

Board of Education
Worth School District 127
Dr. Rosemary Lucas Administrative Center

Meeting In-Person and Zoom Video Conference

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting
November 11, 2020

1. MEETING OPENING

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Administrators:

Dr. Mark Fleming, Superintendent
Cindy Dykas, Business Manager/CSBO (Zoom)
Linda Esposito, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Ashley Toms, Assistant Principal, Worth Elementary/Worthwoods
Jason Tooth, Assistant Principal, Worth Junior High (Zoom)
Maureen Eichstaedt, Worth Elementary Principal
JoAnne Albrecht, WEA President (Zoom)
JoAnne Tyree, WEST President (Zoom)
Robert Jeffers, Director of Technology

Others Present

Pam Ephraim, EC
Mary Zirngibl, EC
Jill Moore, Board Recording Secretary

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Drew Sernus read the guidelines for the Covid-19 restrictions and the purpose of offering a remote meeting.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

VETERAN'S DAY - HONORING OUR VETERANS

Dr. Fleming opened by honoring Veterans with respect, honor and gratitude for their service and keeping us safe. Dr. Fleming recognized Board Member Vince Flores for his dedication and service as one of our Veterans.

Dr. Joe Zampillo shared that Worth Junior High put together a Veteran's Day virtual celebration and the band played the Armed Forces melody. Dr. Zampillo stated that Sarah Egan was among the students that played. The presentation ended with a scrolling tribute to Veterans that were connected to our students to honor them. The presentation will be posted on our webpage as well as social media. There were discussions with students as to why Veteran's Day is so important and why it is celebrated.

Maureen Eichstaedt shared that Worth Elementary had students participate in various activities which included students and EC students participating in videos thanking our veterans. Kindergarten students shared a video reciting the pledge of allegiance and thanking our Veterans. They connected with the Home Town Heroes Program in Worth to honor those veterans. Students were given online links to participate in virtual tours of the War Veterans Memorials and other educational links as to what it means to be a Veteran. The video was compiled into a virtual Veteran's Day commemoration and posted on social media

Linda Esposito shared that Worthwoods' students created classroom videos, sang songs, made some artwork, poetry. The presentation was posted on social media and the principals' page.

Dr. Fleming took a moment to recognize our School Board members for all they do and stated that this Sunday, November 15 is Board Member Recognition Day. Dr. Fleming stated how thankful he is for each one of them for all their support and dedication during these difficult times as well as the WEA and WEST staff. Dr. Fleming showed Board Members the jackets each one of them will be receiving for their service in District #127.

2020 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Fleming shared that the 2020 Resolutions Committee Report will be presented on Saturday, November 14 and presented recommended resolutions to adopt and those that are not recommended as follows:

Not recommend to adopt: Loan Program; Gun Storage; School Report Card; Pre-K teacher licensure; Local Control for a Pandemic

Recommended to adopt: Resolution Teacher Shortage; E-Learning on Election Days; Local Control from Pandemic; Reaffirmation for existing Positions (3) Charter Schools; Belief Statement; Integrate the Principals equity and exclusion.

Board Member asked if there is something in place regarding snow days. Specifically, students not having to make that day up now that we have e-learning in place. Dr. Fleming stated that there is already something in place that school districts can adopt e-learning for emergency closing days due to a snow day. It can be done through the Intermediate Center 4 and the district can certainly look into having that. The district will look into adopting this next summer.

WORTH ELEMENTARY CONSTRUCTION PLANNING

DLA continues to study the WE grounds and building in preparation for the design elements for the bid process. They took some soil samples near the playground area and it is on track to move ground in the spring. Tentatively, we have a site visit set up for November 15.

STAFFING DURING COVID-19

Dr. Fleming stated that we've been able to obtain 2 full time permanent substitute teachers that will be with the district all year long. The district acquired 7 other licensed substitute teachers through March 2 so if we have teachers out or need to work remotely, we are able to bring these substitutes in. We currently have four at Worth Elementary; four at WW; and one at WJH. We have the flexibility of shifting the subs where they are needed and it's been extremely helpful. Dr. Fleming thanked the Board for all their support in this area.

BUILDING UPDATE/REPORT

There were no further updates.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

A. BUSINESS MANAGER

Cindy Dykas shared a PowerPoint presentation detailing the 2020 Tax Levy process. Ms. Dykas shared that in the motion section the 2020 Tax Levy resolution is there to adopt the tentative levy. The formal hearing will be at the December Board Meeting.

B. DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES

Dr. Sinead Chambers was absent.

C. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Ms. Esposito shared that the hybrid model was very successful. Orientation week gave us an opportunity to practice drop off and pick up, make sure all students were bringing their certification forms, and wearing their masks. At this point we've completed two "A" days and two "B" days. It definitely is an adjustment, but it is going very well. Report card day is coming soon and we put together a committee to assist with putting together a new way of communication to parents. We covered three key areas for reporting:

- Consistently shows an understanding of the concept
- Developing and understanding of the concepts
- Needs improvement
- Math, Reading and Language Arts
- We put areas related to Covid which includes: Attendance, Google Meets attendance, homework completion, and classroom behavior.

Parents will be receiving a different report card this semester as all report cards will be sent digitally.

Parent Teacher Conference: All conferences will be done virtually. My Calendly will be released to the parents and it will show all the available time slots so parents can sign up online.

Board Member asked that due to the parent teacher conferences being held by Zoom, will two parents be allowed to log-in separately. Ms. Eichstaedt commented that Zoom does have a waiting room and it will both parents in.

Board Member asked if there will be a separate Google Classroom link for each teacher or will all teachers be in one meeting with parents at the same time. Each teacher will have separate links in Google Classroom and they will each be approximately 10 minutes each. This applied the same to the Worth Junior High.

Board Member asked that if the district has considered doing virtual live for remote students and students in the classroom. Ms. Esposito replied that they are currently doing that at the junior high. One of the reasons we did not do that at the elementary level is due students being on their devices for an extended period of time. We allowed 2.5 hour increments for the elementary level. Ms. Eichstaedt stated that at times they did that at the elementary level and the attention span is much different for a kindergarten than a 6th and 7th grader. Dr. Fleming stated that the results of the survey showed the majority of the elementary teachers did not want to teach that way. Dr. Fleming stated that we can revise and adapt as we go along.

Board Member asked could we do the 3-4 hour block of live teaching verses having a full day lesson. Ms. Esposito stated that in person and at home students are getting the same lesson in the morning and the afternoon that includes math and reading. Students also have independent lessons that include science, social studies, along with music and P.E. Each student receives the same lesson in the morning and the same lesson in the afternoon. Dr. Fleming reiterated that the high majority of teachers did not want to do that.

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

There were no citizens' remarks.

5. CLOSED SESSION**A. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 6:41 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 Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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 8:15 p.m."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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

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

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Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, 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 \$788,101.11 (EDUCATIONAL); \$321,224.06 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); and \$4,038.10 (TRANSPORTATION); for a total of \$1,113,363.27."

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

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, 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 \$593,911.86, the Building Fund in the amount of \$42,612.52, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of \$46,916.86."

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

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): D. RESIGNATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF - BRYAN BAIER - DIRECTOR OF GROUNDS AND FACILITIES - EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 21, 2020

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the resignation of Administrative Staff Bryan Baier as the Director of Grounds and Facilities effective October 21, 2020."

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

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): E. EMPLOYMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF - WORTHWOODS PRINCIPAL - ASHLEY TOMS - EFFECTIVE 2021-2022

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the employment of Administrative Staff Ashley Toms as the Worthwoods Principal effective 2021-2022 school year."

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

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Dr. Fleming and Board Members took some time to welcome and congratulate Ashley Toms as the new Worthwoods Principal.

Action (Consent): F. APPROVAL OF CERTIFIED AND SUPPORT STAFF SUBSTITUTE CALL LIST ADDITIONS

Resolution: that the Board of Education approve the Certified and Support Staff Substitute Call List Additions.

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

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

7. MOTIONS

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the October 14, 2020 regular Board Meeting."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Stephanie Peltzer

Abstain: Danette Keeler

Action: B. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES - 1ST SESSION

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the October 14, 2020 first closed session minutes."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Stephanie Peltzer

Abstain: Danette Keeler

Action: C. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES - 2ND SESSION

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the October 14, 2020 second closed session minutes."

Motion by David Blanks, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Stephanie Peltzer

Abstain: Danette Keeler

Action: D. 2020 TAX LEVY

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education adopt the Resolution determining the estimated amount of money to be raised by taxation for 2020 and establish the Board meeting of December 9, 2020, as the time for the public hearing regarding the levy, as recommended by the Business Manager/CSBO and the Superintendent, as presented in the attached documents in 3 A.

Motion by David Blanks, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

8. BOARD DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

Board Member expressed some frustration regarding keeping his daughter occupied with things to do while waiting for her to be in class. Board Member stated that while there are apps available on Chromebooks, his daughter does not have access to them. With the resources available to students, as a parent, why don't our students have access to these programs to keep students engaged throughout the day. Dr. Fleming suggested that Board Member contact their building principal and stated that this is the first time that he is hearing that students do not have enough work to do. Board Member will contact their student's building and make those suggestions (McGraw Hill). Dr. Fleming stated that they will work with teachers to get further feedback so that students have resources during the morning time to engage students.

Board Members discussed ways to further engage students. Ms. Esposito stated that she will discuss this with the admin. team and get a clear answer. Board Member suggested we send out a survey and to see how many teachers would consider doing live streaming in their classroom. Dr. Fleming will look into this and stated that there are many details that would need to be worked out.

Board Member stated that the orientation was fantastic and students that were in-person were excited to be back in school. Board Member stated that the Enchanted Backpack was like an early Christmas/Hanukah and it came at just the right time for students.

9. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

There were no further reports/requests.

10. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA ITEMS

There were no citizens's remarks.

11. CLOSED SESSION

Action: A. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Action: B. RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION

This closed session was on the original agenda, but did not take place as all closed session items were discussed in the first closed session.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Action: A. ADJOURN MEETING

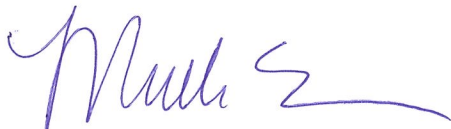
Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education upon completion of public session adjourn the meeting."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Egan, Secretary Pro Tem



Drew Sernus, Board President