

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education
Willow Springs Consolidated School District No. 108
Tuesday, May 25, 2021
Willow Springs School Gymnasium**

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:29 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Weeg, Ristić(6:40), Bohac, Anderson, Mierop and Nunez

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 21-161 by Bohac, seconded by Weeg as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the superintendent's Agenda.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Bohac, Anderson, Mierop and Nunez

Audience Participation

Lori Smuda, Principal; Custodians: Mary Sheehan and Juan Garcia Attorney Tom Melody from Klein Thorp & Jenkins; Taryn Gille from Baker Tilly; and Valerie Wacker who took the minutes.

Community Members: Tiffaney & Lexi Carlisle(1047 Testa, Justice); Laura Smonczyk(8784 Archer Ave); Alexandra Oreluk; Don Baar(8148 Rosemere Ct); Dave Patterson(206 E Ravine Ave); Carole Valdez(107 N. Nolton).

Don Baar spoke asking about the legality of the constituted Board and requested the Boards Council to provide a legal bases for the Boards actions.

Financial Report

The auditor's report for the month of April is in the packet. Taryn Gille from Baker Tilly presented the monthly financial report. The financials are reported to be unremarkable for April.

Nunez questioned the last paragraph on the letter from Baker Tilly regarding the omissions of all of the disclosures from the financial schedules.

The superintendent stated that all financials records are turned over to Baker Tilly. Taryn Gille from Baker Tilly said she will check with Nick Cavaliere from Baker Tilly to clarify the statement in the letter and email the superintendent with clarification of the wording in the paragraph.

Next month, the Board will need to take care of the scheduled fund transfers for the end of the fiscal year.

Minutes

A copy of the April 28, 2021 regular meeting minutes were included in the packets along with the May 5, 2021 Special Meeting minutes. The May 19, 2021 Special Meeting minutes were given out at the Board meeting.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the corrected minutes as amended from the Regular Board Meeting for April 28, 2021.

Motion 21-162 by Weeg, seconded by Bohac as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the corrected minutes as amended from the Regular Board Meeting on April 28, 2021.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Bohac, Anderson, Mierop and Nunez

Abstain:

The superintendent recommends the approval of the minutes from the Special Board Meeting for May 5, 2021.

Motion 21-163 by Bohac, seconded by Anderson as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the minutes from the Special Board Meeting on May 5, 2021.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Bohac, Anderson, Mierop and Nunez

Abstain:

The superintendent recommends the approval of the minutes from the Special Board Meeting for May 19, 2021.

Motion 21-164 by Bohac, seconded by Weeg as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the minutes from the Special Board Meeting on May 19, 2021.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Bohac, Anderson, Mierop and Nunez

Abstain:

Consent Agenda

The superintendent recommends the approval of the consent agenda.

Motion 21-165 by Bohac, seconded by Weeg 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 \$332,624.99 (8A-1-2), the reimbursement of the Imprest Fund in the amount of \$23.42 (8B) and approval of the Activity Fund balance of \$47,188.41 (8C) for the month of May 2021.

Consent #2 – Left off here

The superintendent recommends the approval of the financial report of the auditor for the month of April 2021. Fund balances: Educational: \$4,891,778; Operations & Maintenance: \$213,305; Debt Service: \$634,249; Transportation: \$701,847; IMRF: \$223,623; Capital Projects: 146,766; Working Cash: \$540,155; Tort: \$64,226; and Fire Prevention & Life Safety \$5

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ristić, Bohac, Anderson, Mierop and Nunez

Notices and Communications

The superintendent presented the following news articles:

A-a. 2 newspaper and related articles related to national or state issues.

1. Included is an article “National Teachers Union Leader Urges Full Reopening of Schools in the Fall: “Conditions have Changed.” Randi Weingarten, AFT president, made that statement. The Willow Springs teachers are members of the AFT. Add this to the State significantly

loosening restrictions on 6/11 (?) and next year looks hopeful for normalcy.

2. A Chicago Tribune article from May 19th talking about the ISBE resolution to fully reopen schools next school year. It also highlights the ambiguity in the language around what will be required for remote learning.

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

1. The public notice for our required annual Special Education Timely and Meaningful consultation meeting. No one attended
2. The DesPlaines Valley News article about my retirement. We spoke shortly after the March Board meeting, which the reporter attended.

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

Item 9B Legislative/SCOPE report: 6 Items.

Included are 3 IASB Legislative Reports and 2 SCOPE reports. Of note are HB2778 which allows for 4 full days of professional development rather than 8 half days – would probably be easier on the families. There's also SB654 which in its original form mandated 60 minutes of recess EVERY day for K – 8th grades! The amended version is 30 minutes, K-5. Much more manageable. There's also the promise (hope) of additional monies to the Evidence Based Formula Fund. That would be great. None of these have been voted on or passed as of yet.

Item 9C State Board of Education Correspondence: 0 Items.

Item 9D Illinois Association of School Boards Correspondence: 1 Item.

The annual conference will be held November 19-21, 2021 in downtown Chicago. In the past, Board members have attended during the daytime, but not stayed overnight. Registration opens in June. The superintendent offered to sign the Board up if they would like to attend.

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: 1 item.

The annual bill was received for the Township Treasurer's services which we are obligated by law to use the office. It's a sizable increase over the previous year, but then they base it on revenues, and COVID monies count as revenue. The superintendent included some of the historical data as well as the annual interest data for the Board as well. All told, the school could not perform the services they offer anywhere near the rate they charge. We get a deal.

Item 9K

Superintendent Correspondence Received: 0 items.

Superintendent Correspondence Sent: 5 items.

1. The letter sent to Vanessa Kinder acting as Regional Superintendent notifying her that Mary Ellen Weeg was appointed as holdover member.
2. 3 letters sent to our families: 12 year olds on up eligible for the COVID19 vaccine, masks still required in school, and end of school year procedures.
3. A copy of one of the 14 letters sent to Springfield legislators asking them to fully fund the \$25 million approved State of Illinois share of the new AERO building.

Item 9K-A Freedom of Information Act Requests and Notices 1 item.

1. A 5/10 request from Dave Patterson requesting information on Board policies regarding holdover members. The Section of the Policy Manual on Board Governance was sent in reply. Also, requested was a copy of the superintendent's contract and its amendment as well as Alexandra Oreluk's contract. The request was complied with on 5/10.

Special Education

Bohac reported:

They approved the 2021-2022 proposed budget. Some key points were:

- The FY2022 increase was at .53%, which is excellent for this year.
- Staffing costs were down significantly because a number of veteran teachers retired.
- The disposal bill was negotiated by Dr. Lesniak for more than 50% savings.
- Insurance rates decreased between .5% and 1.9%.
- Reduction of 11.275% in the IMRF Employer Rate.

They were able to secure most of their certified staff for next year, but are still 30+ paraprofessionals short.

There has been a big push to plead with the Governor and Representatives for the \$25 million that is needed to fund the new AERO center. Last year at this time, the legislature approved into law PA101-0638, which authorized the \$25 million for the Build Illinois Bond Fund. Now we need the Governor to allocate it. If they don't get the money, then they will have to scale back, just put the shell up and leave it empty for now.

Principal's Report

Principal Smuda reported:

Today was the last instruction day and tomorrow is the last staff day.

Remote students came to school on Saturday May 1st and 8th to take the IAR and ISA state testing. There were only a handful of students in attendance. Sean Masterton proctored both tests.

The 8th grade sponsors creatively scheduled 3 end-of-the-year events for the graduates. They had a movie night, yearbook signing party, and an outside evening banquet. Students had to be passing all of their classes to participate. The kids made lots of memories prior to graduation.

Graduation took place on May 21st! There were 52 graduates. It was very nice to be able to host an in-person graduation to celebrate our students. The principal talked about each student for a couple minutes as they graduated. Five ceremonies were held on the blacktop with the videographer recording each event. He will edit all of the ceremonies together to make it look like an official ceremony.

Students have been having fun taking a “field trip” to Lions Park. The PFC has donated money so teachers can provide a snack and/or end of the year gift.

Emily Moses the PE teacher, Erika Jokubauskas the Art teacher and the principal went around room to room and gave out awards to the student’s.

Gold stars to Erika Jokubauskas, the art teacher! She has created a Virtual Art Show comprised of approximately 150 art projects! The students will watch the show in class this week. Parents and families will be given the link to watch at home.

To promote school spirit, we’ve been participating in an ABC Countdown. The students have worn sunglasses for S day, researched funny jokes for J day, shared family pictures for F day, and gone on a virtual field trip for V day. It’s a fun way to end the year.

11A Class Size Information

The report was in the packet. It’s looking like 3 sections of each grade K-2 will be needed next school year. Of particular note are the 13 kindergartners who are currently full remote – as first graders they will not have had instruction in a school building. Research shows 15 or less in a classroom for K-2 grades.

Item 12A Learning and COVID19 update

As of the Board meeting, instructional activities will have ended for the year. Many end of the year activities occurred outdoors: modified field days, small picnics, etc., as the principal updated the Board.

Restrictions are loosening in Illinois with COVID rates being much lower. In our combined zip codes over the past month, the rate has ranged from 3-7%. Suburban Cook County has hovered around 5%, or just below 5%. It’s increasingly difficult to find the data in a timely manner.

What does this mean moving forward? That’s the question schools are waiting for the answer to. It’s expected that on June 11th the Governor will pretty much re-open the State. ISBE, working with the Governor’s Office, has passed a resolution calling for full day in-person learning next school year. Remote learning appears to be mandated for some students, but the language in the resolution is ambiguous as to who would be able to be eligible for remote learning? (the superintendent would think that we’d need to move toward simultaneous teaching of in-person and remote students at the same time, which will require different cameras.) Will social distancing of 3’ be required? (this will probably add about 6 students per classroom with student desks wall to wall. That’s about 18-19 students per class, which in some of the upper grades might mean another section. It will also mean that we’d need to continue to store extra furniture putting art and music on a cart and limiting access to the locker rooms.) What about lunchroom restrictions? Hopefully, ISBE and the IDPH will issue new guidelines sooner than later so that we can make plans accordingly. Preliminary plans for multiple options are in the works.

Item 12B Summer Meals

We will serve breakfasts only during summer months. They will be delivered on Tuesdays. On Tuesdays, those that come for meals will be given 5 breakfasts.

Item 12C Agreement with IASB’s Executive Search Team for a Permanent Superintendent

Last month, the Board was presented with information from Alan Molby from IASB.

The agreement is for \$7,900 for the IASB to facilitate the search for a permanent superintendent to begin on 7/1/2022. What they excel in is helping the Board determine its priorities and goals for a new superintendent – and then matching candidates to the District. The superintendent included a copy of the agreement and the process and tasks the IASB will perform in the packet.

The Board decided to table this item so Anderson can research other places to compare pricing and services.

Item 14 Closed Session

Board needed to go into closed session to discuss personnel issues.

Motion 21-166 by Weeg, seconded by Anderson to go into Closed Session at 7:06 p.m. with the purpose of discussing personnel issues.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ristić, Bohac, Anderson, Mierop and Nunez

Motion 21-167 by Ristić, seconded by Nunez Board returned to open session at 7:59 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ristić, Bohac, Anderson, Mierop and Nunez

Item 15 Final Actions

The superintendent recommends the approval of the minutes of the April 28, 2021 Closed Session minutes and to keep them closed.

Motion 21-168 by Weeg, seconded by Nunez to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2021 Closed Session minutes and to keep them closed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ristić, Bohac, Anderson, Mierop and Nunez

The superintendent recommends the approval of the minutes of the May 5, 2021 Closed Session minutes and to keep them closed.

Motion 21-169 by Ristić, seconded by Bohac to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2021 Closed Session minutes and to keep them closed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ristić, Bohac, Anderson, Mierop and Nunez

The superintendent recommends the approval of the minutes of the May 19, 2021 Closed Session minutes and to keep them closed.

Motion 21-170 by Weeg, seconded by Nunez to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2021 Closed Session minutes and to keep them closed.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Ristić, Bohac, Anderson, Mierop and Nunez

Item 16 Adjournment

Motion 21-171: Adjournment at 8:00 pm

Motion made by Ristić, Seconded by Nunez

Hearing no objections so moved.



President



Secretary