

**Board of Education
Worth School District 127
Worth Elementary School**

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

February 9, 2022

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Administrators:

Dr. Mark Fleming, Superintendent
Cindy Dykas, Business Manager/CSBO
Linda Esposito, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Dr. Sinead Chambers, Director of Special Education
Dr. Joseph Zampillo, Worth Junior High Principal
Jason Tooth, Assistant Principal, Worth Junior High
Ashley Toms, Assistant Principal, Worth Elementary/Worthwoods
David Dvorchak, Director of Facilities and Grounds
Melissa Wills, Assistant Principal
Robert Jeffers, Director of Technology

Board Recording Secretary

Jill Moore

Others Present

JoAnne Albrecht, WJH
Mary Zirngibl, WE
Alyssa Zirngibl, WE
Cassandra Gehrke, WE
Shannon Garbie, WE
Dawn Young, WW
Elizabeth Bandola, WE
Kaycee Pittman, WE
Lisa Strzempa
Keri Gonciarz
Mr. & Mrs. Smith
Carol Kats
John A. Cerrone
Heather Dennis Pegues
Kelly Stergiopoulos
Melissa and Jason Soliday
Elham Manna
Lukasz Oleszkiewicz
Andrea Brejcha
Katie Krueger
Joanna Budz
Rafat Szdepaniak
Anna Brinkis
Beata Piekarewicz
Agnieszka Duda
Kevin Sisk
Amanda Pittman
Vicki Ramirez
Jolanta Sikora
Jadwiga Hajnos
Paul Rowell

Megan Dresden

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

WE TRAFFIC CONCERNS

Dr. Fleming opened by sharing traffic concerns at Worth Elementary and Worth Jr. High

- If any parents have concerns or questions regarding the traffic, please email my assistant Jill Moore at jmoore@worthschools.org to set up a meeting or call the district office. Jill's extension is 3908.
 - I really appreciate parent input, which gives me a fresh perspective on any concerns.
 - I talked to 2 parents yesterday and they both gave me a few things to think about and I was able to explain some of the history and reasoning for the new car lane.
- The new car lane is much safer, as long as parents follow the procedures. We no longer have multiple cars stopping wherever and whenever they want to stop on 112th in between Worth Elementary and Worth Jr. High.
- There has been some bottlenecks near Oak Park and 112th, but from what I've seen and been told by staff is that this only happens when cars do not follow procedures.
- On 112th WE Parents should not be letting kids out of the car at drop off or into cars at dismissal
 - All WE parents need to use the car lane or park elsewhere and meet their child at the main entrance.
- Drop off and pick up are only taking 10-13 minutes, so please be patient if you are using the car lane.
- A safe 10-13 minute car lane in any district is really good
- With that being stated, there is always room for improvement.
 - Yesterday I met with officer Cozzi and 3 administrators to discuss ideas to make the car lane process more efficient, but still keep it safe.
 - We are checking into some ideas, but in the meantime, parents please be patient in the car lane and please call me with ideas and/or concerns.

FOIAs

- Since the last board meeting the district has received and replied to 6 FOIA requests

A. E-LEARNING DAY UPDATE

A. E-LEARNING DAY UPDATE

- a. Due to inclement weather, Worth School District made history last week with its first-ever eLearning days.
- b. Both days went well with staff and students participating
- c. There was a little confusion on the difference between eLearning days and remote learning days.
 - i. Remote learning includes teachers teaching virtually for the day
 - ii. eLearning does not have to include virtual learning, but does include some type of at-home learning which could be a paper packet, which is what our EC, PReK, K students worked on. Elearning can be a digital day of learning on Google Classroom which is what our 1st - 8th grade students worked on.
- d. The best news from eLearning is that we do not have to add 2 days to the end of the school year.

B. ARP-LEA AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ESSER III) - E3

- a. This will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies to safely operate schools, which will include interventions to support students based on students' needs.
- b. The public is encouraged to provide input on how these funds should be spent during public comment or by emailing my assistant Jill Moore at jmoore@worthschools.org.

C. TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER OUT OF SANGAMON COUNTY

- a. As my letter to parents on Sunday evening stated, the judge's decision on Friday, February 4 has moved the district to recommend masks but not mandate masks.
- b. As the district has from the start of this pandemic, it will continue to follow the most up-to-date guidance from the school district's attorney.
- c. Every building has some students and some staff not wearing masks and some wearing masks.
- d. The appellate court will be hearing this case. If anything changes regarding the district's mask procedures, I will publish a parent letter.

D. SCHOOL CALENDAR 2022/2023

- a. The calendar committee reviewed surrounding districts' calendars with a focus on high school district 218 and high school district 230 to create the calendar
- b. The DRAFT calendar follows the same exact winter break and spring break as high school district 218.
- c. Except for a one-day difference, it follows the high school district 230 winter break and follows the same spring break as high school district 230.
- d. Election day on Tuesday, November 8 is a state holiday, so the district will be closed.
- e. Election day on Tuesday, April 4 is not a state holiday so it is proposed to be a Teacher Institute Day.

E. PRESS PLUS - FIRST READ ON POLICY 108

- a. PRESS PLUS POLICY 108 update is listed under consent as a first read. This is the largest update ever published by PRESS PLUS.

3. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

A. AUDITOR'S REPORT FY2021

Mrs. Dykas introduced Mandy Pittman from RSM to give the Board an update on the audit that took place in the fall. The biggest change this year is #84 to the financial statements from last year. It merged the student activity account into the general funds account. The financial profile is 4.0 this year and we greatly appreciate Cindy Dykas and the business office for making this audit go so smoothly.

B. CLOVERLEAF CONTRACT 2022/2023

Mrs. Dykas stated that Cloverleaf is the supplier for our school milk. Last year we paid them \$60,000 and that is a lot more than what we've paid them in the past; however, we supplied many families with gallons of milk last year. For the 2022/2023 school year contract, milk has gone up .02/half pint. Next year the district will be bidding on a new milk contract.

C. RECAPTURE LEVY

Mrs. Dykas stated that she wrote a memo that gives further detail regarding what the last couple of years look like and outlined the 3 different options. Keep all the recapture levy - \$50/tax payer; abate the recapture levy - \$50 no charge back; or do a combination of the two.

D. PROPERTY TAX RELIEF GRANT FY2022

Mrs. Dykas stated that two years ago we discussed the possibility of the Property Tax Relief Grant and we did receive that in 2020 for two years. ISBE has released this grant again and it's just under \$50MM and it's based upon the higher tax rates and the district is eligible for the 2021/2022 tax bills. The total amount of the Grant is \$889,000 and we would abate \$929,000 in taxes for two years, saving each taxpayer \$222 per year.

E. AUTHORIZE PREPARATION OF THE 2022-2023 BUDGET IN TENTATIVE FORM

Mrs. Dykas stated that the IL School Code requires each district to designate a person/or persons to prepare the budget for the 2022/2023 school year. Under the Consent Agenda this evening, Dr. Fleming and myself are the designated parties.

4. DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES

A. OMAR FARROUKH - WINNER OF THE IL COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S 2021 "YES I CAN" AWARD

Dr. Chambers introduced the board members and Dr. Fleming to Omar Farroukh; currently an 8th-grade student at Worth Junior High. Omar was one of five students in Illinois to be awarded the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children (ICEC) "Yes I Can" award. Omar received the award based on his high academic achievement, especially in Math. Dr. Chambers shared that she was first introduced to Omar's unique math talent by Mrs. Esposito, then the principal of Worthwoods school, when he was a young boy. Dr. Chambers expressed how impressed she was with Omar's video application for the award. In his video application, Omar shared with the ICEC committee that he believed he should receive this award based on his high Math skill. He built his math skill by practicing math problems from textbooks that he salvaged from his grandmother's house. Dr. Chambers compared Omar's math practice to that of the Manchester United world-famous soccer player, Ronaldo - who also practices his soccer skill daily to build and maintain his high ability level. Dr. Chambers admired Omar's parents for their support to Omar regarding his academics. In a recent evaluation completed by the district, Omar's scores rated him at the age equivalent to that of a student in college. Omar was introduced to show his award to the board of education, Dr. Fleming, and the meeting attendees. Omar shared that he was thrilled to accept this award on behalf of the Village of Worth as he received a standing ovation from all in attendance.

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

- Mrs. Ramirez - Possible change in taxing structure
Mr. Rafal - Mr. Rafal was not present at the time his name was called
Mrs. Stergiopoulos - PTO/PTA/Handling of situations
Mrs. Sikora - Temporary Restraining Order - TRO/Bullying

Mrs. Hajnos - Temporary Restraining Order - TRO/Masks/ESSER Funds
Mr. Rowell - Transparency in finances/Clarification regarding books purchased with Wal-Mart Grant
Mrs. Dresden - ESSER Money/Chromebooks/IPads
Mrs. Duda - Thank you to Staff/Snow Removal/8th Grade Scholarships

School Resource Officer, Mike Cozzi, spoke regarding the K-9 Fundraiser that took place at the Garden Chalet on January 29, 2022. Officer Cozzi thanked Worth School District and the entire community for all their help and support to make the fundraiser such a success. The fundraiser brought in approximately \$28,000 and we are very appreciative of Garden Chalet donating the facility and all the food.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Action (Consent): A. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as outlined below."

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as outlined below."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): B. BOARD BILLS PAYABLE

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Accounts Payable for \$156,226.37 (EDUCATIONAL); \$775,451.83 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); and \$9,374.88 (TRANSPORTATION) for a total of \$941,053.08."

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as outlined below."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): C. PAYROLL SUMMARY

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Payroll Summary for the Education Fund in the amount of \$715,938.47, the Building Fund in the amount of \$45,866.00, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of \$50,418.66."

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as outlined below."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): D. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - JOSHUA OKRZESIK - PT CUSTODIAN - EFFECTIVE JANUARY 13, 2022

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as outlined below."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): E. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - MATT AGGEN - TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST - ADMINISTRATION CENTER - EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 16, 2022.

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as outlined below."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): F. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - RETIREMENT - HELEN CASTANON - WORTH JUNIOR HIGH SECRETARY - EFFECTIVE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as outlined below."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): G. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - RETIREMENT - ANITA FALLS - WORTH JUNIOR HIGH NURSE - EFFECTIVE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as outlined below."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): H. AUTHORIZE PREPARATION OF THE 2022-2023 BUDGET IN TENTATIVE FORM

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Designation of the Superintendent and CSBO to prepare the 2022-2023 Budget in Tentative Form."

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as outlined below."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): I. FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICY #108

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the first reading of the policies as listed in the attached."

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as outlined below."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

7. MOTIONS

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the January 12, 2022 regular meeting."

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

Action: B. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the January 12, 2022 closed session minutes."

Motion by Stephanie Peltzer, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. 2022/2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the calendar for the 2022-2023 school year".

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: D. CLOVER LEAF MILK CONTRACT

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the contract with CloverLeaf Farms Distributors for milk delivery for the 2022/2023 school year."

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: E. ACCEPTANCE OF AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR FY2021

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education accept the Auditor's Report, as recommended by the Business Manager/CSBO and the Superintendent".

Motion by Stephanie Peltzer, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

8. BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION AND/OR REPORTS/REQUESTS

Board Member commented that we are so lucky to have Omar Farroukh in our district and that he is an amazing student.

Board Member commented that her children are comfortable wearing their masks in school and they have not felt like their teacher has treated them differently. Board Member stated that she hopes we can all move forward in this transition and keep learning as a district together.

Board Member stated that she works in another school district and from her experience, everyone has been respectful with either choice students and staff have made with mask wearing.

Board Member commented that the K-9 Fundraiser was an incredible night and wonderful how everyone came out and supported this event.

Board Member suggested that we take the second public comment off the Board of Education Agenda. The public could write down their question, give it Mrs. Moore and then someone from District office could follow up with them. Board Members will discuss the topic further at the next Board Meeting in March.

9. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Hajnos - Clarification regarding parent input for ESSER III Funds

Mrs. Sikora - ESSER III Plan/Budget

Andrea Brejcha - Availability of 2022/2023 Public Calendar

Vickie Ramirez - Parent Committee (open forum of discussion)/ESSER Funds

10. CLOSED SESSION

Action: A. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 7:36 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees and security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property; the collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and student disciplinary cases.

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Michelle Egan.

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 10:19 p.m."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

9. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 p.m."

Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Meghan Sisk
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus
President, Board of Education