

W-E-M BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 23, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

The WEM Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 23, 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 (arrived at 6:50 p.m.), Jay Schneider, and Grace Bartz, attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Superintendent Mark Winter and Business Manager Margaret Jewison.

Motion by Stangler and seconded by Heuss to approve the agenda with one addition (closed session for contract negotiations). Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Five members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Michael and seconded by Heuss to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from February, 2026 and the Special Meeting from March 10. Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

There was no financial transactions this month.

RECOGNITION

There were no monetary gifts and/or donations received this month.

VISITOR COMMENTS

There were no visitor comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Approve the following new hire.

- Kristine Short, long-term substitute high school special education teacher.

Approve the following resignation.

- Harold Nielsen, 1st assistant track and field coach, effective March 4, 2026.

Approve the following Community Ed/Summer SACC Hires:

Raelyn Eich - \$11.54/hour

Isabelle Bauer - \$11.54/hour

Approve the request for Family Medical leave of Absence for Haley Bleess, Health and Physical Education Teacher, beginning on August 31, 2026 through November 23, 2026.

Approve the following request to change full-time custodian hours to part-time hours effective June 1, 2026. Terry Whitaker, custodian, requested to have his hours changed from full-time to part-time.

Approve Family Medical Leave of Absence request from Carrie Brown, High School Special Education teacher, beginning March 19, 2026 and continuing through May 29, 2026. She is expected to return to work in the fall of 2026.

Approve the following 2025-2026 Spring Coaches:

Softball

Kelsey Bauer, 2nd Assistant - \$3,420

Trista Hering, Volunteer

Baseball

Brody Holicky, Junior High Coach - \$2,575

Blayden Bartelt, 2nd Assistant - \$3,420

Cameron Jensen - Volunteer

Bill John - Volunteer

Boys/Girls Track and Field

Cory Immerman, 1st Assistant - \$4,283

Kari Roth - Volunteer

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

REPORTS

WEM Senior High Principal Brandon Tagg submitted the following reports:

9-12 February Board Minutes

Well, we have finished our 3rd quarter by the time you are reading these notes. With conferences just a few weeks ago, we have been able to limit the number of F's per student down to a manageable set. With that, we begin our final quarter starting today gearing us towards Awards Night and Graduation.

Our Junior class went on a Career day March 12th and we had a great session. This field trip allowed students to sign up for careers/occupations they would hope to pursue. Students came back with great information and college possibilities for them to look further into. It was a successful trip on many levels.

The Band/Choir trip will start on March 25th to Washington D.C. They have a great trip planned with seeing many sites and also performing a multitude of times. Overall, we are hoping their experience will be an educational one and also with a bit of fun too.

Our Sophomore class will be attending the JA Finance Park event at Gustaphus Adolphus Campus in St. Peter on March 31st. We will be working with them learning about finances and how to handle all the money pieces that life throws at you. This is a precursor to our Careers class coming next Fall, with hopes of using this curriculum in some capacity for Personal Finance as well.

Our winter sports ended with some students attending the state wrestling tournament, but our success ended on the last few days in February. Both girls and boys basketball teams lost their playoff games, ending a season of ups and downs. As spring arises, new sports are starting up soon. Baseball/Softball starting practices on March 9th and our track team is co-oping with JWP and using their new track area for both teams combined. We look forward to seeing some success come from all these teams in the future. And not to be forgotten, Trap team will be starting up soon as well.

We offered the Junior Class the opportunity to take the ACT test at WEM on March 20th. We had 19 students sign up for the exam with prep classes happening the three weeks prior. Mr. Gerst hosted students in his room every morning from March 2nd-6th at 7:00 a.m. for English prep. Mr. Petry hosted math prep at the same time from March 8th-13th. Mr. Richards did Science prep from March 15th-19th at the same time. We hope these extra sessions will assist our students in doing their best on the ACT test.

April is right around the corner with a break coming up for staff/students. The year has gone by fast, but what a wonderful year it has been.

Brandon Tagg

WEM High School Principal

WEM Activities Director Jeff Boran submitted the following reports:

ACTIVITIES

Winter – Congratulations to the following Winter Activities All-Conference Individual Honors:
Boys Basketball – Talen Taylor (12) - All-Conference 1st Team
Cole Bartz (10) - All-Conference 2nd Team
Carter Berg (12) - Sportsmanship Award
Girls Basketball – Addison Condon (12)–All-Conference,
Kaitlyn LaFrance (12) –Conference Honorable Mention
Alenka Jans (12) – Sportsmanship Award
Wrestling – Brady Murphy (12), Kavan Sheehy (11), Bri'Ana Masso (11) & Kayle Langford (12) - All-Conference
Brenden Masso (9) & Anaelyse Skidmore (8) – Conference Honorable Mention
Trenton Huber (11) & Peyton Miller (9) - Sportsmanship Awards

CONGRATULATIONS :

State wrestling state qualifiers were Brady Murphy (139#), Trenton Huber (189#), Aiden Gruber (152#), Kavan Sheehy (215#) & Kayle Langford (136#) – first WEM/JWP girl qualifier!
Band & Choir (MSHSL Section Large Group Choir Contest. The WEM Choir received a Superior Rating! The band participated Wednesday March 18.
Spring – Practices got started the past two weeks:
Bulldog Boys Track: Currently 22 Participants 7th – 12th.
Bulldog Girls Track: Currently 15 Participants 7th -12th.
Both Boys & Girls first event was April 21 at MSU
Softball – Currently 21 girls V & JV teams and 16 – JH team.
First Games: HS & JH – April 3 home at Hayfield
Baseball – Currently 27 boys registered V & JV teams and 22 7th & 8th Grade teams.
First Games: HS & JH – April 2 (JH) & 3(V/JV) vs. JWP
Clay Target Team – 64 participants. (currently)
Girl's Flag Football – 15 participants (currently)

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Driver Education Classroom June 1-12 has 7 students currently registered.
Summer Activities Baseball, Softball, Swimming Lessons, Camps and other spring activities are currently being organized.
Summer Behind the Wheel scheduling is available for students to register for sessions (3 days 2hrs. each day)
2026 Summer School Age Childcare registration is up and running. 2026-2027 SACC Registrations will soon be available.
2026-2027 Preschool Registrations has begun. Approximately 80% of expected registration to this point.
With that said not a great amount of need to Wrap Around Care for Preschool students. This is up in the air.

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: band and choir trip (wishing them well), middle school career day, MAASAS Conference attended, high school starting registration, Legislative session not looking great right now, dress code and cell phone policies, the musical Footloose is this

weekend, and the district is entering testing season.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

There was some discussion on student dress and appearance policies. There was no change to the policies at this time - the board did look at a quick poll which was completed by school staff. The majority of them said hats should only be worn on special occasions.

The board had the first readings of the following policies (See attachments):
404 Employment Background Checks
405 Veteran's Preference
410 Family and Medical Leave
508 Extended School Year for Certain Students with Individualized Programs

ACTION

Motion by Michael and seconded by Tolzman to approve the following policies:
205 Open Meetings and Closed Meetings
207 Public Hearings
401 Equal Employment Opportunity
714 Fund Balances
Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Michael to approve the resolution reducing and discontinuing educational programs and position.

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

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to approve the resolution nonrenewing a probationary teacher (due to budgetary reasons).

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

Motion by Bakken and seconded by Michael to approve the closing of the meeting to discuss negotiations.

Seven members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Tolzman to re-open the meeting after the closed session.

Seven member voted in favor - motion declared passed.

Motion by Schneider and seconded by Stangler to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. p.m.

Six members voted in favor - motion declared passed.

June Rezac, Attest

Jay Schneider, Attest