

**Board of Education  
Worth School District 127  
Worth Junior High**

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting**

**March 9, 2022**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**B. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Drew Sernus, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Stephanie Peltzer, Michelle Egan, Dave Blanks, Vince Flores

**Administrators:**

Dr. Mark Fleming, Superintendent  
Cindy Dykas, Business Manager/CSBO  
Linda Esposito, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Dr. Sinead Chambers, Director of Special Education  
Dr. Joseph Zampillo, Worth Junior High Principal  
Jason Tooth, Assistant Principal, Worth Junior High  
Maureen Eichstaedt, Principal, Worth Elementary  
Ashley Toms, Principal, Worthwoods  
Melissa Wills, Assistant Principal, Worth Elementary  
Robert Jeffers, Director of Technology  
David Dvorchak, Director of Facilities and Grounds

**Board Recording Secretary**

Jill Moore

**Others Present**

JoAnne Albrecht  
Mary Zirngibl  
Alyssa Zirngibl  
Kelly Stergiopoulos  
Jolanta Sikora  
Elizabeth Bandola  
Paul and Dawn Rowell  
John Cerrone  
Astrit Vahide Lleshanaku  
Megan Dresden  
Jadwiga Hajnos  
Lisa Strzempa  
Michell Okrzesik  
Michelle Diaferio

**2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. FOIA REQUESTS**

Since the last Board Meeting, the District has received six FOIA requests and they have all been replied to in a timely manner.

**B. WORTH ELEMENTARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE**

The Worth Elementary Construction project is progressing well. The underground water storage is closer to completion every day.

**C. HEALTH/LIFE SAFETY AMENDMENT #14 - WORTH ELEMENTARY**

DLA, the district's architect, made a Health/Life Safety amendment in ISBEs system so the district can use the \$50K construction grant received in the fall for work on the Worth Elementary roof. Because roofing projects are costly right now, this work will most likely be completed in the summer of 2023.

**D. SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

A Special Board Meeting is needed to meet a Request for Proposal timeline and to have as much lead time as possible on a School Security Project being paid for through the COPS school violence prevention grant. At the special meeting, the board will approve the purchase of Electronic Card access for all interior doors in all district buildings and interior security cameras for the commons areas within the buildings. Dr. Fleming asked for clarification from the Board regarding having the Special Board Meeting on Monday 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Administrative Center. We may need to add additional motions. The agenda might have additional motions. Anyone wanting to review the agenda can visit the district website at 6 PM on Saturday.

**E. MARCH 15, 2022 TEACHER INSTITUTE**

A reminder that March 15 is a Teacher Institute Day, so students will not attend school. This date was originally an election day, but the Governor changed the election date to June 28.

#### F. WORTH PARENT ORGANIZATION

The long awaited for Worth Parent Organization will kick off with a family event in late April. Once we have a committee put together, we will be meeting to plan events for the 2022/2023 school year. A big thank you to Kathy DeRuiter for all her efforts in pulling this together.

#### G. INSTRUCTIONAL INTERVENTIONIST POSITIONS

##### H. BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONIST POSITION

After working extensively with Special Education Consultants from LMT Consulting and MTSS Consulting, Dr. Fleming is recommending four new positions: three new Instruction Interventionist positions (two at WE; one at WW) and one Behavioral Interventional position (district: all grades). All four positions will be posted internally first and then post externally.

### **3. BUSINESS MANAGER**

#### A. WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 3/14/22

A. Wellness Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2022

- a. Local Wellness Policy is a priority
  - i. A local school wellness policy is a written document that guides a school district's efforts to establish a school environment that promotes students' health, well-being, and ability to learn.
- b. Other items of concern for the Wellness Committee meeting includes a possible Wellness Initiative for the community, such as a 5k.
- c. We will also discuss student topics such as food allergies.

#### B. FOOD TASTING STUDENT COMMITTEE IN APRIL OR MAY

A. Food Tasting Committee in April or May

- a. Quest, our Food Service provider, will come to each school building to conduct taste testing for new food items for next school year
- b. We will select students based on those that frequently order meals
- c. We will send home a permission slip in advance for parents to sign
- d. Kids love this! We did it last in Spring 2019

#### C. KICKED OFF "EMPLOYEE WELLBEING COMPETITION" ON MONDAY, MARCH 7

A. Employee Wellbeing Competition – started 3/7/22

- a. There are 4 school districts in our health insurance cooperative participating
- b. Each week, after successfully participating in that week's challenge, fill out a raffle ticket for a monthly drawing of a \$50 Amazon gift card
- c. Weekly challenges include scheduling a preventative care visit with your doctor or dentist, avoiding fast food for a week, working on personal finances or visiting a financial adviser, eating a piece of fresh fruit with lunch for one week, go on a hike, etc.
- d. All tickets collected by May 27<sup>th</sup> are in a grand prize raffle with all 4 school districts for a \$250 Amazon gift card

#### D. RESOLUTION FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF GRANT

A. Resolution for Property Tax Relief Grant

- a. For Property Tax Years 2021 and 2022, the taxes are abated in the amount of \$929,707 each year. These savings are passed on to the community so the average homeowner gets approximately \$225 annual reduction from their tax bill.
  - i. Because spring tax bills already went out, the first year will be reflected in the August bills
- b. The District is then eligible for a grant in the amount of \$889,869 per year which will be received from Evidence Based Funding through ISBE.

#### E. RESOLUTION FOR RECAPTURE LEVY

A. Resolution for Recapture Levy

- a. As discussed over the past few months, the new Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/18-233) states that the taxing district levy shall be increased by a prior year adjustment whenever an assessment decrease is granted due to the issuance of a certificate of error, tax payer refund, or Property Tax Appeal Board results in a refund.
- b. Cook County Treasurer certified the total refunds paid by the district in the past 12 months was \$244,213, which, without this resolution, would automatically be added to our levy that was filed in December 2021.
- c. By filing this resolution, the refund total \$244,213 is abated and the Levy originally filed in December is the final levy for 2021.

### **4. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Mrs. Dresden - 7th Grade bathrooms/Pick up and drop off at WJH

Mrs. Stergiopoulos - Worth Parent Organization/5 Essential Survey Clarification

Mrs. Sikora - ESSER III Funds/Removal (clarification) of second public comments

**5. CONSENT AGENDA****Action (Consent): A. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items presented in 5. B - 5. N."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

**Action (Consent): B. BOARD BILLS PAYABLE**

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Accounts Payable for \$410,913.12 (EDUCATIONAL); \$106,127.63 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); and \$28,412.48 (TRANSPORTATION) for a total of \$545,453.23."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

**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 \$662,246.83, the Building Fund in the amount of \$43,488.33, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of \$46,334.16."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

**Action: D. HONORABLE DISMISSAL OF CERTIFIED STAFF - VALERIE GUZMAN - ANHAR SUHEIL - RENEE SUTOR - FULL-TIME SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS - EFFECTIVE AT THE CLOSE OF THE PRESENT SCHOOL TERM**

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

**Action: E. DISMISSAL OF CERTIFIED STAFF - AMY BRUBAKER - PARAPROFESSIONAL - WORTH ELEMENTARY - EFFECTIVE MARCH 9, 2022**

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

**Action (Consent): G. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - KELLY STERGIPOULOS - LUNCH SUPERVISOR - WORTHWOODS - EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 10, 2022**

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

**Action (Consent): H. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - RETIREMENT - BARB KASPER - SECRETARY AT WORTHWOODS - EFFECTIVE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items presented in 5. B - 5. N."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

**Action (Consent): I. RESIGNATION OF CERTIFIED STAFF - DAWN DIVITA - EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER - WORTH ELEMENTARY - EFFECTIVE AT THE END OF THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items presented in 5. B - 5. N."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

**Action (Consent): J. EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF - VIDA BURNS - FULL-TIME EVENING CUSTODIAN - EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2022**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items presented in 5. B - 5. N."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): K. EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF - AMANDA DVORCHAK - FULL-TIME EVENING CUSTODIAN - EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2022

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items presented in 5. B - 5. N."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): L. EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF - BRANDEN LYNN - FULL-TIME EVENING CUSTODIAN - EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2022

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items presented in 5. B - 5. N."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): M. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - BENJAMIN GRAZEVICH - TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST - ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER - EFFECTIVE MARCH 8, 2022

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items presented in 5. B - 5. N."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

## **6. MOTIONS**

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the February 9, 2022 regular meeting."

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, Stephanie Peltzer

Action: B. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the February 9, 2022 closed session minutes."

Motion by Stephanie Peltzer, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. RECAPTURE LEVY RESOLUTION

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Resolution directing the Cook County Clerk to Abate the increase in the 2021 Real Estate Tax Levy Due to Section 18-233 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/18-233)".

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, Stephanie Peltzer

Action: D. PROPERTY TAX RELIEF GRANT

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Providing for Abatement of 2021 and 2022 Taxes in order to Obtain Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 Property Tax Relief Grants".

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: E. HEALTH/LIFE SAFETY AMENDMENT #14 - WORTH ELEMENTARY

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Request for Authorization to use Fire Prevention and Safety funds (Life Safety), Amendment #14, for Worth Elementary."

Motion by Stephanie Peltzer, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

#### **7. BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION AND/OR REPORTS/REQUESTS**

Board Member stated that in the past the Worth Elementary playground was filled with contraband, needles and inappropriate items. Dr. Fleming stated that the new playground will be locked and will have security cameras to monitor activity.

#### **8. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA ITEMS**

Mrs. Dresden - Instructional Interventionist clarification/Title I Math Program/Food tasting option for students

Mrs. Stergiopoulos - PTO (WPO)/Food tasting/Worth parks

Mrs. Sikora - Clarification regarding Mr. Blanks comments for public comments/Worth Parent Organization/Attorney charges

#### **9. CLOSED SESSION**

##### **Action: A. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 7:09 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees; 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; the collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and the selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in the Open Meetings Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

##### **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 10:03 p.m."

Motion by David Blanks, second by Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 p.m."

Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Meghan Sisk  
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus  
President, Board of Education