

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education  
Willow Springs Consolidated School District No. 108  
Monday, August 17, 2015  
Triezenberg Library, Willow Springs School**

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:38 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Members present: Kent, Ristić, McSweeney, and Ciota

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Kent.

**Acceptance of the Superintendent's Agenda**

**Motion 15-128 by Ciota, seconded by Kent as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the superintendent's Agenda.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, McSweeney and Ciota**

**Audience Participation**

Lori Smuda, Principal, Teachers: Kristine Bretl, Nicole Jaronczyk, Lisa Fridono and Adam Lee along with Nick Cavaliere from Baker Tilly Virchow Krause and Kim Radosevic were in the audience.

**Financial Report**

The auditor's report for the month of June is in the packet. Because of the new financial software system, and our early in the month meeting, the July reports are not yet available from the Treasurer's office. Nick Cavaliere was present to answer any questions.

**Item 6B Presentation and Acceptance of the Tentative FY2016 Budget**

Nick presented the tentative budget which he handed out at the meeting.

We will keep this tentative budget on file for inspection for the next 30 days as we continue to refine it during the next month and then will have a budget hearing at the next meeting to approve the final budget. The tentative budget is separate from the packet in the envelope.

We continue to strive to budget conservatively both on the income and expenditure side. When you look at the overall budget, across all funds, it is a fairly balanced budget. The budget is implemented on the plan that the Board discussed last year, in maximizing the tax dollars, and transferring funds from the Transportation Fund to the Education Fund. Nick provided a detailed explanation at the meeting.

The process for the budget: in August, the Board approves a tentative budget and calls for a budget hearing in 30-40 days, and adopts the budget at a regular meeting. We will hold the budget hearing as a part of the September meeting.

We will also have to hold a public hearing to transfer the funds from Transportation to Ed.

The superintendent recommends the acceptance of the FY 2016 tentative budget and the display of the tentative budget for a minimum of 30 days; that the mandatory budget hearing to officially approve the budget takes place at 6:30 pm on September 22, 2015 with the date and time of the meeting being publicized as set by the school code; and that the mandatory public hearing to transfer money between funds will also take place at 6:30 pm on September 22, 2015 which will also be publicized as set by school code.

**Motion 15-129 by Ciota, seconded by Kent as recommended by the superintendent to accept the tentative budget for FY2016 and put it on display for a minimum of 30 days; that we set the mandatory budget hearing to officially approve the budget and the mandatory public hearing to transfer money between funds to take place at 6:30 pm on September 22, 2015 publicizing both as set by school code.  
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, McSweeney and Ciota**

### Minutes

The superintendent recommends the approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting for June 30, 2015.

**Motion 15-130 by McSweeney, seconded by Ciota as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on June 30, 2015.**

**Roll Call Vote: Kent, Ristić, McSweeney and Ciota  
Abstain:**

### Consent Agenda

The superintendent recommends the approval of the consent agenda.

**Motion 15-131 by Kent, seconded by Ciota as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the consent agenda.**

#### **Consent #1**

The superintendent recommends the approval of the payroll and the approval of the bills in the amount of \$466,909.58 (8A-1-2-3-4), and approval of the Activity Fund balance of \$42,067.72 (8B) for the month of July 2015.

#### **Consent #2**

The superintendent recommends the approval of the financial report of the auditor for the month of June 2015. Fund balances: Educational: \$2,554,140; Operations & Maintenance: \$686,648; Debt Service: \$534,523; Transportation: \$1,133,045; IMRF: \$173,008; Capital Projects: \$458,784; Working Cash: \$432,423; Tort: \$379,952; and Fire Prevention & Life Safety \$468.

#### **Consent #3**

The superintendent recommends the destruction of the audio recordings from Closed Session meeting of January 28, 2014 as written record of this session exists.  
**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, McSweeney and Ciota**

## **Notices and Communications**

The superintendent presented the following news articles:

A-a. 0 journal articles related to National and Illinois Education Issues at this time.

A-b. 1 newspaper and articles related to Willow Springs School.

1. The Public Notice concerning the Prevailing Wage Resolution, the 7/9/15 Des Plaines Valley News.

A-c. 0 newspaper and articles related to early childhood education.

### **Item 10B Legislative/SCOPE report: 4 Items.**

1. There are 3 Alliance Legislative from the summer. They're grim reading concerning the politics of the budget for this fiscal year. The Governor did sign the Education budget for the year. The superintendent has been watching SB316 about the Property Tax Freeze. There are clearly great politics here as the Democrats pass it, but the Republicans voted Present. The superintendent believes Mr. Madigan is attempting to call their bluff. In all, it's a sad state of affairs, especially as it appears, at least publicly, that nothing is happening. Of course, in Springfield, it's what happens behind closed doors that really matters.
2. The superintendent also included an outline of what SCOPE does. SCOPE is the lobbying consortium we belong to.

### **Item 10C State Board of Education Correspondence: 0 Items.**

### **Item 10D Illinois Association of School Boards Correspondence: 0 Items.**

### **Item 10E AERO Correspondence items: 1 Item.**

1. A letter to Jim Gunnell indicating the Board's acceptance of the AERO FY16 budget.

### **Item 10F EBC Health Insurance Co-op Correspondence items: 0 Items.**

### **Item 10G Village of Willow Springs Correspondence: 0 items.**

### **Item 10H County Clerk Correspondence: 0 items.**

### **Item 10I Intermediate Service Center Correspondence: 0 items.**

### **Item 10J Township Treasurer Correspondence: 0 items.**

## **Item 10K**

Superintendent Correspondence Received: 0 items.

Superintendent Correspondence Sent: 2 items.

1. My annual letter to the staff welcoming them to the new school year.
2. Copy of the letter sent to the local businesses asking them to be watchful for our students.
3. Copy of the letter to Marilyn Miller with the Board's acceptance of her retirement in June 2016.

## **Item 10 K-A Freedom of Information Act Requests and Notices 1 items**

1. We received a 6/30/15 request from Jessica Schneider of the Chicago Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. She requested student discipline data. The FOIA was complied on 7/2/15.

## **Item 11 Special Education**

The superintendent included a memo for Jim Gunnell requesting Districts to ratify the revised AERO Articles of Agreement. The changes, which are specified by State law, center on what happens to assets and cash when a District elects to leave the cooperative. It's favorable to the Cooperative. There's no buyout of any assets, and the only funds to be returned to the District are any of the IDEA grant monies that the District has not expended.

With 123 looking to leave the Cooperative, this is very good news for the Cooperative and for us. The action on that will be coming up in September. A committee of 3 superintendents, along with AERO's attorneys and administration are currently negotiating a settlement agreement with 123. If all goes well, that agreement will come to us in September to ratify.

Cindy passed out copies of the Pride Newsletter along with a copy of the monthly enrollment log – although most programs either ended up even, PRIDE was 10 less than at the beginning of the year, so they were able to move students back to their districts.

Summer Extended School Year (ESX) had to 240-250 students at AERO. They had a camping theme but the weather wasn't very good for outside activities.

At PRIDE – Elementary – Farming where they worked with farmers in the area.

Intermediate – signed contracts to use their desk, earned money and paid for their desks with a checking account along with daily living activities.

JR HS – Cross country trips, weather tracking and stocks & bonds game.

HS – worked with social workers, problem solving, making decisions and went out into the community.

D123 withdrawal – They started settlement process and will have an agreement to districts. So far this has been a positive process.

From the Pride Newsletter:

Basketball tournament they won 1<sup>st</sup> place in sportsmanship.

Art Fair – sculpture won 1<sup>st</sup> place and a t-shirt won 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Moraine Valley Senior Visit – They went to see the campus and check out what kind of classes are available.

Running for Hope – They had a penny drive, t-shirt contest & bake sale.

John Amico School of Hair Design gave a presentation.

Dr. Jim Gunnell went to Washington for leadership summit as part of the IL Alliance of Administrators of Special Education to discuss our districts, our students and federal issues that impact school districts on a daily basis.

Looking for strong accountability measures for subgroups such as students with disabilities – failure of NCLB go back to Elementary & Second Education Act. They show some progress.

Some increase for federal funding for Special Education especially with state cuts.

The Strong start for America's Children Act – early childhood programs

Urged legislatures to strengthen public schools versus Title 1 & vouchers going to private schools.

MOE exceptions for renegotiation – employee & transportation costs to cut district costs.

The superintendent recommends the adoption of the Resolution of Board of Education of Willow Springs School District 108 Ratifying Proposed Amendments to the AERO Special Education Cooperative Joint Agreement.

**Motion 15-132 by McSweeney, seconded by Ristić as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the adoption of the Resolution of Board of Education of Willow Springs School District 108 Ratifying Proposed Amendments to the AERO Special Education Cooperative Joint Agreement.**

**Roll Call Vote: Kent, Ristić, McSweeney and Ciota**

**Audience Participation**

No audience participation.

## **Principal's Report**

Principal Smuda reported:

Registration was successful for both July and August. Carina readily prepared all of the documents, bus maps, large posters, and materials needed for the days. There were many positive parent comments about the quickness and even flow of the registration process.

Summer School was a huge success! The students were instructed in reading, writing and math. At the lower grades, there was much differentiation to meet the needs of the students. The principal assisted with the 5-7<sup>th</sup> grade group in math.

12 out of 16 math teachers attended the Eureka Math Conference. It was a three day conference outlining a roadmap on how to proceed with the new materials. There was much excitement as to how the program teaches number sense to the students.

Ray Weissenstein and the principal attended a reading conference in late June. The topic was questioning techniques using the Common Core Standards. During the first two institute days, we plan on focusing on how to increase the rigor and expectations of questions that we ask the students, and how those questions wrap around the standards. Teachers will be provided with a grade level questioning card that can help guide them.

We conducted school tours for new students on Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. They were able to tour the building and find out their homeroom teacher. Some new students were even able to shake their new teacher's hand!

Our Facebook page continues to grow. Class lists were posted and announced early on the site. We are up to 41 likes!

This summer provided lots of down time for a nice transition. Carina and the principal had the time to work their way into their new roles and learn all of the intricacies of each position. Everyone is anticipating a successful school year!

### **Class Size Information**

A list showing the most up to date numbers was given out at the meeting. We have 340 registered and waiting for 19 unregistered students that were at Willow last year, to come and register. This would bring us up to 359 students.

### **Item 13A Summer Construction Projects**

The building looks FANTASTIC! The superintendent can't wait for the board to see it after the meeting. It's so clean and fresh with the work that's been done. The teachers have been in and made it inviting for the students on Wednesday. So you know, the superintendent has seen every teacher in the building working.

You also need to know that the custodial staff worked the weekend of 8/1 and 8/8 in order to return furniture to classrooms – we were running things that closely. They did a remarkable job.

The floor and ceiling projects are just about done, with the exception of 2 punchlist items. During the construction, 5 daylight sensors disappeared. Happ Construction is replacing them. Also, the expansion joints need to be installed. The superintendent is hoping that if all goes well, they'll be installed on the afternoon of 8/31 when we have no students in the building.

We cut it right down to the wire. There was, of course a snag. The floor in the junior high retained too much moisture. It needed to be sealed. That took an additional week and an additional \$40,000.

The intruder alert system will be completed on 8/17. We needed to have the gym mats on the wall cut out to have the unit installed in the gym. That took a lot longer than anticipated and slowed everything down. But, we'll be up and running for the first day of school.

Despite the snags we encountered, it was a pretty smooth and easy project.

#### **Item 14B Outdoor Education Approval**

We're gearing up for the annual 5<sup>th</sup> grade Outdoor Education at the Little Red Schoolhouse, our 5<sup>th</sup> year there. Exciting news: the Forest Preserve District has built cabins at Bull Frog Lake, very near the Little Red Schoolhouse. Julie Vandervort from Little Red Schoolhouse is working with the staff at Bull Frog Lake to have the kids stay both nights there – and at no additional cost!!! The program will run from September 16-18. They will spend both nights there. The Board needs to approve overnight field trips.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the annual 5<sup>th</sup> grade Outdoor Education trip to the Little Red Schoolhouse in Willow Springs, September 16-18, 2015 with an overnight stay on both nights.

**Motion 15-133 by Ristić, seconded by McSweeney as recommended by the superintendent that we approve the annual 5<sup>th</sup> grade Outdoor Education trip to the Little Red Schoolhouse in Willow Springs, September 16-18, 2015 with an overnight stay on both nights.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, McSweeney and Ciota**

#### **Item 14C Policy Updates, Second Reading**

From the June packet:

The update memo is in the packet. Many of the changes are editorial and restructuring what is there, not so much content changes. There are quite a few change “certificate” to “license” for teachers and administrators. Content changes are mandated by law, and leave little option.

The superintendent recommends the approval of policies: 2:250, 3:40, #:50, 3:60, 4:45, 5:40, 5:120, 5:180, 5:270, 5:290, 5:330, 6:15, 6:40

**Motion 15-134 by Ciota, seconded by McSweeney as recommended by the superintendent that we approve the following policies: 2:250, 3:40, #:50, 3:60, 4:45, 5:40, 5:120, 5:180, 5:270, 5:290, 5:330, 6:15, 6:40.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, McSweeney and Ciota**

**Item 14D ELL Programs**

Sometimes, one just needs to look in our own backyard! Willow Springs resident, and parent of a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, Lisa Fridono is a licensed ELL teacher in Spanish! She has the skills necessary, and the expertise, to implement our ELL program.

The program will be run 3 days per week. It will serve all foreign language speakers. Instruction will be in Spanish for Spanish speakers who require it based upon their test scores. It will be in English for all others.

The purpose of the program will be to provide the necessary language and vocabulary supports to the students. The goal is to help them develop into proficient English speakers.

**14E Personnel Items: Hiring, Resignations and Leaves**

There's a great deal of activity here, so the superintendent thought he would leave space in the meeting for some discussion, rather than just put it on the Consent Agenda.

Mike Patzelt has requested a leave for the school year as he pursues disability.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the extended leave for Michael Patzelt for the 2015-2016 school year.

**Motion 15-135 by Kent, seconded by Ristić as recommended by the superintendent that we approve the extended leave for Michael Patzelt for the 2015-2016 school year.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, McSweeney and Ciota**

Jessica Mack submitted her resignation.

The superintendent recommends the acceptance of Jessica Mack's resignation with gratitude for her service to the students.

**Motion 15-136 by Ciota, seconded by McSweeney as recommended by the superintendent that we accept Jessica Mack's resignation.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, McSweeney and Ciota**

There are several new hires: Lisa Fridono, ELL (English Language Learners); Adam Lee, 6-8 social studies; Angela Wilkerson, Special Education, Resource; Lauren O'Keefe, social worker; and with splitting K and 1 into 3 sections each, Nicole Jaronczyk, Kindergarten; Kristine Bretl, first grade. Also, Rachel Kirby, special education paraprofessional.



The superintendent recommends the hiring of: teachers Angela Wilkerson (\$45,377 base, MA10, step 2); Adam Lee (\$47,292 base, MA step 5); Nicole Jaronczyk (38,444, BA, step 2); Kristine Bretl, (\$37,481, BA, step 1); Lisa Fridono (\$29,904, MA+20, step 5, .6FTE); social worker Lauren O’Keeffe (\$45,988, MA+20, step 1); and paraprofessional Rachel Kirby (\$17,983, HQ+30, step 1).

**Motion 15-137 by Ciota, seconded by Kent as recommended by the superintendent that we approve the hiring of teachers Angela Wilkerson (\$45,377 base, MA10, step 2); Adam Lee (\$47,292 base, MA step 5); Nicole Jaronczyk (38,444, BA, step 2); Kristine Bretl, (\$37,481, BA, step 1); Lisa Fridono (\$29,904, MA+20, step 5, .6FTE); social worker Lauren O’Keeffe (\$45,988, MA+20, step 1); and paraprofessional Rachel Kirby (\$17,983, HQ+30, step 1).  
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, McSweeney and Ciota**

Mary Federlick has requested that her retirement be postponed for 1 year. As her retirement benefit has not officially kicked in, the superintendent can’t think of any reason not to honor her request.

**Motion 15-138 by Ristić, seconded by Kent as recommended by the superintendent that we accept the postponement of Mary Federlicks retirement for 1 year.  
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, McSweeney and Ciota**

**Item 15 Calendar Information**

**Item 16 Closed Session**

The superintendent left the option to go into Closed Session here. If the Board chooses, it can just act on the personnel recommendations in Open Session.

**Item 17 Final Actions**

**Item 18 Adjournment**

**Motion 15-129: Adjournment  
Motion made by McSweeney, Seconded by Kent.  
Hearing no objections so moved.**

  
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President

  
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Secretary