

MINUTES

STEGER SCHOOL DISTRICT 194 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Thursday, April 15, 2021

6:00 P.M.

**Main Gym – Enter through the East Activity Entrance Doors
Columbia Central School**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by President Helsel. Members present Helsel, Page, Turner, Raymond, Edwards and Butkus. Members absent: Sarek

Also present:

Dr. David Frusher, Eric Diehl, Jan Lenci, Kim Mahoney, Bruce Nieminski, Tom Aguirre, Adam Schoff, Tim Tufts, Janet Inglese, Jeff Nelson, Venus Smith, Rachael Diehl, and Melissa Cunha.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Helsel welcomed parents that have been attending the open board meetings recently.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Ms. Butkus to approve the following items:

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|---------------|----|---|
| ACTION | A. | Approval of the minutes of the March 18, 2021, Board Meeting and Closed Session. |
| ACTION | B. | The Superintendent recommends the board review the minutes from the October 15, 2020, Closed Session meeting and they be kept closed. |
| ACTION | C. | The Superintendent recommends the board approve the destruction of the recordings from the September 19, 2019 and October 4, 2019, Closed Session meetings. |

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

Helsel, Page, Edwards, Raymond, Turner, and Butkus.

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Sarek.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

A motion was made by Mr. Sarek and seconded by Mrs. Raymond to approve the following item under Financial Accounts:

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| ACTION | E. | Payment of Bills - Approval of April bills |
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Upon roll call all members voting aye:

Helsel, Page, Edwards, Raymond, Turner, and Butkus.

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Sarek.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- **Meal Update:** In our school district, we will continue with the pre ordering program for our children up to age 18. From 8/31/2020 through 4/12/2021, 19,410 free breakfasts and lunches have been provided to our families for children up to age 18. This is a running total increase amount from 13,095 from last month, which is 6,315 additional breakfasts and lunches.
- **Technology Update:** Our school district has deployed 1406 mobile devices for students to use at home during remote learning. In addition, 55 hot spots have been provided to families, which include internet service. These are a running total increase amounts from last month, where we were at 1397 mobile devices and the hot spots at 53.
- On 3/17/2021, we held our annual SD 194 spring dinner. Pictures are available on social media, the SD 194 Facebook page and twitter account, and I've hope you've had a chance to view them. Our District served over 196 seniors a great St. Patrick's Day meal. Thanks to everyone who came out and worked!
- From 4/2/2021 to 4/11/2021, our school district was not in session. Through my conversations with many staff members, they were able to get some much needed rest in preparation for the last seven weeks of our school year.
- As a district, we continue to monitor COVID-19 metrics; and they continue to good, with a small uptick. I've provided you a Covid-19 metrics Update. In our school district, safety and adherence to the guidance from ISBE and IDPH continues to be our very top priority.

COVID-19 Metrics - April 15, 2021

- **Region 7 (Will and Kankakee Counties)**

- Region 7 Tier status
 - 1/18/21 Tier 1
 - 2/14/21 Phase 4
 - 3/18/21 Bridge Phase to Phase 5
 - 4/12/21 Phase 4
- Test Positivity 7-Day Rolling Average -
 - 1/18/21 11 consecutive days under 12% threshold - Last four days have been at, and are now below, the 8.0% threshold. (Trending in the right direction)
 - 2/14/21 11 consecutive days under 8% threshold - Last eleven days have been below the 8.0% threshold.
 - 3/15/21 11 consecutive days under 8% threshold - Last eleven days have been below the 8.0% threshold.
 - 4/12/21 11 consecutive days under 8% threshold - Last eleven days have been below the 8.0% threshold.
- Hospital Bed Availability 7-Day Rolling Average -
 - 1/18/21 11 consecutive days over 20% availability for ICU beds - 25%-29% range.
 - 2/14/21 11 consecutive days over 20% availability for ICU beds - 26%-29% range.
 - 3/15/21 11 consecutive days over 20% availability for ICU beds - 32%-37% range.
 - 4/12/21 11 consecutive days over 20% availability for ICU beds - 22%-25% range.
- COVID-19 Patients in the Hospital 7-Day Rolling Average -
 - 1/18/21 9 Days of COVID-19 Hospital Patient Equal or Decreases.
 - 2/14/21 6 Days of COVID-19 Hospital Patient Equal or Decreases.
 - 3/15/21 9 Days of COVID-19 Hospital Patient Equal or Decreases.
 - 4/12/21 3 Days of COVID-19 Increases.

- Test Positivity 7-Day Rolling Average
 - 1/18/21 7.6% (Trending in the right direction)
 - 2/14/21 4.5%
 - 3/15/21 3.4%
 - 4/12/21 6.0%
- Test Positivity 7-Day Rolling Average
 - Will County
 - 1/18/21 8.2%
 - 2/14/21 4.8%
 - 3/15/21 3.4%
 - 4/12/21 6.4%
 - Kankakee County
 - 1/18/21 5.0%
 - 2/14/21 3.4%
 - 3/15/21 3.0%
 - 4/12/21 4.1%
 - Cook County
 - 1/18/21 7.9%
 - 2/14/21 4.1%
 - 3/15/21 3.5%
 - 4/12/21 5.7%
 - School Level Metrics - 3/28/21 - 4/3/21
 - New cases (Target: Decreasing or Stable)
 - Will County - Moderate
 - Kankakee County - Minimal
 - Cook County - Substantial
 - Youth Cases Increase (Target: Decreasing or Stable)
 - Will County - Minimal
 - Kankakee County - Minimal
 - Cook County - Moderate
- **Northwestern University Dashboard by Zip Code - 7 day positivity rate - Through 4/14/2021**
 - 1/20/21 60475 (Steger) 11.74% 3-5 cases a day
 - 2/17/21 60475 (Steger) 2.78% 1-2 cases a day
 - 3/17/21 60475 (Steger) 13.64% 1-3 cases a day
 - 4/14/21 60475 (Steger) 6.01% 1-2 cases a day
 - 1/20/21 60411 (Chicago Hts.) 5.92% 22-30 cases a day
 - 2/17/21 60411 (Chicago Hts.) 2.58% 6-8 cases a day
 - 3/17/21 60411 (Chicago Hts.) 3.56% 3-7 cases a day
 - 4/14/21 60411 (Chicago Hts.) 4.33% 10-12 cases a day
 - 1/20/21 60475 + 60411 6.45% 26-35 cases a day
 - 2/17/21 60475 + 60411 2.60% 7-10 cases a day
 - 3/17/21 60475 + 60411 4.46% 4-10 cases a day
 - 4/14/21 60475 + 60411 4.48% 11-14 cases a day
 - 1/20/21 60466 (Park Forest) 6.46% 8-10 cases a day
 - 2/17/21 60466 (Park Forest) 2.17% 2-3 cases a day
 - 3/17/21 60466 (Park Forest) 2.75% 2-3 cases a day
 - 4/14/21 60466 (Park Forest) 6.36% 4-7 cases a day

- 1/20/21 60417 (Crete) 4.31% 4-7 cases a day
- 2/17/21 60417 (Crete) 2.00% 2-4 cases a day
- 3/17/21 60417 (Crete) 2.42% 2-3 cases a day
- 4/14/21 60417 (Crete) 2.63% 2-3 cases a day

BOARD MATTERS (Consent Agenda)

A motion was made by Ms. Butkus and seconded by Mrs. Turner to approve the following action items under Board Matter.

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| INFO | A. | Certificate of Excellence from South Cook Intermediate Service Center SD 194 for achieving a perfect score with no citations in all of its buildings during the FY 21 Health Life Safety Inspection. |
| INFO | B. | Steger School District 194 Student Assessment Data update presented by Bruce Nieminski. |
| INFO | C. | Steger School District 194 Curriculum Review update presented by Jan Lenci. Presented on ESSR Grants, Math, ELA, and I CAN statements. Goal for 2021- 2022 increasing student achievement at every building. Summer Learning Program (Summer School) August 2-19, Monday – Thursday, 8-11 a.m., In-Person only, and located at Columbia Central. |
| INFO | D. | Steger School District will be using June 7 th and 8 th for Remote Planning Days. There will be no student attendance. |
| INFO | E. | Steger School District 194 Last Day of School Parade June 4, 2021 |
| ACTION | F. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2021-2022 proposed Public School Calendar, as presented. |
| ACTION | G. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2021-2022 proposed District School Calendar, as presented. |
| ACTION | H. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2021-2022 proposed Board meeting dates, as presented. |
| ACTION | I. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 36-month contract with Republic Services, as Presented. |
| ACTION | J. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2021-2022 agreements with The Regional Institute for Scholastic Excellence (RISE), as presented. |

Upon roll call all members voting aye:
Helsel, Page, Edwards, Raymond, Turner, and Butkus.
Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Sarek.
Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL (Consent Agenda)

A motion was made by Mrs. Page and seconded by Mrs. Turner to approve the following action items under Personnel.

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| ACTION | A. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Joenie Avila, Paraprofessional at Steger Primary Center, effective March 31, 2021. |
| ACTION | B. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Jennifer Seifert, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at Steger Intermediate Center effective March 30, 2021. |
| ACTION | C. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Amber Schaaf, 1 st grade Teacher at Steger Primary Center, effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. |

Upon roll call all members voting aye:
Helsel, Page, Edwards, Raymond, Turner, and Butkus.
Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Sarek.
Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Columbia Central presentation presented by Principal Bruce Nieminski, Associate Principal Tom Aguirre, and Dean of Students Adam Schoff.

8th Grade Graduation on Thursday, January 3, 2021 with a rain date of Monday, June 4, 2021, at Columbia Central School outside at the track located in Mike Sarek Park. The student will receive tickets for two people to attend the graduation ceremony. This graduation will be unique due to Covid 19 guidelines for social distancing.

Steger Intermediate Center Principal Janet Inglese spoken regarding Erin's Law Be Seen Be Heard. Presentations will be hosted in all three buildings on May 5th and 6th. Parents can opt their children out of the presentation.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. New Business
 - a. Movie Night – Friday, May 21st showing “Goonies” 8:30 p.m. at Columbia Central School
- B. Old Business
- C. Correspondence
- D. PTA transitioning to PTO
- E. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – NEW ON THE AGENDA
 - a. September 21, 2020, Kirkland & Ellis, Nina Terebessy
 - i. Interested in receiving the Title IX policy, procedures, and other related documents that were in effect on February 7, 2020.
 - b. October 27, 2020, Illinois Superintendent Salary Survey, Tamika Littleton
 - i. Superintendent of School employment contract
 - c. November 23, 2020, WBEZ, Susie AN
 - i. Student attendance during Covid.
 - d. January 20, 2021, Chicago Tribune, R. Richards
 - i. Request the following records pertaining to local law enforcement for the last two years.
 - ii. Records of names of any police officers, liaisons or school resource officers assigned to the district.
 - iii. Records that shows arrests of students made inside the school district and the underlying offense during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school year.
 - iv. Records that show gender and race of students referred to law enforcement and arrested for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school year.
 - v. Any and all district or school level incident reports involving a police officer for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school year.
 - e. February 11, 2021, Informational Services Illinois
 - i. Any and all documents from 1-1-19 through the present day, inclusive of those dates for specifications.
 - ii. All checks, warrants, purchase orders, or other documents evidencing payments made for the opening of SD 194 for public walking.
 - iii. All security plans for students and seniors, and all procedures drafted regarding the use of schools for senior walking plans.
 - iv. A complete roster of all SD 194 employees, including salaries and titles for said employees.
 - f. February 25, 2021, Informational Services Illinois,
 - i. Request any documents, receipts, or similar, pertaining to any and all payments for the Spring Senior Dinner Covid Style event taking place in March of 2021.
 - g. March 18, 2021, Informational Services Illinois,

- i. SD 194 St. Patrick's Day Senior Dinner RSVP list, any attendee list or similar, for the Spring Senior Dinner Covid Style event that was scheduled to take place on 3-17-21.

F. Upcoming Dates

- a. April 27 Progress Reports
- b. April 27-30 IAR Testing - SIC
- c. April 26-29 IAR Testing - CC
- d. April 30-May 7 IAR Testing - CC
- e. May 10-11 IAR Testing - CC
- f. May 12-14 Access Testing

CLOSED SESSION

The open meeting recessed at 7:21 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mrs. Raymond.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

Helsel, Page, Edwards, Raymond, Turner, and Butkus.

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Sarek.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

The Board went into closed session at 7:38 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Butkus and seconded by Mrs. Raymond to go into Closed Session to discuss the following.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

Helsel, Page, Edwards, Raymond, Turner, and Butkus.

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Sarek.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

Also, present

Dr. David Frusher and Melissa Cunha.

ACTION

- A. The Superintendent recommends that the Board go into Closed Session to discuss:

- 1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline performance, or dismissal of a specific employee of the public body.
- 2. Student disciplinary matters
- 3. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives

The Board adjourned closed session at 9:26 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mrs. Raymond to adjourn Closed Session.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

Helsel, Page, Edwards, Raymond, Turner, and Butkus.

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Sarek.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The open meeting reconvened at 9:27 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Page and seconded by Ms. Butkus to return to Open Session.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

Helsel, Page, Edwards, Raymond, Turner, and Butkus.

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Sarek.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mrs. Page and seconded by Mrs. Turner to approve the following action items under Personnel Action A.

ACTION A. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Administrator contract, as presented.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:
Helsel, Page, Edwards, Raymond, Turner, and Butkus.
Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Sarek.
Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:28 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Raymond and seconded by Mrs. Page to adjourn the meeting.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:
Helsel, Page, Edwards, Raymond, Turner, and Butkus.
Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Sarek.
Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Education

President, Board of Education