

# MINUTES

**STEGER SCHOOL DISTRICT 194  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
Wednesday, November 15, 2023  
6:00 P.M.  
Steger Primary Center**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Greg Stritar, President of the Steger Education Association (SEA) spoke and thanked the Board of Education. A new kindergarten parent spoke and stated she wanted to see the workings of the district.

**MINUTES**

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

- |               |    |   |
|---------------|----|---|
| <b>ACTION</b> | A. | Approval of the minutes of the October 19, 2023, Board Meeting and Closed Session.  |
| <b>ACTION</b> | B. | Approval of the minutes of the October 24, 2023, Board Meeting and Closed Session.  |
| <b>ACTION</b> | C. | The Superintendent recommends the board review the minutes from the April 20, 2023 and May 3, 2023, Closed Session meeting and they be kept closed. |

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

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

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

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

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

- |             |    |  |
|-------------|----|--|
| <b>INFO</b> | A. | Acting Interim Superintendent Report, Dr. Patricia Hahto <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. SD 194 Cardinal Cavalry has become the SD 194 Cardinal Crew<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Dr. Hahto explained the Cardinal Crew handbook will be coming out soon.</li></ul></li><li>b. Policy changes are being reviewed by the Policy Committee. Once reviewed you will see them on the January agenda for the first reading.</li><li>c. The district is now completing Exit Interviews for all staff and faculty leaving the district.</li></ul> |
| <b>INFO</b> | B. | Presentation by Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Jan Lenci   |

Mrs. Helsel thanked all the administrators and staff for caring and working hard for our students.

Eric Diel spoke about the Attendance Incentive for faculty and staff. Mr. Diehl explained the incentive and how much the district pays out to substitute teachers overall during certain months.

**BOARD MATTERS (Consent Agenda)**

A motion was made by Mr. Hutchison and seconded by Mrs. Raymond to approve the following under Board Matters:

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|---------------|----|--|
| <b>INFO</b>   | A. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the agreement with Quinlan Alarm Systems Inc for a new security camera system at Steger Intermediate Center as presented.  |
| <b>ACTION</b> | B. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the agreement with CrisisGo, Inc. for their crisis communication solution as presented.  |
| <b>ACTION</b> | C. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the agreement with Securly, Inc. for “Aware” an online student mental health monitoring solution as presented.   |
| <b>ACTION</b> | D. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the contracts with Pro Care Therapy/Blazer Works, as presented for the following positions for the 2023-2024 school year.<br>Registered Nurse      Caylen Jackson      Columbia Central School |

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

**PERSONNEL (Consent Agenda)**

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

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|---------------|----|---|
| <b>ACTION</b> | A. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Felicia Kaczmarek, Administrative Assistant to the Business Office / Transportation Coordinator at the Administration Center, \$24.00 an hour, effective for the 2023-2024 school year. |
| <b>ACTION</b> | B. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Gabriel Dominguez, Paraprofessional at Steger Intermediate Center, \$15.00 an hour, effective for the 2023-2024 school year.  |
| <b>ACTION</b> | C. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Maria Alvarado, Paraprofessional at Steger Primary Center, \$15.00 an hour, effective for the 2023-2024 school year.  |
| <b>ACTION</b> | D. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the FMLA leave for Patricia Moran, Certified Nursing Assistant at Steger Primary Center, effective September 18, 2023, through September 24, 2023.  |
| <b>ACTION</b> | E. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the FMLA leave for Alice Cate, Music Teacher at Steger Intermediate Center, effective August 31, 2023, through February 1, 2024.  |
| <b>ACTION</b> | F. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the FMLA leave for Lauren Helsel, Intervention Specialist at Steger Primary Center, effective January 14, 2024, through April 21, 2024.   |
| <b>ACTION</b> | G. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the FMLA leave for Kristine Boudreau, Social Studies Teacher at Columbia Central School, effective October 26, 2023, through June 7, 2024.  |

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

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

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|----|--|
| A. | New Business   |
|    | a. Driexler Family Fundraiser at Columbia Central on January 13, 2024.   |
| B. | Old Business   |
| C. | Correspondence   |
|    | a. Thank you from the Schmidt family   |
| D. | Cardinal Crew  |
| E. | Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request  |
|    | a. September 25, 2023, Allium Data, Michael Rost   |
|    | 1. Requested copies of property & casualty insurance renewal summary for all lines of insurance purchased by the school district in all areas. |
|    | 2. Copy of the last employee benefits insurance renewal summary for health, dental and vision plans sponsored by the school district.          |

- F. Committees
- G. Upcoming dates
  - a. November 10 End of 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester (student dismissal 1 p.m.)
  - b. November 11 Veterans Day
  - c. November 15 Board of Education meeting
  - d. November 17 Report Cards
  - e. November 20 Student dismissal 11 a.m.
  - f. November 20 Parent/Teacher Conferences 12:00. - 2:30 p.m.
  - g. November 21 No student attendance
  - h. November 21 Parent/Teacher Conferences 12:30. - 7:00 p.m.
  - i. November 22-24 Fall Break- no school
  - j. November 23 Thanksgiving Day

**CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session.

- 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.
    - 5. The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by Steger School District 194.

**PERSONNEL (Consent Agenda)**

A motion was made by Mrs. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Hutchison to approve the following action items under Personnel:

- ACTION**
- A. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the termination of support staff employee #6033 Effective October 13, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:06 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Raymond and seconded by Mr. Hutchison to adjourn the Meeting.

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

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Secretary, Board of Education & Date

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President, Board of Education & Date