

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

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting  
November 9, 2022**

**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  
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**

Ginny McClure, WE  
Deb Burghgraef, WW  
Shannon Fisher, WE  
Leslie Zator, WW  
Kaithlyn Ebert, WE  
Michelle Okrzerik, WE  
Jeff Pagano, WW  
Kristina Brown, WE  
Liz Bandola, WJH & WE  
JoAnne Albrecht, WJH & WEA  
Paul Rowell  
Megan Dresdan

**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, Vince Flores, David Blanks, Michelle Egan, Missy Sinclair

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President, Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance

**2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Fleming stated that the Tri-Conference is approaching and to please let Jill Moore know if you will be able to attend the boating event.

**A. FOIA REQUESTS**

Dr. Fleming stated that the district received one (1) FOIA request and has responded in a timely manner.

**B. 2022 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dr. Fleming shared information regarding the 2022 Resolutions.

**New Resolutions:**

- Fund balances Miller ratio adjustment - Recommended
- Alternative Fueled School Bus Funding - Not Recommended
- Firearm Dealer Location - Not Recommended

**Amended Positions**

- Capital Grant Fund for Schools Buildings - Recommended
- School Safety Fund - Recommended
- Involvement with Candidates for Public Office - Not Recommended

- Mandates Review Committee - Recommended
- Financial Contribution for School Board Elections - Recommended

Dr. Fleming congratulated the following Board Members for being recognized by IASB:

Drew Sernus - Distinguished Board Leader  
 Danette Keeler - Distinguished Board Leader  
 Michelle Egan - Established Board Leader

Dr. Fleming stated that Friday, November 11 is Veterans Day and Board Member, Vince Flores, was recognized as serving in the Air Force. Dr. Fleming stated that all school buildings will be doing activities to honor Veterans. Dr. Fleming shared that Tuesday, November 15 is School Board Appreciation Day and thanked Board Members for their service in supporting students, parents and the entire Worth School District staff. We appreciate all you do. On Wednesday, November 16, the district will hold a Family Reading Night at Worth Elementary at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Fleming stated that today at Worth Junior High there was a volleyball game with the Worth Police Department and students.

### C. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Fleming stated that he would like to have a Finance Committee Meeting in January of 2023. More information will follow.

## **3. BUSINESS MANAGER**

### **A. HEALTH SCREENINGS FOR STAFF**

Mrs. Dykas shared information regarding the Health/Wellness screenings that took place in October for staff and family members:

- A full panel blood test can detect the potential for many illnesses and early detection is key!
- Continuing with the Wellness Initiatives offered by the school district and thanks to the Board of Education for the additional incentive for those who participate in the Health Savings Account PPO Medical Plan, this year's Wellness Screenings were a huge success.
- We offered two dates for In-District wellness screenings, by Empower Health Services.
- 60 people were screened over the two days, followed up with a comprehensive and confidential report.
- Also, staff and participants in our health plan can go to any LabCorp location for the Wellness Screenings, which serviced an additional 17 participants and likely more!
- In addition, Osco Pharmacists were on site offering flu, tetanus and COVID booster shots.

### **B. ESTIMATED TAX LEVY PRESENTATION**

Mrs. Dykas shared a presentation highlighting the Tax Levy and stated that the Tax Levy will be published in the newspaper with the information regarding the public hearing that will take place at the December 14, 2022 Board Meeting.

### **Review basic terms of the tax levy process**

- Mentioned that 2021 final tax extension reports were just released 11/3. They are usually finalized in June.
- Taxpayers in Cook County have not yet received their final tax bills for 2021 – should be out around Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> (usually August 1<sup>st</sup>).
- Fortunate to have healthy fund balances since our main revenue stream has been cut off by the delay of property tax bills.

### **P.A. 102-0895**

- New section of the School Code, effective May 23, 2022.
- Each School District now must publicly disclose the cash reserve balance of all funds held by the school district related to its operational levy.
- Disclosures must occur at the public hearing at which the district certifies its budget and levy for the taxable year.
- Worth School District 127 has complied with this by posting this information in Board Docs each month.
- As of June 30, 2022, the Operational Cash Reserve Balances (all funds except Debt Service) was \$17,100,000.

### **Revenues**

- Property Tax collections made up 43% of total revenue in Fiscal Year 2022.
- A few years ago, without the ESSER funding and less EBF, Property Tax collections made up 58% of total revenue.

### **10-Year History of Revenue Collected**

- Property taxes have remained very constant over a 10-year period, in fact see the significant reduction in 2021 due to Property Tax Relief Grant AND EAV increase, which gives an overall relief to all taxpayers.

- In 10 years time, our total revenue has nearly doubled, from \$12.4 M in 2013 to just under \$24 M in 2022.
- Evidence Based Funding (formerly General State Aid) increased 700% from 2013, helping Property Taxes stay constant.
- The large increase of Federal Programs over the past 3 years is directly related to funds received for ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) from ARP (American Rescue Plan).
- Another visual showing how much both revenue and expenditures have grown over 10 years.
- 2022 was the first year of deficit spending in over 15 years.
- This shows a \$9.4 million surplus over the same time period.

#### **EAV**

- 2020 was \$211 million (10 year high)

#### **4. DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES**

##### **A. CUDDLY COAT FEST**

Dr. Chambers addressed the board members and Dr. Fleming to share information about the recent "Cuddly Coat Fest" held at Worth Junior High on Saturday, October 22nd, 2022, between 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dr. Chambers shared with the board the success of the coat fest on 10/22/22. The coat fest was staffed by Dr. Chambers and her administrative assistant, Amy Pickert, who also received credit for creating the advertisement flyer for the fest, and the thank you photo collage presented to each member of the board. She also acknowledged the assistance of Mrs. DeGonia, Mr. Tooth, and the Worth Junior High Student Council members for their hard work setting up the coats the evening before the event. Dr. Chambers briefly recapped her notes from the last board meeting giving credit to the sponsor of the coats, International Paper. This company donated 120 coats ranging from size 5/6 to Young Adult and included a book with each coat.

Dr. Chambers shared with the board that 47 families benefited from the coat fest and that all the coats and books had been donated by the end of this successful event. She concluded her report by expressing her gratitude to the district for offering this event and hopes it will be offered again next year. She will also request Worth School District be considered for this donation again next year.

#### **5. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

##### **A. ILLINOIS REPORT CARD**

Mrs. Esposito shared the 2022 IL School Report Card Summary.

##### **Intervention Leadership Conference**

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to attend the first-ever Intervention Leadership Conference on Oct 20-22. The conference was sponsored by the Math Learning Center. The conference focused on asset-based learning environments and intervention systems. I had the opportunity to hear from and work beside 3 powerful keynote speakers - Dr. Rachel Lambert, Dr. Juanita Silva, and Dr. Jessica Hunt. After each keynote, we had breakout sessions where we had the opportunity to network with other intervention leaders and draft an action plan for intervention using ideas and questions raised during keynote and panel discussions. I look forward to continuing to work with the Worth School District intervention team as we build our intervention program.

##### **B. INTERVENTIONISTS UPDATE**

Ginny McClure, Deb Bergraeaf, Leslie Zator, Shannon Fisher, and Kaitlyn Ebert shared a slide show.

Mrs. Esposito stated how proud she is of the team we have working together to build this program. The members of this team are Louise Igoe, behavioral interventionist, Deb Burghraef, Shannon Fisher, and Ginny McClure, instructional interventionists, and Kaitlyn Ebert, Sandy Jager, and Leslie Zator, Title 1 Reading teachers. Some of these teachers are here tonight and they have prepared a short presentation to share with you about the intervention program.

Dr. Fleming shared how exciting it is to see students thriving and thanked Mrs. Esposito and the entire Interventionists Team for all their hard work.

#### **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 outlined below."

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 \$244,408.97 (EDUCATIONAL); \$210,712.55 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); and \$32,396.54 (TRANSPORTATION) for a total of \$487,518.06."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by 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 \$661,952.56, the Building Fund in the amount of \$43,432.94, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of \$45,732.81."

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

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. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - CRISTINA CAMARILLO - LUNCH SUPERVISOR - EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 17, 2022

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

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. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - CYNTHIA SIERGIEJ - LUNCH SUPERVISOR - EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 23, 2022

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

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. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - CAROLYN MCCOMB - PART-TIME CUSTODIAN - EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 19, 2022

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

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. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - MADELINE PASSI - PART-TIME CUSTODIAN - EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 19, 2022

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

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 October 12, 2022 regular meeting."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, 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 October 12, 2022 closed session meeting."

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Abstain: David Blanks

### **Action: C. 2022 ESTIMATED TAX LEVY**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution determining the estimated amount of money to be raised by taxation for 2022 and establish the Board meeting of December 14, 2022, as the time for the public hearing regarding the levy, as recommended by the Assistant Superintendent for Business Services/CSBO and the Superintendent, as presented in the attached documents in 3 A.

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Missy Sinclair.

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 Members expressed their appreciation to the staff and administration on how great this program is going. Board Member thanked Cindy Dykas for being fiscally responsible.

## **10. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no citizens' remarks.

## **11. CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m."

Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Meghan Sisk  
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus  
President, Board of Education