

**W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday, April 26, 2021, 6 p.m.**

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 26, 2021 at the Waterville Building in the Board Room. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6 p.m.

Board Members Michael, Jay Schneider, Travis Bowman, and June Rezac, participated in the meeting. Also present were Superintendent Joel Whitehurst, Principals Dr. Jennifer Wilson and Bobbie Jo Bastian, Business Manager Margaret Jewison, and Activities Director Jeff Boran participated in the meeting via teleconference.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bowman to approve the agenda. Four members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Rezac to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2021. Four members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Michael to approve the Special meeting Minutes from April 8, 2021. Three members voted in favor - Schneider abstained - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Schneider to approve the April Finance report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,607,191.12, deposits were \$1,701,572.41, and transfers were \$2,000,000. Comments on the report included a payment of \$1,000 to Gustavus Adolphus College for the Lance Warner and Brady Hruska Memorial Scholarships, a payment of \$9,722.79 to JMC Computer Service, Inc for technology services, a payment of \$2,040 to Region 2A - MSHSL for advance sale tickets for girls basketball, and a payment of \$450 to Children's Museum of Southern MN for a hydroponic systems for the FFA. Also noted were deposits of \$15,000 from a Casey's General Store donation, \$8,966.79 in a refund from the special education contract, and four donations to the Travis' Trades Scholarship. Four members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

**VISITOR COMMENTS**

There were no visitor comments.

**RECOGNITION**

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve the following donations:  
A donation of \$15,000 from the Casey's Blackbaud Giving Fund for Morristown facilities.  
A donation of \$875 to the Travis Trades Scholarship.  
A donation of \$629.36 from Girl Scout Troop #27373 for the elementary.  
Four members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed

**REPORTS**

WEM Principal Bobbie Jo Bastian and WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson (PreK-12th Grade) presented the following report:

### **District Items**

- We are looking ahead to the return to school for Fall 2021. Planning with our leadership teams and conversations about how the week will look is in the making. The consensus is that a speaker to kick off the year is a positive idea for our district. Administration has recently started the search for solidifying a person and date.
- Last Wednesday was Administrative Professionals Day! Thank you to our secondary and elementary administrative professionals Becky Taylor, Anna Meschke, Pam Malecha and Deb Wollin for all they do!
- \* Spring Break over the Easter holiday was much needed and welcomed! It was great to have a few days to recharge. Prior to the break the Wellness Committee provided snacks with the theme "Orange You Glad It's Spring Break!" The theme of the snacks included the color orange. Each building was provided with goodies.

### **PreK-6 Report**

- Kindergarten Round up is planned for the late afternoon and evening of May 6. Invitations have gone out and spots are filling up!
- \* We are in the process of staffing and enrolling students for K-6 summer school. Summer School will take place Four weeks in July, M-Thursday, 8-12 each day.
- 3 & 4th grade classrooms will begin the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments
- 5 & 6th grade completed Math and Reading Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments in both Math and Reading in the past two weeks.

### **7-12 Report**

- 7-8, 10-11th grade students started MCA testing within the last few weeks. I would like to extend a large thank you to the staff for being flexible with schedules, rolling with changes that come with the schedules and working to make the days flow. Also, a thank you to our food service staff for preparing breakfast for our students. During testing we requested all students be served and with the influx of breakfast meals served it was more work on the staff to complete before 8:25 a.m. but it went well and we were assured that each student who tested had the opportunity to have a meal before starting their assessment. Also, food service adjusted with the times in the schedule for testing during lunch and that was much appreciated too!
- \* The music department is planning a spring concert. We are very excited to host this event and are looking forward to hearing our awesome student performers! The event will be coming up on May 19.
- Planning is underway for the Night of Excellence. We are looking forward to hosting in-person again this year. While it will look a bit different due to guidance we certainly are excited to recognize and celebrate the achievements of our students. The Night of Excellence will be May 26.

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran's presented the following report:

- Calendar Change: The 2021 7-12 Band & Choir Concert will be Wednesday May 19 and the WEM Night of Excellence Wednesday, May 26. This is a flip/flop on the (physical) calendar.

- Due to Covid: Attendance will be invitation only and pre-registration will be done. No meal, however we are looking at drinks and a dessert. Start time for awards will be 6:30 p.m.

### **Activities:**

Winter Wrap up:

\* WEM Boys BB finished the season 11-9 and lost to St. Clair in two overtimes in the Subsection Championship game. WEM finished 3rd in the Gopher Conference behind Conference Champion Maple River and Class A State Champion Hayfield. All-Conference Selections – 1st Team – Domanik Paulson (11), 2nd Team – Brady Nutter (11) & the Sportsmanship Award – Gabe Androli (10).

• WEM Girls BB finished the season with an 18-4 record and claimed their 2nd straight Gopher Conference Championship and South Subsection 2A Championship. The girls advanced to the Section 2A Championship game where they lost to a very good Sleepy Eye St. Mary's team. All-Conference Selections – 1st Team – Brielle Bartelt (12) & Toryn Richards (12), 2nd Ellie Ready (12) & Kylie Pittmann (12) Honorable Mention – Lindsay Condon (12) and Sportsmanship Award – Allison Rients (12). Brielle and Toryn were also Class A All-State Honorable Mention. Toryn, Lindsay, Ellie, Kylie, Allison and Autumn Taylor were selected as Academic All-State!

\* The WEM/JWP Wrestling Team finished the season 2-12. All-Conference Selections - Carson Petry (8) was the lone All-Conference selection for the Grizzlies. Gavin Krause (10) was the Sportsmanship Award Winner.

\* CONGRATULATIONS to WEM Speech team members Alex Heuss (11) in "Great Speeches", Kiri Kerekes (11) and Paige Atherton (11) "Duo Interpretations" for qualifying for and competing in the State "Virtual" Speech Meet held this past weekend.

• 2021 Spring Activities: Spring Playoffs/ Sections begin in June for the 2021 season.

Baseball – 20 (9-12), 20 (7-8)

Softball – 28 (9-12), 12 (7-8)

Track: 28 Boys – (9-12), (7-8) and 38 Girls – (9-12), (7-8)

Clay Target – 47 (7-12)

\* Band & Choir Large group: No competition for 2021. WEM Band had members perform Solo/ Ensembles for the Section Virtual Competition then end of March. Choir is holding a "In-House" event.

### **Community Education**

• Summer and 2021-2022 school year School Age Care registrations are beginning.

• 2021-2022 Kindergarten Connection registration is going strong with currently 50 registered for the 2021-2022 school year. Pathway II Funding will again be available as WEM again qualified for \$15,000 (FY 2022) & \$15,000 (FY 2023) for families needing tuition help. Applications for Pathway II grants will be available to families in late May or the start of June.

\* Driver Education Classrooms and BTW registration is also on the move. 23 students recently completed a classroom session, with 18 currently registered for the June classroom.

\* 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. (Baseball, Softball, Football, T-Ball, Camps, etc.)

\* We are also looking forward to provide more opportunities to our communities as things open back up and we near completion of construction.

WEM Superintendent Joel Whitehurst presented the following:

\* Whitehurst spoke about graduation, spring concert, Night of Excellence, and prom. He also said May 17 is the end of the legislative session and said the district will be receiving Esser III Money in the amount of \$744,000. This will be one-time money to the district.

WEM Committee Member reports

\* No committee reports

#### INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

\* Radon testing was completed in all three buildings with all buildings being in the acceptable range.

#### ACTION

Motion by Michael and seconded by Schneider to approve the Interagency Agreement with Le Sueur County Family Services Collaborative. There is no cost to the district. See attachment.

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

#### PERSONNEL

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Schneider to approve the following letters of resignation:

1. Danielle Wold, high school guidance counselor, effective at the end of the 2020-21 school year.
2. Brenda Bohnsack, elementary teacher, effective at the end of the 2020-21 school year.

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

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Michael to approve the additional assignment of Eric Gerst - Speech - \$1,738.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Michael to approve the additional assignment of Rachel Wendlandt - Assistant Speech - \$1,126.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve the following coaches:

Junior high track, Matthew Van Houdt, \$2,261; Junior high baseball volunteer, Troy Brekke; Junior high softball volunteer, Kristin Velzke.

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

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Michael to approve the non-renewal of Aaron Brown a probationary social studies teacher.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.  
Four members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

ATTEST:

Gary Michael, Board Chair

Jay Schneider, Board Clerk