

**Board of Education**  
**Worth School District 127**  
**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting**  
**February 4, 2026**  
**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  
Dr. Lisa Lyke, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Robert Jeffers, Director of Technology  
David Dvorchak, Director of Facilities and Grounds  
Jason Tooth, Principal, Worth Junior High  
Brittan Russell, 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**

Tiffany Alexander-Harris, WE  
Sarah Catt, WJH  
Sydney DeHaan, WJH  
Lisa Strzempa, WE  
Michelle Okrzesik, WE  
Jeff Pagano, WW

**1. MEETING OPENING**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**B. ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Vince Flores, Meghan Sisk

Michelle Egan arrived at 6:09 p.m.

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President, Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance

**2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. 2026/2027 PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Dr. Fleming discussed the 2026/2027 calendar noting that the calendar committee met in January and drafted a rough calendar with winter break and spring break aligning with District 218.

**B. TRANSITION TO DILIGENT BOARD MANAGEMENT PLATFORM (BOARDDOCS REPLACEMENT)**

Dr. Fleming shared with the Board that next month we will be transitioning to Diligent Board Management as the replacement for BoardDocs. A brief 8-minute video will be played prior to entering closed session.

**C. FOIA REQUESTS**

Dr. Fleming stated that the district has received two (2) FOIA requests and they have been responded to in a timely manner.

**3. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR BUSINESS SERVICES**

**A. RECAPTURE LEVY**

- a. The 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, taxpayer 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 \$283,676 (about double last year's amount of just of \$140,000), which, without this resolution, would automatically be added to our levy that was filed in December 2025.
- c. By filing this resolution, the refund total \$283,676 is abated and the taxes extended will be solely based on the amount approved by the board for the final 2025 levy.
- d. A resolution must be passed each year with the new amount detailed.
- e. This resolution is a separate motion, Item F, later in the agenda.

## **B. RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS**

- A resolution is a separate motion, Item E, later in the agenda to transfer funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund, in order to pay for the remainder of construction costs now that the Bond Proceeds are fully exhausted.
  1. Last Fiscal Year you approved a transfer of \$7,000,000 for this same purpose, per the FY25 budget
  2. The Current Fiscal Year an additional \$3,000,000 will be transferred, per the approved FY26 budget
  3. As of January 31<sup>st</sup> financial reports, you will see the current fund balance of the Capital Project Fund is negative approx. \$1.5 million, which will be corrected with this fund transfer
  4. The remaining \$1.5 million will cover the final pay applications from the construction that has not yet been closed out

## **B. LOCAL WELLNESS POLICY**

- Updating this policy every 3 years is required, as a participant in the National School Lunch Program.
- The committee met and discussed the Policy that was last approved in 2022. After reviewing in detail, there were some small adjustments after a good discussion.
- The updated Local Wellness Policy is a separate motion, Item D, for your approval.

## **C. FINANCE REPORTS**

### **4. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES**

#### **A. SEL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

### **5. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

#### **A. SEL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Dr. Lisa Lyke presented the team to give updates on the District SEL (Social Emotional Learning) Committee that included data trends, goals and priorities. Specific goals include improving self-awareness, relationship skills and reducing chronic absenteeism.

**Purposeful Engagement:** Focuses on increase club participation which has led to identify popular and desired clubs, such as Lego, Writing, Soccer and Drama. The committee plans to expand club participation to elementary schools and track attendance to identify successful clubs.

**Foundational Mindsets:** Focuses on promoting positive connections. The committee implemented greeting and buddy systems to ensure students feel welcomes and supported. Therapy dogs were introduced to provide additional support and positive experiences for students.

**Staff Support Structures:** Focuses on professional development, feedback, and onboarding guides to support staff. A staff quality of life survey was conducted to understand burnout rates and satisfaction levels. A centralized professional development dashboard was created to provide consistent resources and support for staff.

**Proactive and Preventative:** The team works on creating visible signage of school expectations and adding pictorial versions for non-English speakers. Universal expectations are emphasized through various activities and student reward systems. The team provides staff with communication tools and positive behavior strategies to support students.

**Collaborative and Systemic:** The team works on the impact of SEL facilitators on improving response times to student needs and providing consistent support. SEL facilitators implement movement breaks and check-in/check-out systems for

students with social-emotional needs. The facilitators support lunch and recess supervisors, reducing behavioral issues during unstructured times. SEL facilitators also provide emotional support to teachers and paraprofessionals through professional development and behavioral supports.

## **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 Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Semus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, 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 \$45,596.46 (EDUCATIONAL); \$46,671.61 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); \$1,134.93 (TRANSPORTATION); and \$785.00 (CAPITAL PROJECTS) for a total of \$94,188.00."

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

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Semus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, 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 \$794,686.91, the Building Fund in the amount of \$58,175.80, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of \$52,090.98."

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

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Semus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Missy Sinclair

### **Action (Consent): D. RECLASSIFICATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - CHRISTINE OROZCO - FROM LUNCH SUPERVISOR TO PARAPROFESSIONAL - WORTHWOODS ELEMENTARY - EFFECTIVE AUGUST 26, 2025**

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

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Semus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Missy Sinclair

### **Action (Consent): E. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF BOARD POLICY #120**

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

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Semus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Missy Sinclair

### **Action (Consent): F. PRESS POLICY 4:55 UPDATE**

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

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Semus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, 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 14, 2026 regular meeting."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Semus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan

Abstain: Missy Sinclair

### **Action: B. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the January 14, 2026 closed session meeting."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Semus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan

Abstain: Missy Sinclair

### **Action: C. 2026/2027 PUBLIC SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the 2026/2027 Public School Calendar."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Missy Sinclair.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Semus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Missy Sinclair

### **Action: D. LOCAL WELLNESS POLICY**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Local School Wellness policy as outlined in the attached."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Semus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Missy Sinclair

### **Action: E. RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION DIRECTING THE SCHOOL TREASURER TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FUND TO THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Resolution of the Board of Education directing the school treasurer to transfer funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Danette Keeler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Semus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Missy Sinclair

### **Action: F. 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 2025 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 Semus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Missy Sinclair

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

Board Member expressed gratitude and appreciation for the SEL Presentation, and all the schools are doing to support our students.

A reminder was given to Board Members regarding attendance at the South Cook Divisional Meeting on March 4, 2026.

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

There were no Citizens' Remarks

## **11. CLOSED SESSION**

Action: A. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 7:12 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."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Missy Sinclair

Action: B. RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education upon completion of its discussions in closed session reconvene in public session at 8:24 p.m."

Motion by Missy Sinclair, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Missy Sinclair

12. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m."

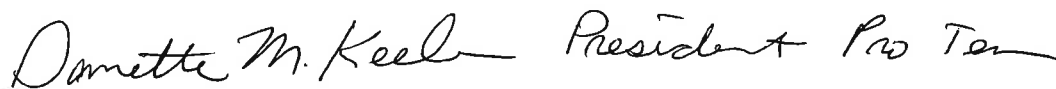
Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Egan  
Secretary Pro Tem, Board of Education



Drew Sernus  
President, Board of Education

