

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, August 26, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, August 26, 2024 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Michael at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Michael, June Rezac, Brenda Heuss, Jeff Stangler, Jay Schneider, and Troy Tolzman attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Superintendent John Regan and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

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

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Michael to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from July 22, 2024 and the Special Meeting August 8. Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Schneider to approve the July Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,501,032.24, deposits were \$1,303,284.28, and transfers of \$1,250,000. Specific items discussed were a payment of \$109,773.18 to R.W. Carlstrom, Inc. for work on three updated rooms, and payments of \$17,500 to Castle Gardens landscaping, \$18,480 to Greencare, and \$3,129.79 to Hotwater Minnesota, LLC all for work being completed on the Waterville football field.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve the resolution adopting of FY 2026 Revised 10-year long-term facilities maintenance plan. Margaret Jewison presented the information - see attachment.

Five members voted in favor by roll call vote, Stangler voted against, motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Michael to approve the resolution stating the intention of the school board to issue general obligation facilities maintenance bonds to the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$12,165,000. See attachment.

Five members voted in favor by roll call vote, Stangler voted against, motion declared passed.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve the consent agenda which included the following items:

Approve the following resignations:

Milayna Watzek, paraprofessional, effective May 31, 2024.

Amaya Muellerleile, paraprofessional, effective May 31, 2024.

Approve the following Fall 2024-2025 coaches:

Football - Bill John and Mark Thompson, varsity volunteers, Jerome Brown, Sam Gavin, and Doug Androli, junior high coaches, \$2,575 per coach.

Volleyball - Krystalin Morris and Haley Schaaf, junior high coaches, \$2,575 per coach.

Approve the following hires for 2024-2025 school year school age care workers - Rachel Wendlandt (\$13.54/hour), Sara Jeffries, student (\$11.54/hour), Brody Holicky, student (\$11.54/hour), and Auston Holicky, student (\$11.54/hour).

Approve the following lane change - Kelci Halvorson, BS to MS effective September 21, 2024.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

RECOGNITION

Motion by Michael and seconded by Tolzman to approve the following monetary donation:

A donation of \$1,000 from Waseca Steele Electric Company for Scholarship.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

REPORTS Principal WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson submitted the following report:

Waterville Campus Information

We took a team of teachers to Sourcewell's Educator Summit August 6-8. Joining administration to the conference was Kelci Halvorson, Bridgette Reuvers, Carrie Brown, Rachel Wendlant and Kelsey Schiefelbein. The conference was filled with great team bonding, excellent professional development with cutting edge information and connections with other educators from across the state.

New teacher workshop was held on Thursday, August 22. Once again Ashley Landru and Anna Skidmore will lead the mentor/mentees. New teachers were greeted by administration and office staff teams, met with Dan Lemcke with technology needs before joining up with Mrs. Landru and Mrs. Skidmore and their mentors. The Chamber graciously hosted new staff for lunch at El Molino's as well. A thank you for our Waterville Chamber of Commerce!

Construction is wrapping up and the building spaces that were touched throughout the summer projects are awesome. The spaces for kids are outstanding!

Workshop Week began on August 26. We have built in professional development with time for teachers to work in their classroom and collaborate/connect with their teams.

A BIG thank you to our custodial staff for the work over the summer as they navigated flooding and prepping the building for our staff and students to return!

K-4

Back to school packets and information were available to families August 19-22. Families signed up for entrance conferences which will be held on Tuesday, September 3. The elementary's first day of school with students is September 4.

9-12

Open house and welcome back evening will be held on Wednesday, August 28. We will again have freshmen orientation to cap the evening off. The first day of school for high school students will be Tuesday, September 3.

WEM Principal Myles Knutson submitted the following report:

I am pleased to be writing my first principal report as the new building principal of our 5-8 Middle School in Morristown. It has been a busy summer of road construction, putting together a new building schedule, and learning all of the inner workings of our district and school. Superintendent Regan and Dr. Wilson told me once August 1st rolls around, it will start to get real busy and boy were they right. I can't thank both of them enough for their guidance and support this summer as we prepare for the 2024-25 school year. Here are a few updates from the Middle School:

- **Staff Meet and Greet:** About 10 staff members volunteered their time to come in and meet with me to get to know one another and talk about what makes our school such a special place to be. There was a common theme amongst everyone I visited with, which was "We are a family". Some other comments from staff members that stood out to me were, "Proud of our PBIS Program", "Everyone goes to bat for one another", "The smiles of students", "We care about the kids", "We all genuinely want to be here", and "We are a team, We are a family". These common themes make me extremely excited and grateful to be part of the W-E-M community!
- **Building Schedule:** A team of teachers have been hard at work creating schedules and placing students the past three weeks. There have been quite a few obstacles in the way and I applaud all of their hard work as well as the flexibility of the teaching staff for being open to changes in schedules this close to the start of the school year.
- **PBIS Exemplar School:** Our middle school building was one of 76 schools recognized by the Minnesota Department of Education as a PBIS Exemplar school! I look forward to meeting with the PBIS team at our building this week and learning about all of the extraordinary things they have in place to promote positive behavior and interventions. There was a brief article in the *The Free Press* last week recognizing us and a few other area schools for this accomplishment.
- **Open House:** Plans are in place to host open house on August 28 from 4 p.m - 7:30 p.m. We will be giving families the option of attending two different open house times. Option 1 is from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. and will be an unstructured open house where families will visit the building at their own pace. Option 2 will be from 5:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. During this structured open house families will follow their student's bell schedule and visit each classroom they have on their schedule. We look forward to meeting all of the students and families next week!

WEM Community Education and Activities Director Jeff Boran submitted the following report:

ACTIVITIES

Boys & Girls Cross Country. Started practice 8/12/24. First event was last Friday 8/23/24 at Fairmont. The first meet we host will be next Thursday 9/26/24 at the Prairie Ridge Golf Course in Janesville. 2024 WEM CC Participants – 6 Girls & 6 Boys (7-12), JWP CC Participants – 3 Girls & 4 Boys.

- Cheerleading. Started practice 8/12/24. 6 girls are participating in Cheer for the Fall 2024 season.
- Volleyball. Started practice 8/12/24. The first event for High School was August 23rd at LeSueur-Henderson. Junior highs first event will be September 3 at home vs. Maple River. VB participants - 34 Grades 9 through 12 and 21 grades 7 and 8.

- Football. Started practice 8/13/24. The first Varsity game will be Thursday August 29 at GFW (Winthrop), with the first home game on Friday September 6 vs. Cleveland. JV FB plays at Mkto. Loyola (St.Clair/Loyola) on Sept. 3 and JH 's first game will be Sept. 5 home vs. St. Clair /Loyola. FB participants - 40 (9-12) and 32 (7-8)
- Co-op Sponsorships for 2024-2025 – Boys & Girls Soccer, Hockey and Girl's Gymnastics w/ Waseca. Wrestling and Boys & Girls Cross Country w/ JWP.

Community Education Summer Activities:

Little Bucs Preschool has 50 students currently registered! We will have 3 classes: 3's/4's – Mornings 3 days / week (Tuesdays – Thursdays), 4's/5's – Afternoon half-days, 4 days / week (Mondays – Thursdays), 4's/5's – All Day, 4 days / week (Mondays – Thursdays)

School Age Childcare Fall 2024 registrations – Currently 32 currently registered.
 ECFE information regarding classes will be coming out soon for Fall of 2024.
 Youth Flag FB - Saturdays in September (Currently 33 registered)
 3rd/₄th & 5th/₆th VB in Sept. Oct. (Currently 21 registered after 24 hrs!)

WEM Board Member Reports

There were no Board Members reports.

WEM Board Committee Reports

There were no Board Committee reports.

WEM Superintendent John Regan presented the following:

- Superintendent Regan commented on staff back at school, strategic plan, summer work, catalyst training, FEMA meeting, Morristown parking lot, SPED rooms received approval from the State, Sept meeting updates, weight room equipment arriving in mid-September, weight room floor being installed, and weight room equipment will be sold.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

The board had the first readings of the following policies (See attachments):

- 220 Student School Board Representatives
- 506 Student Discipline
- 506 Student Discipline Form
- 522 Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure and Process 535 Service Animals in Schools
- 535 Service Animals in Schools Form
- 722 Public Data and Data Subject Requests
- 722 Public Data and Data Subject Requests Form 806 Crisis Management Redline

ACTION

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approved the resolution relating to the election of school board members and calling the school district general election. See attachment.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Tolzman to approve the following agreements (See attachments

- Approve agreement with ISD #829 Waseca for summer occupational therapy, \$38.72/hour, up to 50.5 hours June through August.
- Approve the foster care transportation services agreement between Le Sueur County and WEM Public Schools.
- Approve the instructional staff sharing agreement between Southern Plains Education Cooperative and WEM Public Schools.
- Approve the 2024-2025 membership agreement with South Central Service Cooperative.
- Approve the 2024-2025 agreement concerning instructional staff sharing between ISD #829 Waseca and #2143 WEM Public Schools.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Heuss to approve the 2024-2025 Waterville Elementary, Waterville High School, and Morristown Student Handbooks.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Heuss to approve the following policies:

- 104 School District Mission Statement
- 204 School Board Meeting Minutes
- 609 Religion and Religious and Cultural Observances
- 802 Disposition of Obsolete Equipment and Material.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Tolzman to approve the 2024-2025 Activities Handbook. Maple River is no longer in the Gopher Conference.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest