

**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 December 13, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Drew Sernus, Meghan Sisk, Dave Blanks, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores

Absent: Danette Keeler, Rebecca Roti

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

Others Present:	Scott Tamkus, Director of Facilities and Grounds	Robert Jeffers, Technology Coordinator
	Lisa Bray, Worth Junior High Staff	Lisa Smith, Worth Elementary Parent
	Amanda Elizando, Worth Elementary Parent	Kim Butz, Worth Elementary Parent
	Dave Butz, Worth Elementary Parent	Andrea Brejcha, Worth Elementary Parent
	Samantha Beakley, Worth Elementary Parent	Monika Danko, Worth Elementary Parent
	Kathy Bennett, Worth Elementary Parent	Jim Peltzer, Worth Elementary Parent
	Brenda Miller, Recording Secretary	

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC HEARING ON 2017 TAX LEVY

Dave Blanks moved that the Board of Education conduct a public hearing regarding the 2017 Tax Levy.

Michelle Egan seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Aye, 2 Absent – Motion Carried

Cindy Dykas stated that the 2017 Tax Levy was presented and reviewed at the November 9th Board of Education meeting. All requirements of the levy have been met and are in compliance with the law. The purpose of the hearing is to give interested parties an opportunity to comment on the 2017 Tax Levy. Cindy Dykas invited audience members to comment and/or ask questions.

Hearing no comments or questions, Meghan Sisk moved that the Board of Education close the public hearing and return to regular session.

Vince Flores seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Aye, 2 Absent – Motion Carried

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Staff and Student Recognition

Dr. Wojtylewski and Cindy Dykas acknowledged the efforts of Regina Garrity, 5th grade teacher at Worth Elementary, in securing a \$3,000 grant from the South Suburban Association

of School Business Officials. Regina worked with elementary physical education teachers and wrote a grant for heart rate monitors for use during physical education classes. Each student will have his/her own strap which connects with a reusable monitor. The data from the monitors will be downloaded to the student's Chromebook and incorporated and studied during classroom instruction.

Dr. Wojtylewski thanked Cindy Dykas for attending the grant meetings and sharing the information with the principals.

Dr. Wojtylewski reported on P.A. 100-0554 introduced as law on November 16th by Governor Rauner. The law was in response to women who have identified sexual harassment. The new law requires municipalities, school districts, park districts, libraries, and other governmental agencies to pass a sexual harassment policy by resolution. We currently have a policy in place, but typically do not adopt policies by resolution. The current policy has been sent to the attorney for revision to ensure that it has all the necessary components as required by the new law. A new policy will be presented at the January Board meeting for adoption by resolution.

Dr. Wojtylewski reported on a meeting with a parent concerned with the amount of time that her child is given to eat lunch. Dr. Wojtylewski shared with the parent that the Board is looking at the lunch schedule, and that all parents have an option to contact their building principal to arrange for additional time for their child to eat.

Dr. Wojtylewski stated she surveyed several surrounding districts. We operate a 15-minute lunch and 15-minute recess schedule. All the districts surveyed operate a 20-minute lunch and 10-minute recess schedule. After meeting with the principals, Worthwoods and Worth Junior High were immediately able to initiate a 20/10-minute schedule. A schedule change at Worth Elementary requires further planning based on the number of students eating lunch and the capacity of the area currently being used. Dr. Wojtylewski reviewed a memo from Tim Hathhorn outlining the differences between the buildings and the challenges that must be addressed at Worth Elementary. He recommended that the art or the music room be made available to accommodate 75 students during the lunch period. The floors of these room are old wooden floors and will need input from the architect to ensure that the floors can support weight that would be the equivalency of 3 classrooms. If clearance is received, additional lunch supervision and custodial staff will be needed; heating and refrigeration units will need to be purchased; adequate electrical power to support the equipment will need to be verified; and a scanner and Chromebook for collection of data required for State reports will need to be purchased.

Dr. Wojtylewski thanked Tim Hathhorn for the considerable amount of time he spent in coming up with a recommendation. In consideration of the lack of physical space and the additional elements that need to be in place, Worth Elementary will remain on a 15/15-minute schedule while the district studies alternate plans for providing lunch facilities. Dr. Wojtylewski suggested that Tim Hathhorn advertise to his parents that if there is a child in the system that is not able to eat within the 15 minutes, we will make accommodations for the child.

Dr. Wojtylewski noted that the Committee of the Whole has had several conversations regarding increasing enrollment and facility needs and a long-term solution. Options that were discussed include adding an addition to Worth Elementary at the north end or the west side of the building, or shifting the district boundaries.

Dr. Wojtylewski reported that it was brought to her attention that teachers were approached by parents saying that since the teachers have an hour for lunch, the students should also have an hour lunch. It is not known how this rumor started. Per the WEA Contract, teachers receive a 30-minute duty-free lunch.

Dr. Wojtylewski responded to questions on the delivery of new desks and storage of old desks. The new desks have been delivered to both elementary schools. New desks are scheduled to arrive at Worth Junior High on January 4th. Goodwill was only able to take half of the elementary desks due to shortage of space. A container was rented to store the other half. It is expected that they will be picked up after winter break.

B. Details on Board Agenda Items

Employment of Classified Staff – The Board will take action on the employment of a paraprofessional to provide assistance for two 4th grade classes at Worthwoods which have class sizes that exceed the contractual limit of 30 students.

2017 Tax Levy – The Board will take action on the adoption of resolutions Providing for 2017 Tax Levy for Working Cash, Providing for 2017 Tax Levy for Special Education Purposes, Providing for Tax Levy for the Year 2017, and Authorizing the Reduction of Certain Fund Levies for the 2017 Levy determining the estimated amount of money to be raised for the 2017 tax levy.

Approval of Board Policies – The Board will take action on the adoption of Board policies dealing with the school board and general personnel.

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. 12/11/2017 Committee of the Whole

Chairman Sernus reported that the Committee of the Whole discussed a detailed explanation of facility needs for each of the buildings, as presented by the administration. The budget has two million dollars available for summer of 2018 projects. Some of the items discussed were: Worthridge: Front and back parking lots; west wing roof; interior painting; and structural crack outside the custodial door.

Worth Junior High: Unit ventilators and related mechanical controls; structural crack on the north wall of the gymnasium; and making the Commons area handicapped accessible.

Worth Elementary: Roof leaks and below grade classroom leaks; decaying soffit and fascia; updating of boys' and girls' bathrooms; disposal of stage curtains and removal of stage; options for adding an addition to the building for a cafeteria and classroom space.

District-Wide: Door closures; aging phone system; projection devices in the classroom (technology); and increasing enrollment.

Board members who were unable to attend the meeting will receive copies of documents distributed at the meeting. Drew Sernus found the floor plans for each of the buildings that

were distributed were very helpful and he suggested that the Board members keep them readily available for future facility project discussions.

Dr. Wojtylewski explained that the first meeting was for the purpose of presenting a needs assessment. The administration has scheduled a meeting with the architect and will request cost projections. The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be dedicated to prioritizing projects for the summer of 2018 at an aggregate cost not to exceed two million dollars.

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

An audience member questioned/commented on the following:

- if Worth Elementary students do not go out for recess due to the weather, will students automatically get more time to eat lunch or do parents have to request additional time? Mr. Hathhorn responded that it will still be a 15/15-minute schedule. Parents should contact him for special accommodations.
- her 4th grader has had as little as eight minutes to eat. Part of the problem is the amount of time it takes to transition the students from the lunchroom to recess and from recess to the lunchroom. It is her belief that all students, regardless of age, need more than 15 minutes to eat lunch. Mr. Hathhorn responded that the lunch supervisors are in contact via walkie-talkies to coordinate the transition between lunch and recess. The administration and Board acknowledges that some students need additional time and accommodations will be made if requested.
- Has the Board discussed moving to a grade point average system with recognition of honor roll students? Drew Sernus responded that this is a topic for discussion by the Education Committee.

A parent commented that she was responsible for the Facebook page to gain interest in a 20/10-minute lunch schedule. It was not the intent that parents approach teachers regarding the matter nor use abusive language in speaking with them. She suggested that the students who bring a lunch from home eat in the art or music room so that the district would not have to purchase heating and refrigeration units and scanning equipment. She also suggested that the lunch supervisors, if they aren't already doing so, send a 5-minute signal to the lunch supervisors outside so the students can line up and be ready to enter the building for lunch. Mr. Hathhorn responded that the lunch supervisors communicate via walkie-talkie.

An audience member questioned/commented on the following:

- if a microphone could be used since the group is getting larger to assist those sitting in the back hear clearly. Dr. Wojtylewski noted that Board meetings are normally held in the conference room and the acoustics are much better. The conference room has been used for other purposes during the last few months. The Board will return to meeting in the conference room beginning in January.
- if a staff directory with contact information, specifically email addresses, can be added to the school website to help parents with communication. The Board noted that a staff directory was added to the website.
- if the administration can work with the Village to get larger signs in the area north of 112th, 113th, and 114th on New England or use cones to block the street to alert drivers that 112th is a one way street. Joe Zampillo responded that Worth Junior High does use cones to block the street during drop-off and pick-up times. Drew Sernus responded that signs is an issue for the Village.

- it is exciting to hear of discussions on building a new cafeteria. He wondered if the plans included any additional classrooms? Dr. Wojtylewski responded that several options are being discussed along with adding additional classrooms, but discussions are in the very early stage of planning.

8. BOARD MOTIONS

A. Consent Agenda

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

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1) <u>Accounts Payable</u> | December 13, 2017 | \$397,795.76 |
| | December 13, 2017 | \$26,991.34 |
| 2) <u>Payroll Summary</u> | Education Fund | \$538,716.82 |
| | Building Fund | \$36,180.97 |
| | IMRF and FICA/Medicare | \$41,975.05 |
| 3) <u>Employment of Classified Staff</u> | | |
| Michelle Scott | 4 Hours Per Day Paraprofessional – WW | Effective December 14, 2017 |

- 4) Additions to Call List of Substitute Teachers, Instructional Aides, Office and Lunch Supervisors
(end consent agenda)

Drew Sernus seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Aye, 2 Absent – Motion Carried

B. Approval of Minutes – Board Meetings

Dave Blanks moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the November 8, 2017, regular meeting.

Michelle Egan seconded the motion.

A Board member noted that during the *Report Card* portion of the *Superintendent's Report*, 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 January meeting.

Dave Blanks moved that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes of the November 8, 2017, regular meeting.

Michelle Egan seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 3 Aye, 2 Abstain (Flores, Sisk), 2 Absent – Motion Carried

C. 2017 Tax Levy

Dave Blanks moved that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution Providing for 2017 Tax Levy for Working Cash, as recommended by the Business Manager/CSBO and the Superintendent.

Vince Flores seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Aye, 2 Absent – Motion Carried

Vince Flores moved that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution Providing for 2017 Tax Levy for Special Education Purposes, as recommended by the Business Manager/CSBO and the Superintendent.

Michelle Egan seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Aye, 2 Absent – Motion Carried

Michelle Egan moved that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution Providing for Tax Levy for the Year 2017, as recommended by the Business Manager/CSBO and the Superintendent.
Vince Flores seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Aye, 2 Absent – Motion Carried

Dave Blanks moved that the Board of Education authorize the President to sign the Certificate of Compliance with the Truth in Taxation Law, as recommended by the Business Manager/CSBO and the Superintendent.
Michelle Egan seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Aye, 2 Absent – Motion Carried

Vince Flores moved that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution Authorizing Reduction of Certain Fund Levies for the 2017 Levy Year, as recommended by the Business Manager/CSBO and the Superintendent.
Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Aye, 2 Absent – Motion Carried

D. Approval of Board Policies

Dave Blanks moved that the Board of Education Board Policies, as presented in Attachments D1-D14.

Policy 2:100	School Board	Board Member Conflict of Interest
Policy 2:125	School Board	Board Member Expenses
Policy 2:140	School Board	Communications To and From the Board
Policy 2:140-E	School Board	Exhibit – Guidance for Board Member Communications, Including Email Use
Policy 2:230	School Board	Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board
Policy 5:60	General Personnel	Expenses

Vince Flores seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Aye, 2 Absent – Motion Carried

9. BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

A. Policy Committee Meeting Date

B. Committee Meeting Date

Dr. Wojtylewski recommended that the Board continue its focus on summer of 2018 facility projects. Once the architect has had an opportunity to determine estimated costs for identified projects, a Committee of the Whole meeting date will be set. Once a facility project plan is established a Policy Committee meeting date will be set.

10. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

Board members attending the Tri-Conference reported on sessions they attended related to the Illinois Report Card, Social Media Threats/Safer Schools, and Board Communication. Drew Sernus stated that the resolutions adopted at the Delegate Assembly were those supported by our Board.

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

A Board member asked if all the Chromebooks have been distributed. Dr. Wojtylewski stated that grades 3 through 8 have been dispensed. The remaining Chromebooks will be distributed after winter break.

A Board member expressed his appreciation to the administrative staff members who were in attendance at the Village Tree Lighting ceremony; commended the WJH Student Council and sponsors for their participation in the Village's annual Ton-Of-Food Drive; and congratulated two former District 127 students on earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

12. CLOSED SESSION

A closed session meeting was not held.

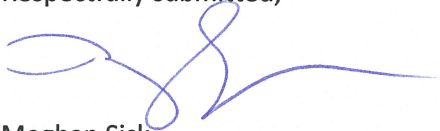
ADJOURNMENT

Dave Blanks moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Michelle Egan seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All Aye - Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,



Meghan Sisk
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus
President, Board of Education