

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education  
Willow Springs Consolidated School District No. 108  
Tuesday, July 27, 2021  
Willow Springs School Gymnasium**

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:37 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Members present: Weeg, Bohac, Hawkins(6:40), Anderson, Mierop, and Nunez  
Administration: Superintendent Patrick, Superintendent Bahn & Principal Oreluk

**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 22-008 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**

**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)

**Audience Participation**

Alexandra Oreluk, Principal; Teachers: Kim Cahill, Sharon Conrad Ann Musto and Allison Thiele; Attorney Tom Melody from Klein Thorp & Jenkins; Nick Cavaliere from Baker Tilly; Dr. Patricia Sullivan-Viniard from IASB; and Valerie Wacker who took the minutes.

Community Members: Tiffany Carlisle(1047 Testa, Justice); Michelle Zethmayr(1067 Testa Dr, Justice) Laura Smonczyk(8784 Archer Ave); Don Baar(8148 Rosemere Ct); Dave Patterson (206 E Ravine Ave); Lisa Valdez(206 Hill St.); Mary Jane Mannella(320 Forest Ave.); Cindy Pena(114 Willow Blvd).

Dave Patterson read the FY21 Audit Management Statement. Lisa Valdez talked about before and after school care. Would like to see a safe place on school site care. Gave an option of 10 Kids League and suggested a committee is created to research further. Laura Smonczyk thanked everyone in advance for adhering to the recommendations to keep everyone healthy. Tiffany Carlisle thanked everyone for their service. Pro-choice but please adhere to the guidelines. She is worried about her 11 year old with underlined conditions. She is in full support of the whole school being fully masked. Michelle Zethmayer spoke in regards to being fully masked as she saw teachers unmasked with kids during summer school. Was asking how we will distance for lunch and will the students be outside ALL the time.

## Minutes

Several sets of minutes were included in the packet. The May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes are corrected as we discovered that the motions following closed session were omitted last month. .

The superintendent recommends the approval of the minutes from the corrected Regular Board Meeting for May 25, 2021 along with the Regular Board Meeting for June 29, 2021, Special Board Meeting minutes from July 7, 2021 and July 14, 2021.

**Motion 22-009 by Weeg, seconded by Bohac as recommended by the superintendent the approval of the minutes from the corrected Regular Board Meeting for May 25, 2021 along with the Regular Board Meeting for June 29, 2021, Special Board Meeting minutes from July 7, 2021 and July 14, 2021.**

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

**Abstain:**

## Financial Report

The auditor's report for the month of June was in the packet. Nick Cavaliere from Baker Tilly and the superintendent answered all questions from the Board. Nunez asked to put on the agenda next month as to how the financial reports are put together.

## Consent Agenda

The superintendent recommends the approval of the consent agenda.

**Motion 22-010 by Hawkins, 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 \$154,798.52 (8A-1-2), the reimbursement of the Imprest Fund in the amount of \$0 (8B) and approval of the Activity Fund balance of \$47,778.32 (8C) for the month of July 2021.**

### **Consent #2**

**The superintendent recommends the approval of the financial report for the month of June 2021. Fund balances: Educational: \$4,062,990; Operations & Maintenance: \$130,287; Debt Service: \$607,900; Transportation: \$622,396; IMRF: \$190,734; Capital Projects: 147,147; Working Cash: \$534,175; Tort: \$65,861; and Fire Prevention & Life Safety \$5.**

### **Consent #3**

**The superintendent recommends the acceptance of Stephanie Kelch's resignation effective July 17, 2021.**

**The superintendent recommends the acceptance of Megan Henderson's resignation effective August 25, 2021.**

### **Consent #4**

Once 18 months have passed, and written records exist, audio recordings of closed sessions should be destroyed.

**The superintendent recommends the destruction of the closed session audio recordings for 6/7/19, 6/25/19, 7/23/19, 8/12/19, 9/24/19, 10/22/19, 11/19/19 and 12/17/19 as written record exists.**

**The superintendent recommends the approval of the Transportation Hazard Claim resolution.**

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

## **Notices and Communications**

The superintendent presented the following news articles:

A-a. 3 journal articles related to National and Illinois Education Issues at this time.

1. 2 articles related to COVID19 mitigations and schools: one from CNN, “What the new CDC guidance for schools means for children” and from the NY Times, “The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends universal masking in schools this fall”.
2. The editorial from the Chicago Tribune, urging Governor Pritzker to release the funds for the new AERO Center building.

A-b. 1 newspaper and related articles related to Willow Springs School District 108.  
From the Des Plaines Valley News about the tragic crash killing 4 Argo teens on 7/17/21.  
Two of the students that passed, graduated from Willow.

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

**Item 9B Legislative/SCOPE report: 0 Items.**

**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: 1 item.

1. A copy of Mary Ellen Weeg’s letter introducing Steve Bahn to the community.

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

**Special Education**

Micki Bohac reported:

Dr. Gunell spoke about receiving the \$25 million from the state to build the new AERO center. After a great article in the tribune, and a written campaign, it was reported by Lobbyist Heines that it looked promising. Cunningham said that Pritzker signed off on 41 bids and AERO was one of them. AERO should hear for sure by 7/30/21.

AERO is starting a new virtual program for new staff that will be a type of mentoring program. It is called Renew, reboot and recover.

AERO golf outing is on 10/4/21 to help raise funds for the new AERO center. All are welcome to attend.

AERO is short 50 para's and is struggling to find anyone to work these jobs. They did a survey of comparable wages in the eleven districts and other co-ops. They are not the lowest but not the highest either. They are thinking of a \$500.00 incentive for each semester.

### **Principal's Report**

Principal Oreluk reported for her final report:

Updated the Board since her official start at Willow on June 30, 2021. She also thanked Mr. Patrick for his collaboration and mentorship over the past month as she prepared for the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

She has created master schedules that provide the following:

Consistent specials' times for all students and staff.

Spanish will now be a class for all students in the building

Dedicated "Wolverine Time" for every student in the building to provide enrichment or

Intervention opportunities based on demonstrated student need.

Expanded technology lab program. All 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students will now have "Tech Lab".

All certified staff members will have the opportunity for 70 minutes of Professional Learning Community (PLC) time daily in order to discuss student achievement, interventions, areas of Growth and focus the four PLC questions:

What do we want all students to know and be able to do?

How will we know if they learn it?

How will we respond when some students do not learn?

How will we extend the learning for students who are already proficient?

Google Classroom for Willow staff will store important information and serve as a platform for communication between the staff and Administration.

The principal has worked with Ms. Benitez the Spanish teacher and the Jr. High Math Teacher, Ms. Castaneda to explore the adaption of two new curricula. More information will be finalized closer to the start of the school year.

The program Evaluwise has been adopted in order to streamline the evaluation process for teachers. This is an online program that allows for collaborative, two way communication between the evaluators and the teachers.

The 2021-2022 Handbook has been revised and edited based on suggestions from the Illinois Principal Association and most recent law changes. The principal is waiting on a few laws to be signed by the Governor before we finalize the handbook for this upcoming school year.

The Administration team has been busy interviewing for all the vacancies.

A community survey was sent out to the families of our students to seek their input as to the best modes of communication as we move into the 2021-2022 school year. This survey will be open for approximately two weeks and available on the school website for all stakeholders.

There will be two Kickoff Events scheduled for the beginning of the school year.

**Kindergarten and EC**

Monday August 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 5:45

Two sessions:

3:00-4:00 and 4:30-5:30

**1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades**

Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:45

Four Sessions:

3:00-3:30, 3:45-4:15' 4:30-5:00 and 5:15-5:45

There will be a digital sign up for families for these events. The sign up will be available August 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be a limited number of students allowed per time slot and are asking that only the student and one guardian attend. This will help facilitate social distancing. The principal will ensure that there are enough time slots for all students to attend if they so choose.

Over 100 families were welcomed for in person registration. As of now, the information listed below are our most recent registration numbers. The second number listed represents additional anticipated students who will register.

Pre-Kindergarten: 3 (+2)	4 <sup>th</sup> : 28 (+9)
Kindergarten: 31 (+7)	5 <sup>th</sup> : 27 (+14)
1 <sup>st</sup> : 24 (+14)	6 <sup>th</sup> : 24 (+14)
2 <sup>nd</sup> : 33 (+10)	7 <sup>th</sup> : 28 (+15)
3 <sup>rd</sup> : 26 (+9)	8 <sup>th</sup> : 18 (+12)

Summer School is in its final week! There will be a band concert on Wednesday, July 28<sup>th</sup> to show off all of the hard work of our band students! If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Ms. Bromberger as she is facilitating this socially distanced experience.

The principal is excited to welcome back all our students to full day instruction at Willow!

**11A Class Size Information**

The report is in the packet. It's our worksheet and is a work in progress. These are just the students we know about. The superintendent and principal anticipate even more.

**Item 12A Extension of First Student Agreement**

The superintendent has had several rounds of discussion with Jason Kierna at First Student. He has gone down several rabbit holes with him. The upshot is, First Student is holding firm on their language. They offered several variations on the same theme.

The deal itself for regular services is acceptable. It's the 40% if school goes full remote that the superintendent was endeavoring to lower. Again, as it is unlikely that the school will be full remote for a significant amount of time, it is hopefully a contract item that will never have to be utilized by First Student.

The superintendent recommends the adoption of the Amendment to Student Transportation Services Agreement with First Student as presented.

**Motion 22-011 by Bohac, seconded by Weeg as recommended by the superintendent the adoption of the Amendment to Student Transportation Services Agreement with First Student as presented. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Bohac, Hawkins, Anderson, Mierop, and Nunez**

**Item 12B Willow Springs TIF2 Discussion**

Mary Ellen Weeg went to the Village Board meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup> where changes to the TIF2 plan were discussed. The Intergovernmental Agreement regarding TIF2 was in the packet. Mary Ellen Discussed the changes.

**Item 12C Approval of Memorandum of Agreement Regarding the Retirement of Paraprofessionals/Custodians**

In looking at the contract language, the superintendent found that the retirement sections of agreement for paraprofessionals and for custodians had an error and neglected to limit the time the benefit is available. The Union and the superintendent cleaned up the language to its negotiated intent.

The superintendent recommends the adoption of the Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement Regarding the Retirement of Paraprofessionals and the Memorandum of Agreement Regarding the Retirement of Custodians.

**Motion 22-012 by Bohac, seconded by Anderson as recommended by the superintendent the adoption of the of the Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement Regarding the Retirement of Paraprofessionals and the Memorandum of Agreement Regarding the Retirement of Custodians.  
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Bohac, Hawkins, Anderson, Mierop, and Nunez**

**Item 12D Executive Search Firm Selection**

Patricia Sullivan-Viniard updated the Board and talked about the timeline process for the search for the permanent superintendent. The timeline paperwork is in the packet.

**Item 12E Back to School for 2021-22 School Year**

Superintendent Bahn, Principal Oreluk and the Special Ed Director, Mrs. Litko put together the plan to keep students healthy in the new school year and as COVID free as they can. About 70% of our students are not old enough to be eligible for the vaccine.

Superintendent Bahn shared the plans with the Board in a separate email and presented it at the meeting.

The superintendent recommends the adoption of the Back to School Plan FY 2021-2022 as presented.

**Motion 22-013 by Weeg, seconded by Mierop as recommended by the Superintendent for the adoption of the Back to School Plan FY 2021-2022 as presented.  
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Weeg, Bohac, Hawkins, Anderson, Mierop, and Nunez**

**Item 13 Calendar Information**

**Item 14 Closed Session**

Board did not go into Closed Session.

**Item 15 Final Actions**

The superintendent recommends the approval of the Board's findings that the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of the attached closed session minutes.

**Motion 22-014 by Hawkins, seconded by Mierop as recommended by the superintendent the approval of the Board's findings that the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of the attached closed session minutes.**

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

The superintendent recommends the approval of the Closed Session minutes for June 29, 2021 and July 7, 2021 and to keep them closed.

**Motion 22-015 by Anderson, seconded by Mierop as recommended by the superintendent the approval of the Closed Session minutes for June 29, 2021 and July 7, 2021 and to keep them closed.**

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

The superintendent recommends the employment of New Teachers for FY 2021-2022 school year as listed:

Isabel Lietza for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (\$46,111 Lane A Step 2 with TRS); Emily Wardell for kindergarten (\$50,392 Lane C, Step 4 with TRS); Renata Rusin for JH Math and Math Interventionist (51,267 Lane A, Step 8 with TRS); Tim Layer for 5<sup>th</sup> grade (53,760 Lane D, Step 1 with TRS ); Todd Erdman for JH Language Arts (59,480 Lane A, Step 12 with TRS) and Kendall Pignato for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (46,384 Lane A, Step 1 with TRS).

**Motion 22-016 by Bohac, seconded by Weeg as recommended by the superintendent the employment of the New Teachers for FY 2021-2022 school year as listed.**

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

The superintendent recommends the employment of New Teachers for FY 2021-2022 school year

**Motion 22-017 by Weeg, seconded by Bohac as recommended by the superintendent the re-employment of paraprofessional Dawn DeAnda (3HQ \$22,496) for FY 2021-2022 school year.**

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


Superintendent Frank Patrick thanked everyone.

**Item 16 Adjournment**

**Motion 22-018: Adjournment at 8:23 pm**

**Motion made by, Bohac Seconded by Weeg**

**Hearing no objections so moved.**

  
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President

  
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Secretary

