

Board of Education
Worth School District 127

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting
October 11, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Rosemary Lucas Administration Building
11218 S. Ridgeland Ave, 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

Kathy Dennis
Tim Dlhly
Jeff Pagano
Colleen DeGonia
Elizabeth Bandola, WE
Mary Zirngibl, WE
Alyssa Zirngibl, WE
Leslie, Colin and Kaitlyn Blanks
Megan Dresden
Kayla Nelson
Breann Bosco
Josh Krueger

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, Danette Keeler, Meghan Sisk, David Blanks

Absent: Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Michelle Egan was not present at roll call and entered public session at 6:08 p.m.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President, Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Fleming stated that we now have microphones available for everyone who is speaking at the Board Meeting. These have been on backorder for quite some time and we are excited to be able to test them out this evening for the first time.

Dr. Fleming stated that the month of October is breast cancer awareness month. At each Board Member's place, they will find a pink ribbon to wear in honor of those that have battled this disease.

Dr. Fleming called Mr. Tooth to recognize the volleyball team and introduced Coach Dlhly and Coach Dennis along with some volleyball team members. Mr. Tooth stated that this is his fourth year in the district and watching their sportsmanship is remarkable and they have been a great encouragement to one another. Both boys and girls took second place in conference this year and I am so very proud of our teams' accomplishments. Mr. Tooth recognized Coach Dlhly and Coach Dennis stating that this is their final year coaching in our district and cannot say enough good things about all they have done for our students and athletes.

Dr. Fleming congratulated coaches and the team for their amazing accomplishments and stated he may be contacting them next year for some coaching assistance.

A. EAGLE SCOUT RECOGNITION

Dr. Fleming introduced Colin Blanks who was a 2020 Worth Junior High graduate. Dr. Fleming stated that Colin's accomplishment of earning Eagle Scout status is something that many people say is the number one indicator of success. Colin shared that his Eagle Scout Project was to tear down the landscaping at St. Mark Church and rebuild it back up. He is currently a senior at Shepherd High School and is considering South Carolina University for college in the fall of next year. Dr. Fleming thanked him for his accomplishments and wished him nothing but the best as he plans for his future.

B. IASB BOARD LEADER RECOGNITION

Dr. Fleming recognized and congratulated two Board Members for being recognized by the Illinois Association of School Boards:

Drew Sernus, Board President - Earned Annual Merit Recognition and is earned by members who have achieved distinguished or legacy status from past years and then earned an additional 40 points over the past year.

Vince Flores, Board Member - Earned Established Board Member and earned 200 points which is achievable by attending IASB and learning activities (Joint Annual Conference; South Cook Division Meetings).

Dr. Fleming stated that anyone can view the point system by visiting IASB website. The IASB initiated the Board Member Leader Recognition Program both to honor the dedicated work of School Board Members and call attention to the many responsibilities placed on local school boards. Dr. Fleming further stated that they are elected voting positions, but they are also volunteer positions. Thank you Drew Sernus and Vince Flores your continued hard work.

C. STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARY GILL - VISIT TO WORTH ELEMENTARY

Dr. Fleming introduced Dr. Eichstaedt to share Mary Gill's visit to Worth Elementary. Dr. Eichstaedt stated that with the help of Mrs. Esposito we were able to get Ms. Gill's and her chief of staff for a visit to Worth Elementary. During her visit, we conducted a fire drill; she helped with attendance; visited classrooms at the primary level; and did a meeting with Dr. Fleming and the administrative level. She engaged with the students and shared with them what her role is and what she does. Ms. Gill's stated she had a wonderful time with the students and couldn't wait to come back. Dr. Eichstaedt stated she was very proud of the students with the type of thoughtful questions they asked and students were excited about her being there.

D. FOIA REQUESTS

Dr. Fleming stated that the district received two FOIA requests since the last Board Meeting and they were responded to in a timely manner.

3. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

A. AMIRA LEARNING RESOURCE

- This year our grades 3-8 special education teachers have access to a new curriculum called Read 180. Read 180 is reading program designed for struggling readers who are reading 2 or more years below grade level. It provides blended instruction (digital and traditional), whole group instruction and small group rotations, student assessment, and teacher professional development.
- All K-5 teachers have access to a new supplemental resource called Amira. Amira is a digital reading tool that leverages artificial intelligence to assess students' reading mastery and coach through new reading skills. A benchmark assessment is used to assess student' reading proficiency skills, screen students for potential risk of dyslexia, and identify individual student's areas of need or additional support. We envision Amira being a helpful resource for students in need of Tier 2 and Tier 3 intervention.

B. FIRST EARLY DISMISSAL DAY

The Admin Team worked very hard to put together an afternoon of professional learning to meet the needs of large groups of teachers and to differentiate to meet the needs of individual teachers. The students were dismissed 2 hours early, and the staff had a full 90+ minutes of PD. Most of the staff were assigned based on district goals, instructional mandates, or new district initiatives. Some staff members reached out with specific requests and presented an agenda of their professional learning activities. Here is what we offered last Friday:

- Kari Harris is an IL MTSS Network Coach, and she presented her first in a series of PD offerings this year supporting the MTSS process and supporting ML teachers and students in all instructional areas. This session was attended by all WJH staff, ML staff, social workers, interventionists, and paraprofessionals. Kari will be working with the WJH staff throughout the year to implement MTSS, building on the work we started last year at the elementary schools. In addition, Kari will be addressing the unique factors to consider when problem solving for ML learning and evaluating what MTSS supports they might need to receive.
- Elia Foster is an instructional Coach for HMH Professional Services, and in a live virtual training, she presented to K-5 teachers and some WJH special education teachers. This was a Getting Started session for a new instructional support resource, Amira.

- As we prepare for the retirement of the PE teachers at WJH, and as we look to fill vacancies in the elementary PE staff, we asked all of the K-8 PE teachers to meet to look at the K-8 PE curriculum for the district. We need to ensure our curriculum meets all IL instructional mandates, aligns with all standards, and is equitable for all students.
- Differentiated PD requests included asynchronous Gold Assessment Training and Follett Library tutorials.

Our vision for Early Dismissal PD days is to continue to provide learning opportunities for large groups and have more individual teachers seek out videos, tutorials, and other resources to enhance their teaching and meet their specific needs.

INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES

You are taking action tonight to hire Breann Bosco as an Instructional Coach for Special Education for the 2024-25 school year. Brann is a graduate of Worth School and excited to be joining the Worth Staff.

I also want to recognize and congratulate the three internal candidates who interviewed for the position of Instruction Coach for general education for the 2024-25 school year. This does not require Board action since this a job reassignment for next school year. Congratulations to Alyssa Boril, Buthiana Shabaneh, and Kathy Wanatawicz.

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

Megan Dresden - Early Dismissal Days

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 David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): B. BOARD BILLS PAYABLE

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Accounts Payable for \$148,714.14 (EDUCATIONAL); \$203,154.07 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); \$10,095.47 (TRANSPORTATION); and \$293,962.38 (CAPITAL PROJECTS) for a total of \$655,926.06."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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 \$716,778.48, the Building Fund in the amount of \$47,961.88, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of \$44,611.47."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): D. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - HEATHER KUNZ - LUNCHROOM SUPERVISOR - EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 9, 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 David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): E. EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF - BREANN BOSCO - SPECIAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTIONAL COACH - EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2024/2025 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 David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): F. SHANNON KONOPASEK - REQUEST FOR CONTRACTUAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE - EXTENDING FMLA 12/14/23 - 12/22/23

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): G. 2023-2024 COMPENSATION FOR IMRF EMPLOYEES

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): H. FY 2023 EIS ADMINISTRATOR AND TEACHER SALARY AND BENEFITS REPORT

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

6. MOTIONS

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the September 13, 2023 regular meeting."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler

Abstain: Michelle Egan

Action: B. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the September 13, 2023 closed session meeting."

Motion by David Blanks, second by Danette Keeler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler

Abstain: Michelle Egan

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

Board Member stated that she will not be in attendance for the November 8, 2023 Board Meeting.

8. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA ITEMS

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 at 6:38 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees; and student disciplinary cases."

Motion by David Blanks, second by Danette Keeler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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 6:55 p.m."

Motion by Drew Sernus, second by Michelle Egan. .

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Board Member stated that at the June 14, 2023 Board Meeting, MTSS numbers and percentages were shared on behalf of the Curriculum Director. Board Member requested a copy of that report that was shared and is again requesting a copy. Dr. Fleming apologized and further stated that at the November 8th meeting, Mrs. Esposito will be sharing a lot of data.

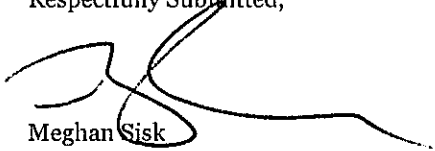
10. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m."


Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Meghan Sisk
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus
President, Board of Education