

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Education
Willow Springs Consolidated School District No. 108
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
Willow Springs School Library**

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Members present: Mierop, Hawkins (6:37), Wojciak, Patterson, and Ponczek
Administration: Superintendent Bahn & Principal Oreluk

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President, Dave Patterson.

Public Comment

Community members wishing to address the Board must complete a form and submit it to Ms. Valerie Wacker – Board Secretary. Please state your name at the beginning of your comments and direct your statements to the Board President. Your time will be limited to three minutes and members of the Board will not respond during this portion of the meeting.

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)

None

Board/Superintendent Announcements

Superintendent stated that since 1970 those that excel by a selection committee are picked to be recognized. One of our staff was chosen, Maribeth Fagan, Social Worker will receive that award. He is very proud of her.

Financial Report

The superintendent stated Rob feels the school is in line financially as we should be. Still waiting on taxes funds from Cook County otherwise the budget is on track.

Consent Agenda

The superintendent recommends the approval of the consent agenda.

Motion 24-048 by Patterson, seconded by Wojciak as recommended by the superintendent for the approval of the consent agenda.

Consent #1

The superintendent recommends the approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on February 21, 2024.

Consent #2

The superintendent recommends the approval of the payroll and the approval of the Payables in the amount of \$380,989.38, the reimbursement of the Imprest Fund in the amount of \$240.00 and approval of the Activity Fund balance of \$29,921.97 for the month of March 2024.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Mierop, Wojciak, Patterson, and Ponczek

Item 8 Action Items

Approval of PTAB Resolution

This resolution allows the School District to intervene in property tax appeals before the Property Tax Appeals Board (PTAB). When a property owner believes their property has been valued/assessed too high, they can appeal their assessment to PTAB and if they are requesting a reduction of more than \$100,000, the School

District and all other taxing bodies must be notified by Cook County and given the opportunity to intervene. One of the required elements of intervention is an approved resolution authorizing intervention by the Board.

In addition to the resolution, the superintendent included individual letters to each of the organizations that are appealing. The School District also received the Property Relief Grant.

Motion 24-049 by Wojciak, seconded by Hawkins as recommended by the superintendent for the attached resolution authorizing Odelson, Murphy, Frazier, and McGrath, Ltd., to file a request to intervene on behalf of Willow Springs School District #108 in the appeals process with the State of Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, contesting over \$100,000.

**Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Mierop, Hawkins, Wojciak, and Ponczek
Nays: Patterson**

Resolution Authorization Abatement of Debt Service Levy (2023)

At the end of December 2024, the long term debts for the School District will be paid. The superintendent read the resolution information and this motion is to be able to transfer funds to pay off. This resolution takes effect immediately upon adoption. It abates \$291,200 and relieves the tax payers of the property relief funds.

The Superintendent recommends the approval to the Resolution Authorize Abatement of Debt Service Levy (2023).

Motion 24-050 by Hawkins, seconded by Wojciak as recommended by the superintendent the approval to the Resolution Authorize Abatement of Debt Service Levy (2023).

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Mierop, Hawkins, Wojciak, Patterson, and Ponczek

Resolution Providing for Abatement of 2023 and 2024 Taxes

The Superintendent recommends the approval of Resolution Providing for Abatement of 2023 and 2024 Taxes in order to obtain Fiscal Year 2024 Property Tax Relief Grant.

Motion 24-051 by Hawkins, seconded by Wojciak as recommended by the superintendent the approval of Resolution Providing for Abatement of 2023 and 2024 Taxes in order to obtain Fiscal Year 2024 Property Tax Relief Grant.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Mierop, Hawkins, Wojciak, Patterson, and Ponczek

Resolution Authorizing Accounting Transfer(s)

The Superintendent recommends the Resolution Authorizing Accounting Transfer(s) to Debt Service Fund to Implement Stet Regulations.

Motion 24-052 by Wojciak, seconded by Mierop as recommended by the superintendent the approval of Resolution Authorizing Accounting Transfer(s) to Debt Service Fund to Implement Stet Regulations.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Mierop, Hawkins, Wojciak, Patterson, and Ponczek

Approval of Board Recording Secretary Stipend

The superintendent included a memo to the Board with details regarding the annual payment to the Board's recording secretary. The memo provides the details of the payment.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the annual stipend payment in the amount of \$675.00 for the Willow Springs recording secretary as defined with the memo.

Motion 24-053 by Ponczek, seconded by Hawkins as recommended by the superintendent the approval of the annual stipend payment in the amount of \$675.00 for the Willow Springs recording secretary as defined with the memo.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Mierop, Hawkins, Wojciak, Patterson, and Ponczek

Approval of 2023-2024 Lawn Maintenance Contract

The superintendent included a copy of the new lawn maintenance contract for Willow Springs School for 2024-2025. The details of this agreement are included within the contract. He also included the contracts from prior years.

The superintendent recommends the approval of the lawn maintenance contract with Bustos Landscape Inc. of Berwyn, Illinois for 2024-2025 in the amount of \$6,400.00.

Motion 24-054 by Ponczek, seconded by Mierop as recommended by the superintendent the approval of the lawn maintenance contract with Bustos Landscape Inc. of Berwyn, Illinois for 2024-2025 in the amount of \$6,400.00.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Mierop, Hawkins, Wojciak, Patterson, and Ponczek

Item 9 Presentations/Committee Reports

None

Item 10 Information/Discussion Items

Windy City Blues Society Assembly

The superintendent on Tuesday, March 19th the students of Willow School attended an assembly that featured Geneva Red they were originally Delta Fireballs(see info below). The assembly was brought to Willow through the Windy City Blues Society and is a part of their Blues in the Schools program. Joe Bonomo connected the school with this organization. They offer different items for the students to participate in like play the harmonica.

Geneva Red is one of the few female instrumentalists performing on the “blues harp” and leading her own band. Couple of her outstanding harmonica abilities, strong vocal talent, and high energy show, and you’ve got the chemistry that immediately establishes her as a rare and exciting performer.

2024-2025 School Calendar Review - Update

The superintendent included a first draft of the 2024-2025 school calendar for your review and discussion last month. Ad discussed, He shared the proposed calendar with the staff and asked for feedback. He received comments from 17 staff members, most were positive. He included a couple items that were shared for the Board to discuss. Any changes made through discussion will modify the calendar and he will bring it back next month for approval.

The school has greatly benefited from the implementation of our early-release Wednesdays and therefore will continue with these days for the 2024-2025 school year.

The superintendent will bring an updated 2024-2025 calendar to the March meeting in hopes to bring it up to the Board for approval.

Multiple requests were made to end the school year prior to Memorial Day (May 26, 2025). This would require moving the start of the school year one week earlier.

A request to include Friday, December 20, 2024 as the first day of winter break.

A request to add Friday, April 18, 2025 as a non-attendance day for students and staff.

Any student days removed from the calendar and replaced by non-attendance days would require us to add additional days

Hawkins stated that she would like to see previous calendars. She does not like the Wednesday’s early release. She said ARGO has a late start.

2024-2025 Staffing Plan

The superintendent provided information regarding the proposed staffing plan for the 2024-2025 school year. In this evening’s packet there was information regarding the total proposed FTE for 24-25 compared to 23-24.

He was recently informed of the increase to the health insurance coverage for next school year with both HMO and PPO plans increasing by approximately 8.5%. The final meeting was either today or will be tomorrow. He is waiting on final pricing. He believes there will be a drop soon.

He is looking to fill positions with certified staff that the substitutes are holding now. Will is structuring PARA's. Per the superintendent classroom study states 20 students to 1 teacher are good due to size. Class size 16-24 and over will be animally. Twenty-four in a second grade classroom is too much. It makes him sweaty to think about it. He prefers 18-20 for 2nd grade. Twenty-four in Jr. High is ok. He spoke in regards class size, student to teacher ratio and staff to student ratio.

Press Policy Plus Subscription

Within the next few weeks, the superintendent will begin to process of the customization of updating the Board Policy Manual. He spoke with Nicholas Baumann – Policy Director, Illinois Association of School Boards by phone yesterday to discuss this process. This will be a time-consuming effort and will take place over the course of 3-4 months. IASB places an emphasis on having Board participation throughout the process, although it is not required. In the end of the process, the Board will ultimately need to approve the updated manual. He will provide updates to the Board along the way and seek guidance regarding particular language that will need Board approval. He also asked the Board if anyone would like to join him in this process and he would coordinate schedules with them to make sure the meetings are convenient for them. South Cook said a certain amount of policies will be online.

Press Policy Plus is an online tool that keeps all the policies online. They are a means of how info is found.

Item 11 Communication/Correspondence

None

Item 12 Upcoming Events/Activities

Monday, March 25 - March 29 No School – Spring Break
Wednesday, April 17 Board of Education Meeting

Item 13 Items for Next Agenda

- Strategic Plan Update
- 2024-2025 School Calendar Approval
- 2024-2025 Staffing Plan Approval

Item 14 Closed Session

Motion 24-055 by, seconded by to go into Closed Session at 7:55 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Mierop, Hawkins, Wojciak, Patterson, and Ponczek

Motion 24-056 by Hawkins, seconded by Wojciak to return to open session at 9:15 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Mierop, Hawkins, Wojciak, Patterson, and Ponczek

Item 15 Closing Actions

Motion 24-057 by Wojciak, seconded by Mierop to approve the Resolution Authoring Notice of Dismissal as presented.

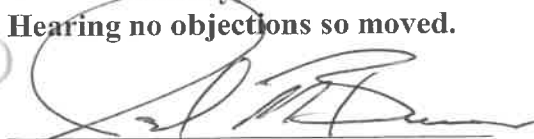
Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Mierop, Hawkins, Wojciak, Patterson, and Ponczek

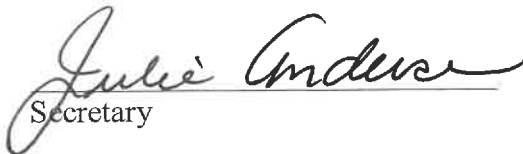
Item 16 Adjournment

Motion 23-058: Adjournment at 9:17 pm

Motion made by, Hawkins Seconded by Ponczek

Hearing no objections so moved.


President


Secretary