

**Board of Education
Worth School District 127**

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting
June 5, 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
Linda Esposito, Directory of Curriculum and Instruction
Jason Tooth, Worth Junior High Principal
Melissa Wills, Assistant Principal
Dr. Maureen Eichstaedt, Principal, Worth Elementary
Ashley Toms Bonnstetter, Principal, Worthwoods Elementary
Elizabeth D'Andrea, Assistant Principal, Worth Elementary
David Dvorchak, Director of Facilities and Grounds

Board Recording Secretary

Jill Moore

Others Present

Ben Grazevich, Technology Assistant
Mary Zirngibl, WE
Jeff Pagano, WW
Leslie Blanks

1. MEETING OPENING

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President, Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Fleming opened by stating that each Board Member received a Worth 127 shirt that all staff will be wearing on the first day of Teacher Institute for the start of the 2024/2024 school year and a Fishing Club hoodie compliments of Sergeant Cozzi.

A. WORTHWOODS/WORTH JUNIOR HIGH CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Dr. Fleming stated that construction is at full steam ahead and the trees at Worthwoods have been removed. At the construction meeting on Tuesday, we were informed that a different concrete company will be completing the work at Worth Junior High. The interior renovation project at Worth Junior High will not be completed until next summer and when students and staff return this August, renovation will not be complete,; however, all spaces will be usable.

B. METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT (MWRD) UPDATE

Dr. Fleming stated that we are still waiting on updates from MWRD and have not received the appraisal. Dr. Fleming will continue to give updates to the Board as soon as he receives them.

C. WORTH JUNIOR HIGH START AND END TIME FOR THE 2024/2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Fleming stated that the start and end time at Worth Junior High for the 2024/2025 school year is being considered to start five minutes earlier. The Admin. Team has considered this for the following reasons:

1. To help alleviate traffic on 112th.
2. Help parents when dropping off between buildings.
3. Time clock system will work much better.

Dr. Fleming has communicated with WEA co-presidents and they understand the reasons for this change.

Board Member asked for clarification if Worth Junior High students will be dismissed five minutes earlier due to the earlier start. Dr. Fleming stated that they will be dismissed five minutes earlier.

D. EISENHOWER COOPERATIVE SPAULDING ADDITION AND DISTRICT ALLOCATIONS

Dr. Fleming stated that the Eisenhower Cooperative will be adding an addition to their Midlothian building to add more learning space. Eisenhower Coop needs to borrow \$13.5MM for this project. Based upon our district's usage of the coop, we would be contributing approximately \$1.3MM which is 9.41% of the total loan. Dr. Fleming further stated that he along with Cindy Dykas will take a look at the budget numbers and we might be recommending an upfront payment of the full amount, which would save the district \$484,000 over 15 years. Coop enrollment numbers, over a 15 year period, have continued to rise and our district will continue to utilize that space. Dr. Fleming will be bringing this request to the Board as an action item in August and all districts, for the exception of Robbins, is supporting this.

E. JULY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Dr. Fleming stated that at this point, a July Board Meeting will not be needed.

F. FOIA REQUESTS

Dr. Fleming stated that the district has received three FOIA Requests and they have all been responded to in a timely manner.

3. BUSINESS MANAGER

A. AMENDED FY24 BUDGET

- As presented in April, the main reason we are required to complete an Amended Budget is because our revenues and expenditures had significant changes from the original budget.
 - **Revenues increased by \$0.75 million in the Amended Budget**
 - **\$1.0 million in State Revenue**
 - \$1.0 million Evidence Based Funding – Property Tax Relief Grant
 - **\$300k in Federal Revenues**
 - \$300k Federal Grants – Additional Funding given during the year
 - **Reduction of \$550k in Local Revenue**
 - \$420k Property Tax revenue reduction due to Property Tax Relief Grant
 - Correction in the refunds line item for prior year reimbursements
 - \$60,000 reduction in Interest Earnings on Bond Proceeds – Worth Township Treasurer's office is responsible for managing investments
 - **Expenditures increased by \$1.5 million the Amended Budget**
 - **Decrease \$25k in Education Fund**
 - Minor adjustments in various line items – nothing significant
 - **Increase \$300k in Operations and Maintenance Fund**
 - \$800 in FY23 Construction costs paid in FY24, but moved half, \$400k, to Fire/Life Safety Fund
 - Reduce budget for furniture of \$200k and will purchase in FY25 when construction is complete
 - **Increase \$600k in Debt Service Fund**
 - \$400k for first Interest payment due June 1st for new 2023 bond issue
 - Resolution passed in December to transfer funds to pay for a portion of this, per our plan from August
 - \$200k in bond issuance costs that were missed in the original budget
- We discussed, at the tentative budget presentation in April, the overall fund totals and still planning a \$8.7 million surplus budget year (original budget called for \$9.2 million surplus), attributed to 2023 Bond Sale from last August. This will be used up by next year!

Bills Payable Authorization during summer months

- June 26th to capture expenditures through the end of the fiscal year
- July 17th which is 3 weeks after the 6/26 check run
- August 14th back to business as usual will be 4 weeks after the 7/17 check run

4. DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES

A. STUDENT SERVICES OVERVIEW

Dr. Chambers gave the Board an update on student progress in the Student Services Department.

The main objective of the Student Services Department within a school district is to ensure that all enrolled students must be provided equal opportunities in all education programs and services provided by the system (see Section 10-20.12 of the School Code).

- Special Education (IDEA)
- Multilingual Education (ML)
- Early Childhood (EC & PFA)
- Health
- 504 Plan (Civil Rights)
- Early Intervention
- Child Find
- TMC

Dr. Chambers stated that we currently have 263 ML students in the district: Spanish (70); Polish (32); Arabic (153).

- Progress Monitoring of All ML Students
 - Create a document to monitor progress
 - Annual meeting for each child to discuss English-Proficiency growth
- BPAC Meetings
- Scheduling
 - TBE vs TPI
 - Push-in vs Pull-Out (high scoring students on ACCESS will have more time with their peers in class)
- Instructional Resources to support ELA Curriculum
- Parent Liaison Support
- Newcomers Support
 - Support from MVCC
 - Worth Public Library
 - Sharing newcomers background/education experience with school team
 - School Tours for new families
- HLS online
- Better Translation of all communication documents sent home

Special Education: We currently have 283 students in the district that have an active IEP

- MTSS - Referral
- Assigned a Case Manager
- Evaluated (psych evaluation or file review)
- Eligibility Meeting (Every 3 Years or sooner if requested/needed)
- IEP Meeting (Annual)
- Placement & Minutes
- Goals (Progress Monitored - Biweekly)

Worth Elementary: 118

Worthwoods Elementary: 59

Worth Junior High: 43

Out of District Placed Students: 35

Board Member asked Dr. Chambers how many IEP students are currently ML Students. Dr. Chambers will follow up and get that information to Dr. Fleming so he can update the Board in his weekly update.

Board Member asked for clarification regarding on how the district will progress monitor these students.

Board Member asked for clarification regarding if parents will be given a report in their native language.

Dr. Chambers will be giving the Board another update in the fall.

5. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

A. DIGITAL LESSON PLANS

- Last year the teachers and admins started talking about the possibility of using digital lesson plan books.
- The driving force behind this was to facilitate collaborative planning and sharing. With digital lesson plan books, plans can be shared with same grade level teachers, same content area teachers, across buildings, sp ed teachers, ML teachers, paraprofessionals, interventionists, coaches, consultants, and admins. Plans can be printed for subs.
- This year all staff members participated in demos from 2 companies and overwhelmingly selected Common Curriculum.
- Some of the positives include :
 - Simplify collaboration and co-teaching with shared planbooks
 - Add and track standards in all subjects
 - Support new teachers by sharing exemplary lessons
 - Include specific student accommodations within each lesson

- Saves time from rewriting procedural information every day
- Organize, adjust, write notes, and reuse lessons next year
- Drag activities forward when lessons take longer than expected
- Bump lessons forward if there is unplanned interruption to instruction
- All staff had access to a free trial that started in May and we offered a voluntary 1-hour after school training for those that wanted to get a headstart. We will repeat this training in the fall.

2024 Joint Annual Conference

- Earlier this year I submitted a proposal for a "Share the Success" panel presentation at the 2024 Joint Annual Conference.
- The title of the proposal was "The Impact of a Therapy Dog and SRO on a Safe School Community".
- I was recently notified that the proposal was accepted, and we will be presenting a panel at this year's conference.

6. PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDED FY24 BUDGET

Action: A. OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING

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

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

- Cindy Dykas conducted the Public Hearing on the Amended FY24 Budget
- The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public the opportunity to provide comment or ask questions on the Amended FY24 Budget.

Hearing no comments, Cindy Dykas recommended the Public Hearing be closed.

Action: B. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

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

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, 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 presented."

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

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): B. BOARD BILLS PAYABLE

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Accounts Payable for \$625,204.88 (EDUCATIONAL); \$34,420.74 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); \$54,764.18 (TRANSPORTATION); and \$6,320.30 (CAPITAL PROJECTS) for a total of \$720,710.10."

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

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, 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 \$1,125,713.33, the Building Fund in the amount of \$79,850.39, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of \$69,874.67."

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

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): D. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - LUTHER WEAVER - PART-TIME CUSTODIAN - EFFECTIVE MAY 15, 2024

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

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): E. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - HAYAT HAMIDI - LUNCHROOM SUPERVISOR - EFFECTIVE MAY 13, 2024

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

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): F. RESIGNATION OF CERTIFIED STAFF - SARAH GLOGOWSKI - SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER - EFFECTIVE MAY 29, 2024

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

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): G. RESIGNATION OF CERTIFIED STAFF - SARA BEAULIEU - PRESCHOOL TEACHER - WORTH ELEMENTARY - EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2024/2025 SCHOOL YEAR

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

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): H. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - NORA YOUSEF - LUNCHROOM SUPERVISOR - EFFECTIVE MAY 15, 2024

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

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): I. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - CHRISTINA OROZCO - LUNCHROOM SUPERVISOR - EFFECTIVE AUGUST 22, 2024

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

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): J. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - CYNTHIA DOMECKI - LUNCHROOM SUPERVISOR - EFFECTIVE AUGUST 22, 2024

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

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): K. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF BOARD POLICY #114.

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the second reading and adoption of Policy #114 as listed in the attached."

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

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

9. MOTIONS

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the regular May 8, 2024 meeting."

Motion by David Blanks, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Michelle Egan, Missy Sinclair

Abstain: Danette Keeler

Action: B. CLOSED SESSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the May 8, 2024 closed session meeting."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Michelle Egan, Missy Sinclair

Abstain: Danette Keeler

Action: C. SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting on May 22, 2024 meeting."

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, Missy Sinclair

Abstain: Michelle Egan

Action: D. SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Special Closed session meeting on May 22, 2024."

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, Missy Sinclair

Abstain: Michelle Egan

Action: E. AMENDED BUDGET APPROVAL 2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Amended Budget for the 2023-2024 School Year."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: F. APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS THROUGH JUNE 2024.

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay all invoices due and owing on or before June 30, 2024, as recommended by the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent/CSBO/SFO."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: G. APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS THROUGH JULY 2024

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to pay all invoices due and owing on or before July 31, 2024, as recommended by the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent/CSBO/SFO."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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

- Board Member stated what a great job the district is doing with curriculum.
- Board Member stated that the 8th grade graduation went very well. Dr. Fleming stated that some districts are doing away with graduation hats.
- Board Members discussed the Worth Fraternal Order of Police Annual Golf Outing that will be held on January 22, 2024 and hopes the turnout of the event will be successful.

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 7:12 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, 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 8:39 p.m."

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

13. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m."

Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Danette Keeler
Secretary Pro Tem, Board of Education



Drew Sernus
President, Board of Education