

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education
Willow Springs Consolidated School District No. 108
Tuesday, September 22, 2015
Willow Springs School Library**

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and Ciota

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Kent.

Acceptance of the Superintendent's Agenda

Motion 15-130 by Ciota, seconded by Ristić as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the superintendent's Agenda.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and Ciota

Audience Participation

Lori Smuda, Principal, Teachers: Alicia Lehmann, Lauren O'Keeffe, Angela Wilkerson, Shannon McEntee and Leyla Sosur; Student Council Students: Jack Kozielec, Michal Marciniak, Kamila Marszalik & Carl Ritaco along with Nick Cavaliere from Baker Tilly Virchow Krause and Kim Radosevic were in the audience.

Introduction of the Student Council / New Staff

The new Student Council executive board came to the meeting along with their faculty advisors Shannon McEntee and Leyla Sosur to meet the Board of Education and reviewed their plans for the coming school year. There are also classroom representatives. They hope to find ways to help our school and the community. This month they are selling ribbons for suicide prevention and next month for breast cancer awareness. They also host spirit wear days throughout the year.

The superintendent introduced some of our new staff members; Angela Wilkerson, special education resource teacher; Lauren O'Keeffe, social worker and Alicia Lehmann, kindergarten teacher.

Item 6A Budget Hearing

By law, we are required to hold a Budget Hearing. The purpose of the Budget Hearing is to receive any public testimony in regards to the FY16 Budget.

The superintendent recommends opening the Budget Hearing at 6:53pm.

Motion 15-131 by Weeg, seconded by Kent as recommended by the superintendent we open the Budget Hearing at 6:53pm.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and Ciota

Nick Cavalierre opened the hearing on the FY2016 Budget. The tentative budget presented to the Board last month is nearly the same. There are some minor changes. As the Board recalls from last month, the budget does balance the Ed. Fund by transferring money from the Transportation Fund. The transfer is also good to move money to the fund where it is needed the most, as has been discussed at multiple meetings. It would appear that our General State Aid (GSA) is going to increase significantly this year based upon 2 factors: our increasing enrollment and our declining EAV. Both of these factor into the GSA. However, the state has not finalized the figures and we know all too well how that can go. We also discussed last month about how to maintain our current levy income (that vote comes in December) by levying higher in the Transportation Fund and transferring the money.

The official budget is in your packet. Nick reviewed the budget with the Board and the audience and then opened up the hearing for questions from the audience. No questions were asked from the audience.

The budget we have been operating under thus far has been a tentative budget and was accepted last month. It has been on display for the past 30 days, and no one has come into the office to review it.

The superintendent recommends closing the Budget Hearing at 7:38pm

Motion 15-132 by Kent, seconded by Estrada as recommended by the superintendent we close the Budget Hearing at 7:38pm.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and Ciota

The superintendent recommends the adoption of the FY2016 budget as presented.

Motion 15-133 by Weeg, seconded by McSweeney as recommended by the superintendent we adopt the FY2016 budget as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and Ciota

Item 6B Fund Transfer

As we've been discussing over the past several months, we've intentionally built up a very generous fund balance in the Transportation Fund in order to maintain the levy amount. The intent has been to transfer that money to the Education Fund.

The superintendent recommends opening the Fund Transfer Hearing at 7:39pm.

Motion 15-134 by Kent, seconded by Ciota as recommended by the superintendent we open the Fund Transfer Hearing at 7:39pm.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and Ciota

There was discussion regarding the transfer of funds from the Transportation Fund to the Education Fund in order to maintain the levy amount.

Motion 15-135 by Kent, seconded by McSweeney as recommended by the superintendent we close the Fund Transfer Hearing at 7:48pm.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and Ciota

Motion 15-136 by McSweeney, seconded by Ciota as recommended by the superintendent we adopt the Resolution Authorizing Interfund Transfer from Transportation Fund to the Education Fund as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and Ciota

Financial Report

The auditor's report for the month of August was handed out. Nick Cavaliere was present to answer any questions. Nick also answered Doug's question concerning Orland Park 230. Data on the county site did not back up the claim in district 230's newsletter.

Minutes

The superintendent recommends the approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting for August 17, 2015.

Motion 15-137 by Ristić, seconded by Ciota as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on August 17, 2015.

Roll Call Vote: Kent, Ristić, McSweeney and Ciota

Abstain: Weeg and Estrada

Consent Agenda

The superintendent recommends the approval of the consent agenda.

Motion 15-138 by Ciota, seconded by Weeg 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 \$312,895.96 (8A-1-2-3), the reimbursement of the Imprest Fund in the amount of \$692.72 (8B) and approval of the Activity Fund balance of \$44,318.67 (8C) for the month of September 2015.

Consent #2

The superintendent recommends the approval of the financial report of the auditor for the month of August 2015. Fund balances: Educational: \$3,378,790; Operations & Maintenance: \$759,492; Debt Service: \$778,031; Transportation: \$1,334,992; IMRF: \$220,065; Capital Projects: \$195,946; Working Cash: \$444,719; Tort: \$501,161; and Fire Prevention & Life Safety \$469.

Consent #3

Each year, the Board is required to complete and return the application for the Recognition of Schools. This form states that we are in compliance with all state regulations and evaluation regulations.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the Recognition of Schools application as presented.

Consent #4

Each year the Board must review the Salary Compensation Report prior to its submission to the State. It lists the total cost per certified employee to the District. The superintendent found an error on it, and showed it to the Board.

The superintendent recommends accepting the review of the Salary Compensation Report for FY15.

Consent #5

The superintendent recommends that as accurate minutes exist that the closed session audio recordings from February 25, 2014 Student Discipline Hearing and the February 25, 2014 Closed Session be destroyed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and Ciota

Notices and Communications

The superintendent presented the following news articles:

A-a. 1 journal articles related to National and Illinois Education Issues at this time.

1. The results from the PARCC test are beginning to trickle in. All we have so far is a portion of the statewide results, and the Chicago Tribune wrote an article about them. The scores are not pretty. Dr. Kevin O'Mara, Argo's superintendent, is quoted in the article. The superintendent also included the results as provided by ISBE.

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

1. Our legal listings in the DesPlaines Valley News for the Budget Hearing and for the Interfund Transfer hearing.

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

Item 9B Legislative/SCOPE report: 2 Items.

1. There are 2 Alliance Legislative Reports in the packet. The budget is still a stalemate. The only action appears to be the Governor signing/vetoing bills that have been sent to him.

Item 9C State Board of Education Correspondence: 0 Items.

Item 9D Illinois Association of School Boards Correspondence: 0 Items.

Item 9E AERO Correspondence items: 0 Item.

Item 9F EBC Health Insurance Co-op Correspondence items: 0 Items.

Item 9G Village of Willow Springs Correspondence: 0 items.

Item 9H County Clerk Correspondence: 0 items.

Item 9I Intermediate Service Center Correspondence: 0 items.

Item 9J Township Treasurer Correspondence: 0 items.

Item 9K

Superintendent Correspondence Received: 1 items.

1. A letter from Argo inviting us to Homecoming and various dedication ceremonies on 9/26.

Superintendent Correspondence Sent: 4 items.

1. A copy of a letter sent to Jim Gunnell at AERO indicating the Board's ratification of the revised Articles of Agreement.
2. Copy of the letter sent to Mary Federlick with the Board's granting her request to rescind her retirement for June 2016.
3. Copy of the letter sent to Mike Patzelt with the Board's approval of his yearlong leave.
4. A copy of the letter sent to new staff members with the Board's approval of their contracts. 1 sample copy was included in the Board packet.

Item 9 K-A Freedom of Information Act Requests and Notices 1 items

1. Joseph Hart of the Illinois Education Association (a union) requested information regarding all non-certified employees. The request was complied with 8/28/2015.

Item 10 Special Education

Cindy McSweeney told the Board about the Forecast 5 Analytics software program. This program uses student information & program costs for special education which will produce financial forecasting used for strategic planning. District 123 & Argo both currently use it. They love it. Good for contract negotiation. Cost to us is \$2,550 per year with a 2 year agreement and 3 users.

A thank you note was received from Pryme Tymers. Twice a month they clean up & take down table for their meetings. It is nice to mix high school students & seniors.

There weren't any cost changes in the FY16 AERO billing procedures.

She updated the Board on the Transition Program:

- Student from EP District 124 was employed at 115 Bourbon Street.
- Student from Argo has made a successful transition to a facility for adult women with disabilities. If one district says no then it will need to go to a hearing.

Cindy also updated the Board on District 123's withdrawal:

- A draft settlement agreement was sent to District 123 on 8/27/15.
- AERO Coop will lose about \$193,000 in tuition. Impact to Willow Springs School will be \$3,788.
- Brian from D123 explained that their philosophy has been to serve their students in their district. So far, everything is amicable. They do have about 12 students that they would like to remain at AERO and will pay non-member tuition. The parents of these students can insist they remain at AERO.
- Jim Gunnell has offered to come and speak once D123 & AERO committee agree on settlement.

Audience Participation

No audience participation.

Principal's Report

Principal Smuda reported:

The Willow Weekly has gone electronic! There are about 110 email addresses and in addition to that the principal is putting the calendar portion on Facebook.

Our Facebook page continues to grow! We are up to 63 likes. The principal tries to post at least 5 times per week to dispel information to the parents.

Curriculum Night participation ranged from 100% in one classroom to 33% in several special ed classrooms. The school average was 51.2% overall.

AERO personnel came in to test the kindergarteners that did not participate in pre-school screening. The principal asked the teachers to pick out the students that might be at-risk academically. All students passed!

On September 15th, AERO returned to do pre-school screenings for the 3 and 4 year olds. Nine students were scheduled to participate.

Map testing for the fall session was completed on September 11th. The RTI team used the data to create the grade level rosters. Individual teachers use the data to differentiate within their classrooms.

The social worker, Lauren O'Keeffe has created a Buddy Club. It is targeting 2nd & 3rd grade students that need some mentoring or a positive role model in their life. The club began on September 15th.

There is now an After School Supervision position that is headed by Rachel Kirby. It provides supervision for the 6-8th graders that stay after school for sports, but don't participate on the team. The main objective is to keep the students safe and productive before the visiting team arrives.

Outdoor Ed started September 16th. Students are staying overnight at the Little Red Schoolhouse on the 17th.

The 2nd grade classes had Grandparents Day on Monday the 14th. It was well attended and there were smiles all around.

Class Size Information

The enrollment report was included in the packet. We are at 385 students which is up a little from August.

Item 13A Building Issues

1. Floor and Ceiling replacement

The punchlist items are expected to be completed on the half day, Monday, September 21st. At that point, the superintendent is expecting that the project will be completed.

2. Parking lot sewer replacement

The asphalt was laid on Thursday, September 17th. We gained full possession of the parking lot on Friday, September 18th. They left some supplies on the far east side of the lot, and have a few punchlist items to correct. Other than that, the "3 day" project will be complete, and really, with minimum interruption to our students.

3. Sewer Replacement, East Ravine

Sewer replacement is also happening on East Ravine Avenue. This hasn't affected our property, however, it has challenged parents doing drop-off and pick-up along Vinewood as the traffic patterns (various one ways) have changed frequently. The project manager has communicated with Lori regularly, and Lori has been able to share with parents.

Item 13B Soozy Q's Helping Hand Fund

Once again, Sue Cook's parents, Bob and Barb Swanson, presented us with 2 checks: one for \$500 for library books and one for \$2,000 to continue the Soozy Q's Helping Hand Fund. As Sue always purchased additional school materials out of her own pocket, and they suspected that most teachers do, they wanted to help offset what teachers spend. This is their second annual gift. The superintendent included the letter from the Swanson's, our thank you, and the form the teachers use for reimbursement.

Item 13C Library eBooks

When Lois Popish embraces something...don't get in the way. Last year, we started purchasing eBooks for the library. Lois worked all year in learning what to do, and how to do it, etc. We purchased our first 300 or so titles in the spring and rolled them out to students in May so that they would have access to a library over the summer. Over 200 checkouts occurred over the summer of eBooks.

Lois sent letters to various organizations and businesses with the intent of raising money to purchase even more eBooks as well as Kindle Fires to raffle off to students. We've received great interest in this program.

Mike Smigielski of the Willow Springs Lions Club was particularly taken with the program. The Willow Springs Lions have donated \$500 to the cause. Mike's also taken it up with the regional Lions organization, and the regional director is interested in helping us as well. The superintendent and Lois will be presenting to this group on September 30th. The national push for Lions this year is literacy, and this fits right in. We are the only municipality in the region without a public library, making it an attractive venture for the Lions. The superintendent included in the packet information he sent to the Lions regarding our program and request.

Item 13D

For the past several years, we've had a Family Reading Night in November. It's been a terrific evening. This year, with all the changes in our math program, we thought it would be a good service to the families to have Family Math Night instead. This evening will focus on activities that we're doing in class with the students as well as share ways that parents can help their kids with math homework at home. Of course, we're looking to make it fun as well - though the primary focus will be on providing something that will help families at home. It will be on Thursday, October 8th from 6 – 7:30. We're pretty excited about it.

Item 16 Calendar Information

Item 17 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 18 Final Actions

Item 18A Closed Session Minutes

Twice a year, the Board is to review the closed session minutes and determine if they need to remain closed or not. The list of Closed Session Minutes is in the packet and they need to remain confidential.

The superintendent recommends that reason exists to keep the Closed Session Minutes, listed in 18A, confidential and as such should remain closed.

Motion 15-139 by Kent, seconded by Estrada as recommended by the superintendent we keep the Closed Session Minutes, listed in 18A, confidential and as such should remain closed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and Ciota

Item 18B Resignation

Molly Harnedy's resignation letter is in the packet.

The superintendent recommends the acceptance of Molly Harnedy's resignation effective September 1, 2015.

Motion 15-140 by Weeg, seconded by Ristić as recommended by the superintendent we accept Molly Harnedy's resignation effective September 1, 2015.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and Ciota

Item 18C Hiring

Lori Smuda & the superintendent are pleased to present Alicia Lehmann to you for the kindergarten position. They both think she'll be terrific. A brief information sheet was in the packet.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the teaching contract for Alicia Lehmann (step 1, Lane A, prorated to 164 days, \$34,149.72).

Motion 15-141 by Kent, seconded by Estrada as recommended by the superintendent we approve the teaching contract for Alicia Lehmann (step 1, Lane A, prorated to 164 days, \$34,149.72).

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and Ciota

Item 18D Board Member Resignation

Ellen Malecki is moving out of the District at the end of the month. As such, she can no longer serve on the Board as Board members must live within District boundaries. Her resignation from the Board is in the packet.

From here, I will advertise that there is a vacancy on the Board and publish the process: submit a letter of interest to the Board and to anticipate an interview. The Board has 45 days in which to seat a new member. I would anticipate that the new member will be seated at the October meeting.

Motion 15-142 by McSweeney, seconded by Kent as recommended by the superintendent we accept the resignation of Ellen Malecki from the Board of Education.


Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Kent, Ristić, Weeg, Estrada, McSweeney, and Ciota

Item 19 Adjournment

Motion 15-143: Adjournment

Motion made by Kent, Seconded by Weeg.

Hearing no objections so moved.



President



Secretary