

**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 October 14, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Drew Sernus, Rebecca Roti, Dave Blanks, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores,
Bernadette Strama

Absent: Meghan Sisk

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

Others Present: Brad Dizonno, Brenda Miller (Recording Secretary)

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

In the absence of Meghan Sisk, Rebecca Roti served as Secretary Pro-tem.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Facility Updates

Cindy Dykas reported that the cubicles have been installed and are now being used by students and staff. Several walk-throughs have been conducted of the Worth Elementary HVAC Project and a punch list is being prepared. The boilers were turned on, but several cold days are needed to truly evaluate the operation of the boilers.

The administration met with Concept 3 and Amsco Engineers to discuss the Worthwoods School HVAC renovation project for the summer of 2016. It was proposed by the architect and engineer that the Board consider converting Worthwoods School from electricity to natural gas, which they predict would be an overall cost savings. The conversion will require that the building be re-piped. Dr. Wojtylewski requested that Concept 3 prepare a cost savings study for review when the renovation designs are presented. The cost of the project with a conversion to gas would also change previously projected costs, including cost for the imbedding of carbon monoxide detectors within the design, as now required by law. Project designs for Worthwoods, Worthwoods/Alternate 1, and Worthwoods/Alternate 2 will be developed. Alternate 1 will include the air conditioning for the Worthridge Pre-K section. Alternate 2 will include the Worthridge Pre-K section and the Worthridge section currently housed by the RISE Program. When the designs have been completed, the information will be presented to the Finance Committee. The current financial situation at the State level is also a concern in planning for this project. The district budget was adopted at a 92%

reimbursement level and it is now anticipated that reimbursement will be at 65%, and State of Illinois funds could run out as early as March 2016.

B. Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Meeting Update

Dr. Wojtylewski reported that in early summer a message was left by an individual stating he had been hired to look at the Worthwoods property where the baseball fields are located. He inquired as to who owned the property. The individual also contacted Pastor Jay from St. Mark's Lutheran Church as a source of information. The initial contact with the district was the only contact. Dr. Wojtylewski met with Pastor Jay on two occasions and reviewed the plat of survey for the Worthwoods' property which included the baseball fields. Dr. Wojtylewski was recently contacted by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and asked to attend a meeting at the Village Hall on October 16th to discuss the Worthwoods Flood Control Project. The purpose of the meeting was to look at the potential for use of part of the ball fields for a swale or detention pond. Dr. Wojtylewski voiced her disappointment if the Village and MWRD have been in discussions regarding the possible use of district property without including the district early on in the discussions. She asked if any Board members were available to attend the meeting. Drew Sernus stated he was available to attend. Dr. Wojtylewski stated she contacted our attorney and Tom Melody will also be in attendance. She also met with Eric Koller, President of the Worth Athletic Association, to apprise him of the situation, and invited him to attend the meeting if his schedule permitted.

C. Tri-Conference

Dr. Wojtylewski reported she will attend the conference along with Cindy Dykas, Drew Sernus, Rebecca Roti, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, and Bernadette Strama. Informational packets will be given to attendees prior to the conference. Attendees should plan on meeting for lunch on Saturday, November 21st.

Dr. Wojtylewski noted that the Village Planning Commission is hosting a Town Hall planning meeting on October 21st. All Board members are invited to attend. Dr. Wojtylewski will provide information about the meeting in the Friday update.

D. Details on Board Agenda Items

Approval of Contract Extension for Snow Plow Services – The Board will take action on a contract extension with George's Landscaping for unlimited snow plowing for the 2015-2016 school year, at a cost not to exceed \$9,560.25

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

Joe Zampillo reported the Worth Junior High Boys' Volleyball Team took 1st Place, with a 9-0 record, during the South Suburban Junior High School Conference regular season and finished in 3rd Place at the Conference Tournament. The Girls' Volleyball Team finished in 3rd Place in the South Suburban Junior High School Conference Tournament.

Dr. Wojtylewski reported, with regret, that the PTO has made a decision to disband. A notice will be sent home with students noting that all scheduled events have been cancelled, and that membership refunds will be sent to parents and staff. Dr. Wojtylewski will reach out to the PTO officers in the near future.

6. BOARD MOTIONS

A. Consent Agenda

Rebecca Roti moved that the Board of Education approve the following consent agenda items:

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| 1) <u>Accounts Payable</u> | October 14, 2015 | \$572,702.71 |
| 2) <u>Payroll Summary</u> | Education Fund | \$512,836.93 |
| | Building Fund | \$33,893.73 |
| | IMRF and FICA/Medicare | \$38,774.98 |
| 3) <u>Employment of Classified Staff</u> | | |
| Catherine Wilson | 1.0 FTE Special Education 1-1 Aide, WJH | Effective October 2, 2015 |
- (end consent agenda)

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

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

B. Approval of Minutes – Board Meetings

Michelle Egan moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the September 16, 2015, regular meeting.

Vince Flores seconded the motion.

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

Bernadette Strama moved that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes of the September 16, 2015, regular meeting.

Michelle Egan seconded the motion.

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

C. Approval of Contract Extension for Snow Plow Services

Bernadette Strama moved that the Board of Education approve a contract extension with George's Landscaping for unlimited snow plowing for the 2015-2016 school year, at a cost not to exceed \$9,560.25.

Vince Flores seconded the motion.

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

7. BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

A. South Cook Division Fall Dinner Meeting – October 27, 2015

Information on the South Cook Division Fall Dinner Meeting was shared with Board members. Anyone planning to attend should contact the recording secretary to request that a reservation be made on their behalf.

8. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

Dr. Wojtylewski responded to questions about student and parent communication with teachers via email. Teachers shared their email address with parents during Open House events. Communication via email is acceptable but is discouraged as it creates a student record that must then be archived. Parents are encouraged to contact the main office of the school when arranging to pick up homework, or leave a message on the classroom extension if they would like to speak with their child's teacher.

Dr. Wojtylewski responded to inquiries on scheduling an Education Committee meeting to discuss the changes being made at the high school level and the preparedness of the elementary schools for those changes. She said the high schools have been in communication with the district. At this time, there is a greater need to schedule meetings of the Finance and Policy Committees.

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 7:15 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District, and collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees.

Vince Flores seconded the motion.

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

The Board took a short break before entering closed session.

11. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Vince Flores moved that the Board of Education, upon completion of its discussions in closed session, reconvene in public session at 8:01 p.m.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

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

12. PERSONNEL ACTION – EMPLOYMENT OF SUPPORT STAFF

Rebecca Roti moved that the Board of Education employ Linda Burnickas as the Business Office Accounting Assistant at a salary of \$21.50 per hour effective October 29, 2015.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

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

A Board member asked for clarification on when the Board is notified of student suspensions.

Dr. Wojtylewski stated that Board members are notified of all out-of-school suspensions.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Rebecca Roti moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All Aye - Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Roti

Secretary Pro-Tem, Board of Education



Drew Sernus

President, Board of Education