

**Board of Education  
Worth School District 127**

Dr. Rosemary Lucas Administrative Center, Conference Room  
11218 South Ridgeland Avenue  
Worth, Illinois 60482

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2017**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Drew Sernus, Rebecca Roti, Dave Blanks, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Bernadette Strama, Meghan Sisk  
(arrived at 7:54 p.m.)

**Administrators:** Dr. Rita Wojtylewski, Superintendent  
Tim Hathhorn, Worth Elementary Principal  
Joe Zampillo, Worth Junior High Principal  
Sinéad Chambers, Special Education Director  
Cindy Dykas, Business Manager/CSBO  
Linda Esposito, Worthwoods Principal  
Maureen Eichstaedt, Worth Junior High Assistant Principal

**Others Present:** Scott Tamkus, Director of Facilities and Grounds  
Lisa Bray, Worth Junior High  
Jo Anne Albrecht, WEA  
Tom Melody, Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins  
Mike Spolar, Village of Worth/Robinson Engineering  
Andre Haynes, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District  
Robert Jeffers, Technology Coordinator  
Colleen DeGonia, Worth Junior High  
Brenda Miller, Recording Secretary

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

A. **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Project**

Andre Haynes and Mike Spolar addressed concerns expressed by the Board members on the location of the catch basins. The Board requested that the pipes be placed as far west as possible to ensure that the project does not negatively impact future growth. Andre Haynes entertained discussion on several options available to direct the project as far west from the school building as possible. He also responded to questions regarding the timeline of the project once the project has been approved. Tom Melody stated that specifics regarding the timeline of the project will be contained within an agreement when it is entered into with the MWRD and Village of Worth.

Hearing no further questions from the Board members, Dr. Wojtylewski requested that the MWRD submit a written proposal of the project for the Board's review and possible action at the March Board meeting. Mike Spolar stated that as a stakeholder in the operation, copies of the final plans will be sent to the district.

Dr. Wojtylewski and the Board members thanked Mr. Haynes and Mr. Spolar for taking the time to address the Board's questions and concerns.

5. CLOSED SESSION

Michelle Egan moved that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 7:04 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District, and probable or imminent litigation.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 6 Aye, 1 Absent – Motion Carried

6. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Dave Blanks moved that the Board of Education, upon completion of its discussions in closed session, reconvene in public session at 7:53 p.m.

Vince Flores seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 6 Aye, 1 Absent – Motion Carried

Meghan Sisk arrived at 7:55 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Michelle Egan moved that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 7:58 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District, and probable or imminent litigation.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Dave Blanks moved that the Board of Education, upon completion of its discussions in closed session, reconvene in public session at 8:27 p.m.

Vince Flores seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION AGREEMENT

Tom Melody stated that the Employee Resignation Agreement represents a waiver and release of all claims against the District.

Meghan Sisk moved that the Board of Education approve the resignation agreement with Bob Moyer, as presented in Enclosure A.

Rebecca Roti seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 4 Aye, 3 Nay (Blanks, Flores, Sernus) – Motion Carried

8. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. Staff and Student Recognition

Tim Hathhorn and Linda Esposito reported that the elementary schools will be participating in the American Heart Association “Jump Rope for Heart” event. The Valentine’s Day event is themed around the “heart”; benefitting those in need with the funds raised; and learning about health measures to support a healthy heart. Mayor Werner and members from the Worth Police Department and North Palos Fire Protection District will be among the rope turners. Board members were invited to assist as rope turners if their schedules permitted.

Dr. Wojtylewski noted that Robert Jeffers, the new Technology Coordinator, was in attendance. The interviews for a Technology Specialist will be scheduled in the next week. Four individuals have applied for the position.

**B. Reading Curriculum Update**

Dr. Wojtylewski reported that the Reading Committee met with three publishers and has two additional publisher presentations scheduled. In addition to examining new reading materials and resources, the Committee is looking at instructional strategies and designing a rubric of balanced literacy that incorporates reading and writing.

Dr. Wojtylewski stated she is currently studying the math curriculum and researching strategies for preparing students for 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

**C. Federal Grant Program – Title I**

Dr. Wojtylewski stated that efforts to revise the current federal Title I Grant submission from a “targeted assisted” grant to a “schoolwide” submission were unsuccessful, as this is the last year of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Due to the uncertainty of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) funding, the administration will proceed with plans for the expenditure of all allotted federal Title I monies. These plans include the purchase of 182 Chromebooks, instructional materials, and the funding of the Title I summer school program in August. The district will use local dollars for the purchase of 200 additional Chromebooks, which will be used by the general education population.

**D. Special Education Services Report**

As requested at the last meeting, Dr. Wojtylewski distributed a report on the number of District 127 special education students and the type of services being provided (1) within the district; (2) through Eisenhower Cooperative; and (3) through out-of-district placements. The report included all payments to Eisenhower Cooperative during the 2015-16 school year and payments to date for the 2016-17 school year. District payments to the Cooperative are offset by IDEA Grant monies which flow directly through the Cooperative. The report also included a list of professional development classes offered by the Cooperative and attended by district special education and general education staff. There is no cost for the classes since we are a member of the Cooperative.

Dr. Wojtylewski stated that the Cooperative Executive Board hired an independent consultant group to evaluate and ensure that the Cooperative’s services to the special education population of its members is being done efficiently and effectively to deter districts from withdrawing. The consultant’s report captured the great professional development, excellent services, and offered alternatives in providing support to the special education population. A copy of the report was distributed to Board members.

Drew Sernus thanked the administration for the comprehensive and informative report.

**E. Facility Projects Summer 2017**

Dr. Wojtylewski addressed facility projects planned for this summer in order of priority: (1) replacement of all exterior doors; (2) roofing repairs at the Administrative Center and Worth Junior High; (3) replacement and/or repair of parking lots; (4) replacement of unit ventilators at Worth Junior High; and (5) upgrade of security cameras at Worthwoods and the Worth

Junior High. There is currently a \$322,000 deficit in the O&M Fund which will be addressed with the transfer of funds from the Transportation Fund in June. Cindy Dykas and Scott Tamkus are in the process of gathering data and estimated costs for the projects. This information will be presented at the Finance Committee meeting.

Dr. Wojtylewski reminded Board members to remain after the meeting for a group picture that will be featured in a newsletter being sent to all community members in early spring.

F. Details on Board Agenda Items

Resolution Approving Petition for Withdrawal of Palos Heights School District No. 128 From The Eisenhower Special Education Cooperative Effective July 1, 2017, and Approving Withdrawal Agreement – The Board will take action on the Resolution and Withdrawal Agreement.

9. CITIZENS’ REMARKS – AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no remarks made.

10. BOARD MOTIONS

A. Consent Agenda

Meghan Sisk moved that the Board of Education approve the following consent agenda items:

1)	<u>Accounts Payable</u>	February 8, 2017 February 8, 2017	\$135,851.42 \$47,691.45
2)	<u>Payroll Summary</u>	Education Fund Building Fund IMRF and FICA/Medicare	\$512,548.81 \$35,144.12 \$37,299.84
3)	<u>Resignation of Certified Staff – Retirement</u> Pat Kebr	Physical Education Teacher, Worthwoods	End of the 2016-17 School Year
4)	<u>Resignation of Classified Staff</u> Nancy McCabe	Health Services Coordinator, Worth Elementary	Effective January 25, 2017
5)	<u>Employment of Classified Staff</u> Sergio Alvarez II	Part-Time Custodian, Worth Junior High	Effective February 9, 2017

*(end consent agenda)*

Rebecca Roti seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

B. Approval of Minutes – Board Meetings

Michelle Egan moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the December 14, 2016, regular meeting.

Rebecca Roti seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 6 Aye, 1 Abstain (Sisk) – Motion Carried

Bernadette Strama moved that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes of the December 14, 2016, regular meeting

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 6 Aye, 1 Abstain (Sisk) – Motion Carried

Michelle Egan moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the January 11, 2017, regular meeting.

Bernadette Strama seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Aye, 2 Abstain (Flores, Sisk) – Motion Carried

Rebecca Roti moved that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes of the January 11, 2017, regular meeting

Vince Flores seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Aye, 2 Abstain (Flores, Sisk) – Motion Carried

Michelle Egan moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the January 18, 2017, special meeting.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 3 Aye, 4 Abstain (Blanks, Flores, Sisk, Strama) – Motion Carried

Rebecca Roti moved that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes of the January 18, 2017, special meeting

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 3 Aye, 4 Abstain (Blanks, Flores, Sisk, Strama) – Motion Carried

- C. Resolution Approving Petition for Withdrawal Of Palos Heights School District No. 128 From The Eisenhower Special Education Cooperative Effective July 1, 2017, and Approving Withdrawal Agreement

Rebecca Roti moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Approving Petition for Withdrawal Of Palos Heights School District No. 128 From The Eisenhower Special Education Cooperative Effective July 1, 2017, And Approving Withdrawal Agreement, as presented in Attachments D1-D17.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

11. BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

- A. Policy Committee Meeting Date
- B. Finance Committee Meeting Date
- C. Education Committee Meeting Date

Dr. Wojtylewski stated that the recording secretary will contact Committee members to discuss possible meeting dates. The Education Committee will meet in early April after the Reading Committee has had an opportunity to make a recommendation on the adoption of new reading materials. A Board member requested that the Education Committee meeting be scheduled for 6:00 p.m. in order to give all Board members an opportunity to attend.

- D. South Cook Division Breakfast Meeting – February 25, 2017
- E. South Cook Division Dinner Meeting – March 9, 2017

Dr. Wojtylewski stated that information regarding the South Cook events will be included in the Friday update. Board members were instructed to contact the recording secretary if they would like to be registered for the events.

12. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

A Board member commended Dave Blyth and the band members on a fabulous performance during the half-time intermission at the Shepard High School football game. Dr. Wojtylewski also

commended the talented group, as she had the opportunity to hear them perform at the WJH pre-honors assembly.

13. CITIZENS' REMARKS – AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

On behalf of the Worth Junior High staff, Joe Zampillo thanked the Board for the new laminator.

14. CLOSED SESSION

A closed session meeting was not held.

15. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

16. ADJOURNMENT

Dave Blanks moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

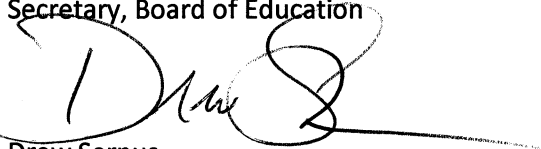
Rebecca Roti seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All Aye - Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,



Meghan Sisk  
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus  
President, Board of Education