

# MINUTES

## STEGER SCHOOL DISTRICT 194 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Thursday, June 18, 2020

6:00 P.M.

**\*This meeting will be conducted telemetrically using the Zoom webinar platform pursuant to [Executive Order in Response to COVID-19 No. 5](#)**

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The meeting was called to order at 6:13 p.m. by President Helsel. Members present Helsel, Edwards, Page, Raymond, Turner, Butkus and Sarek. Members absent: None.

Also present via Zoom Webinar:

Dr. David Frusher, Eric Diehl, Jan Lenci, Kim Mahoney, Brianne Oliver, Bruce Nieminski, Tom Aguirre, Tim Tufts, Janet Inglese, Jeff Nelson, Patty Leoni, Venus Smith, Rachael Diehl, Anthony Graziani and Melissa Cunha.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

### **MINUTES**

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

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|---------------|----|--|
| <b>ACTION</b> | A. | Approval of the minutes of the May 21, 2020, Board Meeting and Closed Session.   |
| <b>ACTION</b> | B. | The Superintendent recommends the board review the minutes from the December 19, 2019, Closed Session meeting and they be kept closed. |
| <b>ACTION</b> | C. | The Superintendent recommends the board approve the destruction of the recordings from the November 28, 2018, Closed Session meetings. |

Upon roll call all members voting aye: Helsel, Page, Raymond, Sarek, Turner, Edwards and Butkus.

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

### **FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

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

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|---------------|----|--|
| <b>ACTION</b> | E. | Payment of Bills - Approval of May bills |
|---------------|----|--|

Upon roll call all members voting aye: Helsel, Page, Raymond, Sarek, Turner, Edwards and Butkus.

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.  
Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- **Meal Update:** From March 16<sup>th</sup> through May 28<sup>th</sup>, a total of 17,363 Grab and Go Breakfasts and Lunches were served. This was an average of 543 Grab and Go Breakfasts and Lunches per day. A total of 5,450 learning packets were picked up during the 6 rounds of learning packet pick up. We're continuing our meal program with our Summer Food Program, where families pick up 5 days of food on Monday's. Thank you to Rachel Diehl, and our food service team, for continuing to take care of our students and families.
- The big question still hanging out there, is: **What are we doing this fall?** I'd like to provide a new update, as of today.
- CARES Act Grant \$.
- Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> was the last day of student attendance for the 2019-2020 school year, and the day concluded with the End of the Year Reverse Parade. A solid estimate is that there were 400-450 cars with students in them, or stretched safely out of moon roofs.... Numerous staff members attended to support our students, and 100% of our school board members attended to show their support for everyone. Thank you! A special thanks goes out to Dana Smith, Laurie Jones, Holly Lopez, Melissa Cunha, and Jan Lenci for planning this parade. In addition, thank you to the Village of Steger, the Steger Police Department, and Emergency Management for support and ensuring everyone's safety.
- On Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> Columbia Central's 8<sup>th</sup> grade virtual graduation was posted on our district website. I would encourage everyone to check it out if you haven't yet done so.
- Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> were Remote Learning Planning Days in our school district. Teachers and Administrators had Professional Development Choice Board to select from. Areas to select from included: Instruction English Language Arts, Instructional Mathematics, Social Emotional Learning/Trauma, and Technology (Primarily Google Classroom and the Google Suite). A special thanks goes out to Brooke Cahill and Holly Lopez for leading Google Suite Professional Development.
- On June 17<sup>th</sup>, I attended, along with numerous other administrators in our district, the Return to School: Legal and Practical Considerations presentation by Robbins Schwartz. This session, along with future sessions, will guide our school district as we look toward a return to school in the fall; either remotely, in-person or through a blended model. Matters presented on, included: addressing necessary preparations and legal considerations related to staffing, bargaining implications, student attendance, gaps in student learning and how to safely transition back to school. The presentation also touched on what social distancing or other restrictions may look like in the school setting to ensure the safety of all individuals as we return to school buildings under new norms.
- I've been working with every principal, Eric Diehl, Melissa Cunha, and Teri St. Pierre bringing forward recommendations for new hires. It has been a wonderful team effort. These candidates bring tons of energy and a wealth of knowledge; especially in the areas of instructional practices, technology, and relationship building experiences with students and families. We're very excited about these individuals joining the SD 194 team and teaching our children.

- Over the past month, I've attended, along with numerous other administrators in our district, a 3 part virtual professional develop series from Solution Tree, our PLC training partners, on minding the gaps:
  - **Session 1: Designing a Master Schedule to Target Learning Gaps Next Fall**
  - **Session 2: Yes We Can and We Must: A Proactive Approach to Minding the Gap**
  - **Session 3: Transforming Assessment Practices in Unprecedented Times to Ensure Student Success**
- Over the past month, I've attended 2 SPEED Superintendents Operating Committee Meetings. SPEED had a successful virtual graduation. In addition, SPEED has hired a new Director of Human Resources and a new Director of Business Services/CSBO.
- Thank you Brianne Oliver for your service to the SD 194 community!
- Thank you to Patty Leoni for your service to the SD 194 community!

After Dr. Frusher's report, there were several questions from the Board of Education regarding technology for the upcoming school year, technology products, security and filters for computers, a detailed plan, and Professional Development. Dr. Frusher and Tim Tufts Director of Technology addressed the questions.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Edwards and seconded by Mrs. Turner to approve the following action items under Board Matters:

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|---------------|----|---|
| <b>INFO</b>   | A. | Press Plus updated exhibit 3:40-E Exhibit – checklist for the Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process with minor changes that do not require board action.   |
| <b>INFO</b>   | B. | Press Plus updated 5:35 Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act with minor changes that do not require board action.   |
| <b>ACTION</b> | C. | The Superintendent recommends that the Board adopt a resolution designating interest in district funds to remain as interest under the ISBE regulation to preserve the opportunity to transfer that interest at a later date. |
| <b>ACTION</b> | D. | The Superintendent recommends that the Board approve the renewal of Board Policy 2:125, Resolution to Regulate Expense Reimbursement limiting allowable reimbursement for Board members and District staff to \$1500.         |
| <b>ACTION</b> | E. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the job title description change from Director of Learning Resource Centers to Coordinator of Learning Resource Centers.  |
| <b>ACTION</b> | F. | The Superintendent requests, as stated in his Superintendent Employment Contract, for the 2019-2020 contract year, to exchange five (5) vacation days at his current per diem in lieu of taking said days.                    |
| <b>ACTION</b> | G. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the amendment to the contract with Positive Connections, as presented.  |

Upon roll call all members voting aye: Helsel, Page, Raymond, Sarek, Turner, Edwards and Butkus.

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 Mrs. Raymond to approve the following action items under Personnel.

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|---------------|----|--|
| <b>ACTION</b> | A. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Brianne Oliver, Assistant Principal at Columbia Central, effective June 30, 2020.   |
| <b>ACTION</b> | B. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Emily Mannino, 5 <sup>th</sup> grade Teacher at Columbia Central, effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.  |
| <b>ACTION</b> | C. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Ashley McCann, 5 <sup>th</sup> grade Teacher at Columbia Central, effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.  |
| <b>ACTION</b> | D. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Paternity leave for Tyler Coleman, Social Studies Teacher at Columbia Central, effective October 13, 2020 through November 6, 2020.  |
| <b>ACTION</b> | E. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Kristina Ricker, 6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Cross Categorical Math Teacher at Columbia Central, effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. |
| <b>ACTION</b> | F. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Gabrielle Rounbehler, English/Language Arts & Social Studies Teacher at Columbia Central, effective June 9, 2020.   |
| <b>ACTION</b> | G. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Christina Salas, English-Language Arts Teacher at Columbia Central, effective June 9, 2020.   |
| <b>ACTION</b> | H. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Susan Andrews, 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade Teacher at Steger Intermediate Center, effective June 12, 2020.  |
| <b>ACTION</b> | I. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Shaelyn Postmus as the Physical Education Teacher at Columbia Central at BA Step 0, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.                                     |
| <b>ACTION</b> | J. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Karoline Giza as the English-Language Arts Teacher at Columbia Central at BA Step 1, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.                                    |
| <b>ACTION</b> | K. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Erica Greaney as the 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Columbia Central at BA Step 0, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.                                    |
| <b>ACTION</b> | L. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Gianna Bock as the Special Education Resource Teacher at Steger Intermediate Center at MA Step 4, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.                       |
| <b>ACTION</b> | M. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Samantha Lusby as the Art Teacher at Steger Primary Center at MA Step 4, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.  |
| <b>ACTION</b> | N. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Leighann Cannon as the English/Language Arts & Social Studies Teacher at Columbia Central at BA Step 4, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.                 |
| <b>ACTION</b> | O. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Mary Schultz as the Special Education Teacher at Steger Primary Center at BA Step 0, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.                                    |
| <b>ACTION</b> | P. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Jeanette Villanueva as the 3 <sup>rd</sup> grade Teacher at Steger Intermediate Center at BA Step 0, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.                    |

- ACTION** Q. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Carie Widstrand as the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Teacher at Columbia Central at BA Step 2, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.
- ACTION** R. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Sydnie Tiemens as the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Teacher at Steger Intermediate Center at BA Step 0, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.

Upon roll call all members voting aye: Helsel, Page, Raymond, Sarek, Turner, Edwards and Butkus.

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

No questions

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **New Business**

Mrs. Helsel and several board members thanked Rachael Diehl and the food service employee's, Tim tufts and his technology team, Anthony Graziani and his custodians for keeping the district going strong during these different times.

Mrs. Helsel spoke regarding our areas needing an additional food pantry. Partners for Hope will be working with Steger School District 194 to hand out food weekly. Barb Dorman, Rachael Diehl, Steger Police Chief Rossi, Deputy Police Chief Ruff were also thanked for helping coordinate the additional food truck.

Mrs. Helsel read a letter from a parent regarding Amber Schaaf, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Steger Primary Center. The letter described how Mrs. Schaaf taught her class during Remote Learning Days. The Board of Education told Mrs. Schaaf that she makes the district look good! The Board of Education is proud of Mrs. Schaaf! Mrs. Schaaf stated, "We have lots of great staff at the Primary Center and we are a great team."

### **Old Business**

None.

### **Correspondence**

None.

### **PTA Report**

None.

Mrs. Helsel stated this year we will be going from a PTA to PTO. More information will be available in the next few months.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The open meeting recessed at 7:13 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mrs. Raymond.

Upon roll call all members voting aye: Helsel, Page, Raymond, Sarek, Turner, Edwards and Butkus.

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.  
Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

The Board went into closed session at 7:22 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mrs. Raymond to go into Closed Session to discuss the following.

- 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 8:56 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Page and seconded by Mr. Sarek to adjourn Closed Session.

Upon roll call all members voting aye: Helsel, Page, Raymond, Sarek, Turner, Edwards and Butkus.

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.  
Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The open meeting reconvened at 8:57 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mr. Sarek to return to Open Session.

Upon roll call all members voting aye: Helsel, Page, Raymond, Sarek, Turner, Edwards and Butkus.

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.  
Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:58 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Page and seconded by Mr. Sarel to adjourn the meeting.

Upon roll call all members voting aye: Helsel, Page, Raymond, Sarek, Turner, Edwards and Butkus.

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.  
Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

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Secretary, Board of Education

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President, Board of Education