

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

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

November 10, 2021

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Drew Sernus called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Drew Sernus, Meghan Sisk, Stephanie Peltzer, Michelle Egan, Dave Blanks, Vince Flores

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. Joseph Zampillo, Worth Junior High Principal
Jason Tooth, Assistant Principal, Worth Junior High
Ashley Toms, Assistant Principal, Worth Elementary/Worthwoods
David Dvorchak, Director of Facilities and Grounds
Melissa Wills, Assistant Principal
Robert Jeffers, Director of Technology

Jill Moore, Board Recording Secretary

Others Present

JoAnne Albrecht, WJH
Mary Zirngibl, WE
Lisa Bray, WJH
Sherry Strycker, WE
Michelle Okrzesik, WE
Jeff Pagano, WW
Sandra Jager, WJH
Debbie Woods, WE
Vicki Ramirez
Lisa Strzempa
Agnieszka Duda, WW
Jolanta Sikora
Anna Brinkis
Jadwiga Hajnos
Paul Rowell
Megan Dresden
Michelle Cedergren
John Cerrone

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Drew Sernus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Fleming stated that with Thursday, November 11 being Veterans Day, he wanted to take the time to recognize any honor Veterans that have served our country. Board Member, Vince Flores, was recognized as serving in the Air Force. Dr. Fleming stated that all school buildings will be doing activities to honor Veterans.

Dr. Fleming opened by sharing that School Board Member Appreciation Day coming up on Monday, now is a great time to thank all of our Board Members for their hard work and dedication to students, families and staff. Your unwavering commitment to support student progress during these unprecedented times is appreciated and commended. Thank you for your time, energy, hard work and service.

A. IASB AWARDS

- Worth 127 has 3 board members that earned special recognition this year as Master Board Members
 - To earn a Master Board Member recognition a Board Member earns points

- By attending IASB division meetings, Governing meetings, legislative leadership programs as well as holding positions of leadership within the Association. A designated number of Master Board Member points are assigned to each event, activity, or position.

B. 2021 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Joint Annual Conference, Chicago - 30 points Delegate Assembly at JAC (voting) - 5 points Division Meetings - 5 points Division Governing Meeting - 5 points Serving as a Division Officer (including at-large) - 10 points Alliance Leadership Summit - 20 points JAC Panel Review Committee - 5 points Resolutions Committee - 5 points
- Master Board Members receive special recognition at IASB Fall Division Meetings. Points are cumulative and individuals are recognized as they reach each level:
 - Level I: 60-129 points
 - Level II: 130-199 points
 - Master Board Member: 200 points Master Board Member maintenance occurs by earning 40 additional points each year.
- Points earned between July 1 and June 30 apply to recognition given at Fall Division Meetings.
- Let's recognize our 3 Master Board Members for this year:
- Stephanie Peltzer earned Master Board Member Level 1 along with an IASB Lapel Pin.
- Vince Flores earned Master Board Member Level 2 along with an IASB notepad.
- Drew Sernus earned continued Master Board Member along with a Framed Certificate.
- 2021 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
 - VOTING WILL BE ELECTRONIC THROUGH AN APP OR WEBSITE

C. WORTH ELEMENTARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

- Worth Elementary Construction Project Update:
 - The addition is really starting to take shape and it looks beautiful.
 - The new classrooms, cafeteria, library and car rider line will be fully functioning when students and staff return from winter break on Tuesday, January 4.
 - The January Board meeting will be hosted at Worth Elementary in the new addition, which will allow all of us as well as any visitors to walk through the new addition.

D. WORTH JUNIOR HIGH 8TH GRADE GRADUATION DATE

- WORTH JR. HIGH GRADUATION DATE
 - WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

E. BUILDING UPDATE/REPORT

No Building Update/Report.

3. BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

A. QUEST CONTRACT

- We were due to bid out food service this spring for the next 5-year cycle starting August 2022
- ISBE sent an email allowing another year to roll over current agreements, if you requested it in writing
- We sent a memo on November 1st requesting an "emergency extension of our current food service management contract" due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- We received an approval email on November 2nd.
- We will not have to do a formal Food Service bid until Spring 2023, which would start the agreement in the 2023-2024 school year
- Quest will give us all the required renewal paperwork for the 2022-2023 school year in Spring.

B. TAX LEVY PRESENTATION

Mrs. Cindy Dykas opened by presenting the 2021 Tax Levy Process:

- A levy is the amount of money a school district requests from property tax.
- The levy process is important as the 20-21 revenue totals are 46.5% property taxes.

2021 Proposed Tax Levy

Educational - \$8,400,000
 Operations and Maintenance - \$1,000,000
 Transportation - \$150,000
 Working Cash - \$100,000
 IMRF - \$50,000
 SS/MED - \$200,000
 Special Ed - \$700,000
 Tort Immunity - \$125,000
Life Safety - \$175,000
 TOTAL \$10,900,000

C. PROPERTY TAX RELIEF GRANT

- During a recent Zoom meeting, the Bloom Township School Treasurer mentioned that ISBE is once again going to offer the Property Tax Relief Grant for school district with high tax rates.
- We were awarded the two-year grant in tax years 2019 and 2020.

- If you recall, the average Worth homeowner with a property worth \$175,000 received a \$222 reduction of their Worth 127 tax bill for those two years. This is ending with this 2021 tax levy.
- ISBE is allocating just under \$50 million for this grant
- Per the order of eligibility of school districts, the top 37 schools should receive the grant and Worth is #24!
- Mrs. Dykas submitted a request on November 1st to be considered for this grant. This was just a request, not a commitment.
- If awarded, Worth would be required to Abate taxes for two years: Tax year 2021 and 2022
- We will be notified by late January/early February 2022. We will then have to file the authorized abatement with the County Clerk via Board Resolution by March 30, 2022. Then additional paperwork will have to be completed by April 15, 2022.
- All timelines same as last time when we filed in 2019.
- It is a win-win situation, where taxpayers get a break, the tax rate goes down and the abatement amount is added back into our Evidence Based Funding base minimum!

FEMA Grant

- Anytime there is a "disaster proclamation" FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) provides funding to assist with the costs associated with such disaster.
- Only experience with this was from the 2011 snow storm, because so severe, at former district, we received funding for overtime costs for snow plowing!
- We have been tracking "COVID related" expenses since last year. Some of these expenses included the electrostatic sprayers and disinfectant solution, hand sanitizer stations, disinfecting wipes, face masks, disposable gowns and gloves, signage for washing hands, mask wearing, etc. The total expense submitted was \$58,880 at the end of October 2021.
- Some items were marked "ineligible" such as extra duty pay for lunch supervision in order to keep kids socially distanced, rental of storage trailers to store excess furniture from classrooms in order to keep kids socially distanced, and the hot spots the district purchased to supply students with internet connectivity during remote learning. These expenses totaled nearly \$27,600.
- We still have a good chance at getting a reimbursement of approximately \$30,000!

4. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION REPORT

A. MATH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Linda Esposito stated that teachers at all grade levels are receiving monthly PD in Math and Reading and Writing Workshop. Consultants from Educational Solutions Northwest, Jason Bragg and Janis Heigl, are working with teachers in grades 5-8 and EC-4, respectively.

Consultants from Schoolwide including Stefane Beddard and Amy Fattall, are working with Reading and Language Arts teachers in all grades. Professional learning includes planning units, navigating curriculum materials, observations and coaching, demo lessons with pre-meetings followed with debriefing sessions. I was in a 2nd grade classroom one day when Janis was doing a demo lesson and a student shouted out in excitement, "I know that! We did it in EdCamp." It was so exciting to see carry-over from our summer learning.

Our consultant for ML, Michele Yanong, continues to meet with ML teachers, and recently spent a day offering PD to WJH content area teachers along with the WJH ML teachers. Michele also recently did a walk through all of the buildings to get a glimpse of how ML services are being delivered. This was followed up with a debrief session at the end of the day. Michele is planning to return to spend more time in classrooms with the ML teachers.

One of our district goals this year was to keep our PD focused on district needs rather than random one-day conferences. We do recognize the individual needs of the teachers, however, and several teachers are attending outside PD in areas such as Health, PE, Music, and Special Education.

B. REPORT CARDS

As you know several years ago we went to standards-based reporting for the elementary school report cards. Last year, due to the ever-changing nature of school, we found it extremely difficult to use report grades in the way we did prior to Covid. So we created a "Covid" report card that focused only on the essential content being taught at the time. This year we planned on returning to the old report card, but found that it really needs to be updated. We need time to meet as a committee, learn what is best in standards-based reporting, make decisions, and then turn it over to our Tech team to make the changes in PowerSchool. Therefore, this year we are using the "Covid" report card again. The biggest change parents will see is under the math content. We decided to report on the major clusters at each grade in general terms. To help parents and students

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

Parent Comments were as follows:

Michelle Cedergren - Expressed concerns with follow-up from Dr. Fleming; Senate Bill 654 being implemented in both elementary schools.

Jackie Hajnos - Masks in gym class; vaccine clinics; gender identity; social and emotional learning; CRT; vaccine status/passports; socialism/communism.

Paul Rowell - Clarity regarding the Tri-Conference dates on the consent agenda; Details regarding the \$1,300 figure for Tri-Conference; IL School Code 105 10-16/Public comments at Board Meeting; Freedom of Information Act Requests at a public meeting; School Board 1016-5 interests of taxpayers.

Megan Dresden - Covid cases 20-21 school year and current school year show that masks do not work; concerns with students wearing masks all day; requesting Board Members' view regarding mandates; mold on school lunches.

Jolanta Sikora - Expressed her feelings and concerns on how she was treated at the last Board Meeting regarding not being able to publicly speak; expressed concerns with possible vaccine mandate.

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 as outlined below."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Michell Egan.

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 \$252,081.29 (EDUCATIONAL FUND); \$700,917.42 (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FUND); and \$19,849.51 (TRANSPORTATION FUND) for a total of \$972,848.22."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, 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 \$652,561.79, the Building Fund in the amount of \$44,715.05, and the FICA/IMRF/Medicare in the amount of \$47,085.31."

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): D. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - SUE ADLER-MUERSCH - LUNCH SUPERVISOR - WORTHWOODS - EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 20, 2021

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): E. RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - TRICIA PALAGGI - PT CUSTODIAN - EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 7, 2021

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): F. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - BERNITA GRIFFIN - PART TIME CUSTODIAN - WORTH JUNIOR HIGH - EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 2021

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action (Consent): G. EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF - JOSHUA OKRZESIK - PART TIME CUSTODIAN - WORTH ELEMENTARY - EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 2021

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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

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

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Drew Sernus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Drew Sernus, David Blanks, Meghan Sisk, 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 4, 2021 regular meeting."

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: B. CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Recommended Motion (roll call): "that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the October 4, 2021 closed session minutes."

Motion by Meghan Sisk, second by Michelle Egan.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. 2021 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 2021 and establish the Board meeting of December 8, 2021, 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 Vince Flores, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: D. APPROVAL OF BOARD TRAVEL EXPENSES - TRI-CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 19-21, 2021

"that the Board of Education approve the projected travel expenses in the amount of \$1,300 for attendance at the Tri-Conference in Chicago, Illinois on November 19-21, 2021, for the following Board members: Drew Sernus, Danette Keeler, Michelle Egan, Vince Flores, Meghan Sisk and Stephanie Peltzer.

Motion by Vince Flores, second by Stephanie Peltzer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: E. 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 Michelle Egan, second by David Blanks.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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

Board Member requested that the start time of Board Meetings be reviewed to possibly making the meeting start a little later. All Board Members are in favor of moving the start of the Board Meeting to 6:00 p.m.

Board Member commented that the Saturday, November 20 is the Food Drive. The Worth Junior high student council participates and students go door-to-door and pick up bags of food. This year we are asking families to leave the bags of food on the porch instead of knocking on doors.

The Village of Worth tree lighting is December 3 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Board Member asked for clarity regarding the schedule of parent/teacher conferences. Mrs. Linda Esposito stated that parents can use the Calendly App to schedule.

9. CITIZENS' REMARKS - AGENDA ITEMS

Jolanta Sikora - Looking for the September Board Minutes on the district website; Fast Bridge Testing/report cards; distributed test to Board Members.

Megan Dresdan - Employment of staff members and how many that are hired are related to current staff in district; (this comment was made off-mic) closed session topics on agenda.

10. 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; the collective negotiating matters between the public body and

its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and student disciplinary cases.

Motion by Meghan Sisk, 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 its discussions in closed session reconvene in public session at 9:07 p.m."

Motion by David Blanks, second by Vince Flores.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion (voice vote): "that the Board of Education motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m."

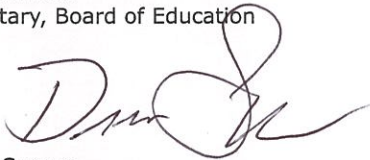
Voice Vote: All Yes

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Meghan Sisk
Secretary, Board of Education



Drew Sernus
President, Board of Education