

West Central Education District

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 13, 2025

6:30pm; WCED Offices Room 6

Board member Quarfot called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Board members Quarfot and Pearson were present along with Superintendent Okerlund. Superintendents Peschel, Winter, and Bullard and board member Dirkes were present virtually. Melrose does not yet have a representative on the board. In their board member's absence, Supt Winter voted on their behalf. Director Hoffman, Supervisor Fevig, and Business Manager Evenson were also present. Voting on actionable items was done via roll call since a board member was virtual.

Dirkes made a motion and Pearson seconded approval of the agenda. Motion carried unopposed.

Following the approval of the agenda, the organization of the board was discussed. Pearson nominated Quarfot for the position of board chair. No other nominations were made. Pearson made the motion to approve and Dirkes seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Jerald Quarfot (Paynesville) was elected as the 2025 WCED Board Chair.

The election of the vice chair was next. Quarfot nominated Dirkes. No other nominations were made. Quarfot made the motion to approve and Pearson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dean Dirkes (Albany) was elected as the 2025 WCED Board Vice-Chair.

The third officer position of Clerk was next. Quarfot nominated Pearson. No other nominations were made. Quarfot made a motion to approve and Winter seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Scott Pearson (Sauk Centre) was elected as the 2025 WCED Board Clerk.

The board adopts an official newspaper for WCED. Dirkes made a motion to continue with the Star Post as the official newspaper. Winter seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

The board adopts an official bank for WCED. Pearson made a motion to continue with MN National Bank in Sauk Centre as the official bank. Dirkes seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The board approves the legal counsel for WCED. Winter made a motion to continue with Squires, Waldspurger, & Mace, P.A. as WCED's legal counsel. Dirkes seconded. Discussion ensued with Winter asking Director Hoffman if the firm was meeting the needs at WCED. Director Hoffman said that they are. Motion carried unopposed.

The board approves WCED's memberships with professional organizations. WCED is a member of Minnesota Rural Educators Association (MREA). Dirkes made a motion to continue this membership. Winter seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

The final item of the organizational meeting was to set dates for the 2025 WCED Board Meetings. Meetings are set for March 18, May 12, July 14, September 8, and November 10, 2025. All meetings will be in Room 6 at the WCED in Melrose. Winter made a motion to approve. Dirkes seconded. Motion carried unopposed.

Following a review of consent agenda items, Dirkes moved, Pearson seconded approval of the November 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes, Treasurers' Report, Budget to Actual Comparison, Donations, and Personnel Items. Motion carried unopposed.

Under New Business, Policy 522 was presented for first reading.

Under New Business, the WCEDEA Seniority List was presented. Winter made a motion to approve. Pearson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Under New Business, the WCED E-Learning Plan (updated to include all programs) was presented. Dirkes made a motion to approve. Winter seconded the motion. Motion carried unopposed.

Under Old Business, policies 541 and 903 were presented for second read. Dirkes moved, Winter seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Under reports, Director Hoffman shared updates on the open positions, new hires, and current projects. Supervisor Fevig shared updates on SAIL, Birth-3 programming, and member district work. Director Hoffman shared the current enrollment.

The next meeting date and time was established. It will be Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the WCED offices in Room 6.

Quarfat adjourned the meeting at 7:01 pm; motion by Dirkes, second by Pearson; motion carried unopposed.


Clerk BOARD CHAIR

3-18-25
Date