

**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 November 9, 2016**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

**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  
Mary Plotke, Worth Junior High  
Lisa Bray, Worth Junior High  
Amy Smith, Worth Junior High  
Colleen DeGonia, Worth Junior High  
Courtney Kats, Worth Junior High  
Kelli R. Smith, Worth PTO  
Bob Moyer, Technology Coordinator  
Brad Dizonno, Worth Junior High  
Chris Gawel, Worth Junior High  
Emily Betts, Worth Junior High  
JoAnne Albrecht, Worth Junior High  
Pam Brzeczek, Worth PTO  
Brenda Miller, Recording Secretary

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Wojtylewski welcomed Kelli Ruger-Smith, former President, and Pam Brzeczek, former Treasurer, of the Worth PTO. The PTO disbanded at the end of the 2015 school year due to lack of parent involvement. Kelli Ruger-Smith stated that after waiting for all checks to clear they were ready to close the PTO checking account. She presented Dr. Wojtylewski with a check for \$3,375.00 to be dispersed as per the documentation accompanying the check. At the time the PTO ceased operations, it paid four years in advance for the organization's non-profit status in case there was a possibility that someone might come forward to reconvene operations. Dr. Wojtylewski stated it was always a pleasure to work with them. Pam Brzeczek continues to oversee the after-school bowling for which the district is very grateful.

**Auditor's Report for FY16**

Mandy Pittman from RSM presented an overview of the FY16 Auditor's Report. It was the opinion of RSM that it was a clean audit which produced no issues. The District was found to be in a strong financial position noting that the District's Annual Financial Profile score increased from 3.8 to 3.9.

Dr. Wojtylewski thanked Mandy Pittman for her attendance and presentation on the audit. She also thanked the Board members and Cindy Dykas for their roles in overseeing the fiscal responsibilities and financial health of the district.

Tax Levy Report

Cindy Dykas reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the estimated amount of money to be raised by taxation for 2016. She explained the notifications which will take place prior to the tax levy hearing during the December Board meeting. It is the administration's recommendation to file a levy that will capture tax revenue for the district to the maximum amount allowed under the law and the tax cap. She addressed comments and questions from the Board.

Staff and Student Recognition

Joe Zampillo reported on the devastating loss suffered by a Worth Junior High family in a recent fire which destroyed the house they were renting. A police officer was driving by and saw the smoke. He alerted the sleeping family and everyone was able to exit safely. The family lost all basic necessities. Before Thanksgiving, the Worth Junior High students and staff will present the family with gift cards purchased using monies raised by the Student Council, students and staff. Linda Esposito stated that the Worthwoods' students and staff also raised money that will be presented it to the family prior to Thanksgiving.

A Board member suggested Joe Zampillo contact Shepard High School as they have an assistance program for families. Joe Zampillo thanked her for the information.

Tim Hathhorn shared information on the passing of a gentleman who was responsible for much of the donated materials, time, and talent for the landscaping work at Worthwoods and the donation of fully decorated Christmas trees over the years by Home Depot.

Tim Hathhorn and Linda Esposito reported on the Veteran's Day programs held at Worth Elementary and Worthwoods Schools. The programs plant a seed of civic mindedness in our students.

A Board member invited everyone to wear purple to support her sons' hockey team as they skate against cancer this weekend.

Joe Zampillo commended Student Council moderators Lisa Bray and Colleen DeGonia and the Student Council for their participation in the Lions Club Porchlight Parade raising approximately \$1,700. Lisa Bray added that members of the Lions Club were very complimentary of the students and their efforts in the annual fundraising event.

Worth Junior High Elevator

Dr. Wojtylewski distributed copies of a proposal submitted by Urban Elevator for the repair of the Worth Junior High elevator. The elevator was rendered out of service after being diagnosed as needing a new cylinder. The administration responded to questions. The project was not bid since the repair was under the \$25,000 threshold bidding requirement. The district has a service agreement with Urban Elevator; they are familiar with the elevator; they provide great service; their employees have all undergone background checks; the administration is confident in their abilities; if authorized to do the repair, Urban Elevator will waive the \$1,670.00 diagnostic fee; and the elevator needs to be repaired as soon as possible. It will take four to six weeks to get the parts and five to seven days for the repair. The work can be scheduled over winter break. Schedules have been altered for students unable to use the stairs and students who are able to maneuver the stairs are assisted by staff members to ensure their safety. It is unlikely there would be any savings having the project bid. Bidders would need to incorporate the cost for obtaining a

complete survey of the elevator and an evaluation of the elevator by their staff in order to prepare and submit a repair proposal. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize Urban Elevator proceed with the repairs.

Board Policy Updates: 2:125; 2:140; 2:140-E

Dr. Wojtylewski stated the policies were being provided to Board members for informational purposes and reference. By March, 2017, School Boards are required to add a dollar amount maximum within policies related to Board member and staff member expenses incurred by attendance at workshops and/or conferences. These policies, along with Section 7 pertaining to new laws which required that alternate interventions must be taken before a suspension is issued, will be discussed by the Policy Committee.

Follow-Up Items

Dr. Wojtylewski attended a workshop on Google which was very informative. She has arranged for the speaker to present at the April institute day. He will instruct teachers on the use and benefits of Google applications during the morning session and during the afternoon session he will meet with staff by content area.

A letter will be sent this week to Worth Junior High parents with instructions on accessing the parent portal of PowerSchool. Dr. Wojtylewski thanked Rebecca Roti for acting as a “test pilot” to ensure that the instructions were clear and user friendly.

A meeting will be held with the Mayor and the Police Chief in the near future to discuss altering the traffic pattern at Worth Elementary during student drop-off and dismissal times.

A Life Safety inspection by the ISC<sub>4</sub> will be conducted on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Wojtylewski met with the District Caucus (WEA Executive Board and Building Representatives from each of the schools). The group engaged in positive discussions regarding before and after-school assignments and programs. The outcome of discussions produced good resolutions to areas of concern expressed by the WEA and administration.

The administration will be meeting with the architect and engineer next week to close the HVAC project. The contractor’s final check and retainer have not been released. Scott Tamkus reported on efforts to complete the punch list and problems with coordination and communication prior to testing the new units.

Position on Resolutions for IASB Delegate Assembly

Dr. Wojtylewski presented recommendations on sixteen proposed IASB resolutions. It was the consensus to vote to adopt recommendations 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16. The remaining recommendations will be opposed.

Details on Board Agenda Items

2016 Tax Levy – The Board will take action on the adoption of a resolution determining the estimated amount of money to be raised for the 2016 tax levy, and setting the December 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting for a public hearing on the levy.

Acceptance of Auditor's Report for FY16 – The Board will take action on acceptance of the Auditor's Report.

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>   | November 9, 2016<br>November 9, 2016 #2                   | \$590,405.58<br>\$29,202.36                |
| 2) <u>Payroll Summary</u>  | Education Fund<br>Building Fund<br>IMRF and FICA/Medicare | \$522,018.87<br>\$34,287.19<br>\$39,415.66 |
| 3) <u>Additions to Call List of Substitute Teachers, Instructional Aides, Office and Lunch Supervisors</u> |   |  |
| 4) <u>Resignation of Certified Staff – Retirement</u>  |   |  |
| Joe Smyth  | Music Teacher, Worth Junior High                          | End of the 2018-19 school year             |
| Laura Saracco  | Special Education Teacher, Worth Elementary               | End of the 2018-19 school year             |
| 5) <u>Employment of Certified Staff</u>  |   |  |
| Megan Roscetti   | Teacher, Worth Junior High                                | Effective August 24, 2016                  |
| Rosemary Sullivan  | Media Specialist Substitute                               | Effective August 24, 2016                  |
| Greg Gierling  | Part-Time PE Teacher, Worth Elementary                    | Effective November 10, 2016                |
| <i>(end consent agenda)</i>  |   |  |

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 October 12, 2016, regular meeting.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 4 Aye, 3 Abstain (Egan, Flores, Sernus) – Motion Carried

Rebecca Roti moved that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes of the October 12, 2016, regular meeting.

Bernadette Strama seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 4 Aye, 3 Abstain (Egan, Flores, Sernus) – Motion Carried

C. 2016 Tax Levy

Bernadette Strama moved that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution determining the estimated amount of money to be raised by taxation for 2016 and establish the Board meeting of December 14, 2016, as the time for the public hearing regarding the levy, as recommended by the Business Manager/CSBO and the Superintendent.

Michelle Egan seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

D. Acceptance of Auditor's Report for FY16

Michelle Egan moved that the Board of Education accept the Auditor's Report, as recommended by the Business Manager/CSBO and the Superintendent.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

7. BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

A. Position on Resolutions for IASB Delegate Assembly

This item was addressed under the Superintendent's Report.

B. Policy Committee Meeting Date

After discussion, it was agreed that the Policy Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

C. Finance Committee Meeting Date

After discussion, it was agreed that the Finance Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

D. Tri-Conference

Dr. Wojtylewski suggested, and the Board members agreed, to meet for lunch at Noon on Saturday. Information concerning accommodations and lunch reservations will be delivered to attendees on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Since most of the Board members will be at the Tri-Conference, there will be no Board update on November 18<sup>th</sup>. The next Board update will be November 21<sup>st</sup>.

8. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

On behalf of himself, the Board of Education, and fans, Dave Blanks congratulated the 2016 World Series Champion Chicago Cubs.

A Board member commented that she found the South Cook Division Meeting dinner program on the changes in addressing discipline matters very informative as a Board member, parent, and teacher.

A Board member thanked Dr. Wojtylewski for investigating the educational benefits of using Google in the classroom; stated that she enjoyed being able to test instructions on accessing the parent portal of PowerSchool prior to the instructions being sent to Worth Junior High parents; and commented on the new design of the district website noting that it is very well designed, organized, and user friendly. Dr. Wojtylewski credited Robert Jeffers for the design. Bob Moyer assisted in the activation of the new website.

A Board member commented that she recently picked up her daughter from the Worth Junior High during the one of the student lunch periods. She witnessed an altercation between several students and was very impressed by the immediate response and cohesiveness of staff in responding to the situation. Mr. Zampillo thanked the Board member for the positive acknowledgement.

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

There were no remarks made.

10. CLOSED SESSION

Michelle Egan moved that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 8:36 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District, and student disciplinary cases.

Bernadette Strama seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

The Board members took a break before entering closed session.

11. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Rebecca Roti moved that the Board of Education, upon completion of its discussions in closed session, reconvene in public session at 9:28 p.m.

Vince Flores seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

Dr. Wojtylewski responded to questions regarding the services rendered by the architect during the most recent facility projects

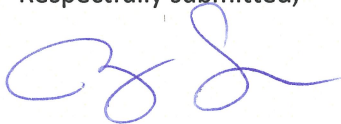
12. ADJOURNMENT

Dave Blanks moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

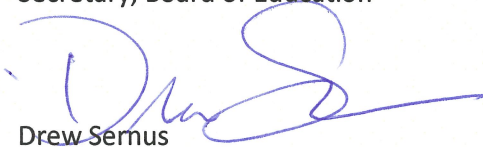
Rebecca Roti seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All Aye - Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,



Meghan Sisk  
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus  
President, Board of Education