

MINUTES

STEGER SCHOOL DISTRICT 194 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Thursday, October 15, 2020

6:00 P.M.

Practice 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, Raymond, Edwards, Turner, Butkus and Sarek. 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, Rachael Diehl, Anthony Graziani and Melissa Cunha.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Helsel spoke about the passing of Mrs. Claudia Brennan and everyone took a moment of silence.

Mrs. Helsel explained that tonight they would be deciding on the Steger School District 194 Return to School Plan. Mrs. Helsel also explained she would offer public participation multiple times during the meeting.

MINUTES

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

- ACTION** A. Approval of the minutes of the September 17, 2020, Special Board Meeting and Closed Session.
- ACTION** B. The Superintendent recommends the board approve the destruction of the recordings from the March 21, 2019, Closed Session meetings.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

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

ACTION E. Payment of Bills - Approval of October bills

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- **Meal Update:** On 10/9/2020, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced they are extending flexibilities to allow free meals to continue to be available to all children throughout the entire 2020-2021 school year. This unprecedented move is part of USDA's unwavering commitment to ensuring all children across America have access to nutritious food as the nation recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. This program has flexibilities that allows schools and local program operators to operate a meal service model that best meets their community's unique needs, while keeping children and staff safe. In our school district, we will continue with the pre ordering for our all students. From 8/31/2020 through 10/13/2020, 2549 free breakfasts and lunches have been provided to our families for children up to age 18.
- **Technology Update:** Our school district has deployed 992 mobile devices for students to use at home during remote learning. In addition, 49 hot spots have been provided to families, which include internet service. New devices are arriving in our school district, and will be deployed and "swapped out" for the devices that have been previously deployed. In addition, classroom manipulatives continue to be deployed through safe, curbside pick-up.
- **Health Examination and Immunization Exclusion Guidance Update:** The COVID-19 pandemic has presented many challenges to routine medical care, causing many children to fall behind on scheduled immunizations. In order to protect individuals and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases and to prepare for the return to school, medical providers are urging parents to make appointments to resume necessary immunizations. At this time, all child-health related requirements for school attendance remain in effect for children in public, private, or parochial schools, as per Illinois General Assembly's Compiled Statutes. Documentation of required health-related examinations and immunization requirements for students, including applicable exemptions or appointments allowed by law, is required to be filed with school districts by October 15.

If a family has not ensured a child's timely compliance with health examination or immunization requirements, the child may be provided e-learning or remote instruction, provided instruction is solely by remote means and he/she does not have a physical presence on school grounds (either before, during or after school). Any child continuing to receive remote instruction during this time will not be considered in violation of the School Code and will not be subject to any penalties. Importantly, any such student who is permitted to attend school through an e-learning program or remote learning plan due to failure to present proof of required immunizations, *and* who qualifies for free and reduced meals, may continue to receive those meals in the manner that other e-learning or remote students receive meals. The Illinois State Board of Education will continue to provide us updates, as necessary, concerning compliance.

We will continue to engage families to assist in locating services from their healthcare provider, identify any barriers to obtaining necessary health examinations or immunizations or to encourage the family to contact the local county health department or federally qualified health centers to ensure compliance with the state of Illinois health requirements.

- I held individual goals meetings with all of our principals. Individual goals for the 2020-2021 school year were developed collaboratively. Goals were developed on the foundation of the Illinois Performance Standards for School Leaders. Principal observations have begun, which has been great to witness their professional practice. Everything we've done is in complete compliance with the Illinois PERA law for evaluating principals.
- I continue to meet (through zoom), every Monday morning, with sixty-six South Cook County superintendents on matters related to school districts. Several school districts near us, geographically in both Will and Cook Counties, are finalizing their return to In-Person Learning plans, or have transitioned students back into their school buildings. As you know, our SD 194 administration's discussions and recommendations are on the agenda tonight for a decision for our return to In-Person learning. Teams have been meeting and working a lot to put all of this together.

BOARD MATTERS (Consent Agenda)

A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond and seconded by Mrs. Edwards to approve the following action items under Board Matter.

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| INFO | A. | The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) completed its annual district LEA Determination review of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for FFY 2019. |
| INFO | B. | Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) recognition of Board Member Debra Page for completing the Master Board Member program Level II. |
| INFO | C. | Fall and Winter break schedule for the Administration Center, Technology Department and Maintenance/Custodians, as presented |
| INFO | D. | Presentation by Jan Lenci Director of Teaching and Learning regarding the Steger School District 194 Return to School Plan. |
| ACTION | E. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the October Tuition Reimbursement, as presented. |

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried

PERSONNEL (Consent Agenda)

A Motion was made by Mr. Sarek and seconded by Ms. Butkus to approve the following action items under Personnel.

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| ACTION | A. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Maternity leave for Morgan Bouche, Psychologist at Steger Primary Center, effective February 3, 2021 through May 3, 2021. |
| ACTION | B. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Dawanna Johnson, Paraprofessional at Columbia Central, effective September 21, 2020. |

- ACTION** C. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Katie Castro, CNA at Steger Primary Center, effective September 30, 2020.
- ACTION** D. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Chloe Ross, Paraprofessional at Steger Intermediate Center, effective October 12, 2020.
- ACTION** E. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Kyle Hammock as a Paraprofessional at Columbia Central at \$12.00 hour, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. New Business
- B. Old Business
- C. Correspondence
Thank you cards from Ms. Gatewood and Mrs. Hahto
- D. PTA transitioning to PTO
- E. Upcoming Dates

BOARD MATTERS

DISCUSSION A. Steger School District 194 Return to School Plan

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Holly Lopez a representative from the Steger Education Association made a statement about the Steger Education Association working with the Steger School District 194 Board of Education.

A staff member made a statement regarding returning to In-Person Learning.

Jan Lenci, Director of Teaching and Learning presented the Steger School District 194 Return to School Plan with three Plans A, B and C. During the presentation, other Administrators spoke regarding their departments and responsibility to the plans.

After the presentation, Mrs. Helsel asked for any public participation. Several parents and staff members asked questions. Items discussed were remote learning and in-person learning at the same time, transportation, Isolation rooms for sick children, Nurses offices for children without Covid-19 symptoms, Student Choice Survey for parents, Special Education students, students remote learning and their emotional needs, students left home alone during remote learning, Special Teachers and their positions during this time and the lack of Substitute Teachers.

Mrs. Helsel thanked all staff and parents for coming to the meeting and discussing the Steger School District 194 Return to School Plan. She stated this is not easy for parents, staff, and the students of District 194.

CLOSED SESSION

The open meeting recessed at 8:09 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mr. Sarek.

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

The Board went into closed session at 8:30 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Raymond and seconded by Mrs. Edwards to go into Closed Session to discuss the following.

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

Also present:
Dr. David Frusher, Eric Diehl, Jan Lenci, Kim Mahoney 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 9:29 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Page and seconded by Mrs. Edwards to adjourn Closed Session.

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

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The open meeting reconvened at 9:30 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mrs. Edwards to return to Open Session.

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

BOARD MATTERS

A Motion was made by Mr. Sarek and seconded by Mrs. Edwards to approve the following action items under Personnel.

ACTION A. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Steger School District 194 Return to School Plan A, as presented.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:32 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, Page, Raymond Edwards, Turner, Butkus and Sarek.

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried

Secretary, Board of Education

President, Board of Education