

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

**In-Person and Zoom Video Conference**

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

April 14, 2021

**1. MEETING OPENING**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Drew Sernus, Vince Flores, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

Members Present on Zoom: David Blanks, Meghan Sisk

Absent: Danette Keeler

**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. Joe Zampillo, Worth Junior High Principal

Jason Tooth, Assistant Principal, Worth Junior High

Maureen Eichstaedt, Worth Elementary Principal

Ashley Toms, Assistant Principal, Worth Elementary/Worthwoods

David Dvorchak, Director of Facilities and Grounds

Melissa Wills, Assistant Principal

Robert Jeffers, Director of Technology

**Others Present**

Ed Wright, DLA

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**

Dr. Fleming welcomed everyone and opened by introducing Mr. Ed Wright from the DLA to give an update regarding the Worth Elementary renovation.

**A. WORTH ELEMENTARY RENOVATION UPDATE FROM DLA**

Mr. Wright stated that the existing water line and sanitary issues were resolved over the spring break. You can now see that the foundations and the footings have begun. Mr. Wright stated that we have an allowance of \$75K to allow for any unforeseen problems, one of which was the water line. Our contractor has been wonderful to work with and a cost that could have been \$60K, we were able to bring things down to \$29K by working collaboratively with the contractor. The sanitary line was moved out and that initial cost would have been \$50K and we were able to bring that cost down to 36K. Mr. Wright stated that soil conditions accounted for an additional \$7K.

Board Members reviewed the plans for the new Phase II parking lot and how the new drive will work for dropping off and picking up. This will allow for traffic to flow better and alleviate a large amount of congestion in one area. If everything goes smoothly with the village, we are looking to be out to bid in June. The plan is to start construction in August; the lower half of the drive and retention done by the end of year. We want that drive to be in full use by December or January. In the spring, demolition would begin on the parking lot on the north side.

Board Members and Mr. Wright discussed the pick-up and drop off concerns. The idea is to spread out the different areas of pickup and drop off and allow students to exit at multiple doors to alleviate the congestion in one area and allow traffic to flow better. Board Members discussed the safety issues at Worth Junior High and the shared pickup. There are a lot of moving pieces with these plans, but it definitely gives options to parents as to what routes will work better for them. Board Member shared that with the cones on 112th and not being able to turn right on 112th has been helpful. Dr. Fleming stated that we are looking at all options and may take those cones down. The options definitely give us flexibility with safety being our main concern.

#### B. PRESS PLUS POLICY UPDATE

Dr. Fleming opened by thanking Board Members for attending the long Policy Committee Meeting on March 18. We are working with Ken Carter from IASB and putting together edits and I would like to take action to approve the Board Policies at the June meeting and to have a final draft two weeks before the meeting. All Board Members agreed.

#### C. REORGANIZATION OF BOARD MEMBERS MEETING APRIL 28-MAY 4

Dr. Fleming stated that he would like the Board to make a decision on which date works better for Board Members. All Board Members agreed to April 28, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

#### D. JUNE BOARD MEETING DATE

Dr. Fleming informed the Board that we are proposing to move the June 9 Board Meeting to June 14 to allow enough time to post the amended budget. All Board Members agreed to Monday, June 14 at 5:30 p.m.

#### E. TWO REMAINING REMOTE PLANNING DAYS FOR THE 2020/2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Fleming stated that in collaboration with the WEA, we have two remaining planning days and the district has scheduled them on Monday, May 17 and Monday, May 24. We will be putting out notification to inform parents of these non-student attendance days. Dr. Fleming shared with the Board that these two days are a part of the five remote planning days. Dr. Fleming will be informing the park district of those days as well.

#### F. 2021/2022 CALENDAR

Dr. Fleming stated that the 2021/2022 calendar is an action item for the Board to approve. Dr. Fleming highlighted some key dates on the calendar.

#### G. BUILDING UPDATE/REPORT

Dr. Zampillo opened by sharing that each Board Member received a copy of the book "Ungifted". This is our second all school book read that the junior high is doing this year. This book is very similar story to the first book we chose. It's a very good read and we wanted to share it with each Board Member.

Dr. Zampillo stated that the junior high graduation will take place outdoors this year at Stagg High School. The graduation will take place on June 2nd and use June 3rd as an alternative if weather conditions are not feasible on June 2. We are very excited to have an outdoor graduation and very appreciative to Stagg High School for allowing us to use their facilities. This will allow 20% capacity in the bleachers which would allow 3 tickets per family.

Mrs. Eichstaedt shared with the Board that back in September, she applied for a library grant. Due to the current situation, the Illinois State Library wanted to focus on access to e-books for students. Because of this, and due to the fact that we needed electronic formats for certain books to support our transition into the workshop model, I wrote and submitted a grant requesting funds to support the purchase of e-books at both elementary schools and WJH for curriculum e-books and those titles that were either awarded or nominated for an Illinois State Award in e-book format. The title of the grant was "The Library Is Open, Come get your award-winning books". The maximum grant award is just under \$5,000, and we were awarded \$4,900. In addition to this, we applied for our annual per capita grant, which was just over \$700 so in total, we received just over \$5,000 from the Illinois State Library,

### 3. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

#### A. BUSINESS MANAGER

Mrs. Dykas engaged the Board regarding the Quest Service Bid and the Transportation Bid, both of which the Board will be taking action on later. Mrs. Dykas stated the Quest Service Bid is required after 5 years renewal. Two years ago we were going to bid and that state stated that due to Covid restrictions, we were able to auto-renew. Quest has been extremely accommodating and flexible with us and we have been very happy with all their services. There is legislation currently for food services as the low bid wins and currently Illinois and New Jersey are the only states that have that and they are trying to change that legislation. They want it to be RFP days (Request for Proposal Days) with different criteria so that you can pick the best service based on your district's needs.

Mrs. Dykas shared that we had planned to bid last year and did release the Transportation Bids. Multiple companies reached out and many of them stated they were not able to bid due to Covid. The district renewed with Alpha last year and this school year. Despite Covid, we decided to release the bid and sent it out on February 17 to five special education transportation companies in the area and posted it in the paper. We received three responses and did a formal bid opening and Alpha was significantly less: \$75/day per route. Alpha has not been the most popular company in the past and Mrs. Dykas specifically wrote the bid to include financial penalties if they have poor performance: late arrivals, miss a stop. We also requested that the company contact parents in the form of technology.

Board Member expressed her frustration with the parent notifications. Board Member stated that with all the technology available today, there is no reason why the bus service does not communicate effectively with parents.

Dr. Fleming stated that Mr. Wright is working with another district to put a live video camera at the construction site. For a nominal fee, our district could access the pole and camera so we can see the construction work live.

Stimulus Funding – ESSER 1, 2 and 3: (1) \$300K for new Chromebooks and iPads; (2) \$1.3MM wrote that for construction (2) 2.7–2.8MM and 20% of those funds will address learning loss (summer school) and the remaining funds will be applied for construction. Mrs. Dykas stated that they structured the ESSER so you have till September 2024 to spend those funds.

#### B. DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES

Dr. Chambers opened by sharing the information that was discussed at the March Policy Committee Meeting.

She is inviting a group of stakeholders to join the Behavior Intervention Policy committee. The committee will be represented by special and general education teachers, school social workers, community members, special education parents, and building and district administrators. She is currently researching behavior intervention guidelines in comparable districts. Dr. Chambers discussed the development and Implementation of Student Emergency Medical Response Plans for some of our students who have life-threatening medical issues, such as but not limited to allergies, asthma, and diabetes. Dr. Chambers met with all the nurses to develop a plan to determine which students have diagnosed medical conditions. Medical release forms will be going home to parents; this will allow our nurses to converse with a child's medical provider, who is legally responsible for developing the plans. We plan to have this information updated multiple times a year. Checking the files numerous times per year will allow us to review files of transfer-in students and our younger students transitioning out of Early Intervention (EI) services into the district. The staff will be meeting Friday, April 16, to discuss this further.

Dr. Chambers informed the Board that Access Testing went well, and students responded well. Due to ISBE delays in shipping testing materials and the extension of the testing window, we will not receive test results until at least later in the summer. This delay will impact the number of ML students in our ML program. Dr. Chambers will analyze and share the results with Dr. Fleming as soon as they are available.

#### C. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Mrs. Esposito engaged the Board with information regarding the revamping of the summer school program:

The new program will serve 2 purposes:

- To offer fun and engaging learning activities for students.
- To provide an institute of learning for teachers.
- There are no restrictions as to whom we choose to invite. All students will be invited to participate. Enrollment will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Pre-K students will be invited to join our new Kdg. session.
- There will be no more scrambling for resources or copying papers. Curriculum plans and materials will be provided.
- In addition to pay, teachers will earn PD hours (20 hours in June, 16 hours in August) focused on enhancing professional practice.
- All staff will have the opportunity to learn from professional consultants and from each other as they reflect together and visit each other's classrooms.
- We will have a teacher visitation day where Worth teachers can come and visit the classrooms.
- We will also host a one-hour Parent Night so students have a chance to share their learning with their families.

Board Member asked how they will determine learning loss. Melissa Wills stated that through small groups and workshop models in reading, writing and math.

Dr. Fleming welcomed Melissa Wills as this is her first time attending in person.

Mrs. Esposito stated that she would like to discuss the ongoing discussions regarding the Math Curriculum. The committee reconvened this week and looked at the different areas of math and reviewed how the curriculum is working in each classroom and does it meet the criteria. As a committee, we are extending the testing and will meet in the summer and by January of next year, we hope to have a recommendation. What we've decided is Everyday Math does meet the criteria.

Mrs. Esposito stated that in-person lunch is going very well. Students are spread out to social distance, some are in classrooms and some are in the lunchroom. The lunch schedule at all schools is going incredibly well. Specials are going just as well and teachers are so excited to be conducting them in person. Arrival and dismissal took a little time to adjust, but it's going very well. Desks are being washed in between classes and movement through hallways is going smoothly. Dr. Zampillo shared that one of the students from his school commented to him they are very excited to be back in school.

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

Jill Moore read the e-mail from parent, Jolanta Sikora:

I would like to write few words to our school board.

First of all thank you for trying and for bringing our kids back to school. It was a tough year with a lot of downtime because of pandemic, but I am hoping for better future and better communication between parents and school employees.

Thank you for upgrading our school building. All construction is looking great and I can't wait to see our new school.

At the end I want to thank all parents that tried with me to open our schools. Without your help and support nothing would be done. Thank you for calling your principals and fighting for our kids. And most of all thank you for being responsible and respectful to each other in that hard times.

Thank you to school board members for keeping us safe and informed about all issues that came up during opening. I hope we can all work together to keep everyone safe and healthy in coming months and in new school year.

Jolanta Sikora

#### 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 as listed below in 5b-5f

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as listed below in 5b –

Motion by Stephanie Peltzer, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, 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 \$296,094.37 (EDUCATIONAL); \$173,278.89 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); \$50,891.81 (TRANSPORTATION); and \$4,068.00 (TORT IMMUNITY) for a total of \$524,333.07."

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as listed below in 5b-5f

Motion by Stephanie Peltzer, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): C. BOARD BILLS PAYABLE ---- ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL BILL

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Accounts Payable for \$14,560.00 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE)."

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as listed below in 5b-5f

Motion by Stephanie Peltzer, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): D. PAYROLL SUMMARY

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Payroll Summary for the Education Fund in the amount of \$604,694.94, the Building Fund in the amount of 42,716.48 and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of 45,950.24."

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as listed below in 5b-5f

Motion by Stephanie Peltzer, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): F. CALL LIST OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the following Consent Agenda Items as listed below in 5b-5f

Motion by Stephanie Peltzer, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

6. MOTIONS

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MINUTES - 03.10.21

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 10, 2021 regular meeting."

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: B. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES – 03.10.21 – FIRST SESSION

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the March 10, 2021 first closed session minutes."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES – 03.10.21 – SECOND SESSION

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the March 10, 2021 second session minutes."

Motion by Stephanie Peltzer, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: D. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES – 03.18.21

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of the March 18, 2021 meeting."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: E. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – 03.18.21

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the closed session minutes of the Committee of the Whole March 18, 2021 meeting."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: F. SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION SERVICES RECOMMENDATION

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Special Education Transportation Services bid from Alpha School Bus Company, Inc. for the 2021–2022, 2022–2023 and 2023–2024 school years."

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: G. QUEST FOOD BID

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the food contract with Quest Food Management Services for the 2021–2022 school year."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: H. 2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the calendar for the 2021-2022 school year".

Motion by Stephanie Peltzer, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Board Member requested clarification regarding the spring break weekend on the calendar. Mrs. Dykas stated that it's a long weekend from Good Friday so there is not school Friday and Monday.

Action: I. APPROVAL OF SSBC REPRESENTATIVE

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education appoint Cynthia Dykas, Representative, and, as Alternate Representative, Dr. Mark T. Fleming, to represent Worth School District 127 in the South Suburban Benefit Cooperative Board of Directors for fiscal year 2021-22".

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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

Board Member expressed her appreciation and extended a thank you to the staff for putting everything together and that everything is wonderful. Board Member also stated that regarding the learning loss, that when they have that information compiled, if they can get that data to the Board Members.

Board Member stated that the administration center looks very nice and the flower pots look beautiful. Thank you to the custodians and the grounds staff for making it look so nice.

8. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA ITEMS

There were no citizen's remarks.

9. CLOSED SESSIONAction: A. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Recommended Motion (roll call): that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session at 7:13 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 setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body; and student disciplinary cases."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, 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 8:47 p.m."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m."

Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'MS', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Meghan Sisk  
Secretary, Board of Education

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D Sernus', with a large circular loop at the end.

Drew Sernus  
President, Board of Education