

**Board of Education
Worth School District 127**

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 14, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Drew Sernus, Rebecca Roti, Meghan Sisk, Dave Blanks, Michelle Egan, Danette Keeler

Absent: Vince Flores

Administrators:

Dr. Rita Wojtylewski, Superintendent	Cindy Dykas, Business Manager/CSBO
Tim Hathhorn, Worth Elementary Principal	Linda Esposito, Worthwoods Principal
Joe Zampillo, Worth Junior High Principal	Maureen Eichstaedt, Worth Junior High Assistant Principal
Sinéad Chambers, Special Education Director	

Others Present:

Scott Tamkus, Director of Facilities and Grounds	Robert Jeffers, Technology Coordinator
Lisa Smith, Worth Elementary Parent	Amanda Elizondo, Worth Elementary Parent
Stephanie Peltzer, Worth Elementary Parent	Jim Peltzer, Worth Elementary Parent
Debbie Woods, WEA	Andrea Brejcha, Worth Elementary Parent
Donna Weinert, Administrative Center	Brenda Miller, Recording Secretary

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Staff and Student Recognition

Dr. Wojtylewski thanked Scott Tamkus for the additional time he spent in the district this past weekend due to the snow fall. Scott Tamkus' efforts, along with the efforts of his custodial staff, in keeping the area clear and safe for students and staff are greatly appreciated. Drew Sernus stated that Vince Flores contacted him and also asked that Scott be thanked, as Scott was seen clearing the snow multiple times throughout the weekend.

Tim Hathhorn reported that the elementary schools participated in the American Heart Association "Jump Rope for Heart" event. The event was themed around the "heart"; benefitting those in need with the funds raised; and learning about health measures to support a healthy heart. Several members from the Worth Police Department, Cindy Dykas, and parents were among the many volunteer rope turners. Anyone wishing to donate can do so online through the American Heart Association.

Dr. Wojtylewski shared her appreciation of the teachers and administrators for the many events which engage students in embracing care and compassion for others.

B. Facility Projects Summer 2018

Dr. Wojtylewski reported on an administrative meeting held with the architects to discuss the summer facility projects. She distributed to the Board members a project schedule timeline

for the projects. The architect will release bid documents on March 6th. A pre-bid meeting will be held on March 9th. Bids will be due on March 28th. She asked that Board members plan on attending a special Board meeting on April 4th for the purpose of awarding bids. Construction meetings will be held weekly throughout the planning process and continue through completion of the projects. Dr. Wojtylewski displayed and explained an early concept drawing option being discussed for the remodeling of the WJH Commons area. The Commons will become a flat surface that will allow the Commons for use as a multi-purpose room. Projection devices and speakers will be mounted within the ceiling tiles for use during various events. Also discussed at the architect's meeting were changes to the kitchen area, entrance area, main office area, the construction of a wall between the Media Center and the Technology classroom, and extensive work on the third floor. The third floor project encompasses new lighting, ceiling tiles and unit ventilators. Due to a change in building codes, the unit ventilator project will require additional costs for masonry work. Dr. Wojtylewski will provide copies of the Commons area drawings in the next Board update. As information becomes available, it will be shared in future Board updates and/or Board meetings.

C. Details on Board Agenda Items

Consent Agenda – Dr. Wojtylewski noted that the Board will take action on the approval of the consent agenda items. This particular consent agenda contains action on the 2018-19 retirement request of Brenda Miller, Secretary to the Superintendent and Board of Education. Dr. Wojtylewski thanked Brenda Miller for her service to the district and community over the last 23 years. Dr. Wojtylewski also noted that the effective date on the resignation of a certified staff member should be February 16th not 15th.

Approval of Minutes – The Board will take action on the approval of the minutes of the January 17th Board of Education meeting and the minutes of the January 10th Committee of the Whole meeting. A revised copy of the Committee of the Whole minutes was distributed correcting the name of the Board member moving to adjourn the meeting.

Approval of Worth Junior High Graduation Fee – The Board will take action on the approval of a graduation fee of \$65.00 for the 2017-18 school year.

Dr. Wojtylewski reported that Tom Melody has received the final agreement from DLA Architects, Ltd. He will make a final check of the document for accuracy and then forward it to her. Once the document is received she will contact Drew Sernus for his signature.

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

President Sernus stated that the members of the Board of Education are interested in and welcome your comments. The public comment opportunity on our agenda is designed for your comments and we ask that you restrict your comments on agenda or non-agenda items to 3 minutes. We have outlined ways in which you can get answers to any questions you might have. Please note the instructions in our Public Participation document. Any questions raised during this segment of our Board meeting will be re-directed to the appropriate personnel in our district for answer within a reasonable, more appropriate time. He invited audience members to comment. In light of the high school shooting that took place in Florida, a parent asked if the schools practice emergency drill and fire drill situations. Dr. Wojtylewski reiterated that this segment of the meeting is for comments. She invited the parent to contact her secretary to schedule an appointment or give her phone number and Dr. Wojtylewski would call her. The parent also

requested an explanation on why parents were not notified that there would be a change in lunch menu served on Monday as a result of Friday being a snow day. Her son did not order the pizza on Friday because he does not like it. Why was he then expected to eat it on Monday instead of the hot dog he ordered? He made it through the day with only breakfast and orange slices. The parent contacted Cindy Dykas regarding this matter and she felt Cindy Dykas' response and attitude was unprofessional. Dr. Wojtylewski, again, invited the parent to schedule an appointment.

A parent asked which building the architectural drawings referred to for the Commons area. Dr. Wojtylewski responded the drawings were for the Worth Junior High. He asked if there had been any further discussion on reconstruction of the Worth Elementary building to provide for a cafeteria. Dr. Wojtylewski directed him to the guidelines provided on the handout given to all visitors to Board meetings which includes instructions on how a community member can obtain an answer to a question. She would be willing to meet with him or call him. He commented on the Worth Elementary kindergarten teacher on leave. Dr. Wojtylewski asked that no further comment be made as it relates to personnel matters which are confidential. The parent apologized stating his comment was not about that particular teacher. He just wondered why a permanent substitute was not used as opposed to the day-to-day substitute method which is currently being used.

A Board member offered that the minutes of Board and Committee meetings are a source of information when seeking to follow items discussed and action taken by the Board of Education. Minutes are posted on the district website after they are approved by the Board.

6. BOARD MOTIONS

A. Consent Agenda

Dr. Wojtylewski noted a revised call list of substitutes has been distributed as a name was removed due to a non-legible fingerprint submission.

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

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| 1) <u>Accounts Payable</u> | January 29, 2018 | \$19,902.30 |
| | February 14, 2018 | \$615,597.45 |
| 2) <u>Payroll Summary</u> | Education Fund | \$525,554.82 |
| | Building Fund | \$38,865.44 |
| | IMRF and FICA/Medicare | \$42,080.52 |
| 3) <u>Resignation of Certified Staff</u> | | |
| Steven Weagant | Special Education Teacher – WJH | Effective February 16, 2018 |
| 4) <u>Resignation of Classified Staff - Retirement</u> | | |
| Brenda Miller, Secretary to the Superintendent and Board of Education, | | Effective End of 2018-19 School Year |
| 5) <u>Additions to Call List of Substitute Teachers, Instructional Aides, Office and Lunch Supervisors</u> | | |
| (end consent agenda) | | |

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Drew Sernus requested that item 3) the Resignation of Certified Staff be removed from the consent agenda for discussion during closed session. Board members agreed to his request.

The roll call vote was taken on the following consent agenda items.

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| 1) <u>Accounts Payable</u> | January 29, 2018 | \$19,902.30 |
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| 2) <u>Payroll Summary</u> | Education Fund | \$525,554.82 |
| | Building Fund | \$38,865.44 |
| | IMRF and FICA/Medicare | \$42,080.52 |
- 4) Resignation of Classified Staff - Retirement
Brenda Miller, Secretary to the Superintendent and Board of Education, Effective End of 2018-19 School Year
- 5) Additions to Call List of Substitute Teachers, Instructional Aides, Office and Lunch Supervisors
(end consent agenda)

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

A Board member asked if the district considered moving to an automated system for posting when a substitute is needed. Dr. Wojtylewski stated that an automated system does not provide more substitutes. She discussed the struggles that districts throughout Illinois are facing due to the serious shortage of teachers. The administration plans to discuss options when looking at staffing needs for FY19. When she first started with the district she rarely conducted FMLA meetings with staff for the purpose of maternity leave. Through the years as staff have retired, we have welcomed many new and younger teachers. A younger staff plan families. This is a good thing and we are happy for those individuals. The effect produces the need for short-term and often time long-term substitute teachers to fill maternity leave positions. This often decreases our already sparse pool of substitutes as substitutes fill those openings.

B. Approval of Minutes – Board Meetings

Michelle Egan moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the January 17, 2018, regular meeting.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

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

C. Approval of Minutes – Committee Meetings

Rebecca Roti moved that the Committee of the Whole approve the minutes of the January 10, 2018, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Aye, 1 Abstain (Keeler), 1 Absent – Motion Carried

D. Approval of Worth Junior High Graduation Fee

Danette Keeler moved that the Board of Education approve a graduation fee of \$65.00 for the 2017-18 school year.

Michelle Egan seconded the motion.

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

7. BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

A. South Cook Division Dinner Meeting – March 7, 2018

Five Board members indicated they planned on attending the dinner meeting. The recording secretary will contact the absent Board member before making reservations.

B. IASB: The Equity Event – April 28, 2018

Board members who were present indicated they were not available to attend the IASB event. The recording secretary will contact the absent Board member on whether or not he plans to attend.

8. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

A Board member complimented the Band members who participated in the I.G.S.M.A Solo Contest on their performances. She invited everyone to attend the upcoming band concert at the Worth Junior High on February 28th at 6:30 p.m.

On behalf of the Board members, President Sernus thanked the parents responsible for the Munchkins Donut Holes brought as a treat.

A Board member invited everyone to support the Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack annual pancake breakfast at St. Mark Lutheran Church on March 3rd.

A Board member commented that, as a parent, she appreciated the early decision made by the administration in calling a snow day on February 9th. She also commented on positive comments about the schools and community on the Worth Facebook feed. Like herself, many residents grew up in Worth and are now raising their children in Worth. She viewed this as a very positive example of what Worth has to offer.

A Board member commended the Worth Junior High staff on the recent honors assembly.

9. CITIZENS' REMARKS – AGENDA ITEMS

There were no remarks made.

10. CLOSED SESSION

Michelle Egan moved that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 7:24 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 members took a short recess before entering closed session.

11. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Dave Blanks moved that the Board of Education, upon completion of its discussions in closed session, reconvene in public session at 8:30 p.m.

Michelle Egan seconded the motion.

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

The Board members took a short recess before reconvening in public session.

Megan Sisk moved that the Board of Education approve the resignation of certified staff member Steven Weagant, Special Education Teacher at Worth Junior High, effective February 16, 2018.

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

Danette Keeler moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

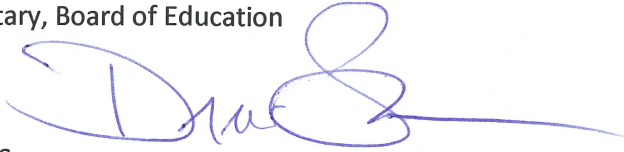
Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All Aye - Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'MS', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Meghan Sisk
Secretary, Board of Education

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D Sernus', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Drew Sernus
President, Board of Education