

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, May 20, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 20, 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, Jon Bakken, Jay Schneider, Brenda Heuss (arrived at 6:36 p.m.), Jeff Stangler, and Troy Tolzman attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Superintendent John Regan and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

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

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Rezac to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from April, 2024. Six 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 \$1,118,134.55, deposits were \$1,231,901.04, and transfers of \$500,000. A payment of \$15,303.68 to School Speciality Education ESS for 7 tables and chairs in the Morristown Building which were paid for by a donation from the Morristown Fire Department, was discussed. Bakken also commented about the number of PSEO payments which were included in this month's bills. See attachment.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Nick Morris spoke to the board about a test which was given to students which he felt was a survey. He said he felt students rights had been violated. He questioned the time and validity of the survey. He feels there needs to be some repercussions. Gary Tupa and Ed Fritz also spoke briefly in support of Morris.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve the following hirings:

- Trista Hering, Community Education Summer T-Ball Supervisor - Stipend based on number of kids registered.
- Tiffany Schmidtke, 3rd Grade Teacher - BS/Step A, \$41,740.
- Alyssa Bruns, 3rd Grade Teacher - BS/Step B, \$42,990.
- Heidi Schott, Special Education Case Facilitator, \$75,000.
- Hillary Hebl, Special Education Teacher - MS/Step N, \$70,710.

Approve the following resignations:

- Carrie Richards, Special Education, Effective May 31, 2024.
- Pamela Heinz, Junior High Student Council Advisor, effective at the end of 2023-24 school year.
- Emily Kratzer, Elementary Music Teacher, effective May 31, 2024
- Jeffery Wagner, Industrial Technology Teacher, effective May 31, 2024.

Approve the following Summer School staff:

- Bobbie Jo Bastian, Principal in June - \$55.75/hour
- Jennifer Wilson, Principal in July - \$55.77/hour.
- Patty Whitehurst, Counselor - \$37.00/hour.
- Susan Michael, Teacher - \$37.00/hour.
- Susan Krienke, Teacher - \$37.00/hour.

Approve the following 2023-2024 coaches:

- Cross Country: Skyler Petry, Head Coach - \$6,008.
- Cheer: Tiffany Schmidtke, Head Coach - \$3,472.
- Volleyball: Crystal Lamont, Head Coach - \$6,008 and Ken Trnka, 1st Assistant - \$4,283.
- Football: Sam Stier, Head Coach - \$6,008, Corey Immerman, 1st Assistant - \$4,283, Chad Atherton, 1st Assistant - \$4,283, and Connor Scharf, 2nd Assistant - \$3,420.

Approve Continuing Contract Teachers (Tenure):

- Max Haakonson, BS10/Step F - \$49,780
- Bridgette Reuvers-Slinger, BS50/MS/Step F - \$55,810

- Haley Schaaf, BS/Step C - \$44,280
- Britta Robran, BS10/Step D - \$46,920
- Alyssa Schmidtke, MS10/Step G - \$59,160
- Amber Karels, BS/Step L - \$57,770
- Anne Joubert, BS50/Step G - \$57,480
- Tyson Cooley, BS/Step I - \$52,870
- Sam Stier, BS50/Ms/Step J - \$62,820
- Cory Immerman, MS30/Step J - \$68,430

Approve Non-Tenured Teacher Contracts:

- Maddyson Dufault, BS/Step C - \$44,280
- Andi O'Neil, BS50/MS/Step E - \$54,180
- Kelci Halvorson, BS/Step J
- Mary Ann Eich, BS/Step L - \$57,770
- Skyler Petry, BS50/MS/Step B - \$49,590
- Cameron Jensen, BS10/Step B - \$44,230
- Jennifer Bowen, BS/Step B - \$42,990
- Kelly Stanton-Nutt, MS30/Step N - \$77,010
- Lindsey Janssen, BS/Step B - \$42,990
- Alyssa Hanson, BS/Step C - \$44,280

There was a motion by Rezac and seconded by Michael to take out V.C, which was the Kelci Halvorson teaching approval. The agenda did not list a salary amount. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

There was a motion by Bakken and seconded by Tolzman to approve Step G, not Step J for Halvorson in the amount of \$49,830. Seven members vote in favor - motion declared passed.

RECOGNITION

There were no recognition items this month.

REPORTS

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

All District

The Class of 2024 Commencement will be held on Friday, May 24 at WEM High School. The Valedictorian is Josephine Volkmann, daughter of Todd and Amy Volkmann. The 2024 Salutatorian is Kylie LaFrance, daughter of Jared and Stacy LaFrance.

All WEM students completed their Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments for the district. Official scores will be released for publication from MDE later this summer.

Administration, with the help of secondary student council members, greeted staff on Tuesday (HS and Elementary) and Thursday (Morristown) for Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6-10) with a beverage and treat cart. P.I.E. also provided coffee in each campus lounge on Friday and the Elysian American Legion Auxiliary provided pizza in each building's lounge on Wednesday of that week. A big thank you to our Partners in Education and the Auxiliary for their generosity and appreciation towards all WEM educators!

The last day for all WEM students K-11th grade and support staff will be Thursday, May 30. The final day for certified staff is June 1.

PreK-6 Report

On Tuesday May 7, the 5th-8th grade students put on amazing band and choir performances under the direction of Jared Larson and Matt Thomforde. Thank you to them for leading this fun night and sharing their love for music with us all!

On Thursday May 9th, K-4 students welcomed the community in for the third annual ice cream social and art show! This event was expanded this year to include High School student work and a walking mural tour of Waterville! Thank you to Kelly Stanton-Nutt, Nicole Volk and Patty Salmon at Make it Waterville for the addition of the HS Work and Mural Tour. Thank you to our elementary teachers who worked to display student work and to families for their attendance!

K-6 Summer School registrations continue to come in. We are looking forward to classes that will be held June 17-27 & July 8-18, 8:25-11:45, M-Thurs.

May 29, K-4 students will have an end of year Bucs Pride celebration with a bounce house and treats! Sixth grade students will be heading to Kamp Dels for their end of year celebration! Thank you to Kamp Dels for hosting! 5-8 students will have end of year fun activities as well.

Students K-6th grade have been and will continue to participate in a variety of field trips and fun activities in the last days of the year! Some trips include the State Capital, Fort Snelling, Quarry Hill, Riverbend Nature Center, MN History Center, Kuball Dairy Farm and Farm America.

7-12 Report

Prom 2024, A Rustic Garden, was held on Saturday, May 4. The Grand March was held at WEM HS starting at 5:00 p.m. and was very well attended by parents, friends and the community. Prom goers traveled to The Mill in Waseca for dinner and a dance with the night capping off with the After Prom Party hosted by junior parents assisted by senior parents at the Morristown Community Center. Many positive comments, reviews and overall one of the best attended proms in the last

several years. Thank you to our junior class advisors, junior class and parents for helping to make this year's prom one to remember!

The music department hosted their annual spring concerts with modern music selections. The junior program was held on Tuesday, May 7 and the senior high Pop's Concert was held on Wednesday, May 15.

Seniors will complete their final full day of school on Thursday, May 23. Friday, May 24 will include the annual senior breakfast and commencement rehearsal.

The annual Night of Excellence will be held on Wednesday, May 22. We will be welcoming traditional and previous scholarships generously provided by many area groups and individuals. We also welcomed new scholarships!

May is Mental Health Awareness month. On Tuesday, May 7 a representative from Crisis Mobile Outreach with Horizon Homes was present at the high school to connect with students during lunch and promote healthy and supportive options for mental health awareness.

Student registration was completed early in the month for all students entering 7-12th grade for the 2024-2025 school year. Schedules will be built as soon as our master schedule is complete which will be in the next several weeks.

WEM was awarded a CTE Grant of \$5,000.00 through the South Central Service Cooperative. This grant was approved through a submission process and consideration from the Future Ready CTE Advisory Committee. We are excited to receive this grant and provide new and innovative equipment in our shop areas such as plasma machines and updated welding equipment.

On Wednesday, May 1 the high school PBIS Team planned the second annual carnival. The carnival included typical carnival games, face painting, tickets with prizes and a lot of fun.

WEM hosted the Data Summit for the first time in conjunction with our integration partnership with Faribault, TCU and Northfield. The full day seminar was held on Wednesday, May 8 at South Central-Faribault Campus with El Molinos catering. 20 students represented WEM and with a total of 80 students from partnering schools. Thank you to Mrs. Reuvers and Mrs. Brown for working on the event and leading efforts for WEM to be the host. WEM will host again in the fall before passing the host role to TCU.

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

ACTIVITIES

- WEM Night of Excellence is Wednesday May 22. All are invited! 20th year of this program!
- Baseball, Softball & Track post seasons get started this week. Good Luck Bucs!
- Baseball Subsections begin Thursday May 23. Potential other dates are: May 28, 30, June 1, 4 & 6. First round is single elimination. Double elimination the rest of the way.
- Softball playoffs begin tomorrow night, May 21. Potential additional games will be May 23, 25, 28, 30 and June 1. First round is single elimination. Double elimination the rest of the way.
- Track Subsection meet at Sibley East HS (Arlington) is this Thursday May 23. Sections Saturday June 1 at Mankato West HS. The Gopher Conference meet was held in Mapleton at Maple River HS on Saturday May 11. (Beautiful day!)

All-Conference performers were:

Boys (Team placed 5th)

- Wyatt Jans – 1600 M Champ
- Gavin Brown – 3200 M Champ
- Evan Lange-Wenker – 4X400 M relay Champ
- Brody Holicky – 4X400 M relay Champ
- Ethan Einertsen – 4X400 M relay Champ
- Gavin Atherton – 4X400 M relay Champ

Girls (Team Placed 6th)

- Addison Condon – Long Jump & 4X100 relay Champ
- Ashlyn Pelant – Shot Put Champ
- Ella Duenes – 4X100 relay Champ
- Madison Zimbrich – 4X100 relay Champ
- McKenna Schuster – 4X100 relay Champ

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- Summer School Age Care program will begin Monday, June 10 - August 23, 6:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and currently we have 50 registered to attend.
- Driver Education update:
 - The June classroom session will begin Monday June 3, with 12 currently enrolled.
 - Behind the Wheel will also begin Thursday May 30. 30 student drivers are currently scheduled for June, July & August.
- Currently the schedule has 10 spots open through August! 8 Students have completed BTW so far in 2024.
- Summer Activities are currently taking registrations and shape. Camps, Softball, T-Ball, babysitter training, etc.

WEM Board Member Reports

There were no Board Member reports.

WEM Board Committee Reports

There were no Board Committee reports.

WEM Superintendent John Regan presented the following:

- Superintendent Regan commented there were three candidates who will be interviewed for the WEM Middle School Principal position, asked about proceeding with the operating referendum vote, reminded the board of a May 21 meeting concerning the Morristown meeting to discuss the parking lot bid, and how he enjoyed the last few months and how fast it has gone by. There will also be a special meeting for May 28 to discuss the Morristown parking lot bid.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

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

207 Public hearings

408 Subpoena of a School District Employee

422 Policies Incorporated by Reference

505.5 School Resource Officers (new policy)

ACTION

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Schneider to approved the following policies. (See attachments

212 School Board Member Development

405 Veteran's Preference

515 Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records

529 Staff Notification of Violent Behavior by Students

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Rezac to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Minnesota Valley Action Council. See attachment.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approve the 2024-2025 resolution for membership in the Minnesota State High School League. See attachment.

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

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Michael to not move forward into Phase 2 with Nexus.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Stangler to approve football field, auditorium, and weight room projects in accordance with the voter approved bond. \$300,000 would be the limit for the football field, and \$250,000 for both the weight room and the auditorium. This motion failed by a 7-0 vote. An amendment also failed.

Motion by Rezac and second by Heuss to approve work for up to \$250,000 for the football field and the auditorium.

Six members voted in favor - Stangler voted against - motion declared carried.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Stangler to approve the bid for construction in the special education department. There were nine different companies approved under this project. See attachment.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Michael to approve July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024, Agreement with Principal, Bobbie Jo Bastian. Salary and Benefit Increase 3.99%, Inclusive of Following Contract Language Added to Address Night Supervision: Fall and winter season assigned supervision duties will be a part of administrative duties. Fall and winter season supervision duties will be paid at \$100.00 per high school event and \$50 per junior high school event This does not include parent/teacher conferences or music concerts. Principal Bastian 2023-24 \$101,555. See attachment.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approve July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025, Agreement with Principal, Jennifer Wilson. Salary and Benefit Increase 7.39% Year 1 and 1.63% Year 2, Inclusive of Following Contract Language Added to Address Night Supervision: Fall and winter season assigned supervision duties will be a part of administrative duties. Fall and winter season supervision duties will be paid at \$100.00 per high school event and \$50 per junior high school event This does not include parent/teacher conferences or music concerts. Principal Wilson 2023-24 \$102,300 and 2024-25 \$105,380. See attachment.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Stangler to approve the resolution to terminate and not renew the teaching contract of Matthew Thomforde, a probationary teacher.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Tolzman to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.
Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Gary Michael, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest