

**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 12, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Pro-Tem Rebecca Roti called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Rebecca Roti, Meghan Sisk, Dave Blanks, Bernadette Strama

Absent: Drew Sernus, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores

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 Education Association
Colleen DeGonia, Worth Education Association
Kaitlyn Ebert, Worth Elementary
JoAnne Albrecht, Worth Education Association
Debbie Woods, Worth Education Association
Brad Dizunno, Worth Education Association
Brenda Miller, Recording Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Pro-Tem Rebecca Roti led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Staff and Student Recognition

Dr. Wojtylewski stated that along with the opportunities teachers have for professional development, administrators also have professional development opportunities. She invited administrators to speak briefly about recent professional growth.

- Scott Tamkus reported on the asbestos training he received which is required to maintain the district's compliance of having an on-site trained staff member. He also recently attended four sessions through the Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO) towards maintaining his Facility and Engineers Management Certification.
- Sinéad Chambers reported on her attendance at the Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE) Conference in Tinley Park. This year's event focused on communication with parents. The keynote speaker was Jack Gallaher, comedian and father of a son with autism. She also attended the English Learners (EL) Conference which focused on early involvement. Both conferences provided valuable information on improving our programs and validated areas in which we excel in providing services.
- Cindy Dykas reported on the eight hour training session she attended to become certified as the district's Chief Food Service Sanitation Officer. This certification is a required component in the administration of the free breakfast and lunch program. She also reported on her attendance at the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International Conference in Phoenix Arizona. This conference presented the only opportunity to prepare for the Certified Administrators of School Finance and Operations

(SFO) Certification examination for which she is studying. The training and networking with colleagues from different parts of the country was invaluable.

- Tim Hathhorn and Linda Esposito spoke on professional development gained through the Illinois Principals' Association and the Midwest Principals' Center. They are scheduled to attend the Illinois ASCD/MPC Conference with presentations relevant to curriculum and instruction.

Linda Esposito spoke on the benefits of professional development. A teacher recently attended a training workshop on a program called Snap & Read. The program hosts 90 different languages and can be adjusted to meet a student's level of reading. The district will benefit greatly as the teacher is now able to provide training and support for staff.

Dr. Wojtylewski shared that the district will soon have two more administrators with Doctorate degrees. She congratulated Joe Zampillo and Sinéad Chambers. Both Joe and Sinéad will complete their internship requirements under her supervision.

Dr. Wojtylewski noted that she has registered for a Google workshop in order to provide support in the use of technology within the classroom. She hopes the workshop will also provide her with a resource for presenters for future institute days.

TIF Update

Dr. Wojtylewski reported on the Chicago Ridge TIF meeting that she attended regarding the vacated Yellow Freight property. A medical center is looking at a portion of the property, but the majority of the property remains undeveloped.

Policy 7:10, 7:10AP, and 7:10E

Dr. Wojtylewski stated the policy, administrative procedure, and exhibit provided in the Board packet are recommended by our policy subscription service through the Illinois Association of School Boards. The Policy Committee will be updating Policy 7:10: Equal Educational Opportunities to be in compliance with accommodations for transgender students. The Board will need to adopt a revised policy during this calendar year.

HVAC 2016 Update

Scott Tamkus reported that the contractors are working on punch list items. When the boilers and HVAC systems were tested there were a few minor issues, but those have now been addressed. The contractors are still fine tuning temperature controls with only a few classrooms having issues. The pouring of a concrete pad for the building that will house the lawn mowers and snow blowers at Worthwoods had to be rescheduled due to rain. Once the pad is poured and sufficiently dry, delivery of the building will be scheduled.

HVAC 2016 Project Cost

As requested at the September meeting, Dr. Wojtylewski reported that the total cost of the 2016 HVAC project was \$2,670,564.05 thus far.

Board of Education Committee Work

Dr. Wojtylewski noted that the recording secretary will contact members to set a date for a Policy Committee meeting.

A Finance Committee meeting will also be scheduled in the future. The administration is developing a list with estimated costs for items in need of repair and/or replacement. The committee will need to formulate projects and a plan and prioritize projects based on need.

Community Newsletter

Dr. Wojtylewski stated that she is in the process of reviewing sample formats of newsletters sent by area school districts to members of their community. She plans to write a newsletter highlighting student accomplishments and the facility upgrades that have been completed without a referendum and/or bond sale.

PowerSchool Parent Portal

Dr. Wojtylewski reported that next week parents of Worth Junior High students will have access to the parent portal of PowerSchool. This will afford parents an opportunity to monitor graded assignments and/or assignments that are missing. A letter will be mailed to parents with instructions on how to log into the portal. The administration is still working on the format and access for elementary parents. The grading structure for elementary students is much different than that used at the junior high level.

Traffic Pattern at Worth Elementary School

Dr. Wojtylewski reported that a parent called her office indicating that she planned to attend the meeting and show pictures and videos of the unsafe conditions during the drop-off and pick-up of students. Dr. Wojtylewski noted that the district is well aware of the problem, specifically at dismissal time, and has been discussing possible solutions.

Tim Hathhorn shared one option being studied. Parents picking up their students would be directed to enter the blacktop area off of 112th Street on the west side, and then circle back in rows facing 112th Street. This area can accommodate 90 cars (ten cars deep and 9 cars across). Parents would meet their student(s) as they exit the building. Once all students are safely in the vehicles, the vehicles would be released row by row back to 112th Street. It is anticipated that the process would take 5-6 minutes and, most importantly, help ensure the safety of our students. The administration is in the process of discussing whether 112th Street can be blocked off, similar to the procedure used on New England. After a plan is finalized a letter will be sent to parents.

Additional Information

Dr. Wojtylewski reported on the diagnosis of a probable case of Whooping Cough in 6th grade. She contacted the Cook County Department of Public Health and they launched an investigation, which proved inconclusive based on the testing performed by the doctor. The administration will send letters to parents of 6th graders informing them of the symptoms of the illness.

Title I Before and After-School Programs

Dr. Wojtylewski reported that the district has offered before and after-school Title I programs in reading and math, and that during her tenure with the district the programs have always been fully staffed. Dr. Wojtylewski stated that only a couple teachers across the district have applied to fill the before and after-school vacant positions. Dr. Wojtylewski expressed her disappointment in the lack of willingness to staff instructional programs for students in need of extra instructional assistance. Dr. Wojtylewski stated that after contacting our attorney she was told that the district was within their right to move forward with outsourcing these vacant positions. She is in the process of developing RFPs (Request for Proposals) to send to outside agencies. The positions will

be offered for the remaining school year which may save the district some of its Title money as it would not be required to pay the 38% over and above salary to TRS.

Additional Information

Dr. Wojtylewski thanked everyone for wearing pink to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month and in support of a district teacher currently facing the challenges associated with her fight against breast cancer. The schools are taking orders for “wear pink” t-shirts. The proceeds of the sales will be given to the teacher’s family. Board members wishing to purchase shirts should contact the recording secretary.

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 2016-17 school year.

Approval of Resolution Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Personal Property – The Board will take action on a Resolution authorizing the disposal of surplus personal property.

Approval of Contract for Photography Services – The Board will take action on a contract for photography services with Lifetouch National School Studios for the 2016-17 school year.

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

There were no remarks made.

6. BOARD MOTIONS

A. Consent Agenda

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

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|--|--|----------------------------|
| 1) <u>Accounts Payable</u> | October 12, 2016 | \$811,728.57 |
| | October 12, 2016 #2 | \$11,960.50 |
| 2) <u>Payroll Summary</u> | Education Fund | \$854,644.38 |
| | Building Fund | \$53,099.73 |
| | IMRF and FICA/Medicare | \$66,855.49 |
| 3) <u>Employment of Certified Staff</u> | | |
| Susanne Bertucco | Media Specialist, Worth Elementary, Leave Position | Effective October 13, 2016 |
| 4) <u>Additions to Call List of Substitute Teachers, Instructional Aides, Office and Lunch Supervisors</u> | | |
| (end consent agenda) | | |

Bernadette Strama seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 4 Aye, 3 Absent – Motion Carried

B. Approval of Minutes – Board Meetings

Bernadette Strama moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the September 14, 2016, regular meeting.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 3 Aye, 1 Abstain (Roti), 3 Absent – Motion Carried

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

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 3 Aye, 1 Abstain (Roti), 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 2016-17 school year, at a cost not to exceed \$9,846.75.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 4 Aye, 3 Absent – Motion Carried

D. Approval of Resolution Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Personal Property

Meghan Sisk moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Personal Property, as presented in Attachments E1-E6.

Rebecca Roti seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 4 Aye, 3 Absent – Motion Carried

E. Approval of Contract for Photography Services

Dave Blanks moved that the Board of Education a contract for photography services with Lifetouch National School Studios for the 2016-17 school year, as presented in Attachments F1-F4.

Rebecca Roti seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 4 Aye, 3 Absent – Motion Carried

7. BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

A. South Cook Division Dinner – October 26, 2016

Registrants for the South Cook Division Dinner are: Dr. Wojtylewski, Drew Sernus, Rebecca Roti, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Joe Zampillo, and Sinéad Chambers.

B. Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Proposal

Dr. Wojtylewski recommended that discussion on the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District proposal take place at either a Committee of the Whole meeting or Finance Committee meeting. It was the consensus of the Board that this is a topic for the Finance Committee.

Dr. Wojtylewski was asked to remind the MWRD of the request made at the September Board meeting for illustrations of the area with the catch basins.

8. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

There were no Board member reports or requests.

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

There were no remarks made.

10. CLOSED SESSION

Dave Blanks moved that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 7:57 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District.

Bernadette Strama seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 4 Aye, 3 Absent – Motion Carried

The Board members took a break before entering closed session.

11. 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 8:35 p.m.

Bernadette Strama seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 4 Aye, 3 Absent – Motion Carried

12. ADJOURNMENT

Rebecca Roti moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All Aye - Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,



Meghan Sisk
Secretary, Board of Education



Rebecca Roti
President Pro-Tem, Board of Education