

**Board of Education
Worth School District 127
Worth Elementary**

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting
May 10, 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
Jason Tooth, Worth Junior High Principal
Melissa Wills, Assistant Principal, WJH
Maureen Eichstaedt, Principal, Worth Elementary
Elizabeth D'Andrea, Assistant Principal, Worth Elementary
Ashley Toms, Principal, Worthwoods
Robert Jeffers, Director of Technology
David Dvorchak, Director of Facilities and Grounds

Board Recording Secretary

Jill Moore

Others Present

Janis Heigl, Math Consultant
Jeff Pagano, WW
Paul & Pam Ephraim
Sarah Catt, WJH
Jerry Allen, WE
Vicki Ramirez, WW
Leah Schissler, WW
Kaitlyn Ebert, WE
Laura Stefanelli, WW
Deb Burghgraef, WW
Leslie Zator, WW
Janice Hope, WW
Michelle Okrzesik, WE
Lisa Strzempa - WE
Donna Weinert, AC
Mary Zirngibl - WE
Alyssa Zirngibl - WE
Lisa Bray, WJH
JoAnne Albrecht, WJH
Krystal Goldschmidt, WE/WE
Kevin Mieszala, WW
Calliope Paraskevopoulos, WW
Maureen Weichel, Former WW Secretary
Anastasia Jonas, Perm Sub
Gloria Laas
Nicole McMahon
Adam Mos
Megan Dresden
Olivia Kaletka
Matthew Lesniak
Maria Mcetysik
Amirah Abushalback
Katie Mankowski
Andrea Wenzel

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Meghan Sisk was not present at roll call and entered public session at 7:28 p.m.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President, Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. FOIA REQUESTS

Dr. Fleming opened by stating that the district did not receive any FOIA requests since the last board meeting.

B. REGISTRATION HELP NIGHT

Dr. Fleming stated that on May 3 from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., the district held a Registration Help Night for parents to come in and get help with online registration. Dr. Fleming stated we did not get as many parents as we hoped to come in; however, we feel hosting this night at the start of a new year may bring more parents in. Dr. Fleming also stated that if you have not registered, to please do so as soon as possible.

C. HONOR RETIREES

Dr. Fleming honored the following staff members that are retiring as of June 2023: Jerry Allen, Janice Hope, Pam Ephraim, Mike Venegas, and Christine Socha - Not Present

D. WORTHWOODS 2020 TIME CAPSULE

In the year 2000, led by the 5th grade student council members, students and staff members at Worthwoods, put together a time capsule to be opened in the year 2020. As we all know, 2020 and the years that followed were a bit out of the ordinary for us.

Our principal intern, Alyssa Flanagan has taken on the challenge of unveiling our time capsule for our Worth Community this evening. Alyssa shared a slide show listing all the items that were in the time capsule.

In attendance were all principals that have served in Worth School District over the years: Linda Esposito, Tim Hathorn, Mrs. Whitaker, Ashley Toms (current)

E. WORTHWOODS WAX MUSEUM

The 5th grade students at Worthwoods Elementary School hosted their Wax Museum on April 13th. Each student chose a historical figure then spent time researching their person, reading about their lives and learning about their achievements that make them so memorable and influential. Students created visual presentations, put together costumes, wrote speeches and then practiced them until they were perfect.

Since students were so successful in their hour and a half museum, they extended their fundraising for the next week. Students raised \$794.38. Our students will be selecting a local agency to donate the money raised and we will keep everyone posted.

5th Grade Students:

Weam Harfoush (presented)
Selena Nassar
Savannah Martinez (presented)
Isabelle Luszczyk
Autumn Wenzel (presented)
Brooke Erk
Kacper Ziomek
Samantha Louis

Parent Speaker:

Amirah Abushalback - Parent spoke to the Board and stated how happy she is with the district and how well her child is doing. She stated she is very happy with the staff and that the district is doing some great things.

F. WORTH JUNIOR HIGH BAND

No performance and rescheduled to the June 14, 2023 Board Meeting.

G. WORTH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOLASTIC BOWL TEAM

The South Suburban Junior High School Conference (SSJHSC) Held the yearly conference track meet at Shepard High School on Tuesday, May 9th. The Boys' track team took 6th place with 28 1/2 points and our girls' team brought home a 3rd place trophy scoring 66 points. There are 10 schools in the conference with each team sending two representatives for each event. Representing our track team tonight at the board meeting was Patrick and Matthew Lesniak and Gabby Zubek.

Scholastic Bowl earned 1st place in the SSJHSC on Saturday, April 29th. We played in the championship round versus Independence and 8th grade team members Aero Smith and Amir Zatar were present to receive their trophy. I am so proud of how my team worked together.

Mrs. Kathy DeRuiter shared the following results:

Girls' Results

Discus - Allison Andricopulas 3rd place
 Long Jump - Gabby Janski 3rd place Wiktoria Skupien 4th place
 High Jump - Eva Javorski 3rd place Mila Rocush 4th place
 100 Meter - 2nd Place Kamari Jones -Ward Eva Javorski 3rd place
 200 Meter - Eva Javorski 3rd place
 800 Meter - Jaleela Giurgiu 1st Place CONFERENCE CHAMPION
 4 X 100 Meter Relay Team - Kamari Jones Ward-Gabby Janski- Kyeligh - Drexel Eva Javorski 3rd place
 4 X 400 Meter Relay Team- Wiktoria Skupien Sophia Flores Lillianna - Lukasewicz Jaleela Girugiu 2nd Place

Boys' Results

Discus- Edgar Zavala-Tinoco
 Long Jump - Trevor Wilson 5th place
 400 Meter - Aaden Sanchez- Hoehn
 100 Meter Mikolas Drag - 2nd place
 4 X 400 Meter Relay - Oliver Bilik Trevor Wilson - Mikolaj Drag Aaden Sanchez Hohen 3rd Place

Math Team

8th grader Amir Zatar - He earned a perfect score on his group specialty test which was in Algebra and Amir was our 8th grade team's highest score on his individual general test

7th graders took 2nd place overall in the conference: 7th graders Gabby Zubek, Adam Mos, Olivia Kaletka, and Patrick Lesniak (all present). Gabby Zubek received the highest score for 7th grade on her individual general test.

3. BUSINESS MANAGERA. FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT COMPANY, RFP

Mrs. Cindy Dykas shared the following with the Board:

1. Food Service RFP Process
 - a. House Bill 4813 / Public Act 102-1101 "Better School Lunches Act"
 - i. Purpose: To select a food vendor where factors can be an influencing decision rather than price only (takes out the strict low bid requirement)
 1. Now there is a matrix of criteria such as price, safety, training, menu flexibility, food variety, taste, local vendors, etc. have an impact on the RFP outcome
 - ii. Also, join 48 other states that do not award bids on low bid only
 - iii. Governor signed into law on 6/29/2022 for the start of the 2023/2024 school year
 - b. Started the RFP Process in January 2023 by downloading template from ISBE and using other school districts' completed documents
 - i. Took several weeks for edits/customizing
 - ii. Submitted first draft to ISBE for review on Feb. 2
 - iii. Received 4 pages of edits on Feb. 21
 - c. Released the 118-page RFP document to ISBE approved list of Food Service Management Companies on March 7th
 - d. Had a pre-proposal conference and site visits with interested companies on March 20th
 - i. 5 companies attended; 14 were invited
 - e. Proposal due date was April 24th
 - i. Only one proposal was received
 - f. The RFP Evaluation Committee met to review and evaluate anyway on April 24th

- i. Thank you to Mr. Jason Tooth, Mrs. Liz D'Andrea and Mrs. Ginny McClure for participating in the evaluation process
- g. Submitted a "Pre-Contract Award Summary Sheet" to ISBE on April 26th
- h. ISBE reviewed and responded on April 27th with the "Approval to Proceed with Contract Award"
- i. It is the Administration's Recommendation to move forward with approving the Motion, Item D, Quest Food Management Service for Vended Meals (Breakfast and Lunch) for the 2023/2024 school year. This is a one-year contract with the option to renew each year until 2028.

4. DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES

No Report.

5. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

A. WPO MATH NIGHT

Mrs. Linda Esposito shared the following with the Board:

On Tuesday, April 25, Worth School District offered the opportunity for students and their families to attend a hands-on Math Night at Worthwoods School. The evening was planned by our assistant principals, Liz D'Andrea and Melissa Wills, along with teachers and members of the Worth Parent Organization. A slideshow of photos was shown while Liz D'Andrea and Melissa Wills share the highlights of the evening. We had 103 families registered for the night with a total of 345 people, including 145 students attend. All materials were donated by staff and volunteers and each student was able to bring home at least two games so that they can continue learning math. A huge thank you to Janis Heigl, our math consultant, who was instrumental in making our evening a huge success.

B. CURRICULUM UPDATE - DREAMBOX

We continue to make progress on bringing in new, updated, research-based curriculum materials. We started a district-wide pilot of DreamBox Math in February. This is an adaptive, personalized learning program that is meant to supplement our current math curriculums. What attracted me to this program is that it is more than just math practice. It is proven to help students build deeper mathematical understanding.

- Teachers were not required to use the program.
- When I look at the Student Usage Report I see that it is being used across the district. For maximum gains, DreamBox recommends 5 lessons per week.
 - April 1 - May 5 averages show students at
 - WE - 3.7 lessons/wk, 44 min/w, 85% login
 - WW - 5.6 lessons/wk, 61 min/wk, 89% login
 - WJH - 1.1 lesson/wk, 15 min/wk, 83% login
- I also looked at the Standards Proficiency Report that helps teachers track proficiency by grade-level standard and check proficiency across grade levels. When I drilled in on a grade level, grade 1 for example, I could see
 - 100% of gr. 1 students are working toward proficiency for grade 1
 - 38% have mastered the Kdg standards
 - 20% are working on gr. 2 standards; 4% on gr. 3; 4% on gr. 4

One reason I highlighted this pilot program tonight is that it shows how committed our staff is to learning and trying new evidence and research-based programs that will benefit our students. Sometimes the programs are successful and sometimes they are not. But they are willing to put in the time and effort to find what works best for taking our students to the next level.

C. INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES

With Mark's direction, and your support, the District has moved forward and accomplished so much in just a few short years.

Every year when we talk about staffing, Mark asks me if we need instructional coaches. As much as I would like to say yes to anything he would potentially offer, we really had to prioritize our greatest areas of need which I felt were curriculum, programming, and focused, ongoing professional development with our consultants. Having said that, I think we are now at the right time to start looking at instructional coaches.

Why is now the right time? We are in a good place with many of our curricular updates and new programs. This gives me more time to dedicate to starting another new program. We eventually want to "gradually release" our consultant support, while at the same time continue to offer training, support, and consistency to our staff. Our staff has demonstrated that they

are open to the collaboration that is necessary to make coaching successful.

Our vision is to hire 4 instructional coaches.

- 1 instructional coach for each building, and 1 district-wide instructional coach dedicated to special education support.
- These would be WEA positions, and they will be hired for the 2024-25 school year.
- I am working on a proposal and job descriptions that I will present at the June Board meeting.
- We will ask for approval for the new positions at the August Board meeting, then post the positions, interview, and hire in September.
- Next year would be a training year for the selected teacher candidates. The teachers will continue to work in their assigned positions for the 2023-2024 school year, while attending monthly coaching training sessions led by consultant, Stefane Beddard.
- In 2024-25, instructional coaching will be their full-time assignment in the district.

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

Megan Dresden - Religion in school.

Amirah Abushalback - Parent spoke to the Board and stated how happy she is with the district and how well her child is doing. She stated she is very happy with the staff and that the district is doing some great things.

Mary Zirginbl - Mary addressed the Board and all the administrators on how grateful she is along with the WEA on how well everything went in finalizing the new contract. She greatly appreciates the Board of Education and all the staff on how well collaboration went between both parties.

Dr. Fleming thanked Mary Zirginbl for all her efforts and also stated that he is also very appreciative that the WEA contract is finalized and the work between both parties was fantastic.

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 listed in 10. a - 10. j."

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as listed in 10. a - 10. j."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Action (Consent): B. PAYROLL SUMMARY

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Payroll Summary for the Education Fund in the amount of \$661,496.34, the Building Fund in the amount of \$47,180.36, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of \$42,622.89."

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as listed in 10. a - 10. j."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Action (Consent): C. BOARD BILLS PAYABLE

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Accounts Payable for \$420,289.42 (EDUCATIONAL); \$87,030.61 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); and \$30,487.20 (TRANSPORTATION) for a total of \$537,807.23."

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as listed in 10. a - 10. j."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Action (Consent): D. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - CHRISTY POPPISH - SCHOOL NURSE - WORTHWOODS - EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2023

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as listed in 10. a - 10. j."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Action (Consent): E. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - MADELINE PASSI - PART TIME CUSTODIAN - EFFECTIVE APRIL 21, 2023

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as listed in 10. a - 10. j."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Action (Consent): F. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - TIFFANY KOLLER - LUNCH SUPERVISOR - EFFECTIVE MAY 2, 2023

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as listed in 10. a - 10. j."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Action (Consent): G. EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF - MARIA MEDINA - ART TEACHER (WORTHWOODS/WORTH ELEMENTARY) - EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as listed in 10. a - 10. j."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Action (Consent): H. EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF - JOHN WEIDNER - PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE - EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as listed in 10. a - 10. j."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Action (Consent): I. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - MARIA TORRES - PART-TIME CUSTODIAN - EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2023

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as listed in 10. a - 10. j."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Action (Consent): J. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF BOARD POLICY #111

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the second reading and adoption of PressPolicy #111 as listed in the attached."

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as listed in 10. a - 10. j."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

8. MOTIONS

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 12, 2023 regular meeting."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Action: B. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 12, 2023 closed session meeting."

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Action: C. COMMONLIT SCHOOL ESSENTIALS

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the CommonLit 360 Curriculum."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Action: D. QUEST FOOD MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the food contract with Quest Food Management Services for the 2023-2024 school year."

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Danette Keeler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Action: E. PARAMETERS BOND RESOLUTION

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$10,500,000 General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2023, of the District for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the proposed sale of said bonds to Raymond James & Associates, Inc."

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Danette Keeler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Action: F. WEA CONTRACT / JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2027

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the contract with the Worth Education Association effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027."

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Action: G. TITLE ONE CONSOLIDATED DISTRICT PLAN

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Worth School District 127 Consolidated District Plan."

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

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

Dr. Fleming congratulated Dr. Eichstaedt who recently received her doctorate in Education.

Dr. Fleming shared the following dates and reminders:

- The IASB South Cook Divisional Meeting is Wednesday, June 7 at 5:30 p.m. If any Board Members would like to attend, please let Jill Moore know.
- Registration for the Joint Annual Conference in Chicago, November 17-19, opens on June 5.
- EdCamp is June 13 - 16 and June 20 - 23. We currently have 241 students registered for summer school.
- The Worth Police Department Fundraiser is Saturday, June 17 from 1:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and dinner is at 6:00 p.m.

Board Member thanks Mrs. Janis Heigl for all her efforts in working with teachers in learning new math techniques.

10. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA ITEMS

There were no citizens' remarks.

11. OATH OF OFFICE

A. BOARD MEMBERS' OATH OF OFFICE

Board Members Michelle Egan, Meghan Sisk and Missy Sinclair read the Board Members' Oath of Office.

12. APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Action: A. APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education appoint Dr. Mark Fleming as President Pro Tem for the purpose of conducting the election of the President of the Board of Education."

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

Drew Sernus was nominated for Board President and accepted the position.

Danette Keeler was nominated for Vice President and accepted the position.

Meghan Sisk was nominated for Board Secretary and accepted the position.

13. ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Action: D. APPOINTMENT OF BOARD RECORDING SECRETARY

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education appoint Jill Moore as Board Recording Secretary."

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Missy Sinclair

14. CLOSED SESSION

Action: A. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 8:13 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, and 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; and student disciplinary cases."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, 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 9:53 p.m.."

Motion by Drew Sernus, second by Michelle Egan.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 p.m."

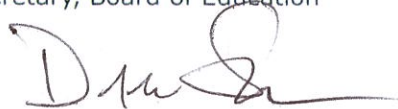
Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

 Pro Tem

Meghan Sisk
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus
President, Board of Education