

MINUTES

STEGER SCHOOL DISTRICT 194 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Thursday, January 21, 2021

6:00 P.M.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by President Helsel. Members present Helsel, Page, Edwards, Turner, Sarek and Butkus. Members absent: Raymond

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, Anthony Graziani, Rachael Diehl, and Melissa Cunha.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nieminksi Family donation of 12 Build-A-Bears for students of SD 194. Students will receive the bears during difficult situations hoping to help them calm down and realize they are not alone.

MINUTES

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

- | | | |
|---------------|----|--|
| ACTION | A. | Approval of the minutes of the December 17, 2020, Board Meeting. . |
| ACTION | B. | The Superintendent recommends the board review the minutes from the March 4, 2020, March 10, 2020, March 12, 2020, and June 18, 2020, Closed Session meeting and they be kept closed |

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Raymond.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

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

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

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Raymond.

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 1/22/2021, 8520 free breakfasts and lunches have been provided to our families for children up to age 18. This is a running total increase amount from 5735 from last month, which is 2,785 additional breakfasts and lunches.
- **Technology Update:** Our school district has deployed 1539 mobile devices for students to use at home during remote learning. In addition, 53 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 1317 mobile devices and 52 hot spots.
- We continue with our Principal and Assistant Principal evaluations. They are completing their artifacts and self-reflection. Summative evaluation meetings will occur before 3/1/2021. All PERA state guidelines and timelines continue to be followed and met.

- I continue to meet (through zoom), every Monday morning, with sixty-six South Cook County superintendents on matters related to school districts. Most of our focus has been on Covid-19, the return to In-Person Learning in our districts and schools, additional resources/funding coming to school districts from the federal government to address needs caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the Covid-19 vaccine.
- On 1/5/2021 and 1/14/2021, our SD 194 District Administrative Council and District Instructional Team Leaders met. We continue to meet twice a month. We continue to collaborate and work through many matters, primarily the return to In-Person Learning, Teaching and Learning strategies, and school safety and sanitization, to name a few.
- On 1/19/2021, our teachers returned to our schools to teach from their classroom. So far, things have gone well with our teachers returning to school buildings.
- More Illinois students this week have the option of returning to school buildings than in previous weeks. New numbers show that 1.17 million Illinois school children have the option of blended learning or a full-time return to school buildings, compared to 800,000 attending school fully remote, according to the state school board's Covid-19 database.
- On 1/25/2021, this upcoming Monday, for our SD 194 our families that selected In-Person Learning, their student will return to their school building. We're extremely excited to see many of our students back in our schools.

COVID-19 Metrics - January 21, 2021

- **Region 7 (Will and Kankakee Counties) - Through 1/18/2021**
 - Region 7 has Advanced to Tier 1
 - Test Positivity 7-Day Rolling Average - Have had 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)
 - Hospital Bed Availability 7-Day Rolling Average - Have had 11 consecutive days over 20% availability for ICU beds - 25%-29% range.
 - COVID-19 Patients in the Hospital 7-Day Rolling Average - Have had 9 Days of COVID-19 Patient Equal or Decreases. (Trending in the right direction)
 - Test Positivity 7-Day Rolling Average - 7.6 % (Trending in the right direction)
- Test Positivity 7-Day Rolling Average - Through 1/18/2021
 - Will County - 8.2%
 - Kankakee County - 5.0%
 - Cook County - 7.9%
 - School Level Metrics - 1/3/2020 - 1/9/2021
 - New cases (Target: Decreasing or Stable)
 - Will County - Moderate
 - Kankakee County - Minimal
 - Cook County - Minimal
 - Youth cases (Target: Decreasing or Stable)
 - Will County - Substantial
 - Kankakee County - Substantial
 - Cook County – Minimal
- **Northwestern University Dashboard by Zip Code - 7 day positivity rate - Through 1/20/2021**
 - 60475 (Steger) 11.74% 3-5 cases a day
 - 60411 (Chicago Hts.) 5.92% 22-30 cases a day
 - 60475 + 60411 6.45% 26-35 cases a day
 - 60466 (Park Forest) 6.46% 8-10 cases a day
 - 60417 (Crete) 4.31% 4-7 cases a day

BOARD MATTERS (Consent Agenda)

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

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|---------------|----|---|
| INFO | A. | Steger School District 194 Return to School Plan update. |
| ACTION | B. | Second reading of Board Policy changes as recommended by Press Plus and IASB. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3:40 Superintendent 2. 3:40 –E Checklist for the Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process 3. 4:80Accounting and Audits |

4. 4:90 Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds
5. 5:270 Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment
6. 6:20 School Year Calendar and Day
7. 6:315 High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8
8. 6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program
9. 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students
10. 7:140 Search and Seizure
11. 7:30 Extracurricular Athletics

ACTION C. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resolution for Eric Diehl, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to prepare a tentative budget for the ~~2020-2021~~ **2021-2022** school year.

ACTION D. The Superintendent recommends that the Board approve the resolution abating the tax heretofore levied for the year 2020 to pay debt service on General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue sources), series 2017."

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

PERSONNEL (Consent Agenda)

None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mrs. Helsel thanked the District Administrators and Staff for everything they do for our students. Your hard work and dedication does not go unrecognized.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. New Business
 - a. Mr. Diehl gave an update regarding the vaccination procedure including when employees will be able to receive the vaccine and SD 194 possibly being a vaccination location. Mr. Diehl is waiting for further information from the IDPH.
- B. Old Business
- C. Correspondence
 - a. Thank you card from Steger Primary Center.
- D. PTA transitioning to PTO
 - a. Gathering financial records and starting the transition process.
- E. Upcoming Dates

CLOSED SESSION

The open meeting recessed at 7:11 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Page and seconded by Mrs. Turner.

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

The Board went into closed session at 7:27 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Sarek to go into Closed Session to discuss the following.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:
Helsel, Page, Sarek, Edwards, Turner, and Butkus.
Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Raymond.
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 7:51 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, Sarek, Edwards, Turner, and Butkus.
Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Raymond.
Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The open meeting reconvened at 7:51 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Edwards and seconded by Mrs. Page to return to Open Session.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:52 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mr. Sarek to adjourn the meeting.

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

Secretary, Board of Education

President, Board of Education