshman – Maddy Heuss, Shelby Briggs, Claire

Elness, Myles Geyer, 8th Graders – Sophia Harvey, Abby Crosby, Ryley Henning, Becca Allen, Emma Smith, Kayla Bronk

and 7th Grader – Natalie Ellness.

#### **COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

Driver Education Classroom March 3-28 has 22 students attending in person in Morristown.

Summer Activities Baseball, Softball, Spring Youth FB and other spring activities are currently being organized.

Summer Behind the Wheel will begin scheduling in early April.

Summer School Age Childcare registration is up and running.

Current Preschool numbers for 2022-2023. (#'s NOT including Special Education students)

4-day classes (4's & 5's) – 30 students currently registered.

3-day classes (3's & 4's) – 19 students currently registered.

**WEM Board Member Reports**

No reports

**WEM Board Committee Reports**

Policy Committee met March 28th. They will also meet April 4th at Cool Wave in Waterville.

**WEM Superintendent Joel Whitehurst presented the following:**

- Whitehurst commented on MN Honor Society event which was held in the WEM Auditorium and a Joint Powers Agreement which will be signed between the City of Elysian and the WEM School District for the tennis courts and baseball field in Elysian, which they will be taking over ownership of.

**Information/Discussion**

- There was some discussion regarding pre-school costs and recruitment.
- There was some discussion on the 2022-2023 administration structure. None of the discussion items were acted upon. They would be further discussed during the April 7 special work session.
- Student behavior on the busses has become a problem. Bus drivers write-up students who act up on the bus and after three write-ups they're kicked off the bus. The board will look at putting cameras in each bus to help with discipline.

**Action**

Motion by Bowman and second by Stangler to approve the July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 contract with Region V Computer Services in the amount of \$14,900. See attachment.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Bakken to approve the April 1, 2022 to March 30, 2023 contract with NAC in the amount of \$39,612. See attachment.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

**PERSONNEL**

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Bowman to approve the following school district employment contracts:

- July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023 contract for Food Service Director Nancy Culhane. Total package increase of 3 percent each year and one-time stipend of \$1,206. 2021-2022 salary is \$44,796 and 2022-23 salary is \$46,541.
- July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 contract for Building and Grounds Supervisor Scott Allen. Total package increase is 3 percent. 2021-2022 salary is \$46,103.
- July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023 contract for Business Manager Margaret Jewison. Total package increase if 3 percent each year and one-time stipend of \$2,300. 2021-2022 salary is \$73,041 and 2022-2023 salary is \$76,540.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest Jay Schneider, Attest