

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

Monday, January 24, 2022, 6 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, January 24, 2022 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6:02 p.m.

Board Members Jon Bakken, Travis Bowman, Michael, 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, and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Bowman to approve the agenda with changes and one additional item. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Terry Meschke, representing the Morristown Fire Relief Association, presented the school district a check in the amount of \$15,000 for tennis court improvements in Morristown.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Rezac to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from December 20, 2021. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the January Finance Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,351,894.74, deposits were \$966,595.13, and transfers were \$1,950,000. Comments on the report included a payment of \$3,837.75 to Region V Computer Services for quarterly payroll and business office services. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Tom Olinger and Jason Rasmussen of Abdo CPA Firm, presented the 2020-21 Financial Audit. See attachment.

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

### **VISITOR COMMENTS**

Ruth Ann Olson, President of the WEM Education Association, stated to the board if they are determined to stay with two administrators the board should look at a K-6 and 7-12 building structure.

### **RECOGNITION**

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

\$25 from American Legion Auxiliary #149 to Morristown Media Center.

\$25 from American Legion Auxiliary #149 to Waterville Media Center.

\$2,000 from American Legion #149 for Summer Recreation Softball.

\$100 from Miscellaneous to Travis' Trades Scholarship.

\$500 from the Waterville Lions Club to Band.

\$500 from the Waterville Lions Club to Stem Club.

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**

On January 20, 2022 we finalized Semester 1/Quarter 2 for the year officially putting us halfway through the school calendar. Teachers had a curriculum/work day on January 11 where we hosted several speakers during the morning. Speakers included Heather Harms and Linda Hullopeter, special education directors, and Ashley Killday, SHIP Coordinator for Le Sueur/Waseca County. Mrs. Harms and Mrs. Hullopeter discussed behavior interventions and provided a tutorial on SPED 101 information. Ms. Killday presented on vaping, drug, and tobacco use.

Semester 2/Quarter 3 kicked off on Monday, January 24.

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

K-6th grade students did a revisit on Bucs Pride expectations upon return from their winter break.

The Great Kindness Challenge takes place this week. Students in grades PreK-4 are challenged to show kindness in a variety of ways this week.

In Grade 5, the DARE Program has once again returned for in-person instruction. Classroom lessons began the week of Jan. 10 and will continue through April with a graduation date to be determined.

Grade 5 teachers are finalizing the details for the Eagle Bluff field trip which will take place Feb. 14-16.

5th and 6th grade has begun preparations for the Math Masters Competition. Thank you to Brian Svendsen and Laura Sammon for coaching this team.

### **7-12 Report**

School Resource Office, Officer Petrasek and I are working with Le Sueur County's Towards Zero Deaths Coordinator on hosting a presentation at WEM High School. The program is geared towards education on safe driving, drinking and driving, and promoting positive choices particularly around prom and graduation. We are planning to host the program later in the spring, but before prom. Tentative date is 4-11 with 4-19 as a back-up.

We will be hosting a presentation for all students and staff at the high school on March 2, 2022. The speaker, Cory Greenwood, will focus on kindness and resilience. More to come on this in February.

I met with two alliance agents from healthy communities on January 21 to discuss funding and promotional materials for the MOST campaign. We will be working closely to promote statistics on our students body, parent information literature, and pushing out positive messages on what is actually happening statistically based on the MN Student Survey.

Our students will take the Minnesota Student Survey in the next few weeks (February 16-17). Survey results help navigate the language and articulate our goals when we write out Achievement and Integration Grant. Counselors Michelle Roethler and Bridgette Reuters are heading up the orchestration of administering the survey. Students in 8th, 9th, and 11th grade take the survey. From MDE's website, some background on MSS: The Minnesota Student Survey (MSS) is one of the longest-running youth surveys in the nation. It is a triennial survey that began in 1989. The survey is an anonymous statewide school-based survey conducted to gain insights into the world of students and their experiences.

Seven WEM High School students were selected to showcase artwork at the MN State Capitol for the Senate art program: My District, My State. The art projects ranged from photography to watercolor entries. Selected from WEM are:

Senator Chamberlain, District 28 selected Michael James' artwork.

Senator Wiklund, District 50 selected Christian Johnson's artwork.

Senator Bigham, District 54 selected Emma McGraw's artwork.

Senator Rest, District 45 selected Kelsey Surret's artwork.

Senator Limmer, District 34 selected Tanna Van Ryn's artwork.

Senator Howe, District 13 selected Madison Magloth's artwork.

Senator Nelson, District 26 selected Kiersten Holicky's artwork.

WEM High School will host Snow Week/FFA Week February 21-25. There is no school on February 21 so activities will take place February 22-25. Like last year, a coronation will be held to include a court from each grade level based on BUCS Pride traits.

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

**Activities:**  
The 2021-2022 WEM Triple A Award (Arts, Athletics, Academics) winners are seniors Alex Heuss and Kyle Schmitz. This MSHSL special multi-level recognition award recognizes high school seniors active in league sponsored fine arts and athletic activities and show success in the classroom.

### **Winter:**

WEM One Act Play Team: Sub-Section 8 meet is Saturday, Jan. 29 at Medford High School. This year's play was entitled "The Best Method of Research of the Human Mind and Some alterations of Normal Behavior, by Dr. Sheperd." The director was Andrew Velishek. The Gopher Conference event was this past Saturday also at Medford High School. The conference event had four teams participate. It is not a scoring or ranking event but it was judged and then judges met with teams to discuss things that went well and things needing improvement. A very good lead up to the Sub-Section Meet.

The Gopher Conference Honors Music (Band & Choir) Concert and Visual Arts Display will be hosted here at WEM February 5. The concert will begin at 1:30 p.m. Conference students artwork will be on display beginning around 12:30 p.m. You are all invited and welcome to attend. There will be an admission charge of \$6 for adults and \$4 for students (K-12). Students from all conference schools have been selected and have begun practicing. All conference schools will have a combined practice on Friday, Feb. 4.

The Grizzly wrestlers have been competing well and WEM will host one more event (vs. Medford) February 3. The Section Tournament get started February 17.

Girls Gymnastics will begin February 11.

Girls Hockey will begin February 10.

Boys Hockey will begin February 22.

Girls Basketball will begin March 1.

Boys Basketball will begin March 8.

### **Community Education**

### **Education:**

ECFE night classes will be getting started again this month.

SAC continues to operate safely. Summer registration and 2022-23 school year registrations should get started in early February.

School Readiness is beginning lot look at getting registrations for 2022-23.

Facility usage by groups continues to increase.

Driver Education classrooms for 2022 have been set for March, June, and October/November.

The WEM School is open to those wanting to walk during winter months in the mornings and evenings.

### **WEM Board Member Reports**

Five board members spoke about their Minnesota State School Board Association experience from Mid-January.

### **WEM Board Committee Reports**

The negotiations committee is currently working on contracts.

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

- Whitehurst thanks the Morristown Fire Relief for the donation of \$15,000, said the Legislative session starts next week, talked about the taping of superintendent interviews, and talked about pay for special meetings.

### **Information/Discussion**

The new superintendent salary was discussed, along with vacation time and holidays. Will decide the finalized offer after the board meeting Monday, Jan. 31.

### **Action**

Recommendations regarding the future of the district owned ag land near the baseball field in Waterville. The 12.16 acres, which has an approximate value of \$70,000 will be sold to the highest bidder. Bids will opened Feb. 23.

### **PERSONNEL**

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Stangler to approve requests for lane changes for the following teachers:

Jared Larson, Instrument Music Instructor - BS10 to MS, effective January 15, 2022.

Clark Taynton, AVID/Math/Elective Teacher, BS30 to MS, effective January 15, 2022.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Stangler to approve the additional assignment of Bridgette Reuvers, Minnesota Honor Society Advisor, with a stipend of \$597.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and second by Bowman to approve the following coaches:

Trap Shooting: Doug Androli (\$500), Tyson Cooley (\$500), and Bob LaCroix (\$500).

Head Fall 2022 coaches: Cross Country, Jon McDonough (\$5,450), Football, Mike Richards (\$5,450), Volleyball, Crystal Lamont (\$5,450), and Cheerleading, Tiffany Schmidtke (\$3,150).

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Velishek to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest Jay Schneider, Attest