

Board of Education
Worth School District 127

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

March 13, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.

Worthwoods Elementary - Ground Breaking

11000 S. Oketo

Worth, IL 60448

Worth Junior High - Ground Breaking/Public Meeting

11151 S. New England Avenue

Worth, IL 60448

Administrators:

Dr. Mark Fleming, Superintendent

Cindy Dykas, Assistant Superintendent, Business Manager/CSBO

Dr. Sinead Chambers, Director of Student Services

Jason Tooth, Worth Junior High Principal

Melissa Wills, Worth Junior High Assistant Principal

Elizabeth D'Andrea, Assistant Principal, Worth Elementary

Robert Jeffers, Director of Technology

David Dvorchak, Director of Facilities and Grounds

Board Recording Secretary

Jill Moore

Others Present

Alyse Koehler

Robert Peterson,

Mary Zirngibl, WE

Jeff Pagano, WW

Elizabeth Bandola, WE

Jeff Pagano, WW

Michael Cozzi, School Resource Officer

Mary Werner, Mayor

Brian Pencak, DLA

Ed Wright, DLA

Michael Cassil, DLA

1. MEETING OPENING

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Danette Keeler

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President, Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. WORTHWOODS GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

- DLA gave Board Members a visual of the proposed optional retention ponds and where they would be located.

B. WORTH JUNIOR HIGH GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

C. WORTH #127 PARTICIPATION IN THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS POLAR PLUNGE

Dr. Fleming shared a video of the team that participated in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge. The following Worth employees participated and raised over \$11,000:

Barb Kasper

Linda Esposito

Sam Nilles

Mike Cozzi
Ben Grazevich
Amber Dabrowski

D. DLA DETENTION POND OPTIONS

Dr. Fleming introduced Mr. Ed Wright and Mr. Brian Pencak from DLA to share options for the detention pond at Worthwoods. Mr. Pencak shared a presentation that covered several options for managing the stormwater runoff and to manage flood control.

- Option 1: Demolition Work; Storm Sewer Work; Erosion Control/Earthwork - \$340,653.00
- Option 2: Storm Sewer Work; Erosion Control/Earthwork - \$405,237.50
- Option 3: Storm Sewer Work; Erosion Control/Earthwork; Miscellaneous - \$440,420.00
- Option 4: Demolition Work; Storm Sewer Work; Erosion Control/Earthwork - \$456,400.50

Board Members engaged in conversation regarding each option and the possibility of pursuing the variance and that it would take approximately six months and legal fees would be approximately \$10,000. Board Members requested details regarding Option 1 which will be discussed at the next Board Meeting on April 11, 2024.

E. BOARD MEETING DATES

Dr. Fleming stated that we will need to move the June 12, 2024 Board of Education meeting to June 5, 2024; the September 11, 2024 Board of Education Meeting will be moved to September 18, 2024, to allow 30 full days for the budget.

F. FOIA REQUESTS

Dr. Fleming stated that since the last Board Meeting, the district has received two (2) FOIA Requests and they have been responded to in a timely manner.

3. BUSINESS MANAGER

A. PROPERTY TAX RELIEF GRANT

1. For Property Tax Years 2023 and 2024, the taxes will be abated in the amount of \$1,054,641 each year. These savings are passed on to the community so the average homeowner gets approximately \$240 annual reduction from their tax bill.
2. Because spring tax bills already went out, the full year of tax abatement will be reflected in the fall 2024 installment bills.
3. The District is then eligible for a grant in the amount of \$1,012,834 per year which will be received from Evidence Based Funding through ISBE, starting this spring.
4. Total Evidence Based Funding for FY24 will now be \$9,352,770 – will be reflected in the Amended FY24 Budget in April.
5. Previous amount budgeted was \$8,339,936
6. The resolution to approve this abatement of taxes in order to obtain the property tax relief grant will be approved later in this meeting, under Motions, Item F.
7. The final step is to file the paperwork with the Cook County Clerk and ISBE's State Funding and Forecasting Dept.

4. DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES

NO REPORT

5. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

NO REPORT

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

There were no citizens' remarks.

7. 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 presented."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, 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 \$638,908.61 (EDUCATIONAL); \$67,664.62 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); \$1,500.00 (DEBT SERVICE); \$67,338.10 (TRANSPORTATION); and \$28,521.41 (CAPITAL PROJECTS) for a total of \$803,932.74."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, 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 \$749,092.60 the Building Fund in the amount of \$50,031.60, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of 45,644.15."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): D. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - WAZEENEH RAHIM - LUNCH SUPERVISOR - WORTH ELEMENTARY - EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 16, 2024

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): E. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - MARIA FRANCO - LUNCH SUPERVISOR - WORTH ELEMENTARY - EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): F. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - NORA YOUSEF - LUNCH SUPERVISOR - WORTHWOODS - EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 23, 2024

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): G. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - MANAR DARMOUSA - LUNCH SUPERVISOR - WORTH ELEMENTARY - EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 28, 2024

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): H. RESIGNATION OF CERTIFIED STAFF - SABRINE SAID - ELEMENTARY TEACHER - EFFECTIVE MARCH 8, 2024

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): I. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - CHRISTINE FALVEY - PARAPROFESSIONAL - EFFECTIVE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): J. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - MATILDE PRINCIPE - PARAPROFESSIONAL - EFFECTIVE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): K. EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF - SARA BEAULIEU - PRESCHOOL TEACHER - WORTH ELEMENTARY - EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2024/2025 SCHOOL YEAR

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): L. EMPLOYMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF - ALYSE KOEHLER - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT WORTH ELEMENTARY/WORTHWOODS - EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2024/2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

8. MOTIONS

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular February 7, 2024 Board of Education meeting."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Abstain: Missy Sinclair

Action: B. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Closed Session Meeting held on February 7, 2024."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Abstain: Missy Sinclair

Action: C. BOARD MEETING DATES FOR THE 2024/2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Board of Education Meeting dates for the 2024/2025 School Year."

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

Action: D. PARENT STUDENT HANDBOOK - 2024/2025

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Parent Student Handbook for the 2024/2025 School Year."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: E. FEE PAYMENT FORM - 2024/2025

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Fee Payment Form for the 2024/2025 School Year."

Motion by Drew Sernus, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: F. PROPERTY TAX RELIEF GRANT

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Providing for Abatement of 2023 and 2024 Taxes in order to Obtain Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 Property Tax Relief Grants".

Motion by Vince Flores, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: G. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT - ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS SERVICES/CSBO

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

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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

- Board Member asked Dr. Fleming for clarification regarding the two staff members that would be attending Illinois Reading Council Conference (IRC) and that she would also be attending the conference Thursday and Friday.
- Board Member requested that when we hire administrators if they can be added to the Motions section of the agenda so the employees name is read aloud.
- Board Members suggested we continue to keep employees in the Consent Agenda, but possibly read the names aloud prior to Board taking action; reading the Consent Agenda aloud was something the Board did in previous years.

10. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA ITEMS

There were no citizens' remarks.

11. CLOSED SESSION

Action: A. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 7:48 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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 8:11."

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

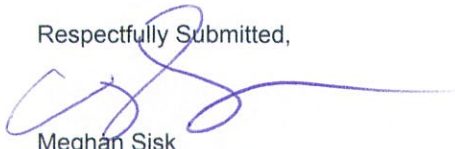
12. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m."

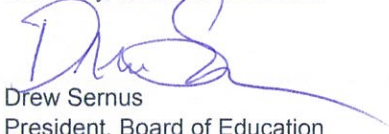
Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Meghan Sisk
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus
President, Board of Education