

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education
Willow Springs Consolidated School District No. 108
Tuesday, October 22, 2019
Willow Springs School Library**

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Members present: Weeg, Ciota, Ristić , McSweeney, Hawkins, and Bohac(6:55)

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 20-033 by Weeg, seconded by Ciota as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the superintendent's Agenda.

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

Public Comment

Lori Smuda, Principal; Teacher: Sharon Conrad

Community Members: Janice Miller(1005 S Brainard, LaGrange.

Janice Miller, representing the LaGrange League of Women Voters read a prepared statement imploring the Board to vote No on two resolutions at the upcoming IASB Convention in November. She asked that the Board's delegate vote No on arming school staff members and to vote No on having armed School Resource Officers. The League of Women Voters believes there should not be guns in schools under any circumstances.

Minutes

Tabled for the November 19, 2019 meeting.

Financial Report

The auditor's report for the month of September was in the packet. Nick Cavaliere was not available for this meeting so the superintendent answered all questions.

Consent Agenda

The superintendent recommends the approval of the consent agenda.

Motion 20-034 by Weeg, 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 \$247,594.46 (8A-1-2), the reimbursement of the Imprest Fund in the amount of \$656.05 (8B) and approval of the Activity Fund balance of \$52,023.71 (8C) for the month of October 2019.

Consent #2

The superintendent recommends the approval of the financial report for the month of September 2019. Fund balances: Educational: \$4,225,699; Operations & Maintenance: \$479,417; Debt Service: \$871,283; Transportation: \$520,235; IMRF: \$287,173; Capital Projects: 600,000; Working Cash: \$532,870; Tort: \$76,730; and Fire Prevention & Life Safety \$4

Consent #3

The superintendent recommends that as accurate written minutes exist that the audio recordings from Closed Session meeting on March 27, 2018 be destroyed.

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

Notices and Communications

The superintendent presented the following news articles:

A-a. 0 journal articles related to National and Illinois Education issues.

A-b. 2 newspaper and related articles related to Willow Springs School District 108.

1. From the Des Plaines Valley News, a story of the TIF2 development construction work beginning.
2. From the Daily Southtown, an article about the demolition of the former Queen of Peace building and AERO's overarching plans.

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

Item 9B Legislative/SCOPE report: 3 Items.

As the legislature has been out of session, there is nothing legislatively from Springfield to report. However, SCOPE has been working on our behalf on a number of issues that have come up: Property Tax Freeze, Pension Cost Shift, and Consolidation. The superintendent included information packets about each of these in the packet. The information is quite helpful.

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: 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: 0 items.

Superintendent Correspondence Sent: 0 items.

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

Special Education

The AERO Governing Board does not have an October meeting. However, the 108 Board has been asked to approve a Resolution Supporting the building project on the former Queen of Peace property. The purpose of the resolution is to show member districts' commitment to the project and its funding as we ask for money from Springfield to reduce the local cost burden.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the Resolution of the Board of Education of Willow Springs School District 108, Cook County, Illinois Supporting the AERO Special Education Cooperative Project at 7659 Linder Avenue, Burbank, IL 60459 (Queen of Peace).

Motion 20-035 by Hawkins, seconded by McSweeney as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the Resolution of the Board of Education of Willow Springs School District 108, Cook County, Illinois Supporting the AERO Special Education Cooperative Project at 7659 Linder Avenue, Burbank, IL 60459 (Queen of Peace).

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

Principal's Report

Principal Smuda reported:

The 8th graders took the PSAT8 Test on Tuesday the 22nd. Students took 4 tests: reading, English, math without calculator, and math with a calculator. The scores will determine the student's placement for English, Math, and Science in honors, remedial, or on students to disperse information and answer questions.

The Mobile Dentist was at Willow and serviced approximately 27 students. What a great service!

On School Improvement Days, some junior high students are "invited" to spend the half day working on missing assignments. In response to the Motivation Committee last year, the Student Institute was created. Students in grades 6th – 8th with 3 or more missing assignments remain at school to catch up on work. The paraprofessionals monitor and assist them, as necessary. As soon as the student has their work completed, they can get a ride home. The program has been successful in two ways: kids get their work done, and some students are motivated NOT to attend (so they complete their work).

Meghan Litko and the principal started the evaluation process for teachers. The cycle will end in February.

After school clubs are at a high volume! The principal estimates more than 100 students stay after school on Tuesdays-Thursdays! Examples are Art Club, Go Zearn Noodle, Buddy Club, Homework Clubs, Tech Club, Tutoring Club, Intramurals and competitive sports. Busy kids are successful kids!

11A Class Size Information

The enrollment report was included in the packet.

Item 12A Levy Discussion

Last month, the Board began a discussion of the District's levy philosophy. As the levy will need to be adopted in December, guidance on how to prepare the levy will be needed.

From last month's packet:

Last month, Mary Ellen requested that the Board consider what it does with the levy, and just not approve the CPI increase because it's what we've always done. Mary Ellen is pleased with the additional \$100k from the State with the Evidence Based Funding and wonders if we could live on that increase. And, then be able to leave the levy to last year's amount.

There are Pros to that:

- South Cook County pays really high taxes – and in comparison to the rest of the State. Being able to hold it down will help all taxpayers in the District.
- We have the money in Fund Balance to cover it this year.
- The projected increase is estimated to be \$74,653. Not a game changer.
- When TIF1 comes on, we are projected to not spend from the Fund Reserve.

And there are Cons:

- We are already spending from the Fund Balance for yearly expenses. The District is getting closer to the minimal recommended amounts of fund balance.
- The teacher salary increase alone is \$59K and the increase in benefit costs raises the increase to \$93.5K.
- Levy is cumulative year over year, so skipping a year is not made up.
- The projected increase is estimated to be \$74,653 – not a game changer.

The Board directed that the levy be prepared with a 0% increase over TY 2018.

Item 12B November Board Meeting

The November School Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 26. There is no school Wednesday – Friday for Thanksgiving Break. In recent years, the Board has elected to meet on what would be Monday, November 25 instead.

The superintendent recommends the date of the November 2019 School Board meeting be moved to 6:30pm on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 as per the Board's suggestion.

Motion 20-036 by Weeg, seconded by Hawkins as recommended by the superintendent that change the November School Board meeting to Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 6:30pm as suggested by the Board.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, McSweeney, Hawkins and Bohac

Item 12C Job Description Update

Somehow we did not have a job description for our lunch servers. That has been remedied but needs to be approved by the Board to be official.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the Lunch Server Job Description.

Motion 20-037 by Ciota, seconded by Hawkins as recommended by the superintendent that we approve the Lunch Server Job Description.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, McSweeney, Hawkins and Bohac

Item 12D Memorandum of Agreement Regarding the Corrected Paraprofessional Salary Schedule

The superintendent presented the salary schedules for the paraprofessionals in the union collective bargaining agreement which was riddled with obvious errors last month. The Union has ratified the MOA.

The superintendent recommends the ratification of the Memorandum of Agreement Regarding the Corrected Paraprofessional Salary Schedule.

Motion 20-038 by McSweeney, seconded by Hawkins as recommended by the superintendent that we ratify the Memorandum of Agreement Regarding the Corrected Paraprofessional Salary Schedule.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, McSweeney, Hawkins and Bohac

Item 12E Union Request to Reopen the Contract to Discuss Illinois Retirement Rule Changes

As expected when the Governor signed the legislation reinstating the 6% cap for retirement (increased from 3%), the Union is requesting, per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, the contract be reopened to discuss this single issue.

The superintendent recommends that the Board appoint a team, including the superintendent, to meet with the Union. As this is a personnel issue related to bargaining with the Union, strategy was discussed in Closed Session.

The superintendent recommends Lauren McSweeney and Micki Bohac to be appointed with the superintendent to represent the Board in bargaining with the teachers regarding retirement incentive.

Motion 20-039 by Weeg, seconded by Ciota as recommended by the superintendent that Lauren McSweeney and Micki Bohac to be appointed with the superintendent to represent the Board in bargaining with the teachers regarding retirement incentive.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, McSweeney, Hawkins and Bohac

Item 12F Staff Holiday Activities

In the past, the Board has graciously hosted a holiday party for staff members. A few years ago, we changed things up and had a cocktail party right after school instead of dinner and it was wildly successful. The cost should be similar to last year, right around \$1000 total for the District. Board members are very much invited to attend.

Motion 20-040 by McSweeney, seconded by Weeg to approve the staff Winter Holiday celebration up to \$17 per staff member for appetizers.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, McSweeney, Hawkins and Bohac

Item 12 Office Winter Break Hours

The following hours are proposed for the school office over the Winter Break:

M 12/23:	8-2
T 12/24:	Closed
W 12/25:	Closed
Th 12/26:	8-2
F 12/27:	8-2
M 12/30:	8-2
T 12/31:	Closed
W 1/1:	Closed
Th 1/2:	8-2
F 1/3:	8-2

After discussion, 12/26 and 1/2 were proposed to be closed as well.

The superintendent recommends the Winter Break office hours as presented.

Motion 20-041 by McSweeney, seconded by Weeg to approve the Winter Break office hours as amended: Open M 12/23, F 12/27, M12/30 & F 1/3 from 8am – 2pm.

Closed T 12/24, W 12/25, Th 12/26, T 12/31, W 1/1 & Th 1/2.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, McSweeney, Hawkins and Bohac

Item 13 Annual District Progress Report

The principal and the superintendent presented a comprehensive District Progress Report.

Calendar Information

Item 15 Closed Session

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

Motion 20-042 by Weeg, seconded by Hawkins to go into Closed Session at 8:12 p.m. with the purpose of discussing probable litigation, personnel, discipline issues and school security measures.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, McSweeney, Hawkins and Bohac

Motion 20-043 by Ciota, seconded by Hawkins Board returned to open session at 8:51 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, McSweeney, Hawkins and Bohac

Item 15 Final Actions

The superintendent recommends the approval of the Intergovernmental agreement between Willow Springs School District 108 and the Village of Willow Springs concerning the engagement of a School Resource Officer be approved.

Motion 20-044 by Ciota, seconded by Weeg to approve the Intergovernmental agreement between Willow Springs School District 108 and the Village of Willow Springs concerning the engagement of a School Resource Officer be approved.

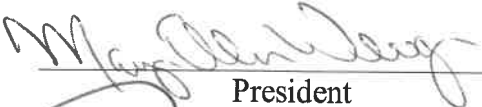
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Bohac and Patrick

Item 16 Adjournment

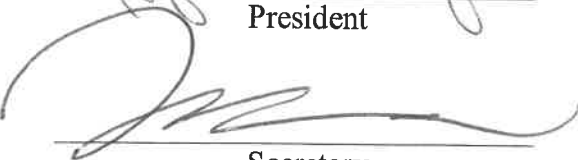
Motion 20-045: Adjournment at 8:53 pm

Motion made by McSweeney, Seconded by Weeg

Hearing no objections so moved.



President



Secretary