

**Board of Education
Worth School District 127
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting
February 12, 2025
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

Board Recording Secretary

Jill Moore

Others Present

Lisa Strzempa WE
Michelle Okrzesik, WE
Jeff Pagano, WW
Mary Zirngibl, WE
Alyssa Zirngibl, WE

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, Meghan Sisk, Michelle Egan, David Blanks, Missy Sinclair
Absent: Danette Keeler, Vince Flores

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President, Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance

CLOSED SESSION

Action: A. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 6:07 p.m. to discuss The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, 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 7:25 p.m."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. WORTHWOODS/WORTH JUNIOR HIGH CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Dr. Fleming stated that the construction company will not be working on the roof during school hours to avoid the tar smell. The remaining work will be done on the weekends or during school breaks. They are considering a different product, but as of right now that is to be determined.

B. 2025/2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Fleming reviewed the new calendar for the upcoming 2025/2026 school year. Dr. Fleming pointed out the new early dismissal times which will now be as follows: Worth Junior High: 11:20 a.m; and Worth Elementary/Worthwoods: 11:30 a.m. Teacher Institute will be on August 26th with the first day of school to begin on August 27th, which will be an early dismissal. The 27th start date is later than usual; however, with construction, we need all the extra time for completion. The last day of school is proposed to be June 5, 2026.

C. KINDERGARTEN PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT - MARCH 4, 2025

Dr. Fleming stated that Kindergarten Parent Information Night is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Worth Elementary.

D. 2025/2026 SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Dr. Fleming stated that school registration for all students will open on Wednesday, April 2nd. Parents will be receiving information regarding registration very soon.

E. FOIA REQUESTS

Dr. Fleming stated that the district has received four FOIA Requests since the last board meeting and the district has responded to them in a timely manner.

F. WORTH PARENT ORGANIZATION - COOKIES AND CANVAS - JANUARY 28, 2025

Dr. Fleming shared a slide show of the Cookies and Canvas event that was a huge success. Due to the success and the high demand, principals are discussing having another similar event.

Session one: 152 people attended; Session two: 109 people attended.

Staff Volunteers: 17

Parent Volunteers: 1

3. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR BUSINESS SERVICES

Property Tax Relief Grant

a. History of PTRG

- i. Established by Public Act 100-0465 (effective 2017) and revised by Public Act 100-0582 (in 2018) and 101-0017 (in 2019).
- ii. Provides school districts with high tax rates relative to other school districts with an opportunity to lower the property tax burden on local taxpayers with the state replacing a portion of foregone tax revenue with state funds.
- iii. Key data points needed to begin PTRG and calculations involve:
- iv. District Organization Type (i.e. Elementary, High School, or Unit District)
- v. Real Adjusted EAV and Operating Tax Rate as used in the EBF calculation for the applicable Fiscal Year (e.g. FY 2025 will utilize the Tax Year 2022 Real Adjusted EAV)
- vi. The District Local Capacity Percentage for the applicable Fiscal Year
- vii. Once final pool of applicants is identified based on above, then final PTRG calculations can be completed. Districts will be sorted in order of eligibility.

b. Worth 127 was #24 on the list of eligibility, of the 800+ districts in the state

c. As mentioned last meeting, FY 25 will be a "double benefit" year. We already received one PTRG for FY24 & FY25, and now received for FY25 & FY26.

d. The resolution to approve this grant is found under Motions, item E. Once approved, the paperwork will be filed with the Cook County Clerk and ISBE's State Funding and Forecasting Dept.

- i. For one tax year (2024) the total tax abatement will be \$2,106,613
- ii. For one fiscal year (2025) the grant amount is doubled, at \$2,022,600
- iii. All of this has increased our Base Funding minimum and lowered our tax rates, thus changing our Tier designation to Tier II (this is the goal!)

Vision 2030

a. Video and Powerpoint

b. Nutshell: Vision 2030 provides a blueprint to enhance public education through future-focused learning with shared accountability and predictable funding. Key goals are:

- i. keeping students and schools safe;
- ii. attracting and retaining high-quality educators;
- iii. enhancing post-secondary success;
- iv. more effectively measuring what is working well in schools in a timely, usable manner.

c. Why is this being presented to you?

- i. Initiative by education stakeholders, including IASA, IPA, IASB, IASBO, ROE, etc. of which Worth 127 board and administration are a part of
- ii. A resolution in support of Vision 2030 will be presented to you next board meeting, if you, as a board want to show you support this initiative. This resolution will urge lawmakers to implement legislative changes for educational improvement, per the Vision 2030 policy.
- iii. Please reach out to Dr. Fleming or myself with any questions prior to the March meeting when this resolution will be on the agenda.

Authorize preparation of the 2025-2026 Budget in Tentative Form

a. Under Motions, item C, you will vote to authorize the start of the 2025-2026 budget process. We present this annually, and is the formal way to kick off the budget season.

- b. As the 2025-2026 budget process gets moving, I will also be preparing an amended 2024-2025 budget, since we received the "extra" PTRG this fiscal year that was not anticipated, thus not included in the current year budget. This has been normal procedures to amend. the budget with the significant increase in revenue from the grant.

Transfer of Funds

- a. Next month there will be a resolution to transfer funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund, in order to pay for construction costs once the Bond Proceeds are exhausted.
- i. See purple items from Budget, showing transfer of \$7,000,000.
 - ii. As of January 31st, see balances in those two funds
 1. Will need transfer done in March in preparation for future construction payments.

4. DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES

No Report

5. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

A. INTERVENTIONIST TEAM UPDATE

The Interventionist Report will be done at the March 12, 2025 Board of Education Meeting.

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 presented."

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

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, 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 \$770,189.93 (EDUCATIONAL); \$44,548.59 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); \$37,673.65 (TRANSPORTATION); and \$484,943.42 (CAPITAL PROJECTS) for a total of \$1,337,355.59."

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

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, 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 \$833,530.33, the Building Fund in the amount of \$59,575.62, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of \$53,155.77."

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

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): D. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - AGNIESZKA ZIOLKO - FULL TIME CUSTODIAN - EFFECTIVE JANUARY 31, 2025

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

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): E. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - CHRISTINE FALVEY - PARAPROFESSIONAL - EFFECTIVE JANUARY 15, 2025

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

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): F. RECLASSIFICATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - ALFRED OGDEN - FROM PART-TIME CUSTODIAN TO FULL-TIME CUSTODIAN - EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 13, 2025

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

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): G. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - AMIE SNYDER - LUNCHROOM SUPERVISOR - EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 13, 2025

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

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): H. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - SENDY MALDONADO - PARAPROFESSIONAL - EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 13, 2025

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

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): I. 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 Missy Sinclair, second by Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): J. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF BOARD POLICY #117

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

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

8. MOTIONS

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the January 15, 2025 regular meeting."

Motion by David Blanks, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: B. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the January 15, 2025 closed session meeting."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. AUTHORIZE PREPARATION OF THE 2025-2026 BUDGET IN TENTATIVE FORM

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Designation of the Superintendent and CSBO to prepare the 2025-2026 Budget in Tentative Form."

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: D. 2025/2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the school calendar for the 2025/2026 school year".

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: E. PROPERTY TAX RELIEF GRANT

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Providing for Abatement of 2024 and 2025 Taxes in order to Obtain Fiscal Year 2025 and 2026 Property Tax Relief Grants".

Motion by David Blanks, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: F. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF - DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION - EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

The Board did not take action on this Motion.

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

Jill Moore stated that the South Cook Division Meeting is quickly approaching on March 13, 2025. Board Members should contact Jill if they would like to attend. Dr. Fleming noted that this division meeting is being held that day after the March Board of Education Meeting.

10. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA ITEMS

There were no Citizens' Remarks.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m."

Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Meghan Sisk
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus
President, Board of Education