

MINUTES

STEGER SCHOOL DISTRICT 194 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Thursday, June 17, 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, Sarek, Turner, Raymond, Edwards and Butkus. Members absent: Page

Also present:

Dr. David Frusher, Eric Diehl, Jan Lenci, Kim Mahoney, Bruce Nieminski, Tom Aguirre, Tim Tufts, Janet Inglese, Jeff Nelson, Venus Smith, Rachael Diehl, 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. Raymond to approve the following items:

- | | | |
|---------------|----|--|
| ACTION | A. | Approval of the minutes of the May 20, 2021, Board Meeting and Closed Session. |
| ACTION | B. | The Superintendent recommends the board review the minutes from the December 17, 2020, Closed Session meeting and they be kept closed. |
| ACTION | C. | The Superintendent recommends the board approve the destruction of the recording from the December 19, 2019, Closed Session meetings. |

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Page.

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:

- | | | |
|---------------|----|---|
| ACTION | E. | Payment of Bills - Approval of June bills |
|---------------|----|---|

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Page.

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 August 31, 2020 through June 20, 2021; 32,792 free breakfasts and lunches have been provided to our families for children up to age 18. This is a running total increase amount from 27,172 from last month, which is 5,620 additional breakfasts and lunches.
- **Technology Update:** Our school district deployed a total of 1413 mobile devices for students to use at home during remote learning. In addition, 56 hot spots were provided to families, which included internet service.
- Our end of the year activities and events went great in our district and schools. Just to share a couple, our Columbia Central 8th grade graduation and district reverse parade were very successful and well attended. The weather was fantastic! Thank you for your support for all of our wonderful events.
- On 6/14/2021, several members of our district administrative team attended the Workshop/Administrator Academy - TITLE IX: Responding to Discrimination on the Basis of Sex in K-12 School Systems. This is a required training for the implementation of the TITLE IX Final Regulations.
- On 6/15/2021, several members of our district administrative team attended the Robbins Schwartz webinar entitled “**Far from Resolved: ISBE’s May 19th Resolution and Remote Learning Options**”. We are still waiting for the Illinois State Superintendent of Public Education Dr. Carmen Ayala’s declaration, expected around June 22nd, which will go into effect for the 2021-2022 school year. The general rule from the Illinois State Board of Education is:
 - “All schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days”
 - Remote learning under Section 10-30 of the Illinois School Code must only be provided as detailed in the declaration.
 - Remote instruction be made available for students who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination **AND** are under a quarantine order, a very narrow scope.
- Illinois Legislature and New Bills (Not Laws, Yet)
 - Budget – All o.k. in K-12
 - No property tax freeze
 - A lot of federal \$ hanging out there
 - + 5.5 billion dollars for Illinois
 - Dress code updates – Hairstyles
 - New special education mandates
 - New history curriculum mandates
 - Construction \$ available
 - Playtime bill / Unstructured time bill
 - Effective July 1, 2021 for implementation
 - Grades K-5

- 30 minutes
 - Can use recess time and travel time between classes
 - Teacher Evaluations (School districts may move to a three-year cycle if a teacher receives an excellent or proficient summative rating. This would have to be Interest Based Bargained and would only include tenured teachers.
- Not done yet! Focus is now more on Chicago (elected school board), not the suburbs
- On June 15th, our SD 194 District Administrative Council and District Instructional Team Leaders met. We continued to collaborate on school operations and leadership updates and how we can support one another, focused on ISBE's Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year, Planning for the 2021-2022 School Year, the Illinois Legislature and New Bills, our District's Summer Learning Program, Professional Development, Curriculum mandates and updates, our new English language Arts Curriculum, and laptop collection from students. I'm very proud of the work our team has done, especially all of our work together over the past 16 months.
 - Our Principals continue to work hard interviewing candidates for current vacancies in our school district. We continue to draw good interest in our vacancies. We'll continue to bring forward recommendations for your consideration for hire.
 - This morning I had my SPEED Operating Committee Meeting, serving as the representative from SD 194. Topics that were on our agenda for information and approval included: the end of the school year ended very well (60% In-person learning, 2 virtual graduations, and 1 In-person graduation), the extended school year is off and running well, working on busing for the fall (especially finding bus drivers), financial report (good shape, still waiting on the latest bill collections from some partner school districts), personnel matters (minor), worker's compensation bid, and the food service bid.

COVID-19 Metrics - June 17, 2021

- **Region 7 (Will and Kankakee Counties)**
 - Region 7 Tier status
 - 1/18/21 Tier 1
 - 2/14/21 Phase 4
 - 3/18/21 Bridge Phase to Phase 5
 - 4/12/21 Phase 4
 - 5/20/21 Bridge to Phase 5
 - 6/17/21 Phase 5
 - 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.
 - 3/15/21 11 consecutive days under 8% threshold - Last eleven days have been below the 8.0% threshold.
 - 4/12/21 11 consecutive days under 8% threshold - Last eleven days have been below the 8.0% threshold.
 - 5/16/21 11 consecutive days under 8% threshold - Last eleven days have been below the 8.0% threshold.
 - 6/17/21 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.
 - 3/15/21 11 consecutive days over 20% availability for ICU beds - 32%-37% range.
 - 4/12/21 11 consecutive days over 20% availability for ICU beds - 22%-25% range.
 - 5/18/21 11 consecutive days over 20% availability for ICU beds - 23%-28% range.
 - 6/17/21 11 consecutive days over 20% availability for ICU beds - 24%-26% 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.
 - 3/15/21 9 Days of COVID-19 Hospital Patient Equal or Decreases.
 - 4/12/21 3 Days of COVID-19 Increases.
 - 5/18/21 9 Days of COVID-19 Hospital Patient Equal or Decreases.
 - 6/17/21 10 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%
 - 3/15/21 3.4%
 - 4/12/21 6.0%
 - 5/16/21 3.6%
 - 6/17/21 1.3%
- Test Positivity 7-Day Rolling Average
 - Will County
 - 1/18/21 8.2%
 - 2/14/21 4.8%
 - 3/15/21 3.4%
 - 4/12/21 6.4%
 - 5/16/21 3.6%
 - 6/17/21 1.1%
 - Kankakee County
 - 1/18/21 5.0%
 - 2/14/21 3.4%
 - 3/15/21 3.0%
 - 4/12/21 4.1%
 - 5/16/21 3.4%
 - 6/17/21 2.3%
 - Cook County
 - 1/18/21 7.9%
 - 2/14/21 4.1%
 - 3/15/21 3.5%
 - 4/12/21 5.7%
 - 5/16/21 3.4%
 - 6/17/21 1.2%
 - 7/10/21 1.2%

- School Level Metrics – 6/17/21
 - 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 6/16/2021**

•	1/20/21	60475 (Steger)	11.74%	3-5 cases a day
•	2/17/21	60475 (Steger)	2.78%	1-2 cases a day
•	3/17/21	60475 (Steger)	13.64%	1-3 cases a day
•	4/14/21	60475 (Steger)	6.01%	1-2 cases a day
•	5/18/21	60475 (Steger)	5.76%	1-2 cases a day
•	6/17/21	60475 (Steger)	0.00%	0.1-0.3 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
•	3/17/21	60411 (Chicago Hts.)	3.56%	3-7 cases a day
•	4/14/21	60411 (Chicago Hts.)	4.33%	10-12 cases a day
•	5/18/21	60411 (Chicago Hts.)	3.80%	11-12 cases a day
•	6/17/21	60411 (Chicago Hts.)	1.05%	1-5 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
•	3/17/21	60475 + 60411	4.46%	4-10 cases a day
•	4/14/21	60475 + 60411	4.48%	11-14 cases a day
•	5/18/21	60475 + 60411	3.97%	12-14 cases a day
•	6/17/21	60475 + 60411	0.91%	1-5 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
•	3/17/21	60466 (Park Forest)	2.75%	2-3 cases a day
•	4/14/21	60466 (Park Forest)	6.36%	4-7 cases a day
•	5/18/21	60466 (Park Forest)	2.89%	4-5 cases a day
•	6/17/21	60466 (Park Forest)	1.91%	0.3-1 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
•	3/17/21	60417 (Crete)	2.42%	2-3 cases a day
•	4/14/21	60417 (Crete)	2.63%	2-3 cases a day
•	5/18/21	60417 (Crete)	1.83%	1-2 cases a day
•	6/17/21	60417 (Crete)	1.07%	0.3-1 cases a day

BOARD MATTERS (Consent Agenda)

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

- | | | |
|---------------|----|---|
| INFO | A. | Steger School District 194 Special Education Department update presented by Kim Mahoney, Director of Special Education. |
| ACTION | B. | 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. |
| ACTION | C. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Resolution to Abate the Working Cash Fund pursuant to Article 20 of the School Code of the State of Illinois. |
| ACTION | D. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Resolution to Authorize Permanent Fund Transfers for Accounting Purposes to the Debt Service Fund. |
| ACTION | E. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve anticipated contracts with outside staffing agencies to assist in finding candidates that can be used to build a capacity of staff in Social and Emotional Learning and Behavior management in the Special Education Department and each school building for the 2021-2022 school year. |
| ACTION | F. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2021-2022 Fee Schedule, as presented. |
| ACTION | G. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2021-2022 Steger School District 194 Consolidation Plan, as presented. |

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Page.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL (Consent Agenda)

A motion was made by Ms. Butkus and seconded by Mrs. Raymond to approve the following action items under Personnel.

- | | | |
|---------------|----|--|
| ACTION | A. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the retirement of Patrick Walter, In School Suspension Teacher at Columbia Central, effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. |
| ACTION | B. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Nia Butler, Special Education Teacher at Columbia Central, effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. |
| ACTION | C. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Mary Schultz, Special Education Teacher at Steger Primary Center, effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. |
| ACTION | D. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Anthony Carter, Social Studies Teacher at Columbia Central School, effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. |
| ACTION | E. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the termination of Support staff employee Tamara Butkus effective June 17, 2021. |
| ACTION | F. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Emily Kenealy, Special Education Teacher at Steger Intermediate Center, effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. |
| ACTION | G. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Sarah Daly, 2 nd Grade Teacher at Steger Intermediate Center at MA Step 2, effective for the 2021-2022 school year. |

- | | | |
|---------------|----|--|
| ACTION | H. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Alexandra Overland, Music/ Choir Teacher at Columbia Central School at BA+0, effective for the 2021-2022 school year. |
| ACTION | I. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Areli Aguilar, Food Service Cook at Steger Intermediate Center at \$11.00 an hour, effective for the 2021-2022 school year. |
| ACTION | J. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Cristina Rodriguez, Food Service Cashier at Columbia Central School at \$11.00 an hour, effective for the 2021-2022 school year. |
| ACTION | K. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Kristi Boudreau, Social Studies Teacher at Columbia Central School at BA15-0, effective for the 2021-2022 school year. |
| ACTION | L. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Thomas Vargo, Special Education Teacher at Columbia Central School at MA-0, effective for the 2021-2022 school year. |
| ACTION | M. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Staffing Coordinator contract as presented for the 2021-2022 school year. |

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Page.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Jeff Nelson updated the Board of Education regarding the Summer Learning Program. Starting August 2-19, 2021. Classes Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Teachers are receiving professional development for the new curriculum and lots of planning is coming together. Parents will be receiving letters regarding transportation. 132 students will be in the program.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. New Business
- B. Old Business
- C. Correspondence
- D. PTA transitioning to PTO- waiting on Audit from PTA
- E. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request
- F. Upcoming Dates
 - a. Date TBD Family Movie Night "Sandlot"
 - b. July 20 & 22 Help Day for Registration 12-2p.m. & 5-7p.m. at CC
 - c. July 26, 27, 28 Registration 12-2p.m. & 5-7p.m. at CC
 - d. August 2, 3 Registration 12-2p.m. & 5-7p.m. at CC
 - e. August TBD Family Movie Night

CLOSED SESSION

The open meeting recessed at 6:44 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mrs. Raymond.

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

The Board went into closed session at 6:58 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mr. Sarek to go into Closed Session to discuss the following.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:
Helsel, Sarek, Edwards, Raymond, Turner, and Butkus.
Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Page.
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.
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. |
| ACTION | B. | Motion to adjourn Closed Session. |
| ACTION | C. | Motion to return to Open Session. |

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:22 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Sarek and seconded by Mrs. Turner to adjourn the meeting.

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

Secretary, Board of Education

President, Board of Education