

**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 April 15, 2015**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Drew Sernus, Rebecca Roti, Carol Kats, Dave Blanks, Marty Flanagan, Vince Flores, Meghan Sisk (arrived at 6:33 p.m.)

Administrators: Dr. Rita Wojtylewski, Cindy Dykas, Lisa Lyke, Tim Hathhorn, Joe Zampillo, Linda Esposito, Sinéad Chambers

Others Present: Regina Garrity, Bob Moyer, Brenda Miller (Recording Secretary)

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Staff and Student Recognition**

Joe Zampillo reported on several noteworthy accomplishments of Worth Junior High students. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade math and spelling bee teams both earned Third Place finishes during the South Suburban Junior High School Conference Competitions. One Worth Junior High student was the only competitor in the competition to receive a perfect score. Joe Zampillo thanked math coaches, Ms. Andrea Serpico and Mrs. Lisa Bray, and spelling coach, Mrs. Colleen DeGonia. Eighth grader, Farah Elhoumaidi was awarded Third Place in U.S. Congressman Dan Lipinski's 2015 All-American Boy and Girl Competition. Joe Zampillo provided the Board members with the questions and responses submitted by Farah, which exemplified her leadership qualities.

Tim Hathhorn reported on the Wax Museum, a project presented by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes, whereby students researched famous people of the past and then transformed themselves into "live" wax figures to educate others about themselves. Monetary donations made to bring the wax figures to "life" raised approximately \$900 that will be donated to the Worth Food Pantry. He invited Board members to hold the May Board meeting at Worthwoods. At that time the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be hosting an "Invention Convention" during which they will demonstrate inventions that they believe will help mankind and make a difference in our world.

Lisa Lyke reported on an ill student at Worth Elementary School. A fundraising event for the student is scheduled for Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00-8:00 p.m., at Bourbon Street. Admission and raffle tickets can be purchased from Lisa Lyke.

Dr. Wojtylewski distributed an article published in the Daily Southtown about Carter Pierzchalski, a Pre-K student diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2011. Special Spaces, an organization that creates dream bedrooms for children, provided Carter and his brother with bedroom makeovers.

- B. 2015 Mechanical and Electrical Renovation Work at Worth Elementary and Worthwoods Update**  
Cindy Dykas reported that preparations for the demolition of the Worth Elementary boilers took place during Spring Break. The demolition of the boilers will begin on May 1<sup>st</sup>, weather permitting.

Dr. Wojtylewski stated she met with the Worth Elementary staff to explain the schedule for packing their classroom materials, and an anticipated timeline for setting up classrooms for the 2015-16 school year.

C. Facility Maintenance Updates

Cindy Dykas reported on several projects at Worth Junior High that were completed during Spring Break. The leaking hot water heater was replaced with an 80 gallon water tank; the stall partitions in the bathrooms near the Commons area were replaced.

D. Public Sector Energy Efficiency Program

Cindy Dykas reported on an application for grant monies from the Public Sector Energy Efficiency Program, which she completed. The application, along with old bills and estimates of future bills, will be submitted. It is hoped that we will be successful in securing grant funds in the tens of thousands of dollars.

Dr. Wojtylewski reported she is in receipt of a contract from ComEd for the installation of the transformers at Worth Elementary. The contract requires that it be signed and returned with the installation fee of \$13,000. We are anticipating that a similar contract will be sent for the electrical work at Worthwoods.

E. 2015-2016 School District Calendar

Dr. Wojtylewski stated she would report on the 2015-2016 calendar prior to the Board's approval of the calendar.

F. Comcast Services Agreement

Bob Moyer and Cindy Dykas explained that with the recent purchase of iPads and laptops, and the additional technological devices for the District technology plan, it is necessary to increase the bandwidth. After reviewing proposals submitted by several vendors, it was determined that Comcast continues to offer the best service and competitive pricing. It is recommended that the Board authorize an increase from the current 25 Mbps dedicated to the internet and 50 Mbps between the buildings to 200 Mbps dedicated to the internet and 200 Mbps between the buildings. This increase will enable a more efficient use of our current technology, and support future needs which includes on-line PARCC testing in 2016. The total cost for the increased bandwidth will be \$4,915.81 per month. It is anticipated that the E-Rate reimbursement will be 80% based on the district's student poverty count.

Dr. Wojtylewski engaged the Board members in a discussion of a recommendation that the Worth Elementary playground be demolished and replaced with grass. The playground does not meet requirements, has structurally damaged equipment, and has become more of a liability with its use as a "hangout" by teenagers after school hours. To replace the equipment would cost the district well over \$100,000. Dr. Wojtylewski felt that \$100,000 could purchase much needed technology equipment. Eliminating the playground does not mean that a new playground could not be constructed in the future if funds become available, although the district's first priority would be a playground at Worthridge. Each year the district is cited by ISBE for not having a playground for the Pre-K program, as required. The Board members were given an opportunity to ask questions and comment on Dr. Wojtylewski's recommendation. After discussion, it was the consensus to move forward in the destruction of the Worth Elementary playground.

Dr. Wojtylewski reviewed documents provided in the Board packet expressing opinions related to the timeframe for appointing a Board member to fill the vacancy created by four individuals running for five open seats. Dr. Vanessa Kinder's opinion is that the Board has 45 days beginning April 8<sup>th</sup> to fill the vacancy. Tom Melody's opinion is that the 45 days begins once the new Board is seated and organized, which occurs within 28 days of the election. It was the consensus of the Board to follow the advice of our attorney. The Board agreed to hold its organizational meeting on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

G. Details on Board Agenda Items

2015-2016 School District Calendar – The Board will take action on the calendar for the next school year.

Comcast Services Agreement – The Board will take action on the contract with Comcast to increase the dedicated internet bandwidth.

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

There were no remarks made.

6. BOARD MOTIONS

A. Consent Agenda

Carol Kats moved that the Board of Education approve the following consent agenda items:

1) <u>Accounts Payable</u>	March 26, 2015	\$10,049.56
	April 15, 2015	\$258,268.05
2) <u>Payroll Summary</u>	Education Fund	\$498,458.21
	Building Fund	\$30,251.15
	FICA/IMRF/Medicare/TRS	\$41,913.04

*(end consent agenda)*

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

B. Approval of Minutes – Board Meetings

Rebecca Roti moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 11, 2015 regular meeting.

Marty Flanagan seconded the motion.

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

Carol Kats moved that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes of the March 11, 2015 regular meeting.

Rebecca Roti seconded the motion.

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

C. Approval of 2015-16 School Calendar

Dr. Wojtylewski reviewed a comparison of the District 218, District 230, and proposed District 127 calendars, which were provided in the Board packet. As per the WEA contract, an Advisory Council meeting was held. The Committee proposed options for extending the winter break and changing the date for spring break. It was explained by the administration that the options presented for extending winter break would cause a later school ending date which decreases time available for a possible Worthwoods HVAC renovation project, and that changing the dates for Spring break would interrupt PARCC testing.

Carol Kats moved that the Board of Education approve the 2015-16 school calendar, as presented in Attachments B1-B2, setting the first day of school as August 24, 2015, and the tentative last day of school as June 9, 2016.

Megan Sisk seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

D. Approval of Comcast Services Agreement

Rebecca Roti moved that the Board of Education approve the Comcast Services Agreement, as presented in Attachments C1-C34.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

7. BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

A. SCOPE Dinner Meeting – April 27, 2015 – Silver Lakes Country Club

Dr. Wojtylewski, Cindy Dykas, and three Board members indicated they would attend the meeting.

8. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

Meghan Sisk reported that she, Carol Kats and Dr. Wojtylewski attended a meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>, along with area superintendents and Board representatives. The meeting, which was interesting and informative, was related to SB 1 and the impact the bill will have on Illinois school districts. District 230 and area superintendents will host a town hall meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> to bring awareness and educate the public on SB 1. Dr. Wojtylewski stated she will share information with the Board when the details are finalized.

Rebecca Roti reported that the South Cook Division Meeting held on March 31<sup>st</sup> was presented in a format suited better to teachers and not Board members. The information was good but lengthy.

Board members bid Carol Kats and Marty Flanagan farewell and thanked them for their service. Both Carol and Marty expressed parting remarks. Dr. Wojtylewski thanked Carol and Marty for their contributions. On behalf of the Board of Education, staff and students, she presented them with mantel clocks in recognition of their service.

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

There were no remarks made.

10. CLOSED SESSION

Rebecca Roti moved that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District.

Vince Flores seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

The Board took a short break before entering closed session.

11. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Marty Flanagan moved that the Board of Education, upon completion of its discussions in closed session, reconvene in public session at 8:40 p.m.

Carol Kats seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried


12. ADJOURNMENT

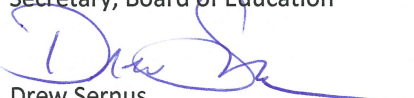
Carol Kats moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Marty Flanagan seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All Aye - Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

  
Carol A. Kats *MEGHAN SISK*  
Secretary, Board of Education

  
Drew Sernus  
President, Board of Education