

# MINUTES

## STEGER SCHOOL DISTRICT 194 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Thursday, February 18, 2021

6:00 P.M.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Helsel. Members present Helsel, Page, Edwards, Turner, Raymond, Sarek 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, Anthony Graziani, Rachael Diehl, and Melissa Cunha.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Diehl and Mrs. Helsel spoke about the Health and Life Safety inspections recently completed throughout all of SD 194 buildings. They both reported how proud they were to find out the findings for our entire district was citation free. Mr. Diehl stated that in the past 8-9 years he has completed inspections in other districts he has never seen zero violations. It is a district effort but led by Anthony Graziani and his maintenance and custodians team. The Board of Education applauded Anthony and thanked him for his hard work.

Mrs. Helsel told a story of how three other employees Rachael Diehl, Shelly Grabin, and Anthony Graziani helped an elderly lady by the cemetery whom had her car stuck in the snow. Mrs. Helsel stated it is employees as these three that make our district look great.

### **MINUTES**

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

- |               |    |  |
|---------------|----|--|
| <b>ACTION</b> | A. | Approval of the minutes of the January 28, 2021, Board Meeting and Closed Session.   |
| <b>ACTION</b> | B. | Approval of the minutes of the January 21, 2021, Board Meeting and Closed Session.   |
| <b>ACTION</b> | C. | The Superintendent recommends the board review the minutes from the June 18, 2020 and July 30, 2020, 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 August 13, 2019 and August 15, 2019, Closed Session meetings. |

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

Helsel, Page, 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 Mr. Sarek and seconded by Ms. Butkus to approve the following item under Financial Accounts:

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

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: None.

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 2/17/2021, 10,225 free breakfasts and lunches have been provided to our families for children up to age 18. This is a running total increase amount from 8,520 from last month, which is 1,705 additional breakfasts and lunches.
- **Technology Update:** Our school district has deployed 1377 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 1359 mobile devices and the hot spots the same at 53.
- 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 3/1/2021. 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 the education sector member's access to the Covid-19 vaccine and resources/funding coming to school districts from the federal government to address needs caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- On 1/25/2021, our families that selected In-Person Learning for their children returned to their school building. Our students returning has been very successful, and it's because everyone following the guidelines from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education. Wear a mask, 6 ft. of physical distance, proper hand washing/sanitizing, no groups over 50, and proper air filtration (which we exceed with the newer HVAC systems in our schools). It is wonderful to see many of our students back in our schools. A choice survey for Trimester 3 has been completed, Ms. Lenci will be sharing data, and providing an update, at this meeting shortly.
- On 2/2/2021 and 2/16/2021, 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 numerous, wide ranging matters, primarily the return to In-Person Learning, anything the team can support one another at both the school and district level, teaching and learning strategies, local and state assessments, special education updates, to share a few.
- On 2/16/2021, we had a Remote Learning Day, due to severe weather conditions. Our academic day went well, and I received positive feedback from some staff members and the SEA leadership for keeping everyone's safety first and foremost. I informed them that I would share this information with our Board of Education. As a result of being under the Illinois Governor's Executive Order with the requirement to offer remote learning to students and families, this does not require our school district to use an emergency day at the end of this school year.
- As a district, we continue to monitor COVID-19 metrics, and they are trending in the right direction. I would like to provide you a Covid-19 metrics Update.

### **COVID-19 Metrics - February 18, 2021**

- **Region 7 (Will and Kankakee Counties)**
  - Region 7 Tier status
    - 1/18/21 Tier 1
    - 2/14/21 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - Test Positivity 7-Day Rolling Average
    - 1/18/21 7.6% (Trending in the right direction)
    - 2/14/21 4.5%
  - Test Positivity 7-Day Rolling Average

- Will County
  - 1/18/21 8.2%
  - 2/14/21 4.8%
- Kankakee County
  - 1/18/21 5.0%
  - 2/14/21 3.4%
- Cook County
  - 1/18/21 7.9%
  - 2/14/21 4.1%
- School Level Metrics - 1/31/21 - 2/6/21
  - New cases (Target: Decreasing or Stable)
    - Will County - Minimal
    - Kankakee County - Minimal
    - Cook County - Minimal
  - Youth Cases Increase (Target: Decreasing or Stable)
    - Will County - Minimal
    - Kankakee County - Minimal
    - Cook County - Minimal
- **Northwestern University Dashboard by Zip Code - 7 day positivity rate - Through 2/17/2021**
  - 1/20/21 60475 (Steger) 11.74% 3-5 cases a day
  - 2/17/21 60475 (Steger) 2.78% 1-2 cases a day
  - 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
  - 1/20/21 60475 + 60411 6.45% 26-35 cases a day
  - 2/17/21 60475 + 60411 2.60% 7-10 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
  - 1/20/21 60417 (Crete) 4.31% 4-7 cases a day
  - 2/17/21 60417 (Crete) 2.00% 2-4 cases a day

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

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

- |               |    |   |
|---------------|----|---|
| <b>INFO</b>   | A. | Board Policy Changes recommended by Press Plus, IASB and does not contain any changes requiring board action.   |
|               |    | 1. 4:55 Use of Credit and Procurement Cards   |
|               |    | 2. 7:325 Student Fundraising Activities   |
| <b>INFO</b>   | B. | On February 4, 2021, South Cook ISC – Region 7 completed the Health/Life Safety inspection in all buildings. “Each of the four buildings are violation-free.” |
| <b>INFO</b>   | C. | Steger School District 194 Return to School Plan update.  |
| <b>ACTION</b> | D. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve modifications to the Steger School District 194 Return to School Plan, as requested.                          |
| <b>ACTION</b> | E. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the February Tuition Reimbursement, as presented.   |
| <b>ACTION</b> | F. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the milk contract renewal for the 2021-2022 school year with Cloverleaf Farms, as presented                   |
| <b>ACTION</b> | G. | The Superintendent recommends the Board waive the \$135 student registration fee for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year.                                      |

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

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Mr. Diehl passed out the Annual Financial Report to the Board of Education

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- A. New Business
  - Mrs. Helsel asked if plans are being made for graduation and to be mindful of safety, social distancing and to be creative.
  - End of the year Reverse Parade
- B. Old Business
- C. Correspondence
- D. PTA transitioning to PTO
  - PTA is finalizing their audit and final paperwork
- E. Upcoming Dates

**CLOSED SESSION**

The open meeting recessed at 6:43 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mrs. Raymond.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:  
Helsel, Page, 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 6:51 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mrs. Raymond to go into Closed Session to discuss the following.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:  
Helsel, Page, 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

The Board adjourned closed session at 8:32 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Sarek 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 8:32 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, 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 Mr. Sarek and seconded by Mrs. Edwards to approve the following action items under Personnel.

- ACTION**
- A. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the administrator contracts, as presented.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:35 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. page and seconded by Mr. Sarek to adjourn the meeting.

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