

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education  
Willow Springs Consolidated School District No. 108  
Tuesday, March 23, 2021  
Willow Springs School Gym**

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Members present: Weeg, Ciota(6:32), Ristić, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault  
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 21-0095 by Boswell Perreault, seconded by Weeg as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the superintendent's Agenda.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ristić, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

**Public Comment**

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)

Teachers: Kim Cahill, Ann Musto and Michelle VonBank; Special Ed Director: Meghan Litko; Alexandra Potential New Principal: Alexandra Oreluk; Community Members: Laura Szymczyk (8784 Archer #2); Jim Purealt(8590 S Archer Ave); William Seidemann; Carol McGowan(7531 W 60<sup>th</sup> Pl, Summit); Nicole Pokrzywa(113 Mound); Nick Kauche(1202 Prospect Rd); David John; Carole Valdez(107 N Nolton) and Michelle Zethmayr(1067 Testa Dr); Custodial Staff: Mary Sheehan and Valerie Wacker who took the minutes.

Laura Szymczyk thanked the Board for their commitment to the students of the District.

Nicole Pokrzywa expressed support for the current Board.

Carole Valdez asked questions about who on the Board was running for re-election. She expressed worry for the future of the District.

Michelle Zethmayr thanked the Board and staff for their commitment.

David John expressed concern about some of the school board candidates.

**Financial Report**

The auditor's report for the month of February was in the packet. Nick Cavalier from Baker Tilly was not available to attend the meeting. The financials look unremarkable for February with the start of property taxes being posted. Right on track for both expenditures and revenues.

## Minutes

The superintendent recommends the approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting for February 23, 2021.

**Motion 21-096 by Bohac, seconded by Ciota as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting for February 23, 2021.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Ristić, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

**Abstain: Tortorella**

## Consent Agenda

The superintendent recommends the approval of the consent agenda.

**Motion 21-097 by Tortorella, seconded by Boswell Perreault 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 \$266,036.19 (8A-1-2), the reimbursement of the Imprest Fund in the amount of \$0 (8B) and approval of the Activity Fund balance of \$54,355.23 (8C) for the month of March 2021.**

### **Consent #2**

**The superintendent recommends the approval of the financial report for the month of February 2021. Fund balances: Educational: \$4,067,241; Operations & Maintenance: \$170,634; Debt Service: \$407,496; Transportation: \$674,891; IMRF: \$194,595; Capital Projects: 146,222; Working Cash: \$537,813; Tort: \$46,002; and Fire Prevention & Life Safety \$5.**

### **Consent #3**

**The superintendent recommends, as accurate minutes exist, the destruction of the Closed Session audio recordings from the June 7, 2019, June 25, 2019, July 23, 2019 and August 12, 2019 meetings.**

### **Consent #4**

**The superintendent recommends the acceptance of Lauren Herrera's resignation at the end of this school year with gratitude for her service to the students of the District.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Ristić, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

## 9 Notices and Communications

The superintendent presented the following news articles:

A-a. 0 newspaper and related article related to National/Statewide Issues.

A-b. 0 Newspaper and related article related to Willow Springs School

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

### **Item 9B Legislative/SCOPE report: 2 Items.**

A Capitol Watch and a SCOPE report about pending and approved legislation in Springfield. Of particular note are the revised guidance standards about social distancing – 3', but 6' is best. That's not all that helpful. Even with 3', as long as we are required to offer Remote Learning, we don't have enough staff to go full day..

### **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: 1 Item.**

The 2021-2022 rates are in. It was an unusual year with COVID19. Claims were down, as expected, as people did not go to the doctor for elective items. Also, the EBC Reserve Fund has become exceedingly large, prompting a release of \$5 million towards a premium reduction. There are still ample reserves to cover any unanticipated increase of claims as COVID19 passes. The result is a phenomenal renewal. The medical PPO is decreasing -1.1%, the medical HMO is decreasing -2.9%, and the dental PPO is decreasing -4.1%. Also, the superintendent's term as Chairperson of the 122 district EBC will end on 6/30/2021.

**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: 2 items.

1. Letter drafted by the superintendent on behalf of 29 South Cook superintendents urging State Superintendent Carmen Ayala to greatly reduce the amount of state assessments administered this year, which is within her legal authority. Sadly, she didn't hear our pleas on behalf of students of the State.

2. The letter sent home on 3/11 talking about travel over spring break and the potential to quarantine if travel happens to a red zone.

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

**Special Education**

Micki reported:

Current status on in-person and remote learning is at 50% for each.

They are currently short 40 paraprofessionals – they are using Indeed (a recruitment company) to obtain employees.

AERO declined to pay Rich Lee Bus Company for services not provided during the pandemic.

CPI Training will no longer be housed at AERO. Each district must provide training at their own facilities.

Micki shared blueprint drawings of the new AERO Special Ed Facility that hopefully will be completed in 3-4 years.

**Principal's Report**

Principal Smuda reported:

Return to school: With the re-opening of school (again), we are able to accommodate every family on their choice of instruction! There are 46 students moving from the Remote instructional model and returning to school! She is most excited about the elimination of the blue and gold weeks and so that all in-person students can attend every day! The custodians will be working hard over spring break to move 11 classrooms.

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, a Lockdown/Intruder Drill was conducted with the in-person students. Representatives from the police and fire departments were present. Our Blue Point System continues to work well and the drill was successful.

Third quarter report cards were distributed on March 19<sup>th</sup>. There are many high –achieving students!

Straight As, 4.0 average = 23 students

Gold Honor Roll = 20 students

Blue Honor Roll = 26 students

Honorable Mention = 20 students

Thirteen students were tested for Kindergarten screening. Students are assessed in motor skills, academic concepts, speech and language, and vision/hearing tests. Two students will need further evaluation through AERO.

Mr. John Niebauer will be teaching the 1<sup>st</sup> grade remote class while Mrs. Sarah Haussy is on her parenting leave. Mrs. Haussy's last day was March 19<sup>th</sup>. The principal is very pleased with John's interactions with the students!

### **11A Class Size Information**

Enrollment is unusual as we know that several families have moved out of the District but are remaining remote – as allowed by State law.

### **Item 12A Blended Learning Update**

Along with what was presented in the Principal's Report:

- With the exception of 2/25, the Positivity Rate in our Joint Zip Codes has been below 5% since February 8. It's been below 2% since March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 98% of the staff that was seeking vaccination has received at least the first dose, and most have received both doses. We continue to hunt vaccines for the remaining 2%.
- Travel quarantine guidelines have been eliminated for fully vaccinated employees – with 14 days following the final dose.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> first day of school this year, April 6, requires 12 classroom moves over spring break.
- Most of our quarantining students are at home because of potential exposure to someone with COVID, not because they have it. On 3/17 there are 28 students quarantining. Only 1 student has been diagnosed with COVID19.
- We currently have no staff members in quarantine.
- In South Cook, 65% of the Districts have in-person learning of some sort. 24% are full remote. 1% has special populations only in-person.
- With administering the statewide assessments, 6-15 test sessions learning experiences to our students, we are not going to administer the Spring Map assessment. That would add another 2 testing sessions. Map will take place in the fall as we always do to get a baseline to target instruction.

### **Item 12B School Year Calendar 2021-2022**

The Board was absolutely correct to send the calendar back to the drawing board for next year so that we can more closely align with Argo to keep our families together. The new calendar comes much closer, starting the same week as our Argo friends. It may prove to be tough to move folks around depending upon social distancing, but the superintendent is confident the staff can handle it. He attached both the calendar and the memo detailing the calendar.

The superintendent recommends the adoption of the 2021-2022 school calendar.

**Motion 21-098 by Ristić, seconded by Weeg as recommended by the superintendent the adoption of the 2021-2022 school calendar.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Ristić, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

**Item 12C Registration Fees, 2021-2022**

Our current registration fees are \$75 per student for the year. If a parent registers during the July registration dates, the fee is reduced to \$55 per student. Compared to our neighbors, this is still a bargain. The superintendent is not recommending an increase in fees for FY2022, but put it on the agenda if the Board would like to. Board decided to keep fee the same.

**Item 12D Agreement renewal for Financial Consulting Services**

Nick Cavalier from Baker Tilly submitted the annual agreement for the financial consulting piece. He is proposing a 3% increase for FY22. That seems reasonable. He is also limiting the number of meetings he or an associate attend. The agreement will stipulate that for the budget and levy processes, he or an associate will be present. Written analysis will be provided for meetings not attended. The Board or Superintendent will be able to request his presence upon demand for other financial issues that may arise. The Agreement is not in the packet. There was an error that required revision.

The superintendent recommends the acceptance of the financial consulting services agreement with Baker Tilly Virchow Krause for FY2022.

**Motion 21-099 by Ristić, seconded by Bohac as recommended by the superintendent the acceptance of the financial consulting services agreement with Baker Tilly Virchow Krause for FY2022.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Ristić, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

**Item 12E Agreement for Technology Consulting Services**

Willow Springs School has been using Paul Leonhardt (Chicagoland Cloud) for the past 20 years to provide our technology consulting services. He is offering to lock in his rate for us for FY22 with the signed agreement. He will continue to bill hourly.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the Technology Consulting Services Agreement with Chicagoland Cloud for FY2022.

**Motion 21-100 by Tortorella, seconded by Ristić as recommended by the superintendent the approval of the Technology Consulting Services Agreement with Chicagoland Cloud for FY2022.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Ristić, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

**Item 12F Extension of School Lunch Contract**

As it has been a strange year, there's been no way to see food service providers in real action – beyond grab'n'go. The superintendent negotiated with 109 a 1 year extension of our current agreement with no increase.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the Extension of Intergovernmental Agreement with District 109 for school lunches, with no increase in fees for FY2022.

**Motion 21-101 by Bohac, seconded by Boswell Perreault as recommended by the superintendent the approval of the Extension of Intergovernmental Agreement with District 109 for school lunches, with no increase in fees for FY2022.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ristić, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

**Nays: Ciota**

**Item 12G Extension of YMCA Afterschool Program Agreement**

Despite our best efforts, the YMCA programs did not lift off this year during the Pandemic. Hopefully, school will be back to more normal next year and the traditional afterschool program can be offered. There is no cost to the District – just the use of our space to house the program.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the After School Program Professional Service Agreement with the YMCA for FY2022

**Motion 21-102 by Ciota, seconded by Tortorella as recommended by the superintendent the approval of the After School Program Professional Service Agreement with the YMCA for FY2022.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Ristić, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

**Item 12H Policy Updates, Second Reading and Adoption**

There's a new batch of policies that need some updating. The Update Memo is in the packet. Several focus on some lingering COVID updates; there are some minor changes regarding background checks for new employees; and a slew of footnotes and references were updated that have no bearing on the actual policy.

The superintendent recommends the adoption of policies: 3:40, 4:10, 4:55, 4:80, 4:90, 4:150, 4:175, 5:30, 5:190, 5:270, 6:15, 6:20, 6:40, 6:280, 6:300, 6:310, 6:315, 6:340, 7:100, 7:140, 7:300, and 7:325.

**Motion 21-103 by Bohac, seconded by Boswell Perreault as recommended by the superintendent the adoption of policies: 3:40, 4:10, 4:55, 4:80, 4:90, 4:150, 4:175, 5:30, 5:190, 5:270, 6:15, 6:20, 6:40, 6:280, 6:300, 6:310, 6:315, 6:340, 7:100, 7:140, 7:300, 7:325.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Ristić, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

**Item 12I Summer School Teachers**

Summer School teachers are lined up. The superintendent would like to approve the ones that are secured so far. The motion was amended to include more teachers

The superintendent recommends hiring Jadda Castaneda, Elise Esposito, John Niebauer, Alyssa Ochenkowski, Joy Tristano, Ray Weissenstein, and Michael Huffhines as summer school teachers for the Summer 2021 program.

**Motion 21-104 by Bohac, seconded by Ristić as recommended by the superintendent to hire Jadda Castaneda, Elise Esposito, John Niebauer, Alyssa Ochenkowski, Joy Tristano, Ray Weissenstein, Michael Huffhines as summer school teachers for the Summer 2021 program.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Ristić, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

**Item 13 Closed Session**

The superintendent recommends going into Closed Session to discuss personnel and litigation issues.

**Motion 21-105 by Weeg, seconded by Ciota to go into Closed Session at 7:30 p.m. with the purpose of discussing personnel and litigation issues.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Ristić, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

**Motion 21-106 by Weeg, seconded by Ciota Board returned to open session at 8:12 p.m.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Ristić, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

**Item 14 Final Actions**

The superintendent recommends approving the minutes from the February 23, 2021 Closed Session and to keep them closed.

**Motion 21-107 by Bohac, seconded by Ristić as recommended by the superintendent approval of the February 23, 2021 Closed Session minutes and to keep them closed.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Ristić, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

**Abstained: Tortorella**

The superintendent recommends the non-renewal of employment of Laura Baricovich and Dawn DeAnda effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

**Motion 21-108 by Ciota, seconded by Weeg as recommended by the superintendent the non-renewal of employment of Laura Baricovich and dawn DeAnda effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault Abstained: Ristić**

The superintendent recommends the approval of the following pay raises for the 2021-2022 year:

A \$1,200/year increase for Lisa Juskus, Carina Flores, Valerie Wacker and Daniel Dickman beginning on 7/1/2021.

The continued part-time employment of Librarian Diane Carter and Tech Coordinator Cindy Layer for the 2021-2022 school year with a 2% increase for each.

The position titled Special Education Coordinator be renamed Special Education Director and that the requirements for the position be changed to require the Special Education Director endorsement on the teaching license.

The continued employment of Special Education Director Meghan Litko with an increase of 5%.

A 5.5% increase for existing part-time custodial and lunchroom employees beginning on 7/1/2021

The starting salary for new part-time custodial and lunchroom employee be increased to \$12/hour beginning on 7/1/2021

**Motion 21-109 by Weeg, seconded by Ciota as recommended by the superintendent the approval of the pay raises for 2021-2022 school year as listed.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Ristić, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

The superintendent recommends the employment of Alexandra Oreluk as principal of Willow Springs School for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years with an initial salary of \$100,000.

**Motion 21-110 by Weeg, seconded by Ristić as recommended by the superintendent to employment Alexandra Oreluk as principal of Willow Springs School for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years with an initial salary of \$100,000.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Ristić, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

**Motion 21-111 by Bohac, seconded by Weeg that the District's medical and dental insurance plans allow enrollment access to retired District Administrators with more than 30 years of District experience until they are Medicare eligible.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Ristić, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

**Motion 21-112 by Weeg, seconded by Ristić to approve the contract amendment to the Superintendent's contract allowing him to retire on June 30, 2021 and clarifies language in Section 19: Retirement Options. The language clarification has no financial impact on the District.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Ristić, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

**Motion 21-113 by Weeg, seconded by Ciota to accept Frank Patrick's retirement on June 30, 2021 with gratitude for his 34 years of dedicated service to the students, families and Willow Springs Community.**

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ciota, Ristić, Tortorella, Bohac and Boswell Perreault**

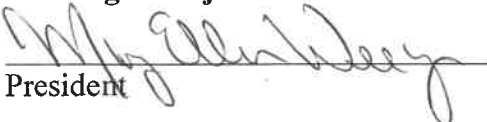
Litigation: Depositions will start taking place on April 7 with the superintendents. He was told to plan for 5-7 hours

#### **Item 16 Adjournment**

**Motion 21-114: Adjournment at 8:42 pm**

**Motion made by, Weeg Seconded by Ristić**

**Hearing no objections so moved.**

  
President

  
Secretary