

Board of Education
Worth School District 127

Meeting by Zoom Videoconference

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 13, 2020

1. MEETING OPENING

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Drew Sernus called the Zoom meeting to order at 5:44pm

B. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Danette Keeler, Stephanie Peltzer

Administrators on Zoom:

Dr. Mark Fleming, Superintendent
Cindy Dykas, Business Manager/CSBO
Linda Esposito, Worthwoods Principal
Dr. Joseph Zampillo, WJH Principal
Maureen Eichstaedt, WJH Assistant Principal

Others Present on Zoom:

Robert Jeffers, Director of Technology
JoAnne Albrecht, Worth Education Association
Jill Moore, Board Recording Secretary

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. PRESS PLUS - Q & A - KEN CARTER - IASB

Mr. Ken Carter and Mr. Nicholas Baumann were present from Illinois Association of School Boards to share with Board Members the service of PRESS Plus and answer questions regarding the purchase of PRESS Plus. Mr. Carter stated that Press Plus services provide full access to PRESS Online; however, it provides additional assistance to help districts keep their policy manuals current.

The whole process to get policy up-to-date takes approximately 5-6 months. There are six stages in the policy manual customization:

- 1) Questionnaire Meeting (typically 3 hours in length). IASB gathers information about the District and current practices.
- 2) Draft Manual Creation - IASB prepares draft manual based on questionnaire meeting and items provided by the District. IASB provides a copy to the District for review.
- 3) District Reviews Draft - District takes 60 days to review the draft manual
- 4) Editing Meetings - Typically 3-4 hours in length. Sessions in which IASB answers questions and items noted during the District's review.
- 5) Adoption Manual Creation - IASB prepares Pending Adoption manual based on results of editing meeting and provides a copy to the District.
- 6) Board Adopts Manual.

Mr. Carter stated that with COVID-19 restrictions, all meetings can take place via Zoom video. It was agreed to by the Board that the questionnaire meeting will take place at 5:30pm on Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

B. REMOTE LEARNING/PARENT SURVEY RESULTS - MAUREEN EICHSTAEDT

Ms. Eichstaedt shared the results of the Remote Learning Parent Survey Results. Ms. Eichstaedt stated the following based on those results:

- 53% of students spent 1-3 hours/day on remote learning.

- Where there were charging issues with ChromeBooks, those issues were resolved quickly.
- Parents suggested a Zoom and/or Google Meet at least 1/week.
- Teachers are working on meeting the needs to challenge students.
- Where there were parent concerns, an administrator made contact right away.

Board Member asked if 174 responses is a good representation from the district. Ms. Eichstaedt stated that most families in our district have 2-3 children in each household so technically that number is doubled.

Board Member stated that based on the results of the survey, is it possible that there are still some students in the district that are struggling with internet usage. Ms. Eichstaedt stated that teachers are monitoring student engagement and if students were not completing assignments through Google Classroom, they contacted those families via telephone. The staff is constantly checking and monitoring the completion of assignments.

C. STUDENT WI-FI ACCESS - ROBERT JEFFERS

Mr. Jeffers communicated with the Board regarding the ongoing status of hotspots and the communication with families that are in need of Wi-Fi. Due to the great demand for Wi-Fi, hot spots are sold out everywhere. Mr. Jeffers stated that Linda Burnickas was assisting him in contacting AT&T. They were able to secure 8 devices from AT&T and they shipped them overnight to the District office. The devices will allow those students to do Google Meet and conferences with teachers as well as meet the needs of their daily work and assignments.

Board Member asked if these devices are given to student homes that currently do not have internet access. Mr. Jeffers stated that the devices are being loaned to these families and it is the size of a cellphone. You need to set it up close to the ChromeBook and it provides 4G access. Mr. Jeffers stated that slow access has been a concern in homes especially with multiple family members. Households have been informed that students should be the only ones connecting to them.

Board Member commented that if students needed additional hotspots, the library is a good source to contact. Several Board Members commented that the library has been closed since March 16th, however; there may be someone that the district could reach out to at the library should the need arise for additional hotspots.

Dr. Fleming requested that Mr. Jeffers convey the costs of the hotspots. Mr. Jeffers stated that AT&T offered them at no costs because it's for education purposes and it provides unlimited service.

Dr. Fleming and Board Members recognized Mr. Jeffers and Ms. Eichstaedt for their hard work in staying on top of this.

D. ESSA DESIGNATION SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN - DR. JOSEPH ZAMPILLO

Dr. Zampillo presented to the Board that WJH received an underperforming ESSA designation as a result of 2 underperforming student groups: English Learners and Children with Disabilities which include both IEP and 504 plan students. The 2 underperforming groups received a summative score on the 2019 IAR test that placed them in the same grouping of the lowest 5% of schools in Illinois. Although WJH's summative score did not fall in the lowest 5% of all schools in Illinois because the summative scores for our EL and CWD learners did, the underperforming designation was given.

As a result of the underperforming designation, our school was required to form a school improvement team which included myself, Maureen Eichstaedt, Anna Sullivan (8th grade special education, Colleen DeGonia, 8th grade Language Arts; Lucy Lillian, 7th grade Reading, Courtney Mensigna, 6th grade Reading; and Emily Betts, 6th grade Math) to attend a series of workshops at the South Cook Regional Office in order to create the ESSA Designation School improvement plan consisting of two goals.

- One goal will focus on improving student growth goal in Math for our EL and CWD students. This goal was developed through a data analysis of our 2019 IAR data.
- The second goal prioritizes improving student growth goals for all WJH students in ELA and developed as a result of conducting an assessment of ELA instruction through the lens of standards that are part of The Illinois Quality Framework.

As a result of the underperforming designation, we qualified for a separate Title School Improvement Grant which allocated \$15,000 from the state to the district to support the planning that went into putting together the school improvement plan.

The district will receive an additional \$60,000 through this grant over the next three years to support our school improvement efforts to address our underperforming designation.

E. WORTH JUNIOR HIGH GRADUATION - DR. JOSEPH ZAMPILLO

Dr. Zampillo engaged the Board regarding plans for the 8th Grade Graduation. Dr. Zampillo stated that a committee was formed with 8th Grade Teachers that brainstormed ideas to make the graduation as meaningful and special as possible. On Friday, May 15th the staff will be delivering graduation signs to homes and apartments with proper social distancing in place. Students will be

receiving caps and gowns, yearbooks, graduation pictures and t-shirts all provided by the district. During the week of May 25th, students will have an opportunity to return to school to pick up remaining personal belongings.

Dr. Zampillo stated that there are activities planned for the week of graduation that include teachers putting together a pre-recorded video saying goodbyes and wishing students well. Natalie Valenti, the Media Coordinator, has played a large role in assisting teachers and compiling the video which will be released on June 1st. On June 2nd, a pre-recorded 8th Grade individual awards ceremony will be released. A student profile presentation will also be released with students and parents sharing their favorite memory and their future plans.

On June 3rd, a pre-recorded graduation ceremony will be released with students in their caps and gowns. Dr. Zampillo stated that they are also considering a drive-by graduation celebration and the committee will be discussing this further. Dr. Zampillo discussed with the Board that they are all welcome to participate in doing a video for the graduates as well as participating in the drive-by celebration, should it take place.

Board Member stated that possibly Officer Cozzi or Mary Werner could participate in saying a congratulatory to students as well. Board Members all agreed it would be nice to do a group video with each Board Member participating. Dr. Zampillo stated that the deadline to complete the video is Friday, May 23rd.

F. ALPHA BUS TRANSPORTATION - CINDY DYKAS

Dr. Fleming opened by stating that we will not be voting on the Alpha Bus motion and it will be tabled until the June Board Meeting. Dr. Fleming asked that Ms. Cindy Dykas give an update on the Property Tax Relief Grant. Ms. Dykas shared with the Board that we have officially received word from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) that the district received the Property Tax Relief Grant. Ms. Dykas stated that this whole process was started in December and Elizabeth Hennessey passed resolution February with paperwork filed in March. Per homeowner, the amount is approximately \$200. We will start receiving additional dollars in the current year with extra funds through Evidence Based Funding.

Dr. Fleming noted that there is much uncertainty regarding what the Governor plans to do at the state level. He will continue to keep the Board informed as new information is released.

G. SEAL COATING RECOMMENDATION - BRYAN BAIER

Mr. Bryan Baier informed the Board of the repair work that is being completed at each of the buildings. Sealcoating and asphalt repairs are being completed at the following locations:

- On New England in front of the Worth Junior High
- Front parking lot at Worthridge
- Front parking lot at Worth Elementary and the playground area

H. FACILITIES UPDATE - BRYAN BAIER

Mr. Baier stated that the projects at Worthwoods are going very well and are ahead of schedule. The demo work is done as well as the foundations and pouring of all floors.

Board Member commented that it was good to view the building prior to the renovations and is looking forward to seeing it at completion.

3. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no citizens' remarks.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Action (Consent): A. BOARD BILLS PAYABLE

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Accounts Payable for May 13, 2020 in the amount of \$72,558.82 (EDUCATIONAL), and \$127,397.05 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); and \$33,877.03* (TRANSPORTATION)* for a total of \$233,832.90."

**Board Member requested clarification regarding the larger amount this month for transportation. Ms. Dykas stated that the district was moving forward with the contract addendum which reflects that higher amount. With the Alpha Bus motion being pulled from approval, Ms. Dykas will contact the Treasurers office in the morning and get the check pulled. The check amount for Alpha Bus is \$17,729.17*

Board Member commented that this has happened with contractors in the past and the payment was held.

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Stephanie Peltzer

Action (Consent): B. PAYROLL SUMMARY

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Payroll Summary for the Education Fund in the amount of \$569,456.30, the Building Fund in the amount of 43,498.59, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of 44,389.85."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Stephanie Peltzer

Action (Consent): C. CINDY GOOD - WORTHWOODS 3RD GRADE TEACHER - RESIGNATION OF CERTIFIED STAFF - EFFECTIVE JUNE 2020

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the resignation of Cindy Good effective June 2020 as 3rd Grade teacher at Worthwoods".

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Stephanie Peltzer

5. MOTIONS

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 8, 2020 regular session minutes."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Stephanie Peltzer

Action: B. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 8, 2020 closed session minutes."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Stephanie Peltzer

Action: C. QUEST FOOD BID*

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the food contract with Quest Food Management Services for the 2020-2021 school year."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Stephanie Peltzer

**Board Member requested clarification regarding the Quest Food bid. Board Member stated that our milk is purchased from Clover Leaf and the Quest Food bid lists that milk is included with lunches. Ms. Dykas stated that it was an oversight and the total was put on the wrong line item. The Quest Food Bid does not include milk and she will update the line item and have Dr. Mark Fleming sign. She clarified that our milk is purchased from Clover Leaf and the amount of the food bid is correct.*

Ms. Cindy Dykas engaged the Board stating that it is required by the National School Lunch Program for Districts to rebid every five years. Districts cannot renew more than five times with the same company. Ms. Dykas stated that 2019 was the end of year five and it was sent to the state and was denied. The state gave the district a one-year reprieve to rollover.

Ms. Dykas stated the bid document was completed and sent through; however, one of the requirements of the bid is an in person walk through and due to COVID-19, it was not possible. The state informed Districts that they can rollover for another year. Ms. Dykas also clarified that Quest can still bid and be awarded, but they are required to go through the bid process. Next year the District will move forward with another bid process.

Board Member asked for clarification regarding ala carte items on the contract. Ms. Dykas stated the District does not purchase any ala carte items from the menu.

Action: D. BOARD MEETING DATES 2020-2021*

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Board Meeting Dates for the 2020-2021 school year."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Stephanie Peltzer

*Dr. Fleming noted that the September 16, 2020 Board Meeting is scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of the month due to the posting of the budget.

Action: E. APPROVAL OF SSBC REPRESENTATIVE

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education appoint Cynthia Dykas, Representative, and, as Alternate Representative, Dr. Mark T. Fleming, to represent Worth School District 127 in the South Suburban Benefit Cooperative Board of Directors for fiscal year 2020-21".

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Danette Keeler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Stephanie Peltzer

Action: F. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT WITH ALPHA BUS*

**This motion was pulled from the Board Meeting till the next Board of Education Meeting on June 10, 2020.*

6. BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

Board Member asked how the distribution of meals is going at the school. Ms. Dykas stated she and Dr. Zampillo have been working together every week and the flow of meals has been going well. Ms. Dykas stated that it can be hit or miss on certain days that families come out; however, there are days when we have extra meals and the extras are distributed on the following meal day.

Board Member asked Dr. Fleming if there has been any new information regarding the opening of schools in fall. Dr. Fleming stated that we don't have a definitive idea due to the current phases the Governor has implemented. Dr. Fleming stated that the Administrative team is considering ideas for the fall. The next decision to be made will be the Title 1 Summer School Program that starts the 2nd week of August.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

Board Member requested additional information as to how the absence of the 3rd and final MAP test in May will impact students. Dr. Fleming shared that the standardized assessment test results are not given to the state and it's only shared within the district. Dr. Fleming further stated that the test is given to students for individual growth purposes.

8. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA ITEMS

There were no citizens' remarks.

9. CLOSED SESSION

A. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Recommended Motion (roll call): that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session Zoom Meeting at 7:45pm to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees; and the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body."

Motion by Drew Sernus, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Stephanie Peltzer

Action: B. RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education upon completion of it's discussions in closed session reconvene in public session at 8:51pm".

Motion by Dave Blanks, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Stephanie Peltzer

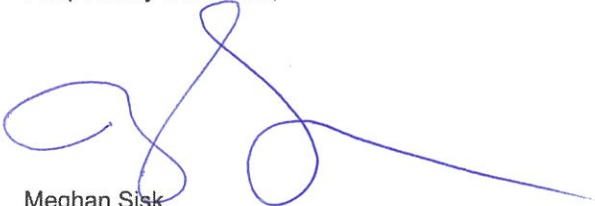
10. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01pm".

Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Meghan Sisk', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Meghan Sisk
Secretary, Board of Education

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

Drew Sernus
President, Board of Education