

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

Monday, August 25, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, August 25, 2025 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Vice Chair June Rezac at 6:34 p.m.

Board Members Gary Michael (6:59 p.m. arrived), June Rezac, Jon Bakken, Jay Schneider, Brenda Heuss, Troy Tolzman, Grace Bartz, and Jocelyn Brown attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting was Superintendent Mark Winter and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

Motion by Heuss and seconded by Schneider to approve the agenda with one additional item. Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Heuss to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from July 28. Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the July-August Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$3,043,302.26, deposits were \$829,644.15, and transfers of \$3,128,000.00. Comments included with a new school year the expenditure comparison report percentages should be low and many of the checks in the check register pertain to the long-term facility construction.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Tolzman to accept gifts and donations. They included a donation of \$6,485 from the WEM Moving Forward Foundation to WEM Football and a donation of \$1,000 from the Elysian Area Chamber of Commerce to WEM Football.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

## VISITOR COMMENTS

Jill Vollbrecht and Keith Allen each had comments. Vollbrecht asked about the single site school layout, the ability to provide more Community Ed programs, the future of the Morristown building, and with Dr. Wilson leaving what is happening in the elementary.

Allen is the State representative from Kenyon from District 19 which covers the Morristown area. Just wanted to introduce himself to the board and made brief comments about PSEO and school lunches.

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approve the following hires:

Carridy Nelson, Administrative Assistant/Morristown - BS23/Step 3, \$16.23/hour.

Brandon Tagg, High School Principal - \$101,000.

- Approve the following resignations:

Jennifer Wilson, K-4 and 9-12 Principal effective August 22.

Melissa Wencl, Nursing Assistant/Office Administrative Assistant in Morristown, effective August 15.

Katie Slechta, Kitchen Assistant/Baker, effective August 18.

- Approve the following lane change:

Heather Snestrud, BS30 to BS40 effective September 15, 2025.

- Approve the following 2025-2026 coaches:

Football - David Schuster, junior high coach, \$2,575, Bruce Velzke junior high volunteer, and Lonnie Roemhildt junior high volunteer.

Volleyball - Pam Heinz varsity 2nd assistant, \$3,420 and Kiera Morris, junior high coach, \$2,575.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

## REPORTS

WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson did not submit a report his month.

WEM Principal Myles Knutson submitted the following report:

Greetings School Board Members,

I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer! Here are a few updates from the Middle School:

- Sourcewell Educator Summit: About 10 WEM leadership team members from across all three campuses attended the Sourcewell Summit at Breezy Point during the first week in July. We were able to listen to two wonderful keynote speakers who focused on “Beyond Grit: Embracing Passion and Perseverance to Gain the High-Performance Edge” and “UDL Now: Embrace Inclusion, Ignite Potential.” Leadership team members also were able to choose from a variety of breakout sessions of their choice that gave us both big picture takeaways and small tangible things to implement across our buildings.

Topics included: Differentiation and Inclusion with Artificial Intelligence, Effective Classroom and Schoolwide Interventions, Effective Classroom Culture: Fostering Student Motivation, and many more! Along with attending these sessions our leadership teams met to reflect on our sessions, redesign our PLC philosophy and process, and plan out professional development opportunities. It was a beneficial, fun experience for everyone who was able to attend.

- PBIS Exemplar School: Our Middle School PBIS team once again was recognized as an exemplar school for the 2024-25 school year! Last year was my first year in the district and the way our PBIS team is organized and implemented throughout the year is the best I have ever seen throughout the 6 schools I have been a part of in my career. Hats off to our PBIS team and all our staff members for another successful year implementing our PBIS program!

- Open House: Plans are in place to host open house on August 27th from 4:00 p.m - 7:30 p.m. Grades 6 through 8 will attend a more traditional open house at the beginning of the night to check out their schedules and meet teachers. 5th graders will have a separate time designated just for 5th grade families that will feel more like an orientation than open house. We hope this new open house format will provide our 5th graders with a more structured and informative open house experience than years past.

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

Boys & Girls Cross Country. Started practice 8/11/25. First event was last Friday 8/22/25 at Fairmont. The first meet we host will be next Thursday 9/25/25 at the Prairie Ridge Golf Course in Janesville. 2025 WEM CC Participants – 6 Girls & 5 Boys (7-12), JWP CC Participants – 5 Girls & 5 Boys.

Cheerleading. Started practice 8/11/25. 4 girls are participating in Cheer for the Fall 2025 FB season.

Volleyball. Started practice 8/11/25. The first event for High School is tomorrow night at Maple River. JH 's first event will be September 4 at Kenyon. VB participants - 33 (9th – 12) and 31 (7th & 8th).

Football. Started practice 8/11/25. The first Varsity game will be Thursday August 28 at Southland (Adams) with the first home game on Friday September 5 vs. Lewiston-Altura. JV FB plays at BEA on Wednesday Aug. 27 at home, 5pm! and JH 's first game will be Sept. 2 home vs. Southland in Waterville 4:30 pm. FB participants - 52 (9-12) and 28 (7-8)

Coop Sponsorships for 2025-2026 – Boys & Girls Soccer, Hockey and Girl's Gymnastics w/ Waseca.

Wrestling and Boys & Girls Cross Country w/ JWP.

Community Education Activities:

Little Bucs Preschool has 53 students currently registered!

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 2025 registrations – Currently 34 currently registered.

ECFE information regarding classes will be coming out soon for Fall of 2025.

Youth Fall activities:

Flag FB - Saturdays in September (Registration now open)

3rd/4th & 5th/6th VB in Sept. Oct. (Registration now open)

WEM Board Member Reports

There were no Board Member reports.

WEM Board Committee Reports

There were no Board Committee reports.

WEM Superintendent Mark Winter presented the following:

- Superintendent Winter commented on the hiring of high school principal Brandon Tagg, thanking Dr. Wilson, open workshop August 25, most of the construction is complete, auditorium sats and in, lots of cleaning is needed, and meetings and training will be held Tuesday through Thursday.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

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

VI.C. Board Member Reports

VI.D. Board Committee Reports

VI.E. Mark Winter, Superintendent

VII. Information / Discussion

VII.A. First Reading of Policies:

502 Search of Students Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person

506 Student Discipline

506 Student Discipline Form

722 Public Data and Data Subject Requests

722 Public Data and Data Subject Requests Form

806 Crisis Management

ACTION

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Tolzman to approve the following policies:

209 Code of Ethics

421 Gifts to Employees and School Board Members

533 Wellness

903 Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Tolzman to approve the Waterville-Elysian-Morristown naming process.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Tolzman to approve the naming of the WEM Football Field.

1) Approval of the process to be followed for naming field, courts or gyms

at WEM:

Process for naming or renaming athletic fields, gyms, facilities, etc. at WEM

1. A written request, by an interested group, should be made to the Activities Administrator.

2. The Activities Administrator will call a meeting of the WEM Athletic Council to discuss the proposal.

3. If approved by the Athletic Council, the Activities Administrator will bring the request forward for approval of the WEM Board of Education.

2) Beginning September 2025 the WEM Football Field will be known as: "Jon Bakken Field"

Named for the MnFBCA Hall of Fame Buccaneer "former Head Football Coach", whose teams won 3 Prep Bowls (1989, 1999 & 2009). Teams he coached also appeared in many more State Tournaments and won numerous Conference and District Championships along with the Section Championships and State Appearances.

\* Note - The Athletic Council met on June 24, 2025 to discuss the proposal forwarded to Jeff Boran. All of those in attendance were in favor of advancing this to the WEM Board of Education for approval.

Four members voted in favor - Bakken abstains - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Rezac to approve the bread contract.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Michael to set meeting date to discuss Morristown building sale. It was determined the date would be Tuesday, Oct. 14.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Tolzman to approve a Memo of Understanding between ISD#2143 and WEM Education Association Local #7181 Union. See attachment.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Tolzman to approve partnership agreement between Owatonna Public Schools and WEM Public Schools regarding online education. See attachment.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Rezac to approve the proposed activity worker pay. See attachment.

Four members voted in favor - two abstained - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Michael to approve the following special education agreement between South Central Service Cooperative and WEM Public Schools for Fiscal Year 2026 for vision, audiology, and orientation and mobility. See attachment.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

June Rezacl, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest