

Board of Education
Worth School District 127
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting
September 17, 2025
Worth Junior High - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Worthwoods Elementary, Ribbon Cutting Ceremony & Board of Education Meeting
11000 S. Oketo, Worth, IL 60482

Administrators:

Dr. Mark Fleming, Superintendent
Cindy Dykas, Assistant Superintendent, Business Manager/CSBO
Dr. Sinead Chambers, Director of Student Services
Dr. Maureen Eichstaedt, Assistant Director of Student Services
Dr. Lisa Lyke, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Robert Jeffers, Director of Technology
David Dvorchak, Director of Facilities and Grounds
Jason Tooth, Principal, Worth Junior High
Brittan Russell, Assistant Principal, Worth Junior High
Ashley Toms Bonnstetter, Principal, Worthwoods Elementary
Elizabeth D'Andrea, Principal, Worth Elementary
Alyse Koehler, Assistant Principal, Worth Elementary & Worthwoods Elementary

Board Recording Secretary

Jill Moore

Others Present

DLA Staff
Mary Werner, Worth Mayor
Brian Sweeney
Mary Zirngibl
Peter Leggett
Dawn Young
Mike Jokubauskas
Sandy Gordon
JoAnne Albrecht

1. MEETING OPENING

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Missy Sinclair

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

President, Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance

1. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. WORTH JUNIOR HIGH RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

B. WORTHWOODS ELEMENTARY RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Dr. Fleming opened by expressing his appreciation for all the work and the support from the Board of Education, teachers and staff, custodians, DLA and Mayor Werner. We are excited to offer all-day kindergarten this year and appreciate everyone's support. Dr. Fleming extended further gratitude and appreciation to Cindy Dykas, David Dvorchak and Robert Jeffers for all their hard work and dedication to the construction projects.

C. WELCOME NEW STAFF FOR THE 2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Fleming warmly welcomed and recognized all newly hired staff. A brief intermission was given for new staff to meet board members and enjoy some refreshments.

D. FOIA REQUESTS

Dr. Fleming stated that the district has received eight (8) FOIA requests and has responded to them in a timely manner.

3. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR BUSINESS SERVICES

A. FY26 FINAL BUDGET PRESENTATION

- We discussed at the detailed tentative budget presentation in August, the overall fund totals had planned a nearly \$5.5 million net loss for the budget year.
- This large deficit is directly attributable to the final payments for the construction project, which has been planned for years and we knew this was coming.
- A few line items were slightly changed within the Education Fund; the overall net loss was increased by about \$60k from what was presented for the tentative budget.
- A few expenditures in the Ed Fund were fine-tuned, slight increases in salaries and benefits causing the overall increase
- Added transfers of interest earnings to cover a fund shortfall in the FICA/Medicare fund
- The final budgeted net loss for FY26 is now just over \$5.6 million.
- The majority of the FY26 budgeted net loss will be a one-time experience as we wrap up all the major construction costs.
- 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.

B. CONTRACT FOR SNOW PLOW SERVICES

- 3-year contract starting this November – April 2028
- Modest 3% increase from the last 3% increase
- Great partners – have worked with them for nearly 8 years

C. 2025-2026 COMPENSATION FOR IMRF EMPLOYEES/FY 2024-2025 EIS ADMINISTRATOR AND TEACHER SALARY AND BENEFITS REPORT

- EIS Teacher and Administrator Salary and Benefit Report 2024-2025
 - Report required by ISBE
- Public Act 097-0609 – IMRF Employees whose Salary and Benefits exceed \$75,000
 - Based on budget figures for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year
 - Report required by Illinois School Code/General Assembly
- Both reports must be posted on the website after Board approval

D. FINANCE REPORTS

- Will be showing Fund Balance, Monthly Expenditures and Monthly Revenue Reports here going forward
- More transparency for Fund Balance, since disclosure is required at times throughout the year, primarily during the months of Public hearings for Budget approval and Tax Levy approval

4. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

NO REPORT

5. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

NO REPORT

6. PUBLIC HEARING - FY26 BUDGET

Action, Public Hearing: A. CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY26 BUDGET

Recommended Motion (roll call): “that the Board of Education conduct a public hearing regarding the proposed budget for 2025-2026, which has been on file in accordance with the requirements of the School Code of Illinois.”

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action, Public Hearing: B. CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY26 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 David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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

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 Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): B. BOARD BILLS PAYABLE

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Accounts Payable for \$402,873.41 (EDUCATIONAL); \$310,906.80 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); \$8,248.74 (TRANSPORTATION); and \$2,379,180.56 (CAPITAL PROJECTS) for a total of \$3,101,209.51."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, 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 \$166,068.94, the Building Fund in the amount of \$63,951.18 and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of \$28,889.95."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): D. FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICY #119

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): E. 2025-2026 COMPENSATION FOR IMRF EMPLOYEES

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): F. FY 2024-2025 EIS ADMINISTRATOR AND TEACHER SALARY AND BENEFITS REPORT

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): G. CALL LIST OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): H. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - AYAH ALFAWAQA - LUNCH SUPERVISOR - EFFECTIVE JUNE 3, 2025

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): I. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - IRMA GARCIA - LUNCH SUPERVISOR - EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): J. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - LINA BAYAA - LUNCH SUPERVISOR - EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): K. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - THRESA HARRIS - LUNCH SUPERVISOR - EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): L. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - CHERYL EBERLE - PART-TIME SCHOOL SECRETARY - WORTH JUNIOR HIGH - EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): M. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - PATRICIA GRIFFIN - PARAPROFESSIONAL - EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): N. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - BRIA CUNNINGHAM - PARAPROFESSIONAL - EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): O. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - MIA BEAKLEY - PARAPROFESSIONAL - EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

9. MOTIONS

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the August 13, 2025 regular meeting."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: B. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR SNOW PLOW SERVICES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the contract with Beverly Snow & Ice, Inc. effective November 1, 2025 - April 30, 2028."

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Danette Keeler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. ADOPTION OF FY26 BUDGET

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the 2025-2026 Budget according to the Resolution for Worth School District 127."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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

Board Members expressed their appreciation for the beautiful new learning spaces and the construction work that made them possible. They commended the incredible designs and noted with pride that the projects were completed without any increase in tax dollars or the need for a referendum.

Dr. Fleming shared that the Joint Annual Conference is coming up in November. We will resume our regularly scheduled events and return to the original plan, which includes attending the boat tour instead of darts.

11. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA ITEMS

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 7:55 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees; student disciplinary cases; security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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 8:46 p.m."

Motion by Vince Flores, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

13. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m."

Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Meghan Sisk
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus
President, Board of Education