

**Board of Education  
Worth School District 127  
Dr. Rosemary Lucas Building**

**Finance - Committee of the Whole Minutes  
Board of Education Meeting  
January 25, 2023**

**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  
Robert Jeffers, Director of Technology

**Others Present**

Elizabeth Hennessy, Managing Director, Raymond James Public Finance (via Google Meet)

**Board Recording Secretary**

Jill Moore

**1. MEETING OPENING****A. CALL TO ORDER**

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Drew Sernus, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, David Blanks, Missy Sinclair

Board Member, Michelle Egan, was not present at roll call and arrived at 6:49 p.m.

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President, Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance

**2. CITIZENS' REMARKS**

There were no citizens' remarks

**3. BOARD DISCUSSION****A. FINANCE COMMITTEE PROJECTS**

Dr. Fleming opened the discussion by sharing a PowerPoint Presentation. Dr. Fleming stated that the Mission of Worth School District 127 is dedicated to educating the whole child for life-long learning. This is achieved through partnership of home, school and community, with each working in collaboration with the others for the benefit of students. Reflecting on years of hard work from 2012 - 2022, he asked Cindy Dykas to give an overview of completed capital projects at each building:

- 2012
  - Toilet Rooms: Complete remodel of two toilet rooms at WE, 1 at WW, locker rooms at WJH.
  - 2012 - Walkie-Talkies: Repeater on the roof at WJH and two-way radios at each building.
- 2013
  - Security Entrances: Each school building constructed a secure vestibule with aipphones for camera view/buzzer to enter building.
- 2014
  - HVAC - Air conditioning in 4th/5th grade wing and south end/main office area.
- 2015
  - HVAC - Air conditioning throughout remainder of building, with boiler replacements.
- 2016
  - HVAC - Air conditioning throughout WW and WR, plus boiler replacement at WW.

- Fire Alarm Panel Replacements - Panels were outdated and required upgrades for safety purposes.
- Security Cameras - Existing cameras were outdated and not useful.

- 2017

- Exterior Door Replacements - For Security and energy efficiency, a few exterior doors had to be replaced.
- Roof Replacement - Admin. Center side of Worthridge roof required full replacement.
- Playground - Pre-K playground construction; received \$100,000 from state for the project.
- Exterior and Gymnasium Lighter Upgrades - LED lights in gymnasiums and outside each building
- Elevator Improvements - Hydraulics in the elevator required emergency replacement.
- Maintenance Truck - Old dump truck exceeded useful life and a pick up truck was purchased for district maintenance personnel.

- 2018

- Remodeling Commons, Computer Lab & Mechanical - Filled in "pit" in commons, added a wall to separate media center and computer lab, and replaced air handler above commons.
- Remodeling - Demo State - Stage at WE needed to come down and create storage area for gym.
- Remodeling - Foyer - LED lights and ceiling replacement in foyer at Admin. Center
- Parking Lot Replacement - Front parking lot at Admin. Center.
- Roof Replacement - 3rd floor roof and minor repairs of other roofs at WJH.
- Security Cameras - Existing cameras were outdated and not useful.
- Marquee at Admin. Center - Add digital marquee at Admin. Center
- Student Desks - Replace all student desk throughout the district.

- 2019

- HVAC Lighting Upgrades - Replace classroom unit ventilators (outdated and parts could not be procured easily) and ceiling and lights replaced; main office renovation.
- Roof Replacement - Roof at Worthridge/RISE side required full replacement.
- Roof Replacement - Section in middle of Worth Elementary full replacement and fill in "alley".
- Parking Lot Replacement - Rear parking lot at Admin. Center.

- 2020

- Building Remodel - Complete remodel at WW including floors, ceilings, main office, classrooms, classroom doors, fill in lower level.
- Parking Lot Replacement - Full north side parking lot replacement, plus extension for drop off area.
- Phone System Replacement - Handset and server replacement for entire district.

- 2021

- Building remodel Phase I with Addition - Worth Elementary addition for Library, STEM Lab, Art room, Music, Multi-Purpose Room (lunch), Breakout rooms, teacher work room and various offices.
- Dr. Fleming shared the vision for students, families and the community and why we should consider full-day kindergarten:

- Student Achievement
- Interest from Board Members, Parents, Teachers

What does the district need to implement full day kindergarten:

- Classroom Space
- Appropriate Staffing

Why consider parity in the district?

- Worthwoods Learning Space
- Worth Junior High Learning Space

Full-Day Kindergarten Expanding Learning Opportunities - What Does the Research Say?

Linda Esposito shared the following information with Board Members regarding expanding to full-day kindergarten.

- Full-day programs substantially increase time devoted to teacher-directed individual learning, cooperative learning, and child-initiated learning.
- Full-day kindergarten saves the school district money through reduced need for future remediation.
- Full-day kindergarten is highly successful at significantly reducing disparities in academic readiness as children enter the crucial two years of Grades 1 and 2.

### How many districts offer full-day kindergarten in South Cook?

- **47 of 53** elementary districts in South Cook responded to an ISC4 survey asking districts whether or not they offered full-day kindergarten.
  - 44 YES
  - 3 NO (Worth 127 is 1 of the 3.)

Dr. Chambers addressed the Board with information regarding students with an IEP. Many of these families choose the Eisenhower Coop over our district as they offer full-day Kindergarten. It would be beneficial to offer full-day kindergarten as it would allow us to utilize these programs within our own district. It would be a great benefit to those students with an IEP.

### What additional space is needed at Worthwoods and Worth Junior High

- **Worthwoods Addition**
  - Pre-K Classroom
  - EC Classroom
  - K Classroom
  - Music, Art, MPR
  - Breakout Rooms
  - Parity between WW/WE
  - Space for full-day K
- **WJH Addition**
  - STEM
  - Library
  - Art
  - Conference Room
  - Breakout Rooms

### Possible construction timeline for Worthwoods and Worth Junior High additions

- Break ground: January of 2024
- Completion date: July of 2025

### How could the district fund the construction of the additions and the operations of full day kindergarten:

- **Construction costs** could be covered by extending debt wisely for only "brick and mortar."
- **Operational costs for full-day K** could be funded by EBF(Evidence Based Funding).

### Estimated Construction Costs:

- Worthwoods Elementary School: \$6,280,000 - \$8,350,000
- Worth Junior High - \$2,720,000 - \$3650,000

### Additional staff needed to implement full day kindergarten:

- **K Teacher at WE**
- **K Teacher at WW**
- **Depending on class sizes and needs, two paraprofessionals.**
- **.5 WW Secretary**
- **.5 Custodian**
- **Possibly PE/Fine Arts/ML**

Dr. Fleming introduced Elizabeth Hennessy, Managing Director from Raymond James Public Finance to share a powerpoint presentation and give an overview regarding the "Debt Update".

- Debt Limit
- Working Cash Limit
- Non-Referendum Bonding Options (Limited Bonds)
- BINA and Petition Period
- Types of Obligations - Purpose and Method of Repayment
- Working Cash Fund Bonds
- School Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds
- Funding Bonds
- Debt Certificates
- Alternate Revenue Bonds
- Outstanding Debt Service and Tax Rate
- Proposed Capital Projects
- \$14.2M Max DSEB Bonds, February 1, 2024
- \$10.5M DSEB Bonds, February 1, 2024

Board Members engaged in conversation regarding the presentation and allowed for a question and answer period. Board Members discussed if there has ever been or can be done a study regarding the growth of the community. Dr. Fleming stated that it would be difficult to determine that as Worth has no open land and enrollment has been consistent each year. Mrs. Hennessy stated that the bonds are maturing and the debt can be extended for building improvements. It was further stated that extending this debt would cost tax payers an additional \$93/year for a total of seven years; however, if we let everything expire, taxes would be reduced to \$252.

Board Members stated they are open to this idea, but in order to move forward, further information is needed.

Next steps/Comments:

- Long-term this makes sense due to the timing of the bonds expiring in February.
- Would provide learning spaces for years to come and enhance student learning/education.
- A referendum down the road will not pass.
- Possibly offer a parent town hall meeting to help community understand the process and offer a question/answer period.
- Ask all parents registering for Kindergarten if they would like their child in a full-day kindergarten.
- Possibly offer a video message on the district webpage with Superintendent and Board of Education.
- Possibly offer a Zoom presentation in English/Spanish.
- Cindy Dykas will have Mrs. Hennessy run additional scenarios with fund balances.
- Possibly have a marquee installed at Worth Junior High and Worthwoods.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m."

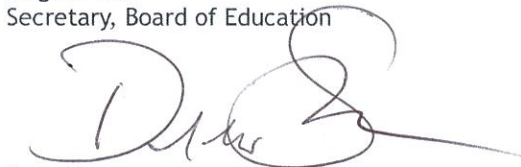
Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Meghan Sisk  
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus  
President, Board of Education