

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
Monday, January 25, 2021, 6 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, January 25, 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, Jeff Stangler, 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 Stangler to approve the agenda. Five members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Bowman to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from Dec. 21 and the Special Meeting Minutes from Dec. 10. Four members voted in favor by roll call vote - Rezac abstained - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Rezac to approve the Organizational Meeting Minutes from Jan. 14 and the Regular and the Special Meeting Minutes from Jan. 14. Five members voted in favor by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Schneider to approve the January Finance report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$2,453,342.65, deposits were \$1,197,027.79, and transfers were \$1,800,000.00. There were no other comments on the report.

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

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

RECOGNITION

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

A donation of \$50,000 from Robert Larson in memory of his wife Virginia Miner. \$10,000 has been designated to the 4th grade, \$10,000 to the music department, and \$30,000 to the school district.

A donation of \$30,000 from Pamela Baker which will be used to

hold a special school board election and the remainder being designated to the Ag. Department.

A donation of \$50 from American Legion Auxiliary #149 which will be used in the media center.

Five 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:

PreK-12th Grade

* PreK-6th grade have fully transitioned back to in-person learning. As of Monday, January 25, 7-12th grade students have (for the first time) transitioned to in-person learning. This is extremely exciting for our district! Districts around us are not in the same position to transition their whole student body to in-person learning, we are feeling blessed and thankful to have our students back in our buildings together.

* Construction is wrapping up in the elementary area (fourth grade and office areas are fully moved into), however it is just ramping up on the high school side of the building. Continual changes are happening and with each phase is excitement. The modern and fresh looks of the building are very welcoming to students, staff, community members and visitors.

* Throughout the last few weeks and into this week BUCS Pride hosted a variety of activities including BINGO and reteaching expectations. Thank you to local families, staff and businesses who have graciously donated prizes!

* Friday, January 22 was a curriculum and grading day for teachers. We welcomed a professional counselor from Southern Minnesota Counseling Services to speak to staff. The topics for the presentation were self-care, engaging students, understanding and getting a feel for student mental health and ways to help support one another. Staff engaged in discussion and activities before having time for Q&A. Following the presentation staff had time to work on final quarter/semester grades.

* Administration has started the processes of reviewing potential schedules for 2021-2022. Counselors are working on registration which will take place in February-March. We anticipate this to be a much smoother process compared to last year as we will have students in the building.

* Lastly, we would like to extend a large thank you to our staff for their flexibility as we shift within learning models. In addition, thank you for supporting the district's ability to transition to in-person learning. A sincere thank you to our parents

for being understanding and doing all they do at home with their children to help make WEM the best it can be.

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

ATHLETICS

* The 2020-21 WEM Triple A Award (Arts, Athletics, Academics) winners are seniors Toryn Richards and Aidan Snesrud. 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 - Our teams are competing. Started practices January 4. 1st games were scheduled for Jan. 14 and we were snowed out.

GBB has currently played three games. Congratulations to Toryn Richards for scoring her 1,000 point last Friday.

BBB has played two games.

Wrestling gets started tonight in Janesville hosting a dual meet vs. Kenyon-Wanamingo and the Grizzlies first match in Waterville will be Jan. 28.

* The MSHSL is still working on post seasons for winter sports however nothing has been finalized. The intent is to have Section and State Tournaments.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

* School Age Care seems to be doing fine as we have transitioned back into all in-learning model.

* School Age Care is going well and teachers are getting ready to welcome ECFE students back.

* Facility usage is down but we do still have some groups using and requesting use and working through COVID protocols.

WEM Superintendent Joel Whitehurst presented the following:

* Whitehurst thanked Pam Baker for her years of service on the school board, said construction is moving right along, Becky Taylor, Pegi Wolff, and Margaret Jewison have moved locations in the building due to construction, staff vaccinations have started with seven staff members getting their first shots, and said Le Sueur County has 100 doses of vaccine available in the county.

WEM Board Member reports

* New Board Member has been attending the MSBA Convention virtually.

* Michael, Rezac, and Schneider have been named to a Super Search Committee which will help with the superintendent search.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

* The South Central Service Cooperative's Board of Directors

asked for nominations for the election to the Board of Directors

* Discussion was held regarding the process to fill the school board vacancy. There will be a special election held later in the year, possibly in May 2021.

* The board discussed the school-owned 8 1/2 acres of ag land. No action was taken.

* Rice County Deputy Services in the Morristown building were discussed. The board agreed they did not want to pay the approximate \$19,000 to hire a deputy.

ACTION

Motion by Bowman and seconded by Stangler to approve the Feb. 1, 2021 - January 31, 2022 contract for payroll services with School Management Services (\$36,050).

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

PERSONNEL

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve student tutors Tori Van Ryn, Lindsay Condon, Isabel Weller, and Emma McGraw at \$10.08/hour.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approve the 2019-2021 Community Education and Activities Director contract of Jeff Boran.

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

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Bowman to approve the hiring of Larry Tegmeier as route bus driver at a rate of \$51.30/per route.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Michael to approve volunteer boys basketball coaches Brian Nutter and Brandon Kewatt.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

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

ATTEST:

Gary Michael, Board Chair

Jay Schneider, Board Clerk

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