

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

May 12, 2021

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: Drew Sernus, Meghan Sisk, Michelle Egan, Danette Keeler, Stephanie Peltzer

Members Present on Zoom: David Blanks

Absent: Vince Flores

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

Mary Zirngibl, EC

Jill Moore, Board Recording Secretary

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. WORTH ELEMENTARY ADDITION AND RENOVATION UPDATE

Dr. Fleming opened by stating that the Worth Elementary renovation is progressing well and on schedule. They are putting in more concrete on the footings and walls and if everything stays on schedule they will start pouring the slab. We met with the Mayor, building inspectors and staff from the DLA to review the plans for the Phase II renovation. The plan is to have a bidder for the June 14 Board Meeting.

B. PRESS PLUS POLICY UPDATE

Dr. Fleming stated that we are working with Ken Carter to make the edits and changes to the Press Plus Policy. The plan is to email the final draft to the Board by the end of the day on Monday, May 28 for their review and take action on June 14.

C. SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER TRAINING

Dr. Fleming stated that Officer Cozzi and a team of police officers held School Resource Officer training at the district office utilizing the gym and hallway. The training went extremely well. Officer Cozzi will be working with our Director of Curriculum and Instruction to prepare some grants. Starting next week for two days, he will be subbing to assist with

teachers doing professional development and rotating between classrooms. Questions came up regarding his title as he is also a detective and we feel it is best that he is still called an officer in the buildings.

Board Member asked for clarification how will it be handled if Officer Cozzi has to suddenly leave a classroom of children. Dr. Fleming stated that if he gets a radio call and has to run out of the building, and depending on the timing of his departure, the building principal will be notified and we will have coverage for the remainder of the day.

D. CONCUSSION PROTOCOL COMMITTEE

Dr. Fleming stated that Dr. Zampillo led the first Concussion Protocol Meeting last week and had great discussions. The committee consists of: Kathy DeRuiter, Melissa Wills, nurses and they will be meeting once a year; however, if there are different scenarios to work through, they will meet more often.

E. IMPORTANT DATES – END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Fleming stated that Monday, May 17 and May 24 have been designated as Remote Learning Days for teachers with no student attendance. These are the additional days that the teachers were given from the Governor due to the Covid disaster. On June 4, we will be dismissing the Worth Junior High at 11:00 a.m. and the elementary buildings at 11:10 a.m.

F. 2021/2022 SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Dr. Fleming stated that school registration is up and going and asked everyone to remind families, friends and neighbors to register early to help plan for the upcoming school year.

G. PROOF OF RESIDENCY PROCESS WITH LEXISNEXIS

Dr. Fleming shared that the district is now using the software LexisNexis. Parents will no longer need to come into the district to verify residency as long as their child is currently enrolled. The program is designed to filter the families addresses that live in the district and compare it to other databases across the country. The program was used this year and it narrowed it down to 32 households with questionable addresses. We are sending a letter to those families with a Worth address as well as the address listed in the LexisNexis stating that they need to verify their residency, otherwise they will no longer be allowed in the district. We feel that parents will greatly appreciate the fact they won't have to come in yearly to prove residency. Newly enrolled students will still require parents to come in and verify their residency.

H. BUILDING UPDATE/REPORT

Dr. Zampillo opened by sharing information regarding the Consolidated District Plan that is required annually and is used for Title 1 Funding. It's very exciting to share that extracurricular activities have started to take place after school. Students are really enjoying being back and turnout has been great. The Scholastic Bowl took place this year virtually and we took first place. Dr. Zampillo stated the junior high graduation will take place at Stagg High School on June 3 and things will look a little different this year. He is working with Jason Tooth to iron out all the logistics of parking and make sure everything is as normal as possible for students. With Covid restrictions become lighter, our capacity may go from 20% to 60% capacity to allow for more family to attend.

Board Member asked if they will be allowed to pass out diplomas to students and if the band will be there. Dr. Zampillo stated that yes, they will be allowed to pass out diplomas and the band will be there.

Dave Dvorchak shared with the Board the reason for the increased water bill. The flush flap in the tank of the toilet was old and worn out so the water had been leaking at a slow rate and unfortunately, a few days had gone by before the problem was noticed and repaired. This was the reason for what caused the spike in water usage and it was also determined that Troop Construction was using our water at the construction site.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

A. BUSINESS MANAGER

Mrs. Dykas opened by sharing the reason for the removal and additions to the Signatories for our bank account.

Mrs. Dykas shared with the Board a presentation on the Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2020–21. The Federal Program increase went from 8.5% to 16.4% which is federal stimulus money also called ESSER. The Federal Government has helped

many local governments (states, cities, schools and other agencies) with additional funding to support expenses incurred as a result of the COVID-19 disaster.

The new funding includes:

ESSER I/CARES – \$329,796 used to purchase 1,000 new student ChromeBooks

ESSER I/Digital Equity – \$88,413 used to purchase 179 new student iPads with cases, Cisco switches and hotspots

ESSER II – \$1,291,380 will be used to address learning loss, ADA issues and space by building an addition.

ESSER III – \$2,700,000 20% must be allocated to address learning loss (summer school); 80% towards new building addition.

Total new funding = approximately \$4,418,000. \$1,700,000 in FY21, thus must amend the budget.

Mrs. Dykas stated that the Board will take action on the Amended Budget at the June 14, 2021 meeting.

B. DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES

Dr. Chambers engaged the Board with information regarding the Extended School Year (ESY). Many of our Special Education students will benefit from summer school this year and it's being offered remotely and in-person. The program will begin on June 8 through July 2 and eight of our students have qualified for ESY this year.

Dr. Chambers shared that the Behavior Intervention Policy Committee met virtually that included Linda Esposito, Jason Tooth, Melissa Wills and social workers from each building. We briefly went over the purpose of the meeting, discussed goals and how we plan to meet in the fall. We will look at other districts to see what interventions they use for help with the positive behavior of students, especially those with emotional disabilities.

Board Member asked for clarification regarding our Press Plus Policy. Dr. Chambers stated that this is something that is required by the district.

C. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Dr. Fleming shared that he had the absolute pleasure of attending the Mentor Celebration Meeting on Monday, May 10. It was absolutely inspiring to hear all the administrators compliment the mentors and how they have supported one another. Mrs. Esposito shared the details of the Mentor Meeting and that everything was so non-traditional this past year. The meeting was wonderful and it was so good to hear about how everyone pulled together to support one another.

The Ed Camp flyer was released this past Monday, May 10 after school. By Monday evening, only a few hours after the flyer was released, we already had 70 registrations. As of this morning, we are up to 125 students enrolled and 22 staff members. We have students registered under every grade level, but we do have 1st, 2nd and 3rd as the most enrollment. We have two sessions lined up but we've only released the June session right now as to not confuse parents. After the June session is completed, we will release information regarding August.

Board Member asked if we have dates available yet for the August sessions. Mrs. Esposito shared the dates for the August session: Aug 3, 4, 5, and 10, 11, 12.

Mrs. Esposito shared with the Board that Professional Development will continue this year and Janis Heigl will be in the district on Monday, May 17 and we are calling it "Monday PD offering Best Practices in Workshop Gradual Release of Responsibility Model". Monday is a remote planning day for teachers that will consist of a two-hour block in the morning, and two-hour block in the afternoon. They will be talking about the workshop model for reading and math and what we will be taking into summer school. There will be a two hour admin. session on Monday as well. On Tuesday and Thursday, Mrs. Heigl will be going into the classrooms to do coaching with teachers. On Friday, Melissa and I will meet with Janis for half the day to review.

Board Member asked for clarification regarding enrollment for current Kindergarten. Her child is not in the pre-k program and will be enrolled in the fall for Kindergarten. Can those children also attend Summer school. Mrs. Esposito stated that she can enroll her child in the summer school program.

Mrs. Esposito and Mr. Jeffers shared information regarding the online registration process and ways to simplify the process and make it easier to register students.

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

Jill Moore read the e-mail from Mr. Adam Bednarz:

1. Are there any plans in the works to help elevate the traffic congestion and parking situation?

Dr. Fleming will follow up with Mr. Bednarz and address his question.

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 – 5I

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Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

Action (Consent): B. BOARD BILLS PAYABLE

Resolution: Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Accounts Payable for \$98,559.94 (EDUCATIONAL); \$628,556.84 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE); and \$8,744.66 (TRANSPORTATION) for a total of \$735,861.44."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

Board Member asked for clarification regarding the electric bill. Mrs. Dykas stated that Worth Junior High is electric only and typically their electric bill runs higher.

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 \$604,034.13, the Building Fund in the amount of \$43,044.04, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of \$47,308.27."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

Action (Consent): D. RESIGNATION OF CERTIFIED STAFF – JOAN AHMER – SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER – WORTH JUNIOR HIGH – EFFECTIVE JUNE 5, 2021

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

Action (Consent): E. RECLASSIFICATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF – PHIL MURDOCK – PART-TIME CUSTODIAN TO SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIAN– EFFECTIVE APRIL, 2021

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

Action (Consent): F. EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF – LISA STRZEMPA – SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER – 2021–2022 SCHOOL YEAR

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

Action (Consent): G. KRISTEN PALAGGI – EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF – PT CUSTODIAN – EFFECTIVE 04.26.21

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

Action (Consent): H. TRICIA PALAGGI – EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF – PT CUSTODIAN – EFFECTIVE 04.26.21

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

Action (Consent): I. 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 SB – 5I

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

6. MOTIONS

Action: A. REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 14, 2021 regular meeting."

Motion by Stephanie Peltzer, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Abstain: Danette Keeler

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Action: B. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 14, 2021 closed session minutes."

Motion by Michelle Egan Sisk, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Abstain: Danette Keeler

Action: C. SPECIAL ORGANIZATIONAL MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Special Organization Meeting on April 28, 2021."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Danette Keeler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

Action: D. SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent Contract for Dr. Mark T. Fleming, beginning on July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

Action: E. 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 Stephanie Peltzer, second by Danette Keeler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

Action: F. AUTHORIZATION TO REMOVE DESIGNATED SIGNATORIES ON DISTRICT 127 BANK ACCOUNTS

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education authorize the removal of the following individuals to serve as designated signatories on the District 127 bank account".

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

Action: G. AUTHORIZATION OF DESIGNATED SIGNATORIES ON DISTRICT 127 BANK ACCOUNTS

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education authorize the following individuals to serve as designated signatories on the District 127 bank account".

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

Action: H. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Personal Property as presented in the attachment".

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Meghan Sisk.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

Action: I. APPROVAL OF LEASE AGREEMENT WITH R.I.S.E.

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the resolution authorizing a lease with the Governing Board of South Cook Intermediate Service Center."

Motion by Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

Action: J. APPROVAL OF LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE EISENHOWER COOPERATIVE

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the resolution authorizing a lease with the Eisenhower Cooperative for the 2021-2022 School Year."

Motion by Stephanie Peltzer, second by Danette Keeler.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

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

Board Member expressed her appreciation to staff and thanked them for starting up activities at the junior high.

Board Members engaged in conversation regarding the Worth Police Department Golf Outing that will be taking place on June 12, 2021 with dinner at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Fleming will put further details in his weekly Board Update.

8. CITIZENS' REMARKS – AGENDA ITEMS

There were no citizens' remarks.

9. CLOSED SESSION

Action: A. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education adjourn to closed session 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 Meghan Sisk, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, 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."

Motion by Danette Keeler, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Stephanie Peltzer

10. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m."

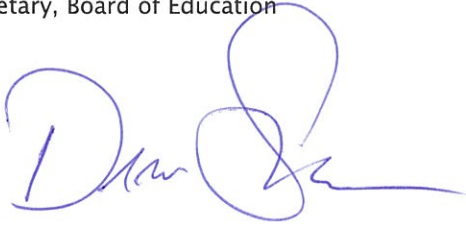
Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Meghan Sisk
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus
President, Board of Education