

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

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting
March 8, 2023**

Administrators:

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

Board Recording Secretary

Jill Moore

Others Present

Jeff Pagano, WW
Kristian Cozzolino - WE
Lisa Strzempa - WE
Mary Zirngibl - WE
Alyssa Zirngible - WE
Elizabeth Bandola - WJH/WE
Kelly Kordas, WE
Monica McKenna, WE
Agnes Hajnos, WE
Lisa Bray, WJH
Buthiana Shabaneh, WE
Hayfae Awadallah, WE
Anhar Suheil
Lori Stage, WJH
Jennifer Depasqual
Megan Dresden
Paul Rowell
Maria DePasqual, WE

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Drew Sernus, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler (present on GoogleMeet), Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, David Blanks, Missy Sinclair

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President, Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. FOIA REQUESTS

Dr. Fleming opened by stating that the district has received four FOIA requests since the last board meeting and the district has responded to them in a timely manner.

B. APRIL 4 ELECTION DAY/TEACHER INSTITUTE

Dr. Fleming wanted to remind parents that students will not be in school on April 4th for Election Day. There will be no school on election day, but staff will have a Teacher Institute Day. Some parents may wonder why we did not have spring break during election week and the answer to that is because we aligned our spring break to District 218 and 230.

C. POTENTIAL LEGISLATION MANDATING ALL DAY KINDERGARTEN

On Sunday February 26, Dr. Fleming received an email from SCOPE, which is the Southern Cooperative for Public Education asking me to fill out a survey regarding full day kindergarten because of proposed HB2396, which would mandate full day kindergarten beginning with the 23/24

school year. The survey was a short survey asking if our district could start full day kindergarten in August and if not then why. Two options were given for why we would not be able to implement in August - operational cost and/or space. I replied to the survey with space being the hurdle for Worth 127 to cross. Now we wait and see if the bill will actually be voted on in its current form. Hopefully, ISBE will give districts until August of 2025. We might have the space at that point given the district moves forward with an addition on Worthwoods.

D. WORTH JUNIOR HIGH FISHING CLUB

Dr. Fleming stated that the Worth Junior High Fishing Club kicks off on March 18. The fishing club students could not be more excited to return to the lake. There is a printed schedule for you at your table.

3. BUSINESS MANAGER

A. RFP - FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT COMPANY

- a. Original RFP document of 116 pages submitted to ISBE/Nutrition Procurement on Thursday, February 2nd.
- b. SBE required a 30-day window to review
- c. On Tuesday, February 21st we received the initial feedback/updates/changes required
 - i. It was 4 pages of changes
 - ii. Made all the changes requested and resubmitted on Tuesday, Feb. 28th
- d. The template was not very specific to the needs of Worth 127, so pretty major revisions were needed because our program is specifically "Vended Meals" not made on-site
 - i. A lot of school districts in our area are similar so this revised RFP will be shared with other districts requiring the same vended meals delivery
- e. More feedback from ISBE was received on Thursday, March 2nd
- f. The final version of the RFP was 118 pages, sent on Monday, March 6th and accepted!
- g. The RFP advertisement was published in the Daily Southtown newspaper on Tuesday, March 7th and it was emailed to 16 Food Service Management Companies on that same date (list from ISBE)
- h. Next steps:
 - i. Monday, March 20th: Pre-Proposal Meeting and Site Tour (non-mandatory)
 - ii. Monday, April 24th: RFP due date
 - iii. Week of Monday, April 24th: Initial evaluation by RFP Evaluation Committee and Taste Testing
 - iv. Wednesday, May 10th : Contract Award Date by Board of Education
- i. Worth 127 was one of three other districts I am aware of that moved forward with the RFP process this year. Most Districts took the 1-year extension. I will be presenting to other CSBO's at this year's IASBO Annual Conference in May on this new format and process.

B. UPDATE ON EXTERIOR DOOR PROJECT

- a. Last month I reported on this, in conjunction with the School Maintenance Project Grant for 2023 (was awarded to us in December 2022).
- b. Reminder: \$50,000 matching grant and we already received the funding
- c. Project was designed, drawings were finalized, Advertisement for Bid was published in the newspaper, and we had the pre-bid meeting on Tuesday, February 21st.
 - i. Before the meeting, the architects told us the lead time on the doors and door hardware was 20-24 weeks.
 - ii. Only one company came to the pre-bid meeting and that company confirmed the long lead times.
 - iii. No one would be able to meet the deadline outlined in the bid document, so it was decided to cancel the project for Summer 2023 and do the work in Summer 2024. The bid documents will be re-released in Fall 2023 so we have a long enough lead time.

C. E-RATE PROPOSAL

- a. Category 2 Project: Upgrade District Firewall and Router under Motions, item E.
- b. Robert Jeffers will give a brief presentation about the E-Rate program and the new statewide FREE Internet opportunity through the Department of Innovation and Technology in conjunction with the federal E-Rate program.

4. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

A. ELEMENTARY SCIENCE CURRICULUM

Linda Esposito stated that this is the 3rd year of her position as Director of Curriculum and Instruction. During this time, we have focused a lot of time and attention on updating our curriculum and resources, updating our current programs, and adding new programs. Much has been accomplished (despite the covid interruption), and we continue to move forward.

We currently have a committee of teachers and administrators from WE and WW starting to look at the elementary science curriculum and resources. Our current textbooks were published by Houghton Mifflin in 2007. The Next Generation Science Standards were released in 2013. Teachers do their best to teach the "new" standards using outdated textbooks and supplemental materials such as Mystery Science and Generation Genius. With all of the new curricular materials and program updates in the past 3 years, the staff could not have meaningfully looked at updating Science until now.

We have 18 teachers representing both elementary schools and all grades 1-5. These teachers have volunteered to teach a unit from a selected series and evaluate the instructional materials using a rubric designed for evaluating NGSS lessons and units. We have sample materials from 4 different publishers. The teachers will be provided with teacher's guides, student materials, lab materials, assessment

materials, and a digital account for teacher and student access.

This committee will continue to meet throughout the remainder of this school year. We will meet with sales reps from McGraw-Hill, Savvas, TCI, and Amplify. Other teachers will be invited to attend these meetings. Our goal is to have a recommendation for a new science curriculum for next year. If we need more time to make a recommendation, then we will plan the necessary next steps to keep this initiative moving forward.

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

Mrs. Dresden - Graduation Fees/Bills Payable/Property Taxes/Extend Bonds/Bus Services for Kindergarten at Worthwoods.

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 Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): B. BOARD BILLS PAYABLE

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Accounts Payable for \$162,698.61 (EDUCATIONAL); \$206,195.02 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); and \$26,106.73 (TRANSPORTATION) for a total of \$395,000.36."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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 \$680,574.55, the Building Fund in the amount of \$48,894.79, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of \$44,084.70."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): D. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - PAMELA EPHRAIM - PARAPROFESSIONAL - WORTH ELEMENTARY - EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2023

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): E. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - CAROLYN MCCOMB - PART-TIME CUSTODIAN - EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 13, 2023

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): F. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - KAREN STIERS - LUNCHROOM SUPERVISOR - EFFECTIVE MARCH 2023

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): G. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - NORA YOUSEF - LUNCHROOM SUPERVISOR - EFFECTIVE MARCH 2023

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

7. MOTIONS

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the February 8, 2023 regular meeting."

Motion by Drew Sernus, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: B. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the February 8, 2023 closed session meeting."

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Abstain: Danette Keeler

Action: C. RESOLUTION OF INTENT - WORKING CASH BONDS

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Resolution declaring the intention to issue \$10,500,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the District's Working Cash Fund, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law."

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, Missy Sinclair

Action: D. BOARD MEETING DATES FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Board of Education Meeting dates for the 2023-2024 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, Missy Sinclair

Action: E. E-RATE PROPOSAL

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the E-Rate Proposal for hardware and installation costs with SHI International Corporation during the upcoming E-Rate Funding year, between 4/1/2023 - 9/30/2024, not to exceed \$55,003.00."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Missy Sinclair

Abstain: David Blanks, Vince Flores

Action: F. GRADUATION FEES 2022/2023

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

Motion by Vince Flores, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: G. STUDENT FEES - 2023/2024

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Student Fees for the 2023/2024 school year."

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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

Board Member wanted to express his thoughts regarding taxes and that the majority of property taxes go to teachers' salaries and that teachers are not getting paid what they deserve. Tax payers do not want their taxes increased and that can hinder teacher salary increases and these fees can help with teacher salaries.

Board Member shared that several members attended the IASB South Cook meeting on Wednesday, March 1. Board Member stated there was a very good presentation from both South Holland and Lansing and the remodeling projects that have taken place over the span of eight years. These districts had to go out for a referendum and the costs ranged from \$15 - \$18MM in renovations. Overall, the presentations were very good and it was interesting to see the before and after.

9. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Dresden - Clarification regarding Cash Bonds/Property Taxes

10. 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, collective negotiation matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of 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."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

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 8:56 p.m."

Motion by Vince Flores, second by David Blanks

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m."

Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Meghan Sisk
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus
President, Board of Education