

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 25, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 25, 2022 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6:30 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, and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

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

Motion by Michael and seconded by Rezac to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 28, 2022. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the April Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$869,969.99, deposits were \$704,396.44, and transfers were \$1,250.00. Comments on the report included a payment of \$9,750.68 to XCel Energy for electric services, a payment of \$9,729.74 to Lakeshore Learning Materials for ECFE Room furniture, a payment of \$4,755.03 to Le Sueur County Auditor-Treasurer for Building Repairs and Maintenance (curb and gutter).

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Ruth Ann Olson discussed administrative structure. She said the staff would like to see a principal in all three buildings. If that wasn't possible, would like to see two full-time principals and a full-time dean of students in the high school.

RECOGNITION

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

\$1,600 from Choose Kindness Foundation to the Elementary School.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Congratulations went out to the WEM Class of 2021 for their 96 percent graduation rate. This rate was second in the area to Nicollet (100%).

REPORTS

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

All District

MCA Testing is well underway on all three campuses throughout the district.

End of the year events are being planned such as BUCS Pride reward days, field trips, spring musical performances and final events for our Class of 2022.

WEM took part in the annual Minnesota Tornado Drill the first week in April. We did have a slightly different schedule than the universal time across the state due to the start of MCA testing.

PreK-6 Report

K-4th grade students have spent the month of April spreading kindness! Students have been playing kindness bingo and adding a leaf to the kindness tree in the hall!

3-6th grade students will continue with the MCA math test this week.

April 8th was the 5th Grade Science Fair. Awesome projects! Thank you to Mrs. Wetzel for heading up this amazing opportunity for all 5th grade students!

April 22nd 5th grade students participated in the Math Masters Competition in Mankato at Bethany College. Congratulations to Avery Bronk, Charles Hebl, Mackenzie James, Jake Nutter, Inezsa Pope, Loreli Russell, Griffin Tonn, Gavin Williams, David Mielke, Rayel Sammon, Payton Miller, Jacksten Knish. Congrats to Gavin Williams who finished 13th in the fact drill out of 161 participants!

A huge thank you to Laura Sammon and Brian Svendsen for coaching the team and providing their time and talents to these students!

Congratulations to 5th grader Ashtyn Green who placed 13th in the statewide "DARE to show Kindness" poster contest!

We are gearing up for the Kindergarten Round Up May 5, 2022. Looking forward to meeting our new Buccaneers!

7-12 Report

Prom will be held on Saturday, April 30. The grand march will begin at 4:30 p.m., doors will open at 4:15. The junior class and their advisors have been working hard to create a wonderful event. We may not luck out with as beautiful weather as last year, but nonetheless the event is shaping up to be awesome. After the grand march students will be transported to the

Owatonna Country Club for dinner and a dance. They will return to WEM High School for after prom festivities sponsored and organized by junior parents along with many local donors.

Our annual Night of Excellence will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18. Thank you to Mrs. Reuvers who organized and worked with our local scholarship donors and with our senior class to prepare their applications. We will also showcase artwork from WEM students.

Mr. Cooley and members of the FFA are attending the state competition in Bloomington the first part of this week. Best wishes to our competitors!

Morristown and the High School BUCS Pride groups organized and hosted events in the last month to celebrate the positive behaviors occurring in the building. Thank you to our students for being intentional about BUCS Pride and to our teachers who are a part of our BUCS Pride groups for taking additional time to celebrate our students.

To Zero Deaths program presented on Monday, April 11. Deputy Tousley and his team spent the morning with high school students whereas simulations and activities were provided. Students were able to get hands-on with realities and consequences of distracted driving. The initiative will continue next year as WEM is invested in the collaborative effort.

Mrs. Reuvers with the help of a few additional staff members proctored the ACT at WEM on April 6. The day went smoothly. After the completion of the test the juniors who tested had the option to leave for the remainder of the day.

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran presented the following report:
ACTIVITIES

CONGRATULATIONS to WEM Speech team members Alex Heuss (12) in "Great Speeches", Kiri Kerekes (12) and Paige Atherton (12) "Duo Interpretations" for qualifying for and competing in the Class A State Speech Meet held this past weekend at Eastview HS.

CONGRATULATIONS to WEM Visual Arts team members Paige Atherton (12) and Savannah Wendel (12) for having pieces of their art selected as "Spotlight Awards" at last week's Region 2A Visual Arts Event held in Blue Earth Tuesday April 19. This qualifies them to display their pieces of art (Savannah – Ceramics & Paige – Computer-Based Artwork) at the MSHSL State Event at the Perpich Art Center in Golden Valley (yet TBD) in May.

2022 Spring Activities: It's been a tough start (weather wise) to the start of the spring season ... Hopefully the weather turns around and we are able to get events in!

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Again swimming lessons will be available for students in July. Registration information with more details will be made available to WEM students and families in early May. Many Recreation activities are just getting started with more opportunities announced in May. WEM Driver Education/Parent Education Course will be held this Wednesday April 27.

WEM Board Member Reports

No reports

WEM Board Committee Reports

No reports

WEM Superintendent Joel Whitehurst presented the following:

- Whitehurst commented on Pledge of Allegiance at board meetings, football concession stands will now include bathrooms, Waterville EMS toured the buildings, and asked what board members have interest in presenting at the graduation ceremony.

Information/Discussion

- There was a first reading of the following policies:
101 Legal Status of the School.
102 Equal Education Opportunity
103 Complaints - Students, Employees, Parents, Other Persons
104 School District Mission Statement
204 School Board Meeting Minutes
521 Student Disability Nondiscrimination
See all attachments.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of hiring a full-time teacher to serve as a daily substitute. The board decided to increase the substitute teacher pay from \$150/day to somewhere between \$175 and \$200/day.

The board discussed the administrative structure. Board members in favor of looking at hiring a Student Success Coordinator were Velishek, Bowman, Michael, and Stangler and against it were Rezac, Bakken, and Schneider.

- The board discussed the transfer of the Elysian Baseball Field and Tennis Courts to the City of Elysian. After some discussion, it was decided to sell the property unless there is a problem selling the property without offering it to the public for sale.

Action

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Michael to drop busing costs for mid-day preschool students.

Motion failed 4-3 with Bakken, Schneider, Stangler, and Bowman voting against and Rezac, Velishek, and Michael voting for.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bowman to approve memorandum of understanding with Minnesota Valley Action Council - see attachment.

Seven members voting in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Rezac to approve memorandum of understanding with Tri-Valley Opportunity Council - see attachment.

Seven members voting in favor - motion declared passed.

The 2022-23 Academic Calendar approval was tabled until the May meeting.

PERSONNEL

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the following school district employment contract:

- July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023 contract for Athletic/Community Education Director Jeff Boran. Total package increase of 3.12 percent for 2021-2022 and a 3 percent increase for 2022-2023 and a one-time stipend of \$2,300. 2021-2022 salary is \$77,176 and 2022-2023 salary is \$79,692.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Michael to approve additional wrestling coach salary of \$240 for Mike Richards and \$240 for Shaun Murphy for the 2021-2022 wrestling season due to a prolonged absence of one of the coaches.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Stangler to approve the following resignations:

- Mary White, FACC Teacher, effective at the end of the 2021-22 school year.
- Cora Engesether, Elementary Teacher, effective at the end of the 2021-22 school year.
- Shanelle Froehle, Music Teacher, effective at the end of the 2021-22 school year.
- Cody Castillo, Paraprofessional, effective at the end of the 2021-22 school year.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Velishek to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Six members voted in favor - Schneider voted against - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest Jay Schneider, Attest