

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education  
Willow Springs Consolidated School District No. 108  
Tuesday, August 25, 2020  
Willow Springs School Gym**

**Call to Order**

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

**Roll Call**

Members present: Weeg, Ciota, Bohac and Patrick  
Administration: Superintendent Patrick & Principal Smuda

**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 21-012 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**

**Election of the Board Secretary**

With Lauren McSweeney's resignation, the Board needs to elect a Board Secretary.

President Weeg calls to nominate Micki Bohac for Board Secretary. Micki Bohac Secretary Pro-Tem called for a unanimous vote. Micki Bohac was declared as Board Secretary now through April 2020 for the Board of Education for School District 108.

**Motion 21-013 by Weeg, seconded by Ciota to declare Micki Bohac as Board Secretary**

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

**Public Comment**

Tiffany Carlisle spoke telling the Board her thoughts on Blended Learning. She also wanted to thank the Teachers for going above & beyond.

Community members are invited to share their questions, comments or concerns with the school Board. When speaking, citizens should state their name and address for the record and limit their presentation to three minutes. All comments are a matter of public record and as such will be documented and recorded. Where possible, the Board will answer factual questions immediately. A written response may be provided when information is not available. If a response would involve discussion of board policy or decisions which might be of interest to citizens not present at the meeting, the Board may place the item on a future meeting agenda.

Additionally, board policy 2:230 permits the Board President to shorten a person's opportunity to speak. "The President may also deny the opportunity to speak to a person who has previously addressed the Board on the same subject." (2:230)

Community members: Tiffany & Alexis Carlisle(1047 Testa Dr., Justice); Jenna Medlin(1054 Testa Dr., Justice); Ryan Tortorella(8000 Archer Ave., A101, WS); Mike Damaschke(841 Cedar St, WS); Frank Coglianese(200 Poston Rd, WS) Teachers: Jaelyn Dondlinger & Alyssa Ochenkowski. Nick Cavaliere from Baker Tilly Virchow Krause and Valerie Wacker took the minutes.

**Minutes**

July 28, 2020 minutes are tabled until the September 29, 2020 meeting.

**Financial Report**

The auditor's report for the month of July was in the packet. Nick Cavalier from Baker Tilly presented the financial report and answered all questions.

**Presentation and Acceptance of the Tentative FY2021 Budget**

Nick Cavalier from Baker Tilly presented the tentative budget to the Board. It will be kept on file for the next 30 days for inspection as we continue to refine it till we have a budget hearing next month to approve the final budget. He also said the Levy is the same, held flat for non-debt services, The CPI Levy will have a 2.3% increase for 2021. He also said that we ended with a higher balance than we started the 2019-20 fiscal year.

They are continuing to strive to budget conservatively both the income and expenditure side. They underestimate revenues and overestimate expenditures. The budget increase over FY20 is just under 1%. The budget shows a \$241k spend down of fund balance. Of that amount, \$212k is from Capital Projects fund to finish off the summer construction work. That was a planned spend down. The actual spenddown is just over \$30k.

The budget is also built on the State receiving additional help from the Federal government. Should it not, the budget will need to be amended in the springs.

The budget process is: in August the Board approves a tentative budget and calls for a budget hearing in 30-40 days, and then adopts the budget at a regular meeting. We will hold the budget hearing as a part of the September meeting.

The superintendent recommends the acceptance of the FY 2021 tentative budget and the display of the tentative budget for a minimum of 30 days.

**Motion 21-014 by Bohac, seconded by Weeg as recommended by the superintendent for the acceptance of the FY 2021 tentative budget and the display of the tentative budget for a minimum of 30 days.**

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

The superintendent recommends that the mandatory budget hearing to officially approve the budget take place at 6:30 pm on September 29, 2020.

**Motion 21-015 by Ciota, seconded by Bohac as recommended by the superintendent that the mandatory budget hearing to officially approve the budget take place at 6:30 pm on September 29, 2020.**

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

**Consent Agenda**

The superintendent recommends the approval of the consent agenda.

**Motion 21-016 by Weeg, 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 \$280,208.27 (9A-1-2), the reimbursement of the Imprest Fund in the amount of \$645.00 (9B) and approval of the Activity Fund balance of \$54,559.10 (9C) for the month of August 2020.**

**Consent #2**

The superintendent recommends the approval of the financial report for the month of July 2020. Fund balances: Educational: \$4,087,333; Operations & Maintenance: \$313,856; Debt Service: \$689,093; Transportation: \$501,773; IMRF: \$239,589; Capital Projects: 355,608; Working Cash: \$533,441; Tort: \$84,665; and Fire Prevention & Life Safety \$4.

**Consent #3**

The superintendent recommends the acceptance of the \$2500 donation from Robert and Barbara Swanson to fund the Soozy Q Helping Hands Fund.

**Consent #4**

The superintendent recommends the destruction of the audio recordings from Closed Session meetings of September 25, 2018, October 23, 2018, November 27, 2018 and December 27, 2018 as written record of those sessions exist.

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

**Item 10 Public Hearing for eLearning Plan for Weather Emergency Days**

Last month the superintendent mentioned that we have done 80% of the work to have the option to use eLearning Days instead of taking a weather emergency day. To complete the process, we must have a public hearing.

The superintendent recommends opening the Hearing of the eLearning Plan for Weather Emergency Days at 7:07 pm.

**Motion 21-017 by Weeg, seconded by Patrick as recommended by the superintendent that the Hearing of the eLearning Plan for Weather Emergency Days is open at 7:07 pm.**

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

The superintendent presented the eLearning plan which is basically the plan we are following now during the Pandemic remote learning days. The plan was in the packet. The plan will be good for 3 years.

The plan requires this hearing, proof that the Union was notified, and a vote adoption following the hearing.

It's also the time for people to comment on the eLearning Plan but no one from the community spoke at this time, only the Board discussed it.

The superintendent recommends since there were no other speakers on this topic, closing the Hearing at 7:08 pm.

**Motion 21-018 by Weeg, seconded by Patrick as recommended by the superintendent that the Hearing of the eLearning Plan for Weather Emergency Days is closed at 7:08 pm since there were no other speakers on this topic.**

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

**Item 11 Approval of the eLearning Plan for Weather Emergency Days**

The superintendent recommends the approval of the eLearning Plan for Weather and Emergency Days.

**Motion 21-019 by Patrick, seconded by Bohac as recommended by the superintendent the approval of the eLearning Plan for Weather and Emergency Days.**

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

## **12A Notices and Communications**

The superintendent presented the following news articles:

A-a. 2 journal articles related to National and Illinois Education Issues at this time.

An Article from CNN that details what happened with schools during the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic. The thumbnail: cities with schools that were closed fared better than those with schools that were open.

A Washington Post article “Evidence Grows that children may play a larger role in transmission than previously believed.” Small studies indicate that while children don’t seem to get as sick, on the whole, they carry extraordinary amounts of the virus. The superintendent included this article to support that we need to follow all of the various federal and state requirements and guidelines rigorously.

A-b. 4 Newspaper and related articles related to Willow Springs School

An article from the DesPlaines Valley News detailing local districts start to the school year. The information in that article is largely now incorrect.

A series of public notices in the DesPlaines Valley News: Prevailing Wage Act, eLearning Plan Hearing, and Board Vacancy.

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

**Item 12B Legislative/SCOPE report: 0 Items.**

**Item 12C State Board of Education Correspondence: 0 Items.**

**Item 12D Illinois Association of School Boards Correspondence: 0 Items.**

**Item 12E AERO Correspondence items: 0 Items.**

**Item 12F EBC Health Insurance Co-op Correspondence items: 0 Items.**

**Item 12G Village of Willow Springs Correspondence: 0 items.**

**Item 12H County Clerk Correspondence: 0 items.**

**Item 12I Intermediate Service Center Correspondence: 0 items.**

**Item 12J Township Treasurer Correspondence: 0 items.**

**Item 12K**

Superintendent Correspondence Received: 0 items.

Superintendent Correspondence Sent: 0 items.

**Item 12K-A Freedom of Information Act Requests and Notices 1 item.**

A request from SmartProcure for purchasing information from 3/16/20 to the current date. The request was fulfilled on August 18.

**Special Education**

Micki Bohac reported that the AERO Governing Board has not met since the July meeting.

## **Principal's Report**

Principal Smuda reported:

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, the teachers hosted a “Kick-Off” to school! Due to the pandemic it was a virtual event online via Zoom. Two sessions were held and a recording of each was sent to parents.

August 13<sup>th</sup> also was the day for the Kindergarten “Kick-Off”! This was held in-person using small groups. The students were able to see their teacher, classroom, and desk. The parents were able to hear from the teachers on curriculum, procedures, and rules. There were many smiling faces!

August 17<sup>th</sup> was a spectacular first day of school! This year, it was the day for the students to pick up their devices and meet their teacher(s). The teachers guided the students through their first few steps of technology and explained the materials in their bins. There were lots of smiles all around!

August 18<sup>th</sup> was the first day on online learning. Before the official start of the school day, there were several, nervous teachers. However, by noon we heard several positive statements:

It was nice to see the kids' faces.

Whoo, hoo, I did it!

I had perfect attendance!

The last class went perfectly!

I only hit a few glitches and the kids were so patient.

The teachers were a great support for each other and are confident their tech skills will improve. The only sore spot was a 5 minute internet glitch during the mi-day.

Zoom is the video platform we are using to host classes. All of the teachers are able to use video to display their faces, switch to Google Slides to present content and material, and even play videos. Teachers were told to start ankle deep with the technology, and within a few days have started using the bells and whistles! They are using breakout rooms, spotlighting the speaker, and using two screens. The principal is very proud of everyone's progress!

## **14A Class Size Information**

The report is in the packet.

## **Item 15A Remote Learning Update**

The superintendent stated that it's really nice to hear instruction and learning happening once again in the building – even remotely.

Teacher led instruction is occurring for grades 1-8 from 9am-2pm. Kindergarten is split into morning and afternoon groups to keep the groups small for more individualized instruction as well as 5 hours online for a kindergartner is an unrealistic outcome. Overall attendance is at 96%. That's about 1.5% less than the first week of school last year.

Principal Smuda, Meghan Litko and Cindy Layer are helping families that are struggling every day to get online. They are having great success in getting them online.

While parents, and all of us, are disappointed we are not doing some in-school learning, the feedback from parents is that the remote program that we put together is impressive. The superintendent included a family email to principal Smuda. This is just a sample of the feedback that is coming in.

Lunch and breakfast is provided to just about 50 kids every day. Pick up is from 2:15 – 2:45 each day for the next day. Pickup is at both school and at Sterling Estates.

What's next? When do we move to the Hybrid Model?

A few facts:

Suburban Cook County has a relatively high Positivity Rate: 6.4% on 8/21. It is higher than the City's by over 1%. It has risen significantly over the past 10 days.

While a small number in total, at the Village Board meeting on 8/13, it was reported that the Village's total cases increased 30% since previous Village Board meeting 2 weeks earlier.

There are 66 school districts in South Cook. 57 are remote only as of 8/20.

At 8% positivity rate the Governor will shut things down but hasn't closed schools that were higher but closed restaurants and bars.

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, the Illinois Department of Public Health issued additional guidance. The superintendent included an updated 8/20 version. It is VERY restrictive. Here are some highlights:

- A close contact has been more narrowly defined. The school will need to somehow keep track of who a student comes in contact with not only in the classroom but in the hallway, outside, and on the bus. Wearing a mask will help stop the spread but even with wearing the mask, if you're within 6' for a cumulative 15 minutes/day (that will also need to be determined) you are sent home.
- Two COVID cases within 14 calendar days would recommend school closure.
- **One** symptom gets you sent home and to the doctor.
- Nurses and custodians need to be provided N95 respirator masks and they need to have a fit test. The fit test is required in medical settings and is difficult to obtain.

The fit test on the N95 mask is the biggest issue. No district has yet to be able to even get on a waiting list for a test.

In talking with our insurance agent, our policy covers us from liability claims if we follow ALL of the guidelines from EACH institution providing them: CDC, IDPH, ISBE, and Cook County Health Department.

It is widely talked about that the IDPH made the requirements so difficult to force the closure of schools without the Governor doing it.

This week, the District has three staff member quarantining because they had a close exposure to COVID19 outside of school.

At this point, the superintendent is forced to recommend that we remain in the remote learning model. In working with ARGO and the other feeders, we are all in agreement that the obstacles are too great. They would like to issue a joint statement on Thursday, August 26 extending the remote learning through September as we attempt to meet the requirements of the IDPH as well as allow the COVID positivity rates to decrease.

This can be done by consent or the Board can take a vote.

The superintendent recommends that the District remain in all remote learning through September and reevaluate coming back into the school if it can meet the stringent IDPH requirements and also if the health of the community has improved.

**Motion 21-020 by Ciota, seconded by Patrick as recommended by the superintendent the District remain in all remote learning through September and reevaluate coming back into the school if it can meet the stringent IDPH requirements and also if the health of the community has improved.**

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

**Item 15B TIF2 YMCA Agreement**

We have an agreement to approve with the YMCA for the care that they will be providing to students this year at the Community Center. It's similar to our past agreements with them, except that we are providing access to meals for the kids as well as cleaning the Community Center daily. That was at my insistence, not the Village's. There are no other costs to the District.

As of Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, there are no registrants for the YMCA program. The YMCA did have some interest from a dozen students that they are following up on. They report that this is common across all of their facilities. They will continue to reach out to families to offer services.

There will not be any bus service during remote learning.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the School Age Child Care Program Agreement with the YMCA for the 2020-21 school year.

**Motion 21-021 by Bohac, seconded by Patrick as recommended by the Superintendent the approval of the School Age Child Care Program Agreement with the YMCA for the 2020-21 school year.**

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

**Item 15C Construction Update**

This is the project that just won't end. We are down to the punch list items. The superintendent expects that the entire project will be completed by Labor Day.

**Item 16 Calendar Information**

**Item 14 Closed Session**

The superintendent recommends going into Closed Session to discuss school security; student discipline; the appointment, employment, and/or dismissal of an employee(s) and Board member.

**Motion 21-022 by Ciota, seconded by Weeg to go into Closed Session at 8:06 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 21-023 by Patrick, seconded by Weeg Board returned to open session at 9:16 p.m.**

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

**Item 15 Final Actions**

**Motion 21-024 by Ciota, seconded by Bohac that Ryan Tortorella be appointed to complete the term of Lauren McSweeney through the election in April 2021..**

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

Ryan Tortorella will be sworn in and seated at the beginning of the September meeting.

**Item 16 Adjournment**

**Motion 21-025: Adjournment at 9:20 pm  
Motion made by, Weeg Seconded by Ciota  
Hearing no objections so moved.**

  
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President

  
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Secretary