

# MINUTES

## STEGER SCHOOL DISTRICT 194 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

6:00 P.M.

**Columbia Central School – Cafeteria**  
**Enter through the East Entrance Doors**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Helsel. Members present Helsel, Sarek Raymond, Edwards, Turner, and Butkus. Members absent: None.

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, Anthony Graziani and Melissa Cunha.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mrs. Helsel stated she wanted to take a few minutes to speak about Debra Page. Debra Page has given to this town over and over again. It all started with the school playgrounds. Debbie was one of a kind with a strong personality. Some people you just never can replace. Debbie is one of those people that would jump in with both feet from making 200 ornaments for staff, costumes for a play or any child that needed one. Debbie was a friend to every one of us and she will be missed. The Page family is working with Mr. Diehl on setting up a foundation in her name. Chicago Heights School District 170 has collected books and will be donating them to their libraries. Debbie Page has made an impact on everyone.

Steger Education Association President Rich Norcutt gave his sincere condolences from the Steger Education Association and stated it is never goodbye it is always see you later.

### **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Sarek and seconded by Mrs. Raymond to approve the following items:

- |               |    |  |
|---------------|----|--|
| <b>ACTION</b> | A. | Approval of the minutes of the January 20, 2022, Board Meeting and Closed Session.   |
| <b>ACTION</b> | B. | Approval of the minutes of the January 27, 2022, Board Meeting and Closed Session.   |
| <b>ACTION</b> | C. | The Superintendent recommends the board review the minutes from the August 19, 2021, Closed Session meeting and they be kept closed.                   |
| <b>ACTION</b> | D. | The Superintendent recommends the board approve the destruction of the recordings from the July 30, 2020 and August 20, 2020, Closed Session meetings. |

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

## **FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

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

**ACTION**      E.      Payment of Bills - Approval of February bills

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried..

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- We're finalizing our Principal and Assistant Principal evaluations. Everyone has completed their artifacts, self-evaluation, and student growth. Summative evaluation meetings will occur before 3/1/2022. All PERA state guidelines and timelines continue to be followed and met.
- I continue to meet with South Cook County superintendents on matters related to school districts. Our focus lately has been on the district's decisions on the temporary restraining order, JCAR's decision, the appellate court's decision, COVID data (looking great), free PPE supplies from IEMA (final order), and education bills in the Illinois General Assembly (tenure, evaluations, mental health days for staff, and the new leave bill - HB1167).
- On 2/2/2022, our District Leadership Team met. Our focus is on evaluations, the Illinois 5Essentials survey, strengthening our Professional Learning Communities at Work, common formative assessments, student learning, student interventions, student athletics and activities, curriculum, and software programs, to name a few. We all work collaboratively to support one another. Great team effort!
- On 2/2/2022, 2/3/2022, and 2/17/2022, we had e-Learning days due to severe weather conditions. I'm super excited to share that these days went very well, executing our Board/SCISC/ISBE approved e-Learning plan. We were able to continue moving forward with our curriculum, teaching, and student learning. Thanks to EVERYONE for their role to ensure that these days were successful. A lot of long, hard work goes into it; especially with meals, technology, and building and grounds for our safe return. EVERYONE did a wonderful job!
- On 2/10/2022, I attended the monthly SPEED Operating Committee Meeting. Items covered included the TRO; December child count; SPEED's Health/Life/Safety report (zero violations); Miller Cooper's Audit Findings (Real good Annual Report and Management Letter, and filed with the appropriate agencies); Financial report; Personnel matters (sub. teacher); Transportation matters; and student enrollment (upward movement).
- This concludes my Superintendent's Report, thank you very much. I would like to answer any question that you may have.

**February 22, 2022**

### **Northwestern University Dashboard by Zip Code - 7 day positivity rate - Through**

Steger - 60475 Zip Code - 1.22%

Chicago Heights - 60411 Zip Code - 1.32%

Crete - 60417 Zip Code - 1.12%

Park Forest - 60466 Zip Code - 2.31%

### **BOARD MATTERS (Consent Agenda)**

A motion was made by Mr. Sarek and seconded by Mrs. Turner to approve the following item under Board Matters:

- |               |    |   |
|---------------|----|---|
| <b>INFO</b>   | A. | Presentation of the ARP-ESSER III Plan  |
| <b>INFO</b>   | B. | Public comment on ARP-ESSER III Plan  |
| <b>INFO</b>   | C. | Update from the Department of Teaching and Learning presented by Jan Lenci  |
| <b>INFO</b>   | D. | On January 27, 2022, South Cook ISC – Region 7 completed the Health/Life Safety inspection in all buildings. “District 194 has each building is violation-free. Kudos to SD 194, Anthony Graziani and all of the 194 staff; that is a terrific accomplishment and one of which to be quite proud, especially since you now have a two-year streak going.” |
| <b>ACTION</b> | E. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the contract to update the Administrative procedures Manual at zero cost to the district.   |
| <b>ACTION</b> | F. | The Superintendent recommends that the Board approve the Expense Advancement vouchers in the amount of \$750.00 for the following Board Members: Jill Raymond and Sue Edwards to attend the National School Board Conference in April.  |

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

### **PERSONNEL (Consent Agenda)**

A motion was made by Ms. Butkus and seconded by Mrs. Raymond to approve the following action items under Personnel.

- |               |    |  |
|---------------|----|--|
| <b>ACTION</b> | A. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the retirement of Irene Wise, Clerical Aide at Steger Primary Center, effective the last day of the 2022-2023 school year.   |
| <b>ACTION</b> | B. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the retirement of Christine Kamplain, Building Secretary at Steger Primary Center, effective the last day of the 2022-2023 school year.                            |
| <b>ACTION</b> | C. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the FMLA leave for Elva Escobedo, Bilingual Teacher at Columbia Central, effective February 22, 2022 through April 5, 2022.  |
| <b>ACTION</b> | D. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the FMLA leave for Patricia Unhock, RTI Paraprofessional at Steger Intermediate Center, effective April 4, 2022 through July 23, 2022.                             |
| <b>ACTION</b> | E. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Anna Deubel, Building Secretary at Steger Intermediate Center at \$16.81 an hour, effective for the 2021-2022 school year.                       |
| <b>ACTION</b> | F. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Kimberly Tufts, Business Office Administrative Assistant at the Administration Center, \$20.21 an hour, effective for the 2021-2022 school year. |
| <b>ACTION</b> | G. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Patricia Perkins, Lunch and Recess Supervisor at Steger Primary Center, \$12.00 an hour, effective for the 2021-2022 school year.                |
| <b>ACTION</b> | H. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Kayla Perkins, Lunch and Recess Supervisor at Steger Primary Center, \$12.00 an hour, effective for the 2021-2022 school year.                   |

- ACTION** I. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Araceli Marrufo, Building Secretary at Columbia Central at \$15.00 an hour, effective for the 2021-2022 school year.
- ACTION** J. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Donna Rudder, Special Education Resource Teacher at Steger Primary Center and Steger Intermediate Center at MA Step 2, effective for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Mr. Diehl spoke about the second vaccination clinic that was just held at Columbia Central. There was a good turnout with about 80 people.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- A. New Business
- B. Old Business
  - 1. The Board of Education is looking into hiring a School Resource Officer (SRO) for Columbia Central.
- C. Correspondence
  - a. The Tufts family thank you for the flowers.
- D. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request
  - 1. January 11, 2022, ABC7 Chicago, Ross Weidner and Jonathan Fagg
    - a. Copy of documentation of remote learning equipment reported as missing, damaged, broken, stolen or otherwise unavailable for use.
- E. Upcoming dates
 

a. February 25	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Trimester 666 (student dismissal 1:00 p.m.)
b. March 4	Parent Teacher conference 12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. (student dismissal 11:00 a.m.)
c. March 4	Report cards

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The Open Meeting recessed at 7:28 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mr. Sarek.

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

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:57 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Ms. Butkus to go into Closed Session to discuss the following.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:  
Helsel, Sarek, Raymond, Edwards, Turner and Butkus.  
Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.  
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.
  4. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

**ACTION**      B.      Motion to adjourn Closed Session.  
The Board adjourned Closed Session at 10:54 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Sarek.

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

**ACTION**      C.      Motion to return to Open Session.  
The Board returned to Open Session at 10:54 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Sarek and seconded by Mrs. Edwards.

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:55 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Sarek to adjourn the meeting.

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

---

Secretary, Board of Education

---

President, Board of Education