

**Board of Education  
Worth School District 127**

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

**Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 17, 2018**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Dave Blanks, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Meghan Sisk, Rebecca Roti (arrived at 8:56 p.m.)

Administrators: Dr. Wojtylewski, Cindy Dykas

Others Present: Brenda Miller (Recording Secretary)

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **CITIZENS' REMARKS**

There were no remarks made.

5. **ESTIMATE PROPERTY TAX LEVY**

Cindy Dykas reviewed a copy of a PowerPoint presentation she distributed that outlined the 2018 tax levy process. She explained the following: 1) definitions and terms, 2) why the levy process is important, 3) four main variables of the levy, 4) historical tax rate data of the district from 2008 through 2017, 5) tax levy vs. tax extension, 6) funds supported by the tax levy, 7) limited bonds and why a rate does not apply, and 8) 2018 tax levy scenarios. The administration answered questions and responded to comments from the Committee members. The Committee agreed with the administration's recommendation to use scenario #4 in order to capture every dollar legally allowable.

**DISCUSSION OF FUNDING FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**

Dr. Wojtylewski informed the Board that the grant for the resource officer ends on June 30, 2019. It is not known if another grant will be offered. Our resource officer has been a valuable asset in connecting with the students, conducting wellness checks, assisting in the investigation of several matters, and dealing with difficult parents. Dr. Wojtylewski shared a conversation she had with Chief Micetich and Mayor Warner on options should a grant not be offered. Options included that the officer remain an employee of the Village, and that the district pay a 180-day proration of the officer's salary during such time that he serves as the school resource officer. After discussion it was the consensus of the Board to monitor whether a grant opportunity becomes available. If it does not, the Board is interested in continuing discussions with Chief Micetich and Mayor Werner.

DISCUSSION OF COPIER SERVICES

Dr. Wojtylewski noted that at the August Board meeting the Board approved a contract with Martin Whalen Office Solutions for the lease of districtwide copiers. Dr. Wojtylewski made several changes to the document in the best legal interest of the district. Martin Whalen agreed to all the changes, but the lending bank would not allow changes to the original document. They requested that an addendum be submitted and attached to the contract. It is now the administration's recommendation that the machines be purchased instead of being leased. The cost of the machines under the leasing agreement is \$135,081. The cost of purchasing the machines is \$113,059. The Committee agreed with the recommendation. At the November Board meeting, the motion to lease copier services will be rescinded. The district will then proceed with processing payment in full.

DISCUSSION OF PHONE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Dr. Wojtylewski, Cindy Dykas and Robert Jeffers met with Wilson Consulting. Dave Wilson will prepare a phone proposal for presentation at the November Board meeting. Once the Board has approved the proposal the project will be bid in December with a contract to be awarded in January. The project will begin after school is out in June, 2019, and will be completed before the start of the school year. The front end of the project will be overseen by Dr. Wojtylewski with the completion of the project overseen by the new Superintendent.

DISCUSSION OF FACILITY PROJECTS FOR SUMMER 2019

Dr. Wojtylewski and Cindy Dykas recommended that the architects evaluate the following projects for the scope of work needed and estimated cost for the following projects:

Worth Junior High

- Completion of the first and second floor HVAC units, lighting and ceiling. Energy grants will be investigated. This includes mounting of the projector devices.

Worthridge

- Back parking lot. It is not in as bad of condition as the front lot, but it is heavily used for RISE and Worthridge employees.
- Roof repairs. As witnessed at the October Board meeting, the gym roof is leaking as it is in several other areas within the building. More specific information will be available after Ed Wright from DLA conducts an inspection of roof. The front end of the project will be overseen by Dr. Wojtylewski with the completion of the project overseen by the new Superintendent.

Worth Elementary

- Roof repairs to the flat areas connecting sections of the school. More specific information will be available after Ed Wright from DLA conducts an inspection of roof. The front end of the project will be overseen by Dr. Wojtylewski with the completion of the project overseen by the new Superintendent.
- Replacement of the marquee.

Districtwide

- Replacement of cracked sidewalks. This can be done without the assistance of the architects.
- Replacement of carpet and furniture in the three media centers. The front end of the project will be overseen by Dr. Wojtylewski with the completion of the project overseen by the new Superintendent.

After discussion, it was the consensus that the architects review the projects and costs for each of the projects. It was also suggested that the administration discuss the possibility of Worth Elementary and Worth Junior High sharing a marquee on Oak Park Avenue.

A Board member voiced her concern of the narrow stairwells at Worth Junior High in the event of a fire. After discussion it was felt that the risk of students being trapped on the second or third floor is greatly minimized with all the new technology fire alarms and smoke detectors. The Board did not believe that the stairwells were out of compliance, but did authorized the administration to have the architect review the stairwells and evacuation procedures used during drills for possible alternatives.

DISCUSSION OF INSTRUCTIONAL AND TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

Dr. Wojtylewski stated that the district is now focusing on the teaching of STEM and STEAM. The staff has been actively pursuing further education on the interdisciplinary teaching and administration of STEM Labs. A Coding Club is being offered at the elementary level and will begin at the end of October. A Coding Club will be offered at the junior high level after the return of the Computer Teacher. The administration is in the process of discussing the implementation of the labs which will partially be funded through the monies donated by the Fraternal Order of Police from the Golf Outing.

Dr. Wojtylewski responded to questions from the Board members. The lunch period of 20 minutes for lunch and 10 minutes for recess was successfully instituted at Worth Elementary. The monetary donation made by a graduating class that held a reunion was used toward the purchase of music equipment.

A Board member commented positively on the junior high students being allowed to earn an opportunity to choose the music that is played during lunchtime. Another Board member stated that her graduating class of 1989 is in the process of planning a reunion and someone from the committee will be contacting Dr. Wojtylewski regarding a tour of Worth Junior High.

11. CLOSED SESSION

Danette Keeler moved that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 8:25 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

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

The Board took a break before entering closed session. The attendance of Dr. Wojtylewski and Cindy Dykas was not necessary for the remainder of the meeting and they excused themselves. Rebecca Roti arrived prior to the Board entering closed session.

12. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Meghan Sisk moved that the Board of Education, upon completion of its discussions in closed session, reconvene in public session at 9:32 p.m.

Rebecca Roti seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

13. BOARD DISCUSSION

Drew Sernus distributed copies of the *Announcement of Superintendent Vacancy* posted by IASB. He then engaged the Board members in discussion on the Superintendent interview process, interview

questions, and a timeline for the process. After discussion, it was the consensus that Board members select the questions they would like to use during the first round of interviews and send them to Drew Sernus. After the Board selects two finalists, a committee consisting of an administrator, the Business Manager, staff members (two or three from each bargaining group from each school), and a parent from each school be selected for interviewing finalists. Drew Sernus will seek guidance from Al Molby on the interview questions, format that will be used in presenting the questions to the candidates, how to determine individuals to serve on the Committee, and how the committee will be facilitated. Al Molby will be at the November Board meeting to address any questions or comments regarding the process. During closed session he will present the names of candidates and application materials for the individuals recommended by IASB. The Board members will conduct interviews the last week in November and first week in December. Two weeks later the Board members and Committee will conduct interviews with two finalists and a site visit will be arranged. As per the projected timeline, the Board will appoint a new Superintendent in January 2019.


Meghan Sisk asked the Board's consideration in scheduling interviews as she will be teaching a college course on Wednesdays starting November 7<sup>th</sup> through December 12<sup>th</sup>. This commitment was made well before it was known that the Board would be interviewing candidates. She will not attend the November 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. She will contact Drew Sernus after the meeting for information.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Drew Sernus moved to adjourn the meeting 9:50 p.m.  
Rebecca Roti seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All Aye - Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted:

 - REBECCA ROTI  
SECRETARY PRO-TEM

Meghan Sisk  
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus  
President, Board of Education