

Board of Education
Worth School District 127
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting
October 9, 2024
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
Dr. Maureen Eichstaedt, Assistant Director of Student Services
Linda Esposito, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Robert Jeffers, Director of Technology
David Dvorchak, Director of Facilities and Grounds
Jason Tooth, Principal, Worth Junior High
Melissa Wills, 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

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 6:12 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

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. WORTHWOODS/WORTH JUNIOR HIGH CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Dr. Fleming opened his report by stating that the construction at Worthwoods is going well and at the west end, concrete has been laid. The north addition has much more utility work to be done and we are working with Comcast regarding next steps. Work at the junior high is progressing very well and you will see brick being laid at 112th.

B. METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT (MWRD)

Dr. Fleming stated that the district still has not received the appraisal from MWRD. He has reached out to them by email several times and has not received a responds. At this point, it looks like we will have to find a way for DLA Architects to work on this and find a way to pump water out of the underground source. Dr. Fleming stated he will continue to pursue communications and follow up with MWRD.

Update from Principal, Jason Tooth (not on the agenda)

Mr. Tooth stated he wanted to recognize the junior high volleyball team that just concluded their season. The boys coach was Ms. Shannon Garbie; and Ms. Leah Schissler was the girls coach. They did a great job this season working with our students and helping them be a part of our school culture and understanding how that works. Girls took 5th place overall in their conference and participated in the playoffs; the boys took 2nd place overall in their conference. The All-Star game took place Tuesday evening and we had four students participate: two boys and two girls. Mr. Tooth stated it was a really great season and we are really proud of their accomplishments. Mr. Tooth further stated that cheerleading along with basketball trials will be taking place.

Mr. Tooth stated that our Library Media Specialist, Natalie Valenti, applied for a grant through Dollar Tree and the district was award a \$3,000 grant that goes to districts that could use help in supporting multilingual learners. She has been working with our ML department so we can grow our library in their native language.

National Walk and Roll to School Day took place today which is organized by the National Center for Safe Routes to School. The event promotes walking to school and emphasizes safety, with students riding bikes, scooters, or walking. The tradition started at Worthwoods and we are glad to bring it back this year to encourage physical activity. There is much research that shows it really helps with learning. The event included meeting spots, staff walking with students, and receiving stickers and balloons, highlighting the importance of safe routes to school.

C. FISHING CLUB UPDATE

Sergeant Mike Cozzi gave an update regarding the Fishing Club's fourth season, which has become a significant community event. The club teaches students valuable life skills like patience, teamwork, and environmental stewardship and families have become very involved. The number of participants has grown from 15 to 25 to now approximately 40 kids. Officer Cozzi stated that we have a neighboring business in Tinley Park, Angers Outlet, and they have generously offered to cover all costs. Dr. Fleming, Mr. Tooth, and Mrs. Wills have often participated and Mayor Werner and her husband consistently attend.

Dr. Fleming and Board Members extended their sincere appreciation for the fishing club and how it has impacted students' lives.

D. FOIA REQUESTS

Dr. Fleming stated that the district received two FOIA requests and they have been responded to in a timely manner.

3. BUSINESS MANAGER

No Report

4. DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES

No Report

5. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

No Report

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

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."

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Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): B. BOARD BILLS PAYABLE

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Accounts Payable for \$136,263.84 (EDUCATIONAL); \$20543.44 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); \$18,050.00 (TRANSPORTATION); and \$622,518.58 (CAPITAL PROJECTS) for a total of \$797,375.86."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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 \$731,958.85, the Building Fund in the amount of \$58,884.58, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of \$48,572.39."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): D. FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICY #116

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by David Blanks.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Vince Flores, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan

8. MOTIONS

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the September 18, 2024 regular meeting."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Danette Keeler.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Vince Flores, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Missy Sinclair

Action: B. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the September 18, 2024 closed session meeting."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by David Blanks.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Vince Flores, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan

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

Board Member extended his appreciation to Officer Cozzi and all his efforts to support students in the Fishing Club.

10. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA ITEMS

No Citizens' Remarks

11. CLOSED SESSION

Action: A. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION, if needed
NO CLOSED SESSION

12. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m."

Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Meghan Sisk
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus
President, Board of Education