

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education
Willow Springs Consolidated School District No. 108
Tuesday, November 27, 2018
Willow Springs School Library**

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Weeg, Ciota, McSweeney, Ristić, L. McSweeney, and Hawkins

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President, Mary Ellen Weeg.

Acceptance of the Superintendent's Agenda

The superintendent recommends the approval of the Superintendent's Agenda.

Motion 19-040 by L. McSweeney, seconded by Hawkins as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the superintendent's Agenda.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, McSweeney, Ristić, L. McSweeney, and Hawkins

Audience

Lori Smuda, Principal; Teachers: Sarah Haussy, Amanda Lascola, Kim Cahill

Carl Thomas from Baker Tilly Virchow Krause; Community Members: Dave & Kathleen Patterson (206 E Ravine Ave), Micki Bohac (131 Poston Road), Ray Chwasz (500 S Nolton) & David Kent (102 Forest Ave)

Mr. Dave Patterson addressed the Board providing an update on his taxpayer initiative. He spoke of the good quality of the school but believes that the taxes are unsustainable. He stated that his group is looking at consolidation with a neighboring district as a possible solution but that any solution might look different.

Mr. Dave Kent also addressed the Board. He is pleased with the services the District provides for students, stating that everyone is "Doing the best we can."

Financial Report

The auditor's report for the month of October was emailed separate from the packet. Carl Thomas was present and answered all questions.

Item 6B 2018 Levy Adoption Preparation

The superintendent included the letter from Nick outlining the strategy behind tax levies, and ours in particular. It is a pretty clear analysis of the current taxing situation and the rationale behind the levy. Note that our EAV has begun to increase slightly. We are able to levy directly into the funds where the monies are most needed without having to perform a transform.

Carl and the superintendent are recommending an increase in the levy for 2018 of 4.9%. The 4.9% is only on new properties. Existing properties would get an increase of CPI, which is 2.1% for 2018. This will generate an estimated \$80,804 in new money to the District.

As we will be levying less than a 5% increase, we are not required to hold a special meeting to adopt the levy. It will be part of the regular meeting.

The superintendent recommends that the 2018 levy be prepared with a 4.9% increase and that the levy be utilized to gain maximum funding. The levy will be adopted at the December 2018 meeting.

**Motion 19-041 by Hawkins, seconded by McSweeney as recommended by the superintendent for the approval to prepare the 2018 levy with a 4.9% increase so the levy will be utilized to gain maximum funding. The levy will be adopted at the December 2018 meeting.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, McSweeney, Ristić, L. McSweeney, and Hawkins
Nays: Ciota**

Item 6C ISBE Property Tax Relief Grant

When the state legislature passed the new Evidence Based Funding Formula, it also established a Property Tax Relief Grant. This was heavily promoted by school districts and legislators in South Cook. Across the State, South Cook has the highest property tax rates.

The General Assembly has funded the first round of Property Tax Relief Grants for this year at \$50 million. It has also opened the window to apply for the grant.

Last week, Senator Bill Cunningham and Rep. Kelly Burke, both friends to education, hosted a meeting for school districts in their districts to explain the grant. The superintendent attended. Information was shared at the meeting.

ISBE has ranked all nearly 900 school districts in the state by tax rate (using a complex formula). We are ranked 46th. Of the top 100 statewide rankings, 40 were South Cook districts. ISBE estimates that it will be able to provide relief for numbers 1-30 this year. We should still apply for the grant and next month will vote on the application just after the vote on the levy.

The way the grant works is that after the grant is approved, the District abates the taxes at a set amount through the County. That amount is then added in perpetuity to the Evidence Based Funding Formula. It appears to be a win/win for both the school district and for the taxpayer.

Item 6D FY2018 Audit Report Update

The TTO has released its audit allowing for us to complete ours in a more timely manner. The fieldwork has been completed. However, the State is requiring some new reporting based upon financial data it has released. There is a problem with the financial data the State has released which is holding up audit reports across the State. As soon as the State releases corrected numbers, the audit report will be finalized and presented to the Board.

Minutes

A copy of the October 23, 2018 regular meeting minutes were included in the packets.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting for October 23, 2018.

Motion 19-042 by Weeg, seconded by Hawkins as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on October 23, 2018.

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, McSweeney, Ristić, L. McSweeney, and Hawkins
Abstain:**

Consent Agenda

The superintendent recommends the approval of the consent agenda.

Motion 19-043 by McSweeney, 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 \$350,974.33 (8A-1-2), the reimbursement of the Imprest Fund in the amount of \$1,238.59 (8B) and approval of the Activity Fund balance of \$53,768.48 (8C) for the month of November 2018.

Consent #2

The superintendent recommends the approval of the financial report of the auditor for the month of November 2018. Fund balances: Educational: \$3,521,987; Operations & Maintenance: \$592,051; Debt Service: \$828,547; Transportation: \$668,165; IMRF: \$295,035; Capital Projects: 0; Working Cash: \$533,586; Tort: \$665,290; and Fire Prevention & Life Safety \$489

Consent #3

The superintendent recommends that as accurate minutes exist that the Closed Session audio recordings from April 25, 2017 and May 22, 2017 meetings be destroyed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, McSweeney, Ristić, L. McSweeney, and Hawkins

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. Included is a very lengthy article about Dolton, Illinois. The superintendent thought it rather reflects the realities of South Cook County. This is the first part of a multi-part series. The rest of the series is available at www.wbez.org

A-b. 0 Newspaper and related articles related to Willow Springs School District 108.

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

Item 9B Legislative/SCOPE report: 1 Item.

Included is an Alliance Legislative Report from November 9, 2018. It reports on 2 actions pending during the Veto Session. One bill is to override the Governor's veto regarding beginning teacher salaries. The other is to override the Governor's veto and mandate PE or 150 minutes per week, despite whether or not it is a 5 day school week. The Alliance urges members to contact their senators to vote No.

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

The ISBE had issue with the number of alternative assessments that District students were administered. We administered alternative assessments to 3 students in 2016 and 6 in 2017. All of these students are in AERO programs. The superintendent included the request for information as well as the District's response.

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

Item 9E AERO Correspondence items: 0 Items.

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

Item 9G Village of Willow Springs Correspondence: 1 item.

The annual invoice to the Village for tuition for students living in the TIF District. The total this year is \$185,098. Also, the tuition per student figure was not available for the October 31st deadline, so also included is the District's request for additional time to obtain the accurate figure. Brent Woods, Village Administrator responded by phone on October 24, 2018 that the extension was granted.

Item 9H County Clerk Correspondence: 0 items.

Item 9I Intermediate Service Center Correspondence: 2 items.

It's a big compliance year for the District. Besides the annual Health/Life Safety Inspection, we also had our professional development audited and our 4 year regulatory compliance visit. The 4 year visit looks at a broad spectrum of issues from record keeping, to curriculum, to registration forms, to personnel records and teacher licenses. In all, we uploaded over 300 documents for review. We've been asked to provide more information on 7 documents – all minor documents at that. That report won't be completed by Dr. Kinder until early January.

1. We had our annual Health/Life Safety Inspection on November 7. The findings (inconsequential) and our reply (the Standard) were in the packet.
2. Also, included are the results of the Professional Development Audit. The District met the requirements.

Item 9J Township Treasurer Correspondence: 1 item.

An email from Ken Getty, Township School Treasurer, with the first quarter's interest allocation and explanation.

Item 9K

Superintendent Correspondence Received: 0 items.

Superintendent Correspondence Sent: 1 item.

A short note to parents and families announcing the District's Commendable rating by ISBE.

Item 9K-A Freedom of Information Act Requests and Notices 0 items.

Special Education

Cindy McSweeney report:

Queen of Peace:

1. Reavis High School Maintenance staff will provide snow plowing & walk thru of the building to make sure heat & water are ok.
2. PMA Securities – Financial advisors when & if we go out for bonds to finance building. They are providing scenarios not to exceed \$50 million, not all at once but will charge us the fee only if securities close.
3. TRIA fee \$35,000 for first phase.
 - a. Project Management surveys & demolition including design & drawings of demos.
 - b. Topographical Survey \$19,950.
 - c. Getting bids for asbestos abatement separate from demolition.
 - d. Hope demo to be done by next spring.
 - e. Try to keep the stain glass windows. See if any other districts would want the lockers, gym floor, kitchen, etc. Ask the community if they would want to buy the bricks.

4. Financing public strategy. Visit/contact WGN, State Board of Ed, & ISBE to put together a video to help solicit contributions.
5. Once they demo the building they will stabilize the ground & plant grass. Could be 2 years before building begins.
6. Meanwhile they are continuing with design, possibly in phases, make sure if we build something, say PRIDE, it will connect with new building without having to redo it.

Student from district 229 will be transitioning out in January to a UCP Program, Adult Residential Services and will work at St. Xavier

Principal's Report

Parent conferences and report card pick up were held on November 7th and 8th. Three classrooms had 100% attendance! The principal averaged the parent participation percentages and it came out to a score of 86%.

The parent survey for next year's report card was promoted at conferences. An aide was staffed at the table to encourage parents to take the survey. Carina added a raffle to the task, and it really helped boost participation! Over 45 people have taken the survey!! By the way, if a parent has 3 children at the school, they can take the survey 3 separate times.

Seventh graders toured ARGO High School for the Step-up Day. The students toured the school, visited classrooms, and met different student leaders. Additionally, they were able to run around the new football field and received a T-shirt.

The principal held honor roll assemblies for grades 4th – 8th. The fourth and fifth graders had a celebratory raffle. At the junior high level, the principal created a trivia game with the categories of Academics, Pop Culture, Sports, and Willow trivia. Students who survived 10 rounds of questions received a prize. The students had a lot of fun!

Troop 69 scouts announced the Pledge of Allegiance for Veterans Day. All members dressed in uniform and saluted proudly! A few boys prepared verbal explanations of the Pledge and Veterans holiday. It was a proud moment for the front office. They were also in the Des Plaines Valley News Paper.

Sixth graders finished woodworking projects in the Technology Lab. They made wooden Christmas Trees.

Class Size Information

Enrollment continues to fluctuate slightly. The report was at each Board members seat at the meeting.

Item 12A Policy Updates, First Reading

The policy revisions summary is included in the packet. There are many policy updates, some of them heftier than others. The heftier ones are: 4:45 (debt collection on meals), 4:170 (medical cannabis), 5:220 (substitute teachers), 6:60 (comprehensive sex ed.), 7:190 (medical cannabis), and 7:270 (medical cannabis). Before the second reading and adoption in December or January, I will be researching the implications of our practices for some of the heftier ones.

Item 12B IASB Conference Reports

This will be an opportunity for members to share a highlight from the IASB conference the weekend prior to Thanksgiving. Cindy & Lauren McSweeney went to the conference and shared information with the rest of the Board

Item 12C Holiday Program 2018

Based upon feedback from recent holiday programs, this year’s cycle of holiday programming will be changed. Last year, we held the Band and Glee concert as a separate event. That was very well received and will be held separately again this year on Thursday, December 13th. The Choral Program this year will feature kindergarten – 2nd grades on December 20th. The 3rd – 5th graders will perform at a concert in February or March for Music in Our Schools month.

Item 14 Closed Session

The superintendent created a closed session packet with the personnel information.

Motion 19-044 by Ristić, seconded by Hawkins to go into Closed Session at 7:48 p.m. with the purpose of discussing personnel items.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, McSweeney, Ristić, L. McSweeney, and Hawkins

Board returned to open session at 8:00 p.m.

Members present Weeg, Ciota, McSweeney, Ristić, L. McSweeney, and Hawkins

Item 15 Final Actions

The superintendent recommends the approval of the closed session minutes from the October 23, 2018 meeting and to open them to the public.

Motion 19-045 by Hawkins, seconded by Weeg as recommended by the superintendent to approve the closed session minutes from the October 23, 2018 meeting and to open them to the public.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, McSweeney, Ristić, L. McSweeney, and Hawkins

Discussion was held regarding Community Relations:

- How wonderful our Willow Springs School newsletter is and how we need to put out positive information about our school to the community.
- Student artwork in the Village Display
- Consolidation of SD108 into other districts.
- Possible new homes at old Willowbrook site.

Item 16 Adjournment

Motion 19-046: Adjournment at 8:29 pm

Motion made by Weeg, Seconded by Ciota

Hearing no objections so moved.


President


Secretary