

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 27, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 27, 2026 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair June Rezac at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members June Rezac, Gary Michael, Jon Bakken, Jeff Stangler, Brenda Heuss, Troy Tolzman, Jay Schneider, Grace Bartz, and Jocelyn Brown, attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Superintendent Mark Winter, Principal Myles Knutson, and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

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

Motion by Michael and seconded by Heuss to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 23. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Two sets of financial transactions were approved after not receiving one during the March meeting.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the February 14 through March 23 Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,167,528.21, deposits were \$1,206,434.63, and transfers of \$650,000. Specific item discussed was a payment of \$20,842.45 to South Central Service Cooperative for asbestos abatement.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the March 18 through April 27 Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$1,114,142.09, deposits of \$1,202,840.20, and transfers of \$950,000.00.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

RECOGNITION

There were several monetary donations to the WEM Public School District. They included:

- The Waterville Lions Club donated \$675 to Travis' Trades Scholarship.
- The Waterville Lions Club donated \$2,553 to the high school choir.
- The Waterville Lions Club donated \$2,000 to the Night of Excellence Program.
- American Legion Auxiliary #149 donated \$25 to the high school.
- South Central Service Cooperative donated \$441.96 to the high school counselor.
- American Legion Post #311 donated \$5,000 to the high school science department.
- Pam Baker donated \$1,000 to the high school choir.
- The Cannon Valley Players donated \$700 to the high school CTE.
- South Central Service Cooperative donated \$206.46 to the junior high.
- Southern Lakes Angling and Spearing Association donated \$350 to junior high science.
- WEM Buccaneers Football Boosters donated \$1,000 to facilities.
- WEM Bucketees donated \$683 to the boys basketball student activity.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approve the donations. Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

PRESENTATION

WEM Choir Director Sean Benz and two WEM students, Jerimy Bohlman-Little and Sophia Culhane gave a presentation on the April band and choir trip to Washington D.C.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve the following new hire.

- Crystal Lamont, Activities/Community Education Director - \$99,000.

Approve the 5-year leave of absence from teaching position for crystal Lamont, effective July 1, 2026.

Approve the following resignation.

- Max Schieffer, Morristown custodian, effective May 29, 2026.

Approve the following 2025-2026 spring coaches.

- Krystal Quamme, assistant flag football coach - \$1,000.
- Amy Mathis, assistant flag football coach - \$1,000.

Approve the following Community Ed/SACC hire.

- Emily Ungaro, student helper - \$11.54/hour.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Tolzman to approve Jon Bakken the head coach of the girls flag football team.

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

REPORTS

WEM Junior High/Elementary Principal Myles Knutson gave an in person presentation.

WEM Senior High Principal Brandon Tagg submitted the following report:

Well, we are smack in the middle of our last quarter, with graduation looming in the distance. It has been a good start to the quarter with students fending off the weather and trying to get “locked in” to their classes this last quarter of the year. We started off our month with a nice 4-day weekend over the Easter holiday. I hope all enjoyed their time off as we looked forward to any aspects of Spring....it will come soon, right?

The musical “Footloose” was a great success! The cast/crew did a wonderful job of presenting the play about how to get a dance in a small town (sound familiar?). The students gave a great performance, including some tough moments on Sunday when the power decided to go out. Maybe it was a way for the town preacher in the story to stop the idea of the dance and make sure the show didn’t go on. But after our fantastic custodial staff showed up, all was fixed and, literally, the show went back on. Great job by all!

MCA testing has ramped up at the high school this past month. Science led us off on April 14th/15th. Math took over the reins on April 21st/22nd, and we will finish with English this week on April 28th/29th. Students have done a good job of having their chromebooks charged, pencils sharpened, and minds ready to test. Seems like we had no issues to list and the hope is that scores will be high.

Registration was completed at the end of March and I have been taking the last few weeks to put the schedule together. It has had some ups and downs, as usual, with one day you think you are close and the next day you figure out how something won't work in that space. We should have something working by May with all eyes on getting schedules to students in August, so they are ready to start another school year. We are excited about what we are offering and looking forward to next year's classes.

Spring sports are off and running, with games/meets practically every other day. We have had some success and are still working on progressing as teams to make sure we meet the goals we have created for the year. That being said, the weather has not been kind to us so far, but with the sun coming out more, we hope that our season starts to flourish like the flowers/plants start to bloom. We can only have hope.

Our arts department has had some success as well lately. Art students presented their work at a show at TCU and we had three students that scored a high grade to move on to state. All students' work was wonderful with a lot of great scores given to their showing. The speech team had some qualifiers for the state tournament as well. We are showing that we can have success in all aspects of school, and that is something to be proud of.

Before you know it, graduation will be here and another end to a great school year. We will update you about all of that in the coming weeks.

Brandon Tagg

WEM High School Principal

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran submitted the following reports:
ACTIVITIES

CONGRATULATIONS to the WEM Speech team members on qualifying & participating in the State Tournament (Friday April 24, 2026 at Park Center H.S. in Brooklyn Center. Abby Crosby (12) qualified in "Discussion". Kayla Bronk (12) qualified in "Extemporaneous Reading" and Lacey Reysack (10) qualified in "Drama". This is each of the girl's 1st trip to the state tournament!

CONGRATULATIONS to WEM Visual Arts participants: The Region 2A Visual Arts Event was held at Tri-City United (TCU) High School on April 8, 2026.

Superior Medals and Certificates:

Madison Wilker, Ceramics *Spotlight* STATE bound!

Gage Bliss, Video Art *Spotlight* STATE bound!

Alix Velzke, Graphic Design *Spotlight* STATE bound!

Jaelyn Wilmes, Ceramics

Morgan Flohaug, Drawing, Painting

Sophia Harvey, Drawing

Patrick Bauer, Sculpture

Abby Crosby, Sculpture

Gunner Still, Sculpture

Madison Wilker, Sculpture

Simon Lohry, Drawing,
Grace Norton, Ceramics
Excellence Certificates:
Sophia Harvey, Painting
Shelby Christianson, Painting
Dominic Ungaro, Painting
Jackson Dahl, Graphic Design
Cora Shaw, Graphic Design

A special Congratulations to Madison Wilker, Gage Bliss and Alix Velzke who were selected to participate in the State Visual Arts Festival on May 9 at Wayzata H.S..

2026 Spring Activities, Baseball, Softball Track & Field, Clay Targets and Girls Flag Football are all currently in the midst of the regular season.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Registrations are open for Summer 2026 swimming lessons, camps, youth sports, behind the wheel training, driver education classroom, summer school age childcare, etc. are on-line for registration or will be very soon when all arrangements have been made.

Little Bucs Preschool is registration is open with spots still available! 34 students currently registered for 2026-2027.

WEM Board Committee Reports

There were no Board Committee reports.

WEM Board Member Reports

There were no Board Member reports.

WEM Superintendent Mark Winter presented the following:

- Superintendent Winter spoke about the following items: many things to look forward to in May, concert season is upon us, FFA Banquet is May 6, Night of Excellence is May 20, and graduation is May 22, contracts are being finished up, MCA testing has been taking place the last four weeks, Phase 2 construction has begun in the basement, asbestos will be removed in the middle of May, moving from Morristown School to Waterville location will be completed during the last two days of school, and a Morristown Farewell has been announced.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

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

413 Harassment and Violence.
416 Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis Testing
513 Student Promotion, Retention, and program Design
523 Policies Incorporated by Reference.

ACTION

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to approve the following policies:

404 Employment Background Checks
405 Veteran's Preference
410 Family and Medical leave
508 Extended School Year for Certain Students with Individualized Education Programs

504 Student Dress and Appearance

Motion to Heuss and seconded by Michael to amend the current motion and take out the 504 policy.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to table to motion until the June meeting. Seven members voted in favor, motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Heuss to approve the motion to rescind Policy 604A Inclusive Education program (2012)

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Bakken to approve the 2025 Pay Equity Report (WEM is in compliance) - see attachment.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael seconded by Bakken to approve July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027 Master Agreement.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approve the Concurrent Enrollment/Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) Program information and student/parent agreement.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Stangler to approve July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027 Custodial Agreement.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Schneider to approve the 2025-2026 Community Education/Activities Director contract.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. p.m.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

June Rezac, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest