

Board of Education
Worth School District 127

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

January 10, 2024 - 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
Robert Jeffers, Director of Technology
David Dvorchak, Director of Facilities and Grounds

Board Recording Secretary

Jill Moore

Others Present

Alyssa Zirngibl, WE
Mary Zirngibl, WE
Jeff Pagano, WW
MaryBeth Uretz, WJH
JoAnne Albrecht, WJH
Tom Melody, District Attorney
Ed Wright, DLA
Brian Pencak, DLA
Michael Cassil, DLA

1. MEETING OPENING

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President, Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. WORTH JUNIOR HIGH ISC4 STUDENT ADVOCATE

Dr. Fleming introduced Principal, Jason Tooth to talk about the Student Advocate Program. Mr. Tooth stated that a student advocate is someone who helps students in a variety of different ways: extra support, academics, attendance, and social emotional. Mr. Tooth introduced MaryBeth Uretz to speak to the Board regarding what she does to better support students. Ms. Uretz stated that she works with the social and emotional parts of the child and her primary job is to literally be their voice. Students can share what is going on at home, why they are not completing their homework and even some personal issues that they're having. A student advocate is not a social worker and we don't have that licensure, but we work closely with these students to empower them, how to give them grace and how to give them the support they need. Ms. Uretz stated she loves being that extra support to students and generally meets with each of her students once per week.

Dr. Fleming stated that the teachers absolutely love having Ms. Uretz in the building. The first year the district is paying for her services, next year, the state will be paying for it ongoing as long as we keep her through a grant system. We are hoping to have another student advocate starting around February 6th and then next school year hopefully have three at the junior high and two at each of the elementary buildings. Dr. Fleming further stated that this is just an outstanding program.

Board Member asked Ms. Uretz if she works with our School Resource Officer and she stated that yes, she does and that Sergeant Cozzi has helped with attendance and some difficult home situations.

Dr. Fleming recognized Board Member, Michelle Egan, for bringing awareness of this program to the district.

B. WORTHWOODS/WORTH JUNIOR HIGH PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION - BID INFORMATION

Dr. Fleming introduced Mr. Ed Wright, DLA Architects to give a presentation overview of the Worthwoods/Worth Junior High proposed construction projects. Mr. Wright stated that the amount of returned bids came in lower than anticipated and the district received only three and we were hoping for five. The bid at Worth Junior High came in line with the budget we were expecting; however, Worthwoods came in a bit higher than expected. We are still working with MWRD and trying to come to terms with an agreement and Mrs. Wright stated that they will continue to pursue that conversation.

After reviewing the Base Bids and Alternate Bids received from three bidders on December 19, 2023 and as requested by District 127 Administration, we have determined that the Apparent Lowest Qualified Bidder is Construction, Inc. This determination is based on the acceptance of their Base Bid A, Base Bid B and Alternate No. 3 bid.

Mr. Wright stated he has not personally worked with Construction, Inc.; however, he has consulted with other people and they had really good experiences with them. Their references have all been glowing and we feel very comfortable with this construction company. Mr. Wright stated the other two bids were way off and in pricing and too high and stated after looking at the bids more closely it's about \$800/sq. ft. Four years ago construction costs came in at about \$250/sq. ft. and 3 years ago about \$300/sq. ft.; 2 years ago \$450-\$500/sq. ft. and around \$600/sq. ft. is what we are seeing now.

Dr. Fleming asked the Board to keep in mind that while the Worthwoods bid was a bit higher, all the other bid work came in as estimated.

Michael Cassil, DLA, shared a powerpoint presentation showing the construction plans for both Worth Junior High and Worthwoods.

Base Bid A, Base Bid B and Alternate No. 3 for a total of \$18,750,000

As seen in the Bid Tabulation form, the bids for Base Bid A work at Worth Junior High, Worth Elementary and Worthridge Schools were competitive and were within our estimated cost range of \$6,200,000 - \$8,120,000. The Base Bid B work for Worthwoods Elementary School was above the estimated cost range of \$6,405,000 - \$7,560,000. The construction complexity of the multiple building levels in relation to the site elevation, replacement of the existing electrical, water and gas utility services, additional square footage and some additional scope added by the School District, along with poor soil conditions contributed to the above average cost.

The Alternate No. 3 new stormtrap underground detention basin work is required to be completed as part of the Base Bid B work at Worthwoods Elementary School, this may be eliminated depending on the current negotiations with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, but should be accepted with Base Bid B. Alternate No. 1 bid was above the estimated cost of \$100,000 and therefore we do not recommend proceeding with this work. Alternate No. 2 is near the estimated cost bid amount is reasonable and appropriate for the proposed scope of work.

Allowance No. 1 for Base Bid A of \$100,000 and Allowance No. 1 for Base Bid B of \$100,000 are general allowances for unforeseen conditions and are also included in the bid amounts. Allowance No. 2 for Base Bid B of \$165,000 is an allowance for delegated design and installation of the "tree trunk/seats, bookshelves and tent design" by Ravenwoods Studios, Inc.

Base Bid A – The work at Worth Junior High School, generally includes, but is not limited to, the addition of Media Center, Makerspace/ STEM Lab and Breakout Rooms, and all associated work. The work also includes the remodeling of science classrooms, toilet rooms, art lab, music room, special education classroom, classroom door and frame replacement for ADA accessibility and all associated mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection. The work at Worth Elementary School includes new casework and other miscellaneous work. The work at Worthridge School includes exterior door and frame replacement work.

Base Bid B – The work at Worthwoods Elementary School, generally includes, but is not limited to, the addition of Kindergarten Classrooms, Media Center, Multi-Purpose room, Art Room, Music Room, Offices, electric, gas and water utility service replacement and all associated mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection work. The work also includes the remodeling of offices and adding an Early Childhood Toilet Room.

Alternate No. 1 – New irrigation system at Worth Junior High School and all associated, electrical and plumbing work.

Alternate No. 2 – New roof equipment screen around an existing roof top mechanical unit at Worth Elementary School.

Alternate No. 3 – New stormtrap underground detention basin at Worthwoods Elementary School.

Board Member asked for clarification regarding the timeline for completion. Mr. Ed Wright stated completion date is August 2025.

Dr. Fleming stated that he and Ms. Dykas have been looking at the financials for approximately four weeks and the costs did not come back within the estimate. Construction costs will not be going down and we did sell bonds and there are restrictions when those funds can be used. Dr. Fleming further stated that he believes the district can afford these costs based upon the fund balances, we'll have parity between the buildings and we'll need to add full-day kindergarten in the fall of 2025. Dr. Fleming stated that the Board can vote this evening in the motions to move forward with these projects.

C. FOIA REQUESTS

Dr. Fleming stated that since the last Board Meeting, the district has received two FOIA Requests and the district responded to them in a timely manner.

3. BUSINESS MANAGER

No Report

4. DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES

No Report

5. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

No Report

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

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."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

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 \$267,292.70 (EDUCATIONAL); \$40,592.49 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); \$11,925.15 (TRANSPORTATION); and \$26,562.50 (CAPITAL PROJECTS) for a total of \$346,372.84."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

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 \$1,084,814.87, the Building Fund in the amount of \$72,709.84, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of \$68,131.79."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): D. RESIGNATION OF CERTIFIED STAFF - CATHY WILSON - PARAPROFESSIONAL - EFFECTIVE JANUARY 8, 2024

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): E. RESIGNATION OF CERTIFIED STAFF - TAYLOR BOUBOULEIX - PRE-K TEACHER - WORTH ELEMENTARY - EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2024

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): F. RESIGNATION OF CERTIFIED STAFF - DARIELA SOSA - SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER - EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 17, 2023

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): G. RECLASSIFICATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - MANAR DARMOUSA - FROM PART-TIME CUSTODIAN TO LUNCHROOM SUPERVISOR - EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 14, 2023

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): H. RECLASSIFICATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - MARYANN SOLLIS - FROM PART-TIME CUSTODIAN TO LUNCHROOM SUPERVISOR - EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 14, 2023

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): I. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - STEPHEN NEUHAUS - PART-TIME CUSTODIAN - EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 2023

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): J. EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF - RYAN INGALLS - PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER - EFFECTIVE JANUARY 11, 2024

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): K. EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF - MICHAEL ALVARADO - PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER - EFFECTIVE JANUARY 11, 2024

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): L. EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF - JOSE MARBAN - PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER - EFFECTIVE JANUARY 11, 2024

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): M. FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICY #113

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

8. MOTIONS

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

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

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: B. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

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

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. APPROVAL BID WORK AT THE WORTHWOODS AND WORTH JUNIOR HIGH, AS DESIGNED BY DLA, LTD.

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education authorize the remodeling work at the Worthwoods Elementary and Worth Junior High Buildings to the lowest qualified bidder, Construction, Inc., for a base bid total of \$18,750,000."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Abstain: David Blanks

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

Board Member asked for clarification regarding the MWRD and if there are there detailed plans available to view. Dr. Fleming stated that the only plans he received were the ones that he added to his Board Update recently. Dr. Fleming stated that MWRD probably has records of all the current plans. Board Members engaged in conversation that it would be very beneficial to have MWRD and DLA come and do a presentation at a future board meeting.

Board Member commented that the choir did a fantastic job. Dr. Fleming stated that the amount of students singing is incredible. Board Member stated that it would be wonderful to get the schools together to perform.

10. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA ITEMS

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 7:44 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees; and discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by David Blanks.

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 8:19 p.m."

Motion by David Blanks, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m."

Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Meghan Sisk
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus
President, Board of Education