

**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 March 13, 2019**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

**Administrators:** Dr. Rita Wojtylewski, Superintendent  
Tim Hathhorn, Worth Elementary Principal  
Sinéad Chambers, Special Education Director  
Cindy Dykas, Business Manager/CSBO/SFO  
Linda Esposito, Worthwoods Principal

**Others Present:** Dr. Mark Fleming  
Stephanie Peltzer, Worth Elementary Parent  
Shannon Fisher, Worthwoods Teacher  
Melissa Soliday, Worthwoods Parent  
Naomi Cordova, Worthwoods Student  
Sophie Cordova, Worthwoods Student  
Sarah Egan, Worthwoods Student  
Haya Khalil, Worthwoods Parent  
Jason Soliday, Worthwoods  
Ameer Hamayel, Worthwoods Student  
Robert Jeffers, Technology Coordinator  
Jo Anne Albrecht, Worth Education Association  
Mary Zirngibl, Worth Elementary Teacher  
JoAnne Tyree, Worth Educational Support Team  
Michelle Okrzesik, Worth Elementary Teacher  
Cathy Cordova, Worthwoods Parent  
Ivaliz Cordova, Worthwoods Sibling  
Eman Khalil, Worthwoods Student  
Walaa Morra, Worthwoods Parent  
Sereen Salem, Worthwoods Student  
Juliet Soliday, Worthwoods Student  
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**

On behalf of the fifth grade students and staff involved with the Wax Museum project, Shannon Fisher thanked the Board for the opportunity to share the excitement of the annual wax museum event. She outlined the research done by the students leading up to the culmination of the project. The students present their work to fellow students, staff, and friends during two presentations. Everyone is invited to donate change in a cup for the opportunity to see a student bring their historical figure "to life." All proceeds collected from the event are donated to a community outreach program. Six students showcased their historical figure. A sample of the trailers produced by other students as part of the project were shown.

Dr. Wojtylewski and the Board members thanked the students and staff for the presentations.

The Board members took a short recess to talk with the students about the projects and presentation boards which were on display.

Dr. Wojtylewski introduced Dr. Mark Fleming, the new Superintendent who will join the district on July 1, 2019. She has had several opportunities to meet with Dr. Fleming and is very impressed. She commended the Board members on the excellent decision made in choosing him to serve the district and community.

Tim Hathhorn and Linda Esposito thanked the students, staff, and community members for their participation in the American Heart Association “Kids Heart Challenge” event. Worth Elementary raised \$5,315 and Worthwoods raised \$4,780.

A Board member stated that she had an occasion to drop her son off at Worth Junior High for an event. She is still in awe of the positive impression created with the remodeling of the entryway, Commons area and offices.

**B. Facility Projects Summer 2019**

Dr. Wojtylewski stated that all the projectors are on site. Installation will begin in June. Several small projects will be done over Spring Break.

**C. Residency Report**

As requested by a Board member, a memo prepared by Cindy Dykas outlining the residency procedures used during the 2018-19 school year was included in the Board packet. The Board members thanked Cindy Dykas for the thorough report.

**D. Board Policy**

Dr. Wojtylewski stated that Policy 4:170 dealing with the operational safety of facilities is being brought to the Board with updates as required by law. This policy is also necessary as documentation for the upcoming Compliance Visit.

**E. Worth FOP 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing**

Dr. Wojtylewski distributed information on the Worth FOP 4th Annual Golf Outing. Last year the proceeds from the event benefited District 127. This year the proceeds will benefit the Worth Police Department.

**F. Details on Board Agenda Items**

Consent Agenda – The Board will take action on the approval of the consent agenda items that relate to accounts payable; payroll; a request for a contractual leave of absence; the resignation of certified staff; and the employment of classified staff.

Approval of Minutes – The Board will take action on the approval of the minutes of the February 13<sup>th</sup> regular Board of Education meeting.

Approval of Board Policy – The Board will take action on the approval of Policy 4:170.

Change in Graduation Date for Worth Junior High – The Board will take action on a change in the graduation date for the Class of 2019.

Approval of Milk Contract – The Board will take action on the approval of a contract with CloverLeaf Farm Distributors for milk delivery.

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

On behalf of the WEA and WEST, Jo Anne Albrecht welcomed Dr. Mark Fleming.

JoAnne Albrecht commented on the impact of changes made to the art program over the last eight years. Art instruction has been significantly reduced due to budgetary constraints, elimination of art classes to accommodate keyboarding, coupled with cancelling classes for testing purposes, special events, and holidays. She asked that the Board make increasing art instruction a priority.

6. BOARD MOTIONS

A. Consent Agenda

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

- |  |   |                                   |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1) <u>Accounts Payable</u>                         | March 13, 2019                            | \$343,268.18                      |
| 2) <u>Payroll Summary</u>                          | Education Fund                            | \$547,642.75                      |
|  | Building Fund                             | \$39,559.34                       |
|  | IMRF and FICA/Medicare                    | \$40,177.46                       |
| 3) <u>Request for Contractual Leave of Absence</u> |   |                                   |
| Samantha Beebe                                     | Social Studies Teacher, Worth Junior High | Effective the 2019-20 School Year |
| 4) <u>Resignation of Certified Staff</u>           |   |                                   |
| Andrea Bershers                                    | Math Teacher – Worth Junior High          | End of 2018-19 School Year        |
| Brittany Largent                                   | Reading Teacher – Worth Junior High       | End of 2018-19 School Year        |
| 5) <u>Employment of Classified Staff</u>           |   |                                   |
| Sereen Sulaiman                                    | Lunch Supervisor – Worth Elementary       | Effective March 14, 2019          |
| Diana Zuniga                                       | Lunch Supervisor – Worth Elementary       | Effective March 14, 2019          |
| (end consent agenda)                               |   |                                   |

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

B. Approval of Minutes – Board Meetings

Michelle Egan moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the February 13, 2019, regular meeting.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 5 Aye, 2 Abstain (Flores, Sisk) – Motion Carried

C. Approval of Board Policy

Dave Blanks moved that the Board of Education approve the Board Policy, as presented in Attachments C1-C2.

Policy 4:170    Operational Services    Safety

Vince Flores seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

D. Change in Graduation Date for Worth Junior High

Danette Keeler moved that the Board of Education approve Friday, May 31, 2019, as the graduation date for Worth Junior High School, with the ceremony to be held in the Worth Junior High Gymnasium at 7:00 p.m.

Rebecca Roti seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

E. Approval of Milk Contract

Danette Keeler moved that the Board of Education approve a contract with CloverLeaf Farm Distributors, as presented in Attachment D.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

7. BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

Several Board members responded to comments made regarding the art program. It would be nice to increase the time for art instruction if possible, but it is not something that can easily be accomplished. The Board may consider further discussion of the art program with Dr. Fleming.

A Board member commended the Worth Elementary staff on the well done Literacy Night event. Tim Hathhorn noted that Literacy Night events were inspired by Erin Mott who passed away last year. This year's event coincided with her birthday.

8. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

The Board discussed a format for notification to parents and community members of the employment of Dr. Mark Fleming as Superintendent. Dr. Wojtylewski will draft the correspondence and a press release for the Board's review. The Board members have sent a personalized thank you to each of the parents and staff members who served on the Advisory Committee. Meghan Sisk will prepare a thank you to the parents and community members for their survey input for posting on the district website.

A Board member commended the students and staff on the wax museum presentations. The amount of research, preparation and presentation skills demonstrated by 5<sup>th</sup> graders was amazing.

Danette Keeler reported on the *Breakfast with Your Legislators* event sponsored by the Southwest Conference of Mayors that she attended with Drew Sernus, Dr. Wojtylewski, and Dr. Fleming. It was a positive interaction between legislators, village officials and school board members.

Linda Esposito commented on her participation in a recent Polar Plunge event. Worth community members and Village employees are very caring and supportive of our schools. As a way of giving back, she was honored to join some of the Worth police officers and Village officials in raising funds for the Special Olympics. Many District 127 employees show their support in activities sponsored by the community, such as the Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast that is being held on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

9. CITIZENS' REMARKS – AGENDA ITEMS

There were no remarks made.

10. CLOSED SESSION

Vince Flores moved that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 8:02 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District; collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives; student disciplinary cases; and the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students.

Rebecca Roti seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye – Motion Carried

It was noted that there would be Board action after closed session. 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 9:41 p.m.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: All Aye– Motion Carried

12. RESOLUTION: DISMISSAL OF NON-FINAL YEAR PROBATIONARY TEACHERS

Meghan Sisk moved that the Board of Education approve a “Resolution Authorizing Notice of Dismissal of Non-Final Year Probationary Teachers,” as presented as Attachments E1-E3.

Dave Blanks seconded the motion

Roll Call Vote: All Aye– Motion Carried

Dr. Wojtylewski responded to questions and comments from several Board members. The parcel of land discussed as a solution to the traffic congestion at Worth Elementary has been purchased by a developer. A student was hit by a car today at 111<sup>th</sup> and New England Avenue. The student is in stable condition. Dr. Wojtylewski shared discussions from two meetings she attended regarding the traffic concerns during student drop-off and pick-up. The first meeting was with Mayor Werner and Chief Micetich. The second meeting was with Stephanie Peltzer, Dr. Zampillo, and Tim Hathhorn.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Danette Keeler moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

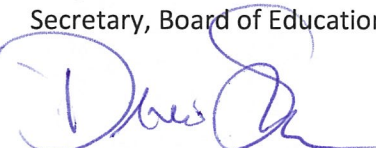
Rebecca Roti seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All Aye - Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,



Meghan Sisk  
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus  
President, Board of Education