

**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 October 11, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Drew Sernus, Meghan Sisk, Dave Blanks, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Danette Keeler, Rebecca Roti (arrived at 8:19 p.m.)

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
	Sinead Chambers, Special Education Director	

Others Present:	Jim Peltzer, Worth Elementary Parent	Stephanie Peltzer, Worth Elementary Parent
	Amanda Elizendo, Worth Elementary Parent	Lisa Smith, Worth Elementary Parent
	Danielle Tyma, Worth Elementary Parent	Samantha Beakley, Worth Elementary Parent
	Monika Danko, Worth Elementary Parent	Brad Michaels, Worth Elementary Parent
	Sheri Michaels, Worth Elementary Parent	Ed Wright, DLA Architects
	Jo Anne Albrecht, WEA	Scott Tamkus, Director of Facilities and Grounds
	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 expressed pride for students and staff with regard to their participation in a "Hats on Friday" event sponsored by each school's Student Council. During the month of October, students and staff are donating \$1.00 for an opportunity to wear a hat in school on Friday. All proceeds will be donated to assist the families and communities affected by recent hurricanes. She requested that JoAnne Albrecht share the administration's appreciation to the teachers for the many events which engage students in embracing care and compassion for others.

B. DLA Architects, Ltd. – Ed Wright

Ed Wright shared information on DLA Architects, Ltd., its employee base, experience, and dedication to being accessible and responsive in providing for client needs. He addressed questions and comments from the Board members regarding the facility projects done this summer and DLA's assessment of future projects. Drew Sernus expressed the Board's appreciation for Ed bringing to the administration's attention that incorrect curbing was installed on the Worthridge roof.

Dr. Wojtylewski stated that Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins and DLA's legal counsel are developing a retainer document. The document will be presented to the Board for approval at the November Board meeting.

C. School Facility Projects Update

Drew Sernus reported that he met with Scott Tamkus on Monday, October 9th to tour sites throughout the district where upgrades and repairs were completed. Drew Sernus commented on several of the projects and reported that workers were on site installing new exterior doors at the Worth Junior High and new toilets and sinks were being installed at the Administrative Center/Worthridge building. The new playground is an incredible addition to the Pre-K program. He stated the day was very informative and he thanked Scott Tamkus for providing him with the opportunity.

Dr. Wojtylewski reported that the new chairs ordered for staff members throughout the district have been delivered. Replacement of the student desks will begin in early November.

Dr. Wojtylewski reported that there continues to be a concern with residents not properly disposing of dog waste as they walk on district property. The administration is looking into signage for the area and/or exploring the possibility of fencing the area making it less accessible. Residents are expected to respect the district's property.

Dr. Wojtylewski reported that Chromebooks have been deployed to grades 5, 7 and 8. Fourth grade is scheduled for this week and 6th grade will receive the devices next week. The Chromebook and Google Classroom initiatives have been fully embraced by our teaching staff. Some staff members have become Google certified. A demonstration on the use of the Chromebooks and Google Classroom will be presented at the November meeting.

D. Title I Plan

Dr. Wojtylewski provided the Board members with a copy of the District Title I Plan. She reviewed the document and addressed comments and questions from the Board. The Board will take action later in the meeting on the approval of the district plan. Once approved, she will submit the document to the Illinois State Board of Education for approval.

E. Disposal of Truck

The administration is in the process of discussing options for the disposal of the old dump truck. It has not been used since the purchase of the new truck last year. The truck does run but the plow mechanism is rusted out and inoperable. When a plan is in place, a resolution will be presented to the Board for its disposal.

F. Details on Board Agenda Items

Approval of Title I Plan – The Board will take action on the approval of the Worth School District 127 Title I District Plan.

Approval of Contract for Snow Plow Services – The Board will take action on the approval of a contract with Beverly Snow & Ice, Inc.

Approval of Resolution Requiring Annual Verification of Student Residency – The Board will take action on the approval of a resolution requiring annual verification of student residency.

Purchase of District Vehicle – The Board will take action on the approval of the purchase of a district vehicle.

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

Dr. Wojtylewski, administrative staff, and Board members responded to comments and questions from audience members on the possible fencing of Worthridge property; a full day kindergarten program; the restructuring of holiday parties since the PTO disbanded; the lack of evening events for parents/students as offered in a neighboring district; the perceived dangerous situation during drop-off and pick-up times at Worth Elementary; the presence of a Worth police officer visiting with a crossing guard during drop off and dismissal times and doing nothing to help control traffic; the lack of communication and responsiveness since the previous principal left Worth Elementary; interest in organizing a parent/teacher group; use of social media and emails as a means of increasing the lines of communication; the positive communication received by a parent when dealing with the school; and at capacity kindergarten classrooms which limit time available for teacher/parent communication. Decisions are made on educational and facility needs during study sessions held by the Board. The Board members share duties serving on a Policy Committee, Finance Committee and an Education Committee. The committee meetings are posted in the schools and on the district website and are open to the public. If a group of parents plans to bring back a parent/organization all legal requirements surrounding such an organization will need to be researched. The change in format for the holiday parties was done due to a shortage of volunteer parents. The new format brings the children to a central location which is much easier to supervise and provide for all students. A Board member suggested that attendance at a Village Board meeting might support the need for a safer situation at Worth Elementary for students being dropped off and picked up.

A Board member asked the audience for positive comments regarding the many changes that have taken place over the last few years and voiced disappointment when the only response was “air conditioning” and “computers”.

Dr. Wojtylewski addressed the audience. She stated that she is in the presence of many of the best administrators and educators in the field who work very hard to serve the community and provide dedicated instruction for the community's children. The school calendar was restructured several years ago eliminating half-day attendance days. This was done to increase instruction to students. The district was on the “financial watch list” twelve years ago. The Board, administration and staff worked hard and sacrificed to bring the district to “financial recognition” status. Through the efforts of those same individuals, the district was able to increase communication with phones in every classroom, provide for the upgrade of educational materials, and the repair and upgrade of its facilities and grounds. Parties are a lesser priority to providing excellent instruction. The focus of this district is the best education available for students. The Board and administration will take all comments heard this evening under advisement.

A parent stated that he hoped the Board realized that the comments were not meant to be a personal attack. The staff and Board are giving their best and their efforts are appreciated.

Rebecca Roti arrived at 8:19 p.m. during citizen's remarks.

6. BOARD MOTIONS

A. Consent Agenda

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

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| 1) <u>Accounts Payable</u> | August 22, 2017 | \$10,698.26 |
| | September 21, 2017 | \$3,790.00 |
| | September 28, 2017 | \$128,361.00 |
| | October 11, 2017 | \$251,913.90 |
| | October 11, 2017 | \$85,622.77 |
| 2) <u>Payroll Summary</u> | Education Fund | \$860,012.76 |
| | Building Fund | \$55,239.94 |
| | IMRF and FICA/Medicare | \$77,117.74 |
| 3) <u>Additions to Call List of Substitute Teachers, Instructional Aides, Office and Lunch Supervisors</u>
(<i>end consent agenda</i>) | | |

Vince Flores seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

B. Approval of Minutes – Board Meetings

Vince Flores moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the September 13, 2017, regular meeting.

Michelle Egan seconded the motion.

A Board member noted that during the *Citizens' Remarks* portion of the October meeting, comments were made but not reflected in the minutes. It was the consensus that the approval of the minutes be tabled pending edit and presented for approval at the November meeting.

C. Approval of Title I Plan

Vince Flores moved that the Board of Education approve the Worth School District 127 Title I District Plan, as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

D. Approval of Contract for Snow Plow Services

Michelle Egan moved that the Board of Education approve a contract with Beverly Snow & Ice, Inc. for unlimited snow plowing for the 2017-2018 school year, at a cost not to exceed \$8,183.53.

Vince Flores seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

E. Approval of Resolution Requiring Annual Verification of Student Residency

Dave Blanks moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Requiring Annual Verification of Student Residency, as presented in Attachments E1-E2.

Rebecca Roti seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

F. Purchase of District Vehicle

Meghan Sisk moved that the Board of Education approve the purchase of a district vehicle from Hawk Ford of Oak Lawn, as presented in Attachments F1-F3.

Michelle Egan seconded the motion.

A Board member stated he had investigated similar vehicles and found lower prices. The information was given to Dr. Wojtylewski prior to the meeting.

It was the consensus that approval of the purchase of a district vehicle be tabled pending further review of the information presented.

7. BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

Board members noted several student events. The WJH Band, under the direction of Dave Blyth, performed in the Chicago Columbus Day parade. On October 12th, several junior high students will be participating in the Lions Club Porch Light Parade and the Shepard Marching Band, with former Worth graduates, will be performing at Worth Junior High. Andrew Maddox became a member of the Illinois Music Educator Association District 1. This places him among the best junior high musicians in South Cook and Will Counties. Congratulations also goes to Dave Blyth for his passion and skills in working with our youth.

Dr. Wojtylewski responded to questions on when parents will receive PARCC and MAP test scores. The scores will be sent out with report cards.

Dr. Wojtylewski responded to an inquiry about how staff gain access to the schools outside the school day. All staff members are required to provide the superintendent with information such as the date, time period, and reason for access to the building. Once approved, the information is passed on to the Technology Department.

Dr. Wojtylewski stated she will have the recording secretary poll Policy Committee members for a meeting in late October.

8. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

A Board member requested that a monthly consecutive enrollment report be provided each month within the Board packet. This will be supplied.

Rebecca Roti reported on her attendance at District 230 Community Connection event on September 27th.

A Board member commented on the new reading series. Her son loves it and it is very parent friendly.

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 9:14 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: 5 Aye, 2 Absent – Motion Carried

The Board 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 10:29 p.m.

Vince Flores seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

12. ADJOURNMENT

Meghan Sisk moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 p.m.

Michelle Egan seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All Aye - Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,



Meghan Sisk *DANETTE M. KEELER*
Secretary, Board of Education, *SECRETARY PRO TEM*



Drew Sernus
President, Board of Education