

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, June 22, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, June 22, 2026 at the Waterville Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair June Rezac at 6:32 p.m.

Board Members June Rezac, Gary Michael (arrived at 6:40 p.m.), Jeff Stangler, Brenda Heuss, Troy Tolzman, Jay Schneider, and Grace Bartz attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Superintendent Mark Winter and and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

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

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Heuss to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 18. Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Schneider to approve the May 9 through June 12 Financial Report. The bills and payroll from the report were \$3,367,558.05, deposits were \$3,574,672.97, and transfers of \$1,200,000. Specific item discussed were a payment of \$20,000 to Jade Axis Solutions for payroll services contract, a payment of \$1,200 to Bellissimo Pant and Coating, LCC for Cultural Art Projects, and many payments associated with the Indoor Air Quality Project.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

RECOGNITION

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

- Elysian Area Foundation donated \$2,000 to the Elysian Area Foundation Scholarship.
- iWealth donated \$1,000 to the iWealth Scholarship.
- Deb Kuball donated \$500 to the Bob Kuball Scholarship.
- James and Barbara Roemhildt donated \$2,000 to the Jill Roemhildt Scholarship.
- American Red Cross donated \$3,500 to the Red Cross Scholarship.
- Shaw donated \$100 to the High School Choir.
- Class of 2026 donated \$662.05 to the High School FACS.
- Partners in Education donated \$2,000 to the Junior High.
- Anna and Terry Meschke donated \$100 to the Junior High PBIS (Student Activity).

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Schneider to approve the donations. Six members voted in favor - by roll call vote - motion declared passed.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve the Following Resignations:

- Myles Knutson, PreK-8 Principal, effective June 30, 2026
- Heather Suemnick, Bus Driver, effective May 27, 2026.
- Dylan Long, Day Custodian in Morristown, effective June 1, 2026

Approve the Following 2026-2027 Coach:

- Pam Heinz, 2nd Assistant Volleyball Coach - \$3,523.

Approve Robynn Schwichtenberg, Community Education Summer 8U Softball Coach - \$20/Student Registered, \$320.

Approve the Following Lane Change:

- Heather Snesrud, BS40 to BS50/MS effective September 15, 2026.

Approve the Following New Hires:

- Bennett McCollow, Physical Education Teacher - BS/Step 1A, \$42,157.
- Sarah Ertl, PreK-5 Principal - \$108,000.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

REPORTS

WEM Junior High/Elementary Principal Myles Knutson submitted the following report:

Greetings School Board Members,

Greetings School Board Members,

Here are a few updates from the Middle and Elementary Schools:

- Color and Fun Run Celebration: WEM Pie put on a great color run for the middle schoolers and fun run for the elementary students on the last day of school. It was a fantastic way to celebrate the hard work put into fundraising and also the school year as a whole. Seeing the students running around with each other having fun one last time is something that we will all remember! Thank you WEM Pie for bringing back a fundraiser this year and being so involved with our schools!

- Moving Day: Hats off to all the teachers for executing the plan and getting Morristown moved over to Waterville. The elementary staff had a lot of moving to do in Waterville as well, so it was a very busy last few days without students. It was a lot of work and it took teamwork to make this all happen in a day and a half. There is still plenty to do over in Waterville so we will dedicate time during workshop week so teachers have some time in their classroom to unpack and set up their rooms.

- PBIS Celebrations: PBIS teams at both sites ended the year with all school assemblies to celebrate once again the hard work and positive behavior our students put on display during the month of May. At the middle school the students won the last teacher vs. staff competition which solidified them as the year long champions of our student vs. staff competitions. Both schools worked really hard to implement things this year to recognize positive behavior and we look forward to seeing if we will earn Exemplar status at both sites again for this past school year. Way to go students and staff for staying positive and dedicated to making our schools a fun, safe place to learn!

Thank you,

Myles Knutson

WEM Senior High Principal Brandon Tagg submitted the following report:

9-12 May Board Minutes

Summer has arrived and the hallways are very quiet (of children's voices, not all the construction banging).

That being said, we have some things to update you on from the last month of school. FFA had their annual banquet where students were given the awards they attained over the school year. They honored me with their Chapter Degree, which sits on my back wall for all to see. It was a wonderful surprise and so happy to have been honored like that.

A Night of Excellence was all that and more. We had a wonderful meal of a turkey dinner prepared for us by the kitchen staff with drinks and desserts to follow. All families seemed to be enjoying the evening as we celebrated this senior class. We gave awards and scholarships to a lot of students that night that totaled \$1,260,000 (1.2 of that from Frandsen Bank & Trust alone). Some wonderful local places chipped in as well. Other awards from various art/music & community were also given out and graduation cords of all types to prepare the seniors for their big event two days later.

Graduation was a wonderful success (when we finally realized the microphone was turned off after practice that morning). 67 seniors walked the stage and received their diplomas and entered the real world as young adults. This class was a great class to start my principalship with as they were a group of students who cared about WEM from every standpoint. I hope the next groups come in and pick up where they left off and enjoy all the greatness that WEM has to offer.

The sports season didn't end the way we hoped for all participants, but we did send 5 track students to state. We had multiple students place in their events with some relay teams doing well also. Baseball/Softball teams ended their season in the first round or so of the playoffs, but some hope for the future as we have the start of some great teams coming back next year.

As a school community, we took the last two days of our school year to pack up, move and welcome the teachers from the middle school over. There is a lot of excitement about coming together as we hope to continue to grow as an educational community and combine the energy of being a full K-12 building. A lot of stuff is in the hallways, but as the construction crews leave us, we will begin to put things away. Now the halls are empty of students and we work on schedules for next year and other things we want to adapt for the Fall of 2026. We are excited about our new group of 9th graders coming in and will send the Class of 2027 out with a bang! The next time you will get my notes, it will be as the new 6-12 principal!

Brandon Tagg

WEM High School Principal

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran submitted the following reports:

ACTIVITIES

Spring Activities

All-Conference Spring Athletes:

Baseball – Senior Jacob Androli was named to the Gopher Conference All-Conference Team for the 2nd straight year, and Senior Andrew Krenik was named Honorable Mention, and senior Noah Lanham was awarded the Gopher Conference Sportsmanship winner. The Bucs showed some improvement getting 7 wins on the season.

Softball – Senior Robynn Schwichtenberg and Junior Alix Velzke were selected to the Gopher Conference All-Conference team. 8th grader Kalyn Novak was named to the Honorable Mention Team and senior Miley Roemhildt was WEM's Sportsmanship winner. The Girls Team was named a Gold Academic All-State Award for a team GPA of 3.879! Seniors Liza Baker and Miley Roemhildt were All-State and Robynn Schwichtenberg was named to the Class A Senior All-Star Team!

Girls Track - Congratulations to senior Addison Condon on qualifying for the State Class A Track meet in the Long Jump (placed 13th) along with running the final leg of the 4X100 m relay which placed 5th in Class A! Congratulations to 8th grader Rachel Mielke. She qualified in the 300 meter hurdles and placed 7th! Rachel was also a member of the 4X200 meter Relay and the 4X400 meter Relay Teams. In both the races the girls were Class A Runners Up earning silver medals! That's 3 medals in one trip for Rachel! Congratulations Addison and Rachel! Addison and Rachel were also named Gopher Conference All-Conference members and Addison Condon was selected the Gopher Conference 2026 "Trackster of the Year". (For the 2nd consecutive year) and senior Alenka Jans was the JWP/WEM Sportsmanship winner.

Boys Track – Congratulations to junior Gavin Atherton on qualifying for and medaling (for the 2nd consecutive year) in the Class A State Track meet in the 200 m dash and 400 m dash. In the 200 m race Gavin placed 7th. In the 400 Gavin finished in 2nd place. Also congratulations to junior Grady Grohman

on placing 9th in the Class A State Track meet in the shot put, getting on the medal podium to finish out his HS career! Junior Wyatt Jans was a member of the state qualifying 4X400 meter relay team. For the JWP/WEM team Juniors Wyatt Jans and Trey Richards were Gopher Conference All-Conference performers and Sophomore Cole Bartz and junior Aiden Gruber were Honorable Mention All-Conference.

Girls Flag Football – The second year program had 25 participants and competed in Varsity and Junior Varsity. The varsity finished the regular season in 2nd place in their conference behind NRHEG. In the District (2 conferences combined) Playoffs the girls knocked off Fit Academy, Farmington and WEM rival NRHEG (26-25) in the Championship game to qualify for the State Tournament! The Girls played a state tournament game against Centennial HS on Monday June 8th at TCO Stadium, the MN Vikings Practice Facility! All-Conference Players were Paetyn Judd, Kalyn Novak and Robyn Schwichtenberg. Honorable Mention All-Conference were Brooklyn Novak, Alix Velzke, Bre Masso, Paetyn Judd. WEM Bucs on the All-District Team were Kalyn Novak, Alenka Jans, Robynn Schwichtenberg and Paetyn Judd.

Clay Target –We had 72 shooters this spring. 70 shooting trap and 12 shot skeet (with 10 shooting both). At The Skeet tournament in Prior Lake, Clare Landrum placed 3rd in the JV division and Victoria Bruns place 2nd in the novice division. The Alexandria shoot takes place at the end of June. More information and season results in July.

Community Ed

55 kids are registered for 2026 Summer SACC. 6:30 am – 5:30 pm

Driver Education - The June classroom session ended Friday June 12. Twenty seven (27) students completed the classroom session (50 for the 2025-2026 school year). Currently a session will be held in Oct. /Nov. 2026 (TBD). For BTW, 15 students have completed BTW training with another 17 registered to complete BTW training for 2026. More too may be completed as time allows in the fall.

July swimming lessons have 48 kids registered. Lessons begin July 13 in LeCenter

The Volleyball camp has 65 students currently registered to participate with the elementary camp July 27-30 and the JH/HS camp July 13-16.

Buccaneer FB camps have seen 18 student participants to date.

Summer Softball Grades 1-12 have 87 girls participating.

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: Phase 2 updates with most of demolition finished this week and the timeline and budget are on schedule, officially on one-site with Morristown being 95 percent cleared out, presented a permanent school fund handout, recognized Jeff Boran and myles Knutson for their time at with the school district, and named Sarah Ertl new WEM Elementary principal.

Board Chairperson June Rezac reminded board members filing for board positions is July 14 through July 26 and talked with Terry Morrow of the MSBA about policy updates, including No. 208.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

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

425 Staff Development and Mentoring

426 Substitute Teacher Compensation

427 Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers
501 School Weapons

There was discussion regarding Health Office coverage. There was talks about adding a secretary in this office. Jamie Reuvers said she saw 472 students on 19 days.

ACTION

Motion by Rezac and seconded by Stangler to approve the following policies - see attachments:

418 Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School

419 Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction.

420 Students and Employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases and Certain Other Communicable Diseases and Infectious Conditions.

515 Protection and privacy of Pupil Records

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Michael to rescind Policy 428 Employee Use of Social Media (Adopted in 2014). This is covered under policy 524 Internet, Technology, and Cell Phone Acceptable Use and Safety Policy.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Michael to approve the following contracts:

- Approve July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 Principal Myles Knutson Contract.
- Approve July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027 Principal Brandon Tagg Contract.
- Approve July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027 Business Manager Margaret Jewison Contract.
- Approve July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027 Transportation Supervisor and Heavy Duty Mechanic Tauston Lamont Contract.
- Approve July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027 Food Service Director Anna Meschke Contract.
- Approve July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027 Building and Grounds Supervisor River Henry Contract.
- Approve July 1, 2025 - June 2027 Superintendent's Administrative Assistant Cath Hermel Contract.

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Tolzman to approve the Education Identity and Access Management Resolution to designate Mark Winter, Superintendent, as Designated Identified Official with Authority for Education Identity Access Management (IOwA).

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

Motion by Michael and seconded by Tolzmna to approve the 2026-2027 MREA (Minnesota Rural Education Association) Membership - \$1,840. See attachment

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion Michael and seconded by Schneider to approve the Resolution Adopting the School District's Fiscal Year 10 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Ten-Year Plan. See attachment

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Michael to approve the 2026-2027 Preliminary Budget. See attachment

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Stangler to approve the Memo of Understanding Between ISD

#2143 and Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Education Association Local #7281 Union. See attachment
Six members voting in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.
Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

June Rezac, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest