

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

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting  
April 12, 2023**

**Administrators:**

Dr. Mark Fleming, Superintendent  
Cindy Dykas, Assistant Superintendent, Business Manager/CSBO  
Linda Esposito, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
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**

Janis Heigl, Math Consultant  
Jason Bragg, Math Consultant  
Jeff Pagano, WW  
Lori Stage, WJH  
Colleen DeGonia, WJH  
Mary Zirngibl - WE  
Alyssa Zirngibl - WE  
Kristina Cozzolino - WE  
Lisa Strzempa - WE  
JoAnne Albrecht, WJH  
Michelle Okrzesik, WE  
Megan Dresden  
Paul Rowell

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President, Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance

**2. OATH OF OFFICE****A. BOARD MEMBERS' OATH OF OFFICE**

*Tabled till May 10, 2023 Board of Education Meeting.*

**3. APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT PRO TEM**

*Tabled till May 10, 2023 Board of Education Meeting.*

**4. ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD****D. APPOINTMENT OF BOARD RECORDING SECRETARY**

*Tabled till May 10, 2023 Board of Education Meeting.*

**5. 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. MAY 10 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING - WORTHWOODS

Dr. Fleming stated that the May 10th Board of Education Meeting will be held at Worthwoods and we will be opening a time capsule.

#### C. WORTH JUNIOR HIGH DECLAMATION TEAM

Dr. Fleming introduced Principal Jason Tooth to share some exciting celebrations that have taken place. Cheer Fest took place on February 14 with our Head Coach, Mary Zirngibl and our Assistant Coach, Alyssa Zirginbl. Mr. Tooth also shared that the band performed at the junior high conference and took Division One. Mr. Tooth stated that they hope to have them in attendance at the May 10th Board Meeting so they can share more with you.

The Math Team competed at the Math Conference and the 7th grade team took second place with both 8th grade and 7th grade being in the top three. The team that was focused on algebra actually took first in that category and one of our 8th graders had the highest score. Mr. Tooth congratulated those students and stated they are really excited about their accomplishments.

Mrs. DeGonia recognized the following students for their accomplishments in the following areas:

Declamation: Hussein Assi (6th); Maggie Costello (6th); Jasmine Gutierrez (6th); Mila Rocush (8th); AJ Rocush (7th);

Poetry: Jeremy Brejcha (7th); Leah Isbeih (6th); Jessica Plewa (7th); Ruba Shaban (7th); Allison Andricopulos (8th)

Prose: Bryanna Sierra (6th); Rinesa Xhemajli (6th); Lana Ballout (8th); Mila Rocush (8th); Grace Regalado (8th) - Grace gave a performance and shared her talent for the Board.

#### D. BUILDING UPDATE/REPORT

No Report

#### 6. BUSINESS MANAGER

No Report

#### 7. DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES

No Report

#### 8. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

##### A. ELA CURRICULUM AT WORTH JUNIOR HIGH

Mrs. Esposito opened by stated that when she met with the WJH ELA Curriculum Committee last year, we determined there were gaps in the ELA instruction that needed to be addressed. We explored various materials and decided to pilot CommonLit School Essentials Pro. This version includes the CommonLit digital library, the complete CommonLit 360 curriculum, the CommonLit assessment series, school and district-wide supports, along with tech and PD support.

The digital library offers over 3,000 high-quality reading passages and digital lessons for students in grades 3-12.

CommonLit organizes its digital library into over 25 literary themes designed to be engaging and thought-provoking for students.

The CommonLit 360 curriculum for grades 6-8 includes comprehensive 5-7 week units that include fully developed reading, writing, vocabulary, and discussion lessons. They offer units that focus on literary analysis, research, novel-based instruction, argumentative writing, and more. There are target lessons that teach a specific standards-aligned skill - like identifying the main idea or analyzing the author's point of view - that students will use to deeply understand the text. Target lessons also include scaffolded pre-reading, during reading, and post-reading activities that are designed to build students' engagement and knowledge as they move through the lesson. This scaffolding is especially important for our ML students and students requiring extra support.



CommonLit 360 is releasing an updated version - 2.0 - in July 2023. The updated edition features: an even wider range of text genres and modes including rhetorical analysis, poetry, multimedia, and primary source documents; culminating tasks that include authentic opportunities for real world application, including project focused learning opportunities; additional texts in each unit that support students' knowledge building; more high-quality texts to build student reading stamina; additional texts from diverse authors; and more explicit instructional guidance for teachers.

Finally, to help teachers easily measure student comprehension, they've added a Unit Skills Assessment package to give teachers the data they need to plan strong, targeted instruction within CommonLit 360.

Mrs. Esposito met with the ELA teachers and the administrators at WJH last month. The teachers raved about CommonLit 360 and would like to adopt this as the ELA curriculum for WJH. Therefore, at the May Board meeting, she will be making the recommendation and asking for the Board to adopt CommonLit 360 for WJH ELA

Janis Heigl gave a brief update regarding FastBridge and the current state standards. She stated that the intervention that we have is not grade level, it's content based, so the teachers can take these pieces of data and can identify which children might need some additional services. Ms. Heigl stated that they are getting some great results and continue to work with teachers through professional development. She further stated that she works with several districts and how rare it is to work with a district, like Worth, as teachers are wanting to learn more. Board Members thanked Janis Heigl and Jason Bragg for all their help and hard work in the district.

## **9. PUBLIC HEARING ON WORKING CASH BONDS**

### **Public Hearing: A. CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education conduct a Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell \$10,500,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the District's Working Cash Fund."

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, Missy Sinclair

- 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 was approved at the March 8<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.
- After that resolution was approved, the law requires the District to provide notice to the public, not less than 7, no more than 30 days before the date of the public hearing. We've complied with the law by posting the legal notice of intention to sell working cash bonds in the Daily Southtown on Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.
- We will now conduct the Public Hearing on the Intention of the Board of Education to sell \$10,500,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the District's Working Cash Fund.
- The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public the opportunity to provide comments or ask questions.

This is now the public hearing portion. The public is now invited to make comments.

- Mrs. Dresden - Addition to the schools, specifically the comment regarding Worthwoods (it was renovated); and the use of the RISE side.

Having no further public comments, Mrs. Dykas recommended that the public hearing being closed.

### **Action: B. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education close the public hearing and return to regular session."

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



**10. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no citizens' remarks.

**11. 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."

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Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Missy Sinclair.

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

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Accounts Payable for \$217,210.29 (EDUCATIONAL); \$174,603.58 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); \$17,390.87 (TRANSPORTATION); and \$7,287.66 (TORT IMMUNITY) for a total of \$416,492.40."

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.

**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 \$678,922.63, the Building Fund in the amount of \$47,437.20, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of \$43,559.66."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Missy Sinclair.

**Action (Consent): D. RESIGNATION OF CERTIFIED STAFF - JANICE HOPE - 5TH GRADE TEACHER - WORTHWOODS ELEMENTARY - EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 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.

**Action (Consent): E. RESIGNATION OF CERTIFIED STAFF - KRISTOPHER MARTIN - ELEMENTARY ART TEACHER - EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 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.

**Action (Consent): F. EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF - MEGAN LABUDA - 5TH GRADE TEACHER - WORTHWOODS ELEMENTARY - EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2023/2024 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 Missy Sinclair.

Action (Consent): G. EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF - ANTHONY KONCIUS - PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE - EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2023/2024 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 Missy Sinclair.

Action (Consent): H. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - STEPHEN NEUHAUS - PART-TIME CUSTODIAN - EFFECTIVE APRIL, 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.

Action (Consent): I. FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICY #111

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 Missy Sinclair.

**12. MOTIONS**

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

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

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Michelle Egan.

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 March 8, 2023 closed session meeting."

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, Missy Sinclair

Action: C. 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 2023-24".

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, Missy Sinclair

Action: D. 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 2023-2024 School Year."

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, Missy Sinclair

**Action: E. 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 2023-2024 School Year."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

**Action: F. APPROVAL OF R & G CONSULTANTS CONTRACT RENEWAL**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve R & G Consultants renewal beginning on July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025."

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, Missy Sinclair

**Action: G. APPROVAL TO POST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the hiring of one new Assistant Director of Facilities and Grounds Position for 2023/2024."

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, Missy Sinclair

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

**A. Board Discussion/Action**

Board Member stated that the Boy Scout pancake breakfast will take place on Saturday, April 29 from 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at St. Mark Lutheran Church. Board Member stated that 98% of students are from Worth Elementary and Worthwoods. Clover Leaf is donating 100 cartons of milk.

Board Member asked Dr. Fleming for clarification regarding the recent Statement of Economic Interest. Dr. Fleming stated that he will contact Tom Melody and get back to the Board with the information.

Board member commented that teachers are working together so incredibly well. Board Member commented that that she hopes that there is communication between Stagg HS and Shepard HS Speech Teams. These students did a wonderful job this evening.

**14. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no citizens' remarks.

Mrs. Esposito informed the Board that the Wax Museum will take place at Worthwoods on Thursday, April 13 from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

**15. CLOSED SESSION**

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

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 6:57 p.m. 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 Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, 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 9:35 p.m."

Motion by Drew Sernus, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Meghan Sisk

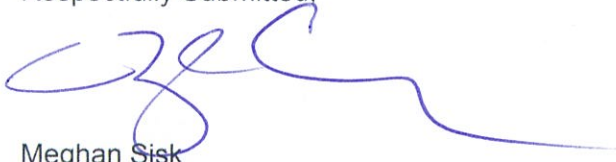
**16. ADJOURNMENT**

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m."

Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Meghan Sisk  
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus  
President, Board of Education