

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education
Willow Springs Consolidated School District No. 108
Tuesday, September 24, 2019
Willow Springs School Library**

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Members present: Weeg, Ciota, Bohac and Patrick

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Student Council Members.

Acceptance of the Superintendent's Agenda

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

Motion 20-021 by Weeg, seconded by Ciota as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the superintendent's Agenda.

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

Audience Participation

Lori Smuda, Principal; Teachers: Jill Craig and Megan Henderson; Student Council Members: Dalia Alramli, Gianna Ciota, Emily Murawski and Kendall Wendt; Nick Cavaliere from Baker Tilly Virchow Krause; Community Members: David Patterson(206 E Ravine Ave) and Bekri Bala(513 Maple).

Student Council returning Board members talked about some of their plans for this year. They plan to take their knowledge from previous years to make this team as successful as possible. Along with fundraisers they recently held a protest for Climate Change and they believe it had a major impact. Their goal was to inform others of what is happening on Earth and how it will influence their generation. If students didn't believe in the topic, they provided a room in which they stayed during the protest. Ms. Henderson made a great video that of the protest that they shared with the Board.

In Jr. High they do this thing called homeroom wars. It is a competition between the classes. It is a fun way for them to collaborate and work together with their classmates. They recently did one on Friday the 13th, the day full of superstitions. Student Council put clues on the doors of each Junior High classroom describing the teacher who had bad luck for the day. At the end of the day each homeroom discussed who they thought the teacher was and everyone wrote their answer down on a sheet of paper and turned it in which earned the homeroom points. Mr. Noble was the teacher with bad luck. By the end of the year, whichever homeroom has the most points wins a prize.

Student Council not only believes in helping the school but also believe in helping the community. They started talking about doing a fundraiser around Thanksgiving that would help the homeless have food. They are also planning many other fundraisers to help causes such as Autism Awareness or Cancer Awareness. They will work as a team to decide what fundraisers they can work to support.

They also do fundraisers to help benefit our school such as Friday snack sales every other week so that Junior High students can buy chips for .50 cents during lunch. They recently sold bracelets to K – 8th students to raise money to hold Jr. High dances. They are thinking of changing the end of the year Dinner Dance to somewhere other than the Royalty West so that kids that don't prefer dancing can have more fun and to make it more affordable. They also do activities with the younger kids. Last year they did an Easter egg hunt around the park area right before Spring Break. They also read with the first graders and crafts. They plan on doing those activities again this year and they can't wait to do many more.

Mr. Dave Patterson expressed thanks and appreciation for the Board's TIF2 decision. He was impressed that the Board stood its ground and then further impressed with the compromise that is for the good of the Village. He further stated that a transformation is occurring in the Village and that there would be a major redesign of Archer Avenue, a major hotel in the Village, an entertainment district between the I&M and Ship and Sanitary Canals, and a redesign of the businesses in the TIF1 area. He further expects the tax base to expand EAV by 25% in the next 3 years.

Mr. Bekri Bala expressed concern about the communications regarding the recent disturbing Instagram posting a former student posted. He wondered why nothing at all came from the school. The superintendent responded that a letter went home within 24 hours of the incident being reported. He further expressed that when a threat is made he wanted to be made aware prior to the school day so he could make a decision about attendance. Mrs. Weeg explained that while the posting was disturbing there was no direct threat to school or to any individual. We also had a strong police presence the next day.

Minutes

A copy of the August 12, 2019 regular meeting minutes and were included in the packets.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting for August 12, 2019.

Motion 20-022 by Ciota, seconded by Bohac as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on August 12, 2019

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

Abstain: Patrick

The superintendent recommends opening the Budget Hearing at 6:45 pm.

Motion 20-023 by Weeg, seconded by Bohac as recommended by the superintendent that we open the Budget Hearing at 6:45 pm.

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

7A 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 regard to the FY20 Budget.

The tentative budget presented to the Board last month is substantially the same except:

1. In the Ed Fund, added \$50,000 for a school security officer. This is an estimate.
2. Added \$30,000 in supplies in the Operations and Maintenance Fund. The original had a mistype.

The official budget was at everyone's seat. Nick and the superintendent reviewed the Budget with the Board and for the audience. Then opened the hearing for questions from the audience and answered all questions.

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 upcoming levy was also discussed. Last month Weeg 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. Weeg 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 keep the levy at 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 superintendent recommends closing the Budget Hearing at 7:23 pm.

Motion 20-024 by Ciota, seconded by Weeg as recommended by the superintendent that we close the Budget Hearing at 7:23 pm.

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

The superintendent recommends the adoption of the FY2019 budget as presented.

Motion 20-025 by Ciota, seconded by Weeg as recommended by the superintendent that we approve the Fy2019 Budget as presented.

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

Financial Report

The auditor's report for the month of August was in the packet. Nick Cavaliere answered all questions

Consent Agenda

The superintendent recommends the approval of the consent agenda.

Motion 20-026 by Ciota, seconded by Bohac 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 \$250,813.24 (8A-1-2,3), the reimbursement of the Imprest Fund in the amount of \$1035.09 (8B) and approval of the Activity Fund balance of \$52,255.89 (8C) for the month of September 2019.

Consent #2

The superintendent recommends the approval of the financial report for the month of August 2019. Fund balances: Educational: \$4,341,240; Operations & Maintenance: \$518,992; Debt Service: \$852,077; Transportation: \$553,171; IMRF: \$294,450; Capital Projects: 600,000; Working Cash: \$532,841; Tort: \$111,562; and Fire Prevention & Life Safety \$4

Consent #3

The superintendent recommends the acceptance of the review of the Salary Compensation Report for FY19.

Consent #4

The superintendent recommends the destruction of the audio recordings from Closed Session meeting on February 27, 2018 as accurate written minutes exist.

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

Notices and Communications

The superintendent presented the following news articles:

A-a. 1 journal articles related to National and Illinois Education issues.

1. From The DesPlaines Valley News regarding the school resource officer in neighboring district 109.

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

1. Our legal listings in the DesPlaines Valley News for the Budget Hearing.
2. Listing in the DesPlaines Valley News for the PreSchool Screening on September 10, 2019.

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

Item 9B Legislative/SCOPE report: 0 Items.

As the legislature has been out of session, there is nothing to 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: 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: 5 items.

1. A flyer from Argo with the Fall 100 Anniversary events on it.
2. The thank you to the Willow Springs Lions Club for providing \$300 for school supplies for students in need
3. The letter sent home to parents regarding the disturbing Instagram post on 9/6/19
4. The 9/18/19 letter sent home to parents regarding the Climate Strike on Friday, 9/20.
5. A version of the letter sent to the Student Council Board congratulating them and inviting them to attend the Board meeting.

Item 9K-A Freedom of Information Act Requests and Notices 2 items.

1. A 8/8/10 FOIA request from Open the Books requesting the superintendent's contract. The request was fulfilled on 8/9/19.
2. A 9/19/19 FOIA request from STA Transportation for a copy of our current contract with First Student. The request was fulfilled on 8/9/19.

Special Education

The AERO Governing Board met on September 16, 2019.

They approved the following:

- Regular payment of bills and payroll.
- Personnel Recommendations.
- Administration to disperse \$69,702.71 to Member Districts and AERO for Medicaid Fee for Service Program.
- Acceptance of Signature Demolition Services bid for Bid Package #3 with Bid Alternates #s 1,2,3 and 6 for asbestos abatement and demolition of the former Queen of Peace facility.
- Amendment of the FY20 AERO Budget to include costs for the pilot therapeutic classroom at PRIDE School.
- The request of Kirby School District 140 request to enroll a student in the PRIDE Program for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Acceptance of AERO Center Teacher's request to resign.

Dr. Gunnell shared information regarding Public Act 101-0515 that was signed into law on August 23, 2019. The new law goes into effect immediately and significantly changes school districts' and cooperatives' special education procedures. School districts and cooperatives must now provide parents with all draft copies of written materials that will be considered by the IEP teams prior to IEP meetings. School districts/cooperatives must also make available, upon request, all related service logs. Additionally, if a district/cooperative uses an MTSS/RTI process as part of an evaluation procedure, the parent must be involved with the data collected and decision-making progress. Dr. Gunnell commented, the new law is another example of how the state of Illinois has a tendency to over-regulate, over-manage, and make the special education process more complex. Special education teachers and related services staff are saddled with excessive paperwork which takes away time to teach and implement the IEP services.

Dr. Gunnell expressed that there has been a growing number of referrals since the start of the school year for placements across AERO programs. Dr. Gunnell's concerns are not about exceeding class-size, but rather it is the physical space limitations of classrooms. Due to the physical size of a lot of classrooms, many classrooms are near capacity. Dr. Gunnell will keep both AERO Boards updated.

Queen of Peace Update:

Dr. Gunnell informed the Governing Board that the first attempts at securing state funding were not successful but hopes are not dashed. AERO will continue to pursue state funding during the fall legislative session, and they will submit an application/proposal to the State Board of Education for a portion of the \$3.5 billion earmarked for new school construction projects. A letter writing campaign seeking the appointment of Dr. Michael Riordan as the "High School Districts" representative on the Illinois School Construction Task Force had also been implemented. They are hopeful that Dr. Riordan, Superintendent of Oak Lawn Community High School District 229, will be appointed soon.

Next Executive Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 8am & next Governing Board meeting will be on Monday, November 18, 2019 at 6:30pm.

Principal's Report

Principal Smuda reported:

MAP testing for the fall was completed. Teachers analyzed the data in both reading and math to create differentiated instructional groups.

Fifth graders participated in Outdoor Ed last week. This was our second year staying overnight at Camp Sullivan in Oak Forest.

The junior high teachers have been concentrating on executive functioning skill with their students. Sean Masterton prepared instructional binders for the staff and spearheaded its induction. This year, we've returned to paper planners and hope the visual tool will help with students' long and short term planning.

Data at the state level has been confirmed. The state collects data from IAR test scores, IAR test growth, ISA test scores, absenteeism, climate survey results, etc. We must now wait another month to see our selected designation level.

We've been promoting school spirit! The PFC has sponsored Sno-cone Day and Hot Dog Day. Additionally, students have dressed in specific colors for Football Day and Patriot Day.

The principal presented the M2M data for the 4th & 5th grade students from last year which averaged 33% & compared it with this year and now they average 49%.

11A Class Size Information

Enrollment changes daily. We had 11 students transfer out since the first day of school. The enrollment report was included in the packet.

Item 12A School Resource Officer

More and more, the superintendent feels the need to further explore a SRO with the Village. The superintendent included the Intergovernmental Agreement between District 109 and Bridgeview for their SRO. We can use this as a starting point. He met with the Chief on 9/24 and shared the information with the Board in closed session as this is a school security matter.

Item 12B Building Work 2020

The superintendent met with our team from ARCON, our architects, to begin talking about work for next summer. We're working from the 10 year plan developed in 2017. We'll be looking to Replace the classroom doors in the 1954 and 1974 buildings as well as the glass in the panels next to the doors. The standards have all changed on the doors and the glass since they were installed. Plus, they're quite old and need addressing anyway. We'll also be looking at ways to make the front entrance and vestibule more secure. This is all included in the FY20 budget. The 10 year plan was included in the packet.

The superintendent also asked them about the air circulation in room 211 as well as in rooms 106, 107, 206 & 207, the rooms facing Archer as they do not have windows that open. An engineer will be coming out to evaluate how air moves through those classrooms and what adjustments to our system need to occur.

Finally, the superintendent asked them to compile all of the correspondence and data they have regarding the floors in the 1954 and 1974 buildings. When they have gotten all of that to him, then he will be meeting with Tom Melody, our attorney, to talk about suing the flooring company.

Item 12C Approval of an Out of Town Conference for a Teacher

Kim Cahill would like to attend the Illinois Reading Council Conference in Peoria in early October. As this is an out of town conference and requires overnight accommodations, the Board must approve the trip. The superintendent believes that she, and therefore, our students will benefit from her attendance. The overnight accommodations are less than \$130 per night. The cost is covered in the Title I grant.

The superintendent recommends the approval for Kim Cahill to attend the Illinois Reading Council Conference in Peoria, Illinois October 3rd and 4th, 2019.

Motion 20-027 by Patrick, seconded by Bohac as recommended by the superintendent that we approve for Kim Cahill to attend the Illinois Reading Council Conference in Peoria, Illinois October 3rd and 4th, 2019.

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

Item 12D Student Mentor Program

In an effort to more effectively reach some of our struggling junior high students, we've started a Student Mentoring program. Junior high staff and administrators are each working with 2 students to build a stronger relationship with them and help them to be more successful in school. The brief outline was in the packet.

Calendar Information

Item 14 Closed Session

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

Motion 20-028 by Weeg, seconded by Patrick to go into Closed Session at 8:05 p.m. with the purpose of discussing probable litigation, personnel, discipline issues and school security measures.

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

Motion 20-029 by Weeg, seconded by Bohac Board returned to open session at 9:06 p.m.

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

Item 15 Final Actions

The superintendent recommends the approval of the minutes of the August 12, 2019 Closed Session and to keep them closed to the public.

Motion 20-030 by Weeg, seconded by Bohac to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2019 Closed Session and to keep them closed to the public.

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

The superintendent recommends the approval of a \$500 stipend to address the inconvenience of the multiple off hour alarm issues be created for Dan Dickman. This will be paid in 2 installments of \$250, December 30 and June 30th. A log of alarm calls will be kept to evaluate how to eliminate these calls will be kept and submitted in June 2020.

Motion 20-031 by Weeg, seconded by Bohac to approve a \$500 stipend to address the inconvenience of the multiple off hour alarm issues be created for Dan Dickman. This will be paid in 2 installments of \$250, December 30 and June 30th. A log of alarm calls will be kept to evaluate how to eliminate these calls will be kept and submitted in June 2020.


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

Item 16 Adjournment

Motion 20-032: Adjournment at 9:08 pm

Motion made by Weeg, Seconded by Bohac

Hearing no objections so moved.



President



Secretary