

Board of Education
Worth School District 127

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting
September 13, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

Worth Elementary
11158 S. Oak Park Avenue, Worth, Illinois

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, Assistant Principal, WJH
Dr. 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

Elizabeth Bandola, WE
Lisa Strzempa, WE
Michelle Okrzesik, WE
JoAnne Albrecht, WJH
Mary Zirngibl, WE
Alyssa Zirngibl, WE

1. MEETING OPENING

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. ROLL CALL

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

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President, Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Fleming opened by sharing the highlights of Patriot Day on September 11, 2023. Each of the schools had wonderful assemblies to learn about an incredible tragedy, yet also learning about our incredible heroes. Assemblies were held indoors due to the rainy weather, but we had a wonderful turnout with Worth officials, 1st responders and our Boy Scouts were also present. Dr. Fleming extended thanks to the Boy Scouts for attending.

A. DLA RENOVATION UPDATE

Dr. Fleming invited Ed Wright and the team to take a tour of Worth Elementary. Board Members and staff took time to tour Worth Elementary and highlight all of the renovations.

Dr. Fleming stated that the tour was extremely impressive and we appreciate the Board for all their continued support. Dr. Fleming shared that each Board Member received cards made by the students in recognition and thanked you for all their work.

Ed Wright opened by thanking Lombard for all their seamless work and they were one of the easiest contractors to work with. He further stated they are very thorough and we were very pleased with all the work they've done in the schools. Mr. Wright stated that the district has had 4 contractors: Troop Construction; Chicago Heights Construction; Henry Brothers; and Lombard.

Mr. Wright introduced his team: Brian Pencak, Ignacio Carrera, lead designer; and Michael Cassil, Architect. Mr. Wright introduced Mr. Cassil to share a presentation with the Board regarding the plans for Worthwoods and Worth Junior High.

Board Member asked for clarification regarding the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD). Mr. Wright stated that what they are proposing is just outside the baseball field to run a six foot deep pipe through school property to address some of the stormwater issues. By doing so, this will address some of the flooding problems they've had. Mr. Wright stated that it is a great project that will definitely help the community. What they are asking for is for the school to grant them an easement to allow the project to move forward. We've been working with them to discuss the negotiations; however, things have not been going great, but we have some ideas and will work to keep those conversations moving. Mr. Wright stated that this will not interfere or stop plans with the construction project and their timeline is to move forward in the spring.

B. FOIA REQUESTS

Dr. Fleming stated that since the last Board Meeting, we've received four FOIA requests and responded to them in a timely manner.

C. INSTRUCTION COACHES UPDATE

Dr. Fleming stated that Linda Esposito, our Director of Curriculum and Instruction, is on vacation this week. She recently completed some interviews in the past couple of weeks and we'll have an update on those very soon. The reason we are trying to appoint and hire for those positions now is so they can spend time training and getting professional development and be ready to begin in the fall of 2024.

D. IASB - SOUTH COOK DIVISION MEETING

Dr. Fleming stated that the South Cook Division Meeting will take place this year on Thursday, October 26 at the following location:

DoubleTree Hilton Hotel

5000 W. 127th Street

Alsip, IL

Registration: 5:30 p.m.

Call to order/Presentation: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 6:45 p.m.

Business Meeting: 7:15 p.m.

If you would like to attend this meeting, please let Jill Moore know and she will register you.

3. BUSINESS MANAGER

A. FY24 BUDGET

Ms. Dykas shared the final budget presentation and stated that the public hearing will take place this evening.

- As discussed at the detailed tentative budget presentation in August, the overall fund totals had planned a nearly \$9.6 million net gain for the budget year.
- This large gain is directly attributable to the bond sale proceeds, which were received by the district in August.
- A few line items were slightly changed within the Education Fund; the overall net gain was decreased by about \$545k from what was presented for the tentative budget.
- Result of a reduction of the Evidence Based Funding total. Although we anticipate receiving the Property Tax Relief Grant once again, that additional funding was removed from the budget, as it has not yet been opened for applications nor awards been released.
- A few expenditures in the Ed Fund were fine-tuned, but nothing major changed.
- The only other item changed was in the Life Safety Fund, where \$50k was added for the new School Property Maintenance Grant, which was just released a few weeks ago. That application will come to you for approval in the next month or two.
- The final budgeted net gain for FY24 is now just under \$9.5 million.
- The majority of the FY24 budgeted net gain will be expended within FY25 as we get well underway with building additions at WW and WJH in Summer 2024, as the architects discussed earlier.
- Lastly, as required, fund balances are required to be disclosed during the budget meeting where the public hearing is held. These fund balances are listed in Board Docs for the public to view.

4. DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES

NO REPORT

5. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

NO REPORT

6. BUDGET 2023/2024**Action: A. CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY24 BUDGET**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education conduct a public hearing regarding the proposed budget for 2023-2024, which has been on file in accordance with the requirements of the School Code of Illinois."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

The purpose of the public hearing is to provide the public the opportunity to make comments regarding the budget. Ms. Dykas asked the public if anyone would like to comment on the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 budget. Upon hearing no comments or questions from the public, Ms. Dykas requested a motion to close the public hearing.

Action: B. CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY24 BUDGET

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

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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

There were no citizens' remarks.

8. 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 listed under 8.b - 8.g."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Action (Consent): B. BOARD BILLS PAYABLE

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Accounts Payable for \$265,888.95 (EDUCATIONAL); \$760,428.13 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); \$31,859.97 (TRANSPORTATION); and \$315,725.28 (CAPITAL PROJECTS) for a total of \$1,373,902.33."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by 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 \$376,114.87, the Building Fund in the amount of \$55,345.39, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of \$36,007.53."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Action (Consent): D. RESIGNATION OF CERTIFIED STAFF - RETIREMENT - VICTORIA RAMIREZ - WORTHWOODS/WORTH JUNIOR HIGH - EFFECTIVE JUNE 2026

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Action (Consent): E. RESIGNATION OF CERTIFIED STAFF - RETIREMENT - MARY PLOTKE - SCIENCE TEACHER - WORTH JUNIOR HIGH - EFFECTIVE JUNE 2027

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Action (Consent): F. EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF - ELIZABETH SPRINGER - PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE - EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Action (Consent): G. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - IRENE VORDERER - PARAPROFESSIONAL - WORTH ELEMENTARY - EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

9. MOTIONS

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the August 9, 2023 regular meeting."

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Abstain: Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler

Action: B. RESOLUTION - PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD (PTAB) INTERVENTION WITH KLEIN, THORPE AND JENKINS

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education authorize Klein, Thorpe and Jenkins, Ltd., as it's legal representative, to file a Request to Intervene in Appeal Proceedings with the PTAB, and to represent the District's interests with respect to the appeals challenging the assessed valuations for tax years 2021 and all years thereafter, with respect to property located within the corporate boundaries of the District".

Motion by Vince Flores, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. WORTH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Worth Junior High School Improvement plan".

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: D. ADOPTION OF FY24 BUDGET

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 Budget according to the Resolution for Worth School District 127."

Motion by Vince Flores, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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

Board Member stated that with everything that has happened in the last couple of years, the staff and teachers continue to work hard and a big thank you to Ms. Dykas for all her hard work with the budget. Dr. Fleming stated we have a incredible hard working staff and admin. team and staff.

Board Member stated that everyone should check their emails for the upcoming South Cook Division Meeting. Dr. Fleming again reiterated that Board Members should contact Jill Moore for registration and if he finds out who the speak is, he will let all Board Members know.

11. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA ITEMS

There were no citizens' remarks.

12. CLOSED SESSION

Action: A. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 7:10 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, Danette Keeler, 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 7:39 p.m."

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by David Blanks.

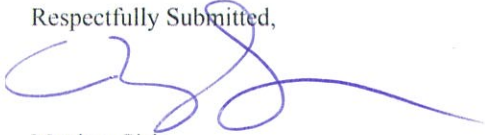
13. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m."

Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Meghan Sisk
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus
President, Board of Education