

Board of Education  
Worth School District 127  
Worth Elementary

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting  
April 13, 2022

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Drew Sernus, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, 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  
Maureen Eichstaedt, Principal, Worth Elementary  
Ashley Toms, Principal, Worthwoods  
Melissa Wills, Assistant Principal, Worth Elementary  
Robert Jeffers, Director of Technology  
David Dvorchak, Director of Facilities and Grounds

**Board Recording Secretary**

Jill Moore

**Others Present**

JoAnne Albrecht  
Mary Zirngibl  
Alyssa Zirngibl  
Elizabeth Bandola  
Kelly Kordas  
Sarah Glogowski  
Pam and Paul Ephraim  
Krystal Goldschmidt  
Kris Martin  
Ginny McClure  
Lori Stage  
Cathy Wilson  
Barb and Rich Dziedzic  
Tiffany and Eric Koller  
Renee Sutor  
Sandy Gordon  
Shannon Garbie  
Anhar Suheil  
Dawn Young  
Jennifer Witt  
Kerry Gonciarz  
Lisa Bray  
Collen DeGonia  
Vicki Ramirez  
Megan Dresden  
Elizabeth Bandola

Alyssa Flanagan  
Christopher Boril  
Deb Burghgraef  
Janice Hope  
Leslie Zator  
Shannon Fisher  
Michelle Okrzesik  
Sherry Strycker  
Donna Strutzenberg  
Lisa Strzempa  
Jason and Melissa Soliday  
Paul Rowell

## 2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### A. FOIA REQUESTS

Since the last Board Meeting, the District has received one FOIA request and it was responded to in a timely manner.

### B. INSTRUCTIONAL INTERVENTIONIST AND BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONIST POSITIONS

- The three Interventionists positions and the the one Behavioral Intervention position have been filled by interviewing and reassigning internal candidates.
- Congratulations to Deb Burghgraef, Shannon Fisher, and Ginny McClure on being named the first ever Instructional Interventionist.
- Congratulations to Louise Igoe on being named the first ever Behavioral Interventionist.

### C. CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

- The Current Worth Elementary Construction project, which includes the storm trap and the demolishing of the north end are paused at the moment. We hope to see backfilling on the storm trap next week and the demolishing of the north end may not start until June.
- The Administration Building renovation is progressing well with demolition on schedule.
- The new garage at the Admin. Center, which will replace the Worth Elementary garage, now has footings and a slab. Troop is now waiting for the garage framing materials to arrive.

### D. LAST DAY OF SCHOOL – EARLY DISMISSAL

- Friday, May 27, is an early dismissal day: Worth Elementary will dismiss at 11:00 a.m. and both Worth Elementary and Worthwoods will dismiss at 11:10 a.m.

### E. WORTH JUNIOR HIGH DECLAMATION TEAM

#### Math Bowl

On April 12, Worth Junior High School's Math team coached by Lisa Bray competed in the South Suburban Junior High School Conference's Math Bowl. The 7th grade team took 3rd place and the 8th grade team took 4th place. 8th Graders Omar Farrouk and Jesscia Samolej tied for highest score on the general test for Worth Junior High School and Adam Zatar scored the highest out of all Worth Junior High School 7th grade participants with a perfect score on the 7th grade general test.

#### Declamation

On March 5, Worth Junior High School's Declamation Team coached by Colleen DeGonia competed in the South Suburban Junior High School Conference's Declamation competition. Overall, Worth Junior High School's Declamation Team placed 5th. Jessica Plewa took 6th place in 7th Grade Poetry; Lana Ballout took 2nd place in 7th Grade Prose, Nate Pierzuhalski took 6th place in 8th Grade Declamation, and Omar Farrouk took 5th place in 8th Grade Poetry. Jessica Plewa and Omar Farrouk were present and recognized at the meeting.

## 3. BUSINESS MANAGER

### A. Amended Budget FY 2021–2022

- Significant changes in the Budget require a formal Budget Amendment
- This is the presentation for the Tentative Amended Budget
- After this meeting, the Amended Budget will be on display for 30 days. The final adoption of the Amended Budget will take place at the June meeting
- The primary reasons for creating an FY22 Amended Budget:

- Increase in revenues by \$1.7 million from August original budget, relating to the Property Tax Relief Grant, delayed receipt of FY21 Federal and State funds, Corporate Personal Replacement Tax, Other local revenues and NEW ESSER funding
- Increase in expenditures of nearly \$1 million for Construction costs
- Transfer of \$1.2 million from the Transportation Fund to the Education Fund
- Overall deficit that was originally projected in August to be \$2.6 million, but has now improved to just under \$2 million (\$700,000 improvement)
- Just found out today from ISBE: there was an EBF calculation/coding error in 2019 where CPS was over-funded and other districts were under-funded
  - Worth 127 will be receiving an adjustment of \$157,000 this year
  - This needs to be added to the Amendment – it was discovered after this presentation was created, so the overall deficit will likely be closer to \$1.8 million (improvement from \$2.6 million)

#### B. Recapture Levy Revision

- At the Board meeting on March 9, the Board approved to abate the Recapture Levy totaling \$244,213
- The resolution was filed a few days later with the Cook County Clerk's office
- On March 29<sup>th</sup>, an email was sent to taxing districts that the recapture levy figures were corrected, specifically in the category of "Certificate of Error Refunds"
  - The revised amount for the Recapture levy is now \$143,964
  - A revised resolution is required to be filed before May 1<sup>st</sup>
  - You will take action on this revised resolution tonight

#### C. Food Audit/ "Administrative Review"

- An ISBE representative from the Child Nutrition Program division was on site last week Thursday and Friday, April 7–8.
  - The reviewer met with me and two representatives from Quest Food Management Service.
  - The reviewer attended each lunch period where he asked questions of the lunch staff, made sure students had a milk with each lunch for a complete meal, counted students taking meals and check that total with our lunch staff to make sure it was the same.
  - The reviewer returned Friday morning to observe breakfast for correct procedures.
- Attached is a document with the reviewer's note.
- Overall a positive Administrative Review with minimal corrective actions needed.

#### D. Quest Food Service Renewal 2022–2023

- ISBE allowed another year of renewal without the full bid process.
- Quest is a great partner, constantly looking for ways to improve our meals and food service program.
- This year's renewal is a 6% increase. Each year we use the December rate for "CPI–Food Away from Home" and this past year was high, as were all the CPI figures.
- We will do a bid process next year.

#### E. ComEd Energy Efficiency Program

- Glow Electric and Worth 127 filed paperwork for lighting incentives for our Admin Center project.
- \$4,383 has been "reserved" for us, upon completion of the project.
  - 212 Indoor LED light fixtures and retrofits.
  - Funds will be received once installation is complete.
- It might not be huge funds, but every little bit helps!

### 4. CITIZENS' REMARKS – AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

#### Discussion: A. Public Comments

Mrs. Soliday – Concerns with why 8th grade students are not getting a class trip to Great America.

Mr. Rowell – Clarification regarding how much his property taxes will go up for this year; clarification as to why questions are not answered during public comments.

Board Member asked if Dr. Fleming would clarify the purpose of the Board Meeting and for the public to understand why all public comments are not addressed at the meeting.

Dr. Fleming addressed the public stating that Board Meetings are for the Board to take care of business and that public comments are

always welcome. Dr. Fleming stated that he always responds back to those questions himself or has the appropriate administration contact everyone. Dr. Fleming further explained that all Board Meetings are conducted this way.

Mrs. Degonia recognized Michelle Egan's daughter.

Mary Zirngibl and JoAnne Tyree – On behalf of WEA and WEST, we thank you so much for the pandemic compensation. We are so thankful and appreciative of your commitment to us and always listening with an open ear. Dr. Fleming stated that the staff brought special treats for the Board Members during closed session.

Fishing Club – Officer Mike Cozzi shared with the Board regarding the first Fishing Club that was held at Lake Katherine. Officer Cozzi stated that it was a very cold day, but there were about 18–20 students that braved the weather. The team caught some bass, blue gill and a croppie and everyone had a great time. There will be pictures posted on social media.

## 5. 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

### Action (Consent): B. BOARD BILLS PAYABLE

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Accounts Payable for \$246,809.03 (EDUCATIONAL); \$196,802.83 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); and \$21,875.55 (TRANSPORTATION) for a total of \$465,487.41."

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

### 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 800,255.69, the Building Fund in the amount of 44,578.63, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of 56,090.31."

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

### Action (Consent): D. RESIGNATION OF CERTIFIED STAFF – CHRISTINE SLAGER – WORTH ELEMENTARY – EFFECTIVE AT THE END OF THE 2022 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

### Action (Consent): E. EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF – LEAH SCHISSLER – SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER – EFFECTIVE 2022–2023 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

Action (Consent): F. EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF – RENEE SUTOR – ELEMENTARY TEACHER – EFFECTIVE 2022-2023 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

Action (Consent): G. EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF – ANHAR SUHEIL – ELEMENTARY TEACHER – EFFECTIVE 2022-2023 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

Action (Consent): H. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF – HAYDEN MCCLURE – PART TIME CUSTODIAN – WORTH ELEMENTARY – EFFECTIVE MARCH 21, 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

Action (Consent): I. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF – PATRICIA ROCHE – LUNCH SUPERVISOR – WORTHWOODS ELEMENTARY – EFFECTIVE MARCH 24, 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

Action (Consent): J. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF – BARBARA ZIELINSKI – LUNCH SUPERVISOR – WORTHWOODS ELEMENTARY – EFFECTIVE MARCH 7, 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

## 6. MOTIONS

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 9, 2022 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

Action: B. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 9, 2022 closed session minutes."

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

Action: C. SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the special March 14, 2022 meeting."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores

Abstain: Danette Keeler

Action: D. 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 2022-23".

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: E. QUEST FOOD SERVICE RENEWAL 2022/2023

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the food contract with Quest Food Management Services 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

Action: F. REVISED RECAPTURE LEVY

Recommended Motion (roll call) – That the Board of Education approve the revised recapture levy.

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: G. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT BUSINESS MANAGER/CSBO

Recommended Motion (roll call): That the Board of Education approve the administrative contract for the Business Manager/CSBO".

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: H. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT – DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

Recommended Motion (roll call): That the Board of Education approve the administrative contract for the Director of Special Education".

Motion by David Blanks, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: I. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTS – PRINCIPALS

Recommended Motion (roll call): That the Board of Education approve the administrative contracts for the Principals."

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

**Action: J. APPROVAL OF SALARIES FOR SUPPORT STAFF**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the salaries for the support staff".

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

**Action: K. APPROVAL OF LEASE AGREEMENT WITH R.I.S.E.**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the resolution authorizing a lease with the Governing Board of South Cook Intermediate Service Center for the 2022–2023 School Year."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

**Action: L. APPROVAL OF LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE EISENHOWER COOPERATIVE**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the resolution authorizing a lease with the Eisenhower Cooperative for the 2022–2023 School Year."

Motion by David Blanks, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

**7. BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION AND/OR REPORTS/REQUESTS**

Board Member commented that she was really happy to see the Fishing Club begin. It will enhance their life skills and get students more involved in outdoor nature. Board Member stated to the public her reason as to why her public vote was to "abstain" which was due to her absence at the last Board Meeting. She further stated that she is thankful everyone got through this challenging time and is grateful to the staff for all their efforts and it's wonderful to see everyone supporting each other.

Board Member stated that during any inclement weather, staff were outside passing out packets. Board Member stated that Worth has the best teachers and appreciated them taking their own personal time to deliver supplies to students in need.

Board Member shared that on May 14, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Lake Katherine, "Friends of Chicago River" is sponsoring a clean up day. Anyone interested is encouraged to sign up online. Board Member will send link to Jill Moore so a link can be added to the district webpage. Former student, Andrew Maddock, attained Eagle Scout Rank. This is a wonderful accomplishment.

Dr. Fleming stated that in regards to Lake Katherine, Officer Cozzi had to get special permission to fish there.

**8. CITIZENS' REMARKS – AGENDA ITEMS****Discussion: A. Public Comments**

There were no Citizens' Remarks.

**9. CLOSED SESSION****Action: A. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees; 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 the selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in the Open Meetings Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance."

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

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 9:46 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

10. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 p.m."

Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Meghan Sisk  
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus  
President, Board of Education