

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education
Willow Springs Consolidated School District No. 108
Tuesday, December 18, 2018
Willow Springs School Library**

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m.

Roll Call

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

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 19-047 by, Hawkins seconded by L. McSweeney as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the superintendent's Agenda.

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

Audience

Lori Smuda, Principal; Teachers: Sarah Haussy, Nicole Jaronczyk, Kim Cahill, Sharon Ayres, Nikki Theodoropoulos, Ann Musto, Sharon Conrad, Lois Popish, Amanda & Rachel Kirby, Monica & Dan Dickman, Kate O'Brien, Jason Noble, Michelle VonBank, Margaret Schaumburg, Michaele Strauch, Laura Baricovich, Jadda Castaneda, Jill Craig, & Stephanie VanWagner
Carl Thomas from Baker Tilly Virchow Krause; Community Members: David Kent (102 Forest Ave), Dave Patterson (206 E Ravine Ave), Jim Michsled (102 Spring), Karen & Anthony Oleszkiewicz (319 Forest), Allison Thiele (Willow Springs), Ray Chwasz (500 S Nolton), Alan & Nina Nowaczyk (208 Glenwood), Christine & Glenn Pacek (708 Cedar), Mario Matthew & Amanda Geissmann (1620 W. 13th Ave, Gary, IN), Michal Kott (512 Maple Ave), David Grzeswikowski (207 Oakwood Ave), Julie Anderson (317 Pine) & Joe Juchus (1380 Vinewood Ave)

Mr. David Kent encouraged the Board to vote yes on the 4.9% tax levy as proposed.

Mr. Dave Patterson states that current property taxes are unsustainable. He spoke further to his efforts of getting advisory referenda questions on the April ballot concerning consolidation. He further stated that he wished Willow Springs School to remain open.

Mr. Anthony Oleszkiewicz spoke of the performance of the school, the local property taxes and feels homeowners are feeling forced out of their homes by the high taxes.

Mr. Alan Nowaczyk spoke of the need to be mindful of property tax increases and its impact on local homeowners. He encouraged restraint with the levy.

Mrs. Nina Nowaczyk begged the Board to not pass the tax increase in the levy. She encouraged the Board to look for other sources of revenue.

Mr. Mario Matthews addressed the Board with a concern that relates to a family custody issue.

Financial Report

The auditor's report for the month of November was in the Board packet. Carl Thomas was present and answered all questions.

Item 6B 2018 Levy Adoption

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 need to continue to be strategic in how the taxes are levied in order to capture new properties.

Carl, Nick and the superintendent are recommending an increase in the levy for 2018 of 4.9%. This levy puts the tax money in the correct bin right out of the box. So, the Ed. Fund has a true increase in it, but the Transportation and Tort Funds have significant decreases, over \$500,000.

Remember the 4.9% is only on new properties. This is important as potential new properties come online with the Willowbrook Ballroom property. 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 the adoption of the resolution and ordinance levying and assessing taxes of the Willow Springs School District 108 for 2018 with a 4.9% increase as presented.

Motion 19-048 by Weeg, seconded by McSweeney as recommended by the superintendent for the adoption of the resolution and ordinance levying and assessing taxes of the Willow Springs School District 108 for 2018 with a 4.9% increase as presented.

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

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 sought 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 month, 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.

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.

It is time to officially apply for the grant.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the application for the FY2019 Property Tax Relief Grant representing a potential rebate of \$446,558.

Minutes

A copy of the November 27, 2018 regular meeting minutes were included in the packets.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting for November 27, 2018.

Motion 19-050 by McSweeney, seconded by Ciota as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on November 27, 2018.

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

Abstain: Timmons

Consent Agenda

The superintendent recommends the approval of the consent agenda.

Motion 19-051 by L. McSweeney, seconded by McSweeney 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 \$238,100.27 (8A-1-2), the reimbursement of the Imprest Fund in the amount of \$264.00 (8B) and approval of the Activity Fund balance of \$48,909.32 (8C) for the month of December 2018.

Consent #2

The superintendent recommends the approval of the financial report of the auditor for the month of December 2018. Fund balances: Educational: \$3,133,175; Operations & Maintenance: \$561,588; Debt Service: \$828,888; Transportation: \$624,673; IMRF: \$284,001; Capital Projects: 0; Working Cash: \$533,627; Tort: \$661,982; and Fire Prevention & Life Safety \$489

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

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. 2 Newspaper and related articles related to Willow Springs School District 108.

1. From the DesPlaines Valley News 2 pictures from Veterans' Day with scouts leading the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The annual statement of affairs publication in the DesPlaines Valley News.

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 30, 2018. It reports on the actions from the Veto Session. Neither the minimum teacher salary nor the required 150 minutes of PE per week were considered. Other information is included in the report.

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 Items.

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

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

We received the annual report on the finances of the TIF. The superintendent will be reviewing them with our financial team.

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: 0 items.

Superintendent Correspondence Sent: 0 items.

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

Special Education

Cindy McSweeney had nothing to report.

As we talked about last month, ISBE is mandating a change in how IDEA (federal) money flows from the State to the districts. Currently, the money flows through the special education cooperatives. This allows for one grant to be administered per cooperative rather than individually by each district. It simplifies many matters, including how cooperatives are funded. Per AERO's Articles of Agreement, AERO keeps 25% of IDEA money and bills for the rest. It's the 25% that pays for some professional development, preschool screening, high level consulting services, etc.

ISBE wants to flow money directly to the districts. This will create much additional paperwork for each district without improving services for students. It will also cost for districts to comply with this demand to do that paperwork. For some districts, this will also force a more costly annual audit as districts receiving \$500,000 or more total in federal funds must audit those funds separately each year.

The superintendent joined Dr. Jim Gunnell as well as Reavis superintendent Dan Riordan and Sahs superintendent Christine Leahy and testified against ISBE's plan in November.

The AERO Executive Board has passed a resolution calling for a halt to this plan. The Governing Board will be presented with the resolution in January at its next meeting. The Executive Board has also asked each individual district to pass the resolution and forward it to ISBE.

The superintendent recommends the adoption of the Resolution regarding ISBE Procedural Change in the Allocation of IDEA Flow-Through and Pre-School Funds.

Motion 19-052 by Hawkins, seconded by McSweeney as recommended by the superintendent for the adoption of the Resolution regarding ISBE Procedural Change in the Allocation of IDEA Flow-Through and Pre-School Funds.

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

Principal's Report

The Principal, Mrs. Lori Smuda reported:

For the school report card, five percent of the rating will be based on the 5 Essentials Survey. Teachers, parents, and students are required to take the online survey. Typically, only 6th-8th graders participate, but starting this year, all 4th and 5th graders will be included. Students will be administered the survey in social studies class; the online survey should only last 15-20 minutes. Parent results from the 5 Essentials is in! We have had 76 parents complete the survey which surpasses the 20% participation rate! The principal was nervous that we would be negatively marked down if the participation rate was too low. Good job, families!

The Glee Club sang holiday music at the Village's Tree Lighting Ceremony! Our school was well represented! Sarah prepared the students well!

In collaboration with the ELA teachers, I have created a mystery box for grades 6th, 7th, and 8th. The grade attaining the highest completed AR reading percentage for the second quarter will get to unwrap the box and view its contents. What's inside? Only the principal knows!!!!

The 2nd rotations of LTR and M2M have finished. For 2019, LTR will move to five week sessions so the students can participate in an extra instructional grouping this academic year.

Class Size Information

Enrollment continues to fluctuate slightly.

Item 12A 2019-2020 Board Meeting Calendar

A draft calendar is in the packet. This year, the Board added a July meeting. Continue with that? April 30, 2019 is highlighted because the Board needs to canvas and seat the new Board within 30 days of the election. The superintendent does not think official results will be ready by 4/23, the 4th Tuesday. The June 30, 2020 meeting is highlighted because it is the 5th Tuesday of June that year, but works best with the end of the fiscal year. August 17, 2020 is highlighted because it is tentative with the start of the school year.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the 2019-2020 Board Meeting Calendar as presented.

Motion 19-053 by McSweeney, seconded by Ciota as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the 2019-2020 Board Meeting Calendar as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, McSweeney, L. McSweeney, Hawkins and Timmons

Item 12B Mobile Home Property Taxes

The superintendent was at a meeting and taxation of mobile homes came up as a side conversation. At any rate, the superintendent learned that mobile homes outside of mobile home parks are taxed at a higher rate than if they are within a mobile home park. The superintendent included a 2011 article about when that law changed. He's going to do more investigating and put something together that we can take to SCOPE and see if there's energy to take on the mobile home park organization.

Item 12C Fundraising Opportunity

The owner of the Fox and Hound stopped by to see the superintendent & principal on 12/11. He proposed the school be a recipient of a Queen of Hearts game held at the Fox and Hound. In checking into it, we are not eligible because we don't have a foundation to accept the funds. Perhaps it's time to revisit establishing a foundation. We'd need to weigh the benefits against the cost of establishment.

Item 12D Trauma Informed Schools

The staff is beginning to embark on a study of working with students that have suffered trauma. There were 3 articles in the current issue of the IASB The Journal. The superintendent included a brief article in the packet about ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences). The superintendent also shared a videoclip at the meeting.

Item 14 Closed Session

The Board needed to go into closed session to discuss personnel, discipline issues and school security measures.

Motion 19-054 by Weeg, seconded by McSweeney to go into Closed Session at 7:27 p.m. with the purpose of discussing personnel items.

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

Board returned to open session at 7:52 p.m.

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

Item 15 Final Actions

The superintendent recommends the approval of the closed session minutes from the November 27, 2018 meeting.

Motion 19-055 by McSweeney, seconded by Hawkins as recommended by the superintendent to approve the closed session minutes from the November 27, 2018 meeting and to open them to the public.

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

Abstained: Timmons

The superintendent recommends accepting Shannon McEntee’s resignation.

Motion 19-056 by Hawkins, seconded by Timmons as recommended by the superintendent to accept Shannon McEntee’s resignation.

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

The superintendent recommends accepting Kate O’Briens’s retirement.

Motion 19-057 by Hawkins, seconded by Timmons as recommended by the superintendent to accept Kate O’Brien’s retirement.

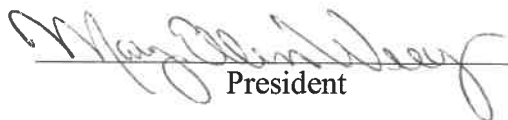
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, McSweeney, L. McSweeney, Hawkins, and Timmons

Item 16 Adjournment

Motion 19-058: Adjournment at 8:36 pm

Motion made by Weeg, Seconded by McSweeney

Hearing no objections so moved.


President


Secretary