

- I. The regular meeting of the Watertown-Mayer School Board in the Watertown City Hall on Monday, May 19, 2025 was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Hunter Feldt. Board members present: Feldt, Burns, Danielson, Schulz, Guetzkow, Neaton, and Onell. Board members absent: None. Administrative team members present: Superintendent Schuler, HS Principal Hennen, MS Principal Guertin, ES Principal O'Connell, SPED Director Peyton, CE Director Dimmler, Director of Teaching & Learning Vieau, and Activities Director Szymanski. Absent:None.

Public Comments: No public comments at this time.

- II. **Visitor requests and consideration of the agenda.** MMS (Motion made and Seconded by) Burns and Schulz to amend the agenda by eliminating 'A' under the Review/Information Items as Dr. Jeff Horton was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Passes 7-0. MMS Neaton and Schulz to approve the amended agenda. Passes 7-0.

III. **Consent Agenda**

MMS Burns and Guetzkow to approve the following consent agenda items: Regular Board Meeting minutes of April 28, 2025; Personnel Consent Agenda; and Business Consent Agenda. Passes 7-0.

IV. **Recognitions/ Presentations/ Showcase:**

ES Principal Katie O'Connell thanked ES teacher Lori Otterson (unable to attend) for her 24 years of service to our WMES students and congratulated her on her retirement.

Elementary and Middle School Student Council representatives presented a recap of their activities throughout the year. Questions were asked and answered.

State Participation Recognitions were introduced by Activities Director, Paul Szymanski. Those recognized were state participants for Speech and Robotics. Speech coach, Amy Mandt, was recognized for being named Section 4A Speech Coach of the Year, and Robotics coach, Nick DeNomme was recognized for being named Section 5 Robotics Coach of the Year.

V. **Action Items -**

- A. MMS Feldt and Danielson to approve Resolution 25.22 to accept donations, contributions, & fundraising received in the month of May. Passes 7-0.
- B. MMS Schulz and Burns to approve the first and only read of Policies 808, 808F, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, and 1027. Passes 7-0.
- C. MMS Burns and Guetzkow to approve the first of two reads of Policies 899 and 1001. Passes 7-0.
- D. MMS Feldt and Danielson to approve both the Childcare and Early Childhood Parent/Student Handbooks for the 2025-2026 school year. Passes 7-0.

VI. **Review/ Information Items:**

- A. Mr. Schuler gave the board his strategic plan update, highlighting his rounding sessions with those who took him up on his offer to discuss the district. The goal of these rounding sessions were not only to help build relationships, but gather feedback and ensure that things are aligning with the district's strategic plan goals. Superintendent Schuler shared themes between all his sessions including not only strengths, but areas of improvement. Mr. Schuler noted that over 65 staff members were recognized

for being helpful or someone who makes a difference in the district, and he emailed each identified for their recognition. Superintendent Schuler added that the annual survey to both families and staff will be going out shortly and will close on May 30th.

- B. Superintendent Schuler then gave an update as to the progress of filling the Director of Business Operations position opening as a result of Lisa Raiter's retirement. He reported that, although they had several great candidates, none had school finance experience. Mr. Schuler reported that he and the personnel committee have talked to other districts and have found that mentoring this position can take about 3 years. They have also explored districts who have decided to outsource this position with companies that specialize in school finance, however, these entities have several schools they work with and are not housed at the school. Superintendent Schuler hopes to have a decision as to the direction they want to pursue within the next week.

VII. Administrative Reports

HS Principal Hennen reported the recent activity of our upcoming graduates. Graduation practice and the Elementary school walkthrough were successfully completed and is a highlight to graduates. Mr. Hennen noted that the annual Senior Awards night was a great success and that all 63 seniors who applied for scholarships through WMEF were awarded something. Over \$90,000 of scholarship money was awarded. Principal Hennen reminded everyone of graduation on Friday, May 23rd and that they have had 11 applicants for the open HS Administrative Assistant position.

MS Principal Guertin gave a report of the many fun events and recognitions that have been happening over the last 2 weeks including the Student Council Pennies for Patients drive where their success in raising money resulted in being doused with ketchup, mustard, and relish all while wearing a hot dog costume! Other events happening these last 2 weeks include the last Royal assembly for student recognitions and the 8th grade celebration sponsored by the WMMS PTO. Mr. Guertin also reported that he is continuing to work on the schedule for next year and is in the process of gathering applications for long-term subs for 2 teachers.

ES Principal O'Connell reported that at the time of the meeting, there were 74 Kindergartners registered for next fall. She reported on their most recent FAST Bridge data which showed great growth and improvement. Principal O'Connell was pleased to report on the annual Strides for Students event that happened on May 3rd sponsored by the WMES PTO where the students raised \$34,000! This is the 3rd year in a row where the students have broken their previous fundraising records! As a result, she and other volunteer staff were slimed in front of the entire student body. Ms. O'Connell reminded the board of their next celebrating family event where they will be officially unveiling their new cooperative mural, and they are

looking forward to their Ninja Anywhere field day event on May 28th sponsored by the WMES PTO.

CE Dimmler reported that she has been busy implementing a restructuring plan at the CLC to help serve families and students better. They are adding a 3 year old licensed space to help increase the infant and toddler spaces. Ms. Dimmler has hired a full time Early Childhood Coordinator to support pre-K and ECFE programming and she is actively looking to find additional qualified staff to help in expanding their childcare. CE Dimmler reported that enrollment for summer programming is going great and that the fall catalog is almost ready to go. She invited the board to be a part of their kick off to summer event on May 21st hosted not only by ECAC, but also the Watertown Lions club. The board thanked Amy for her 4 years of service in her position as the CE Director and wished her well in her endeavor.

SPED Director Peyton gave a recap of the year noting that SPED teacher swept the LEEA (Teacher of the Year Award) this year, that early childhood doubled their evaluations from last year, and staff completed 102 evaluations including 46 1st time evaluations. Ms. Peyton noted that they have hired a school psychologist for next year who also has previous MTSS experience and that they are fully staffed and looking forward to ESY this summer starting in July. Also noted was the addition of a Unified program at the middle school and joining with the HS Unified group for the first time for Unified Soccer Day hosted at the HS stadium.

Activities Director Szymanski stated that spring sports are wrapping up and that they recently gathered 28 Royal Triple Crown and 36 Royal High Five students for a picture to be added to the displays outside the competition gym. Mr. Szymanski stated that the football schedule is almost complete, but that, at this time, homecoming is slated for the week of September 29th. He reported that there will be no changes for section assignments this year, MSHSL officially approved 9th grade to be included in the grades for competition, but that this has been so predominant, we will likely not notice any change. Mr. Szymanski noted that August 11, 2025 is the official start date for fall sports for next year.

Superintendent Schuler reported a new annual tradition at WM to elect and nominate for the Royal Champion of Education Awards. These awards are to be given out at the end of the year luncheon hosted by Ed Minnesota. There are 3 categories: Non-school individual, Non-school group or business, and a Royal Pride award for a staff member. This year, Russ Runck was nominated and selected for the Royal Champion of Education (individual) Award, Jim May/ Marketplace Foods for the Royal Champion of Education (non-school group or business) Award, and Janine Knutson for the Royal Pride award. All nominated were well-deserving!

VIII. Board Member Reports

Clerk Danielson gave verbal updates regarding the District Advisory Committee,

Policy Committee, & Marketing and Communications Committee; Director Guetzkow reported on the Personnel Committee and WMEF Board; Treasurer Schulz reported on the SW Metro Intermediate Board, and Chair Feldt reported on the Facilities Committee and his continued role as part of the MSBA board.

IX. Adjournment

MMS Danielson and Neaton to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM and was duly passed.

Chair

Clerk

06.23.2025
Date