

MINUTES

STEGER SCHOOL DISTRICT 194 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Thursday, March 18, 2021

6:00 P.M.

**Main 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, Turner, Raymond, Sarek and Butkus. Members absent: Edwards

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

Mrs. Helsel spoke about the passing of Officer Gary Hibbs from Chicago Heights and a moment of silence.

MINUTES

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

- | | | |
|---------------|----|---|
| ACTION | A. | Approval of the minutes of the February 18, 2021, Board Meeting and Closed Session. |
| ACTION | B. | The Superintendent recommends the board review the minutes from the August 20, 2020 and September 17, 2020, Closed Session meeting and they be kept closed. |

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Edwards.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

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

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

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Edwards.

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 3/15/2021, 13,095 free breakfasts and lunches have been provided to our families for children up to age 18. This is a running total increase amount from 10,225 from last month, which is 2,870 additional breakfasts and lunches.
- **Technology Update:** Our school district has deployed 1397 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 1377 mobile devices and the hot spots the same at 53.
- All Principal and Assistant Principal evaluations were completed. All summative evaluation meetings occurred before 3/1/2021. All PERA state guidelines and timelines were followed and met.
- On 3/9/2021, New Transition Joint Guidance was issued by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health, and Robbins Schwartz conducted a webinar on interpreting this guidance on 3/11/2021, which was attended by many administrators on our team. Through executive orders, the guidance must be followed by school districts. The guidance supports the return to in-person instruction as practicable in every Illinois community. In-person instruction should be prioritized over extracurricular activities, including sports and school events, to minimize risk of transmission in schools, and protect in-person learning. The guidance leaves it up to local control, in consultation with the health department, regarding whether to host safe and socially distanced events such as open houses, registration, prom/dances, graduation ceremonies, and other curricular events. The five areas of focus:
 1. Social Distancing/Space Limitations – Now 3 to 6 feet.
 2. Face Coverings – A greater emphasis on.
 3. Screenings – For symptoms (No longer required) and conduct saliva-based surveillance (Yes)
 4. Remote Learning – Still required when students are, or live with individuals who are at increased risk of severe illness. We use the CDC list.
 5. Risk Management/Tort Immunity – Yes, but fairly limited for school districts, board members, and/or district employees. Need to comply with the guidance.
- On 3/16/2021, along with other SD 194 administrators, I attended the Robbins Schwartz webinar on SOPPA (Student Online Personal Protection Act of 2017) Amendments 2021: Requirements for Written Agreements and Strategies for Risk Mitigation. The SOPPA Act placed various prohibitions on web operators that **collect student information**.
- On 3/2/2021 and 3/16/2021, our SD 194 District Administrative Council and District Instructional Team Leaders met. We continue to meet twice a month, recently working together on the progress of our return to In-Person Learning, the new ISBE/IDPH Joint Guidance, School Safety Protocols, Spring Testing (which is still required, and through an in-person format for students), PLC's, Student Learning, Instructional Strategies, and projected District/School Vacancies to be posted for.
- On 3/18/2021, this morning, I attended the monthly SPEED Operating Committee Meeting. Items covered included a staff vaccination update, SPEED's reopening plan (starting on Monday), SPEED's E-learning plan, and SPEED's financial report.
- As a district, we continue to monitor COVID-19 metrics, and they continue to look good. I've provided you a Covid-19 metrics Update. Data continues to look good.
- This concludes my Superintendent's Report, thank you. I would like to answer any question that you may have.

COVID-19 Metrics - March 18, 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
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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%
- Test Positivity 7-Day Rolling Average
 - Will County
 - 1/18/21 8.2%
 - 2/14/21 4.8%
 - 3/15/21 3.4%
 - Kankakee County
 - 1/18/21 5.0%
 - 2/14/21 3.4%
 - 3/15/21 3.0%
 - Cook County
 - 1/18/21 7.9%
 - 2/14/21 4.1%
 - 3/15/21 3.5%
 - School Level Metrics - 2/28/21 - 3/6/21
 - 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 3/17/2021**

- 1/20/21 60475 (Steger) 11.74% 3-5 cases a day
- 2/17/21 60475 (Steger) 2.78% 1-2 cases a day
- 3/17/21 60475 (Steger) 13.64% 1-3 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
- 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
- 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
- 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

BOARD MATTERS (Consent Agenda)

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

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|---------------|----|---|
| INFO | A. | Steger School District 194 Teaching and Learning PLC update. |
| INFO | B. | Steger School District 194 Return to School Plan update. |
| INFO | C. | Steger School District 194 Instructional Technology Coach rationale. |
| ACTION | D. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Instructional Technology Coach job description. |
| ACTION | E. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the open positions for the 2021-2022 school year, as presented. |
| ACTION | F. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the contract with MNW Telecom, Inc. for WAN connectivity and bandwidth increase, as presented. |
| ACTION | G. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the contract with First Communications, LLC to switch telecom service from PRI lines to SIP Trunks, as presented. |
| ACTION | H. | Approval of the renewal of contracts for the following non-tenured teachers for the 2021-2022 school year: |

2nd year status in 2021-2022

Darlene Blakely	Gianna Bock	Jessica Bromund
Nia Butler	Leighann Cannon	Eric Carlson
Victoria Czerpaniak	Karoline Giza	Erica Greaney
Claire Hays	Samuel Kessler	Amreen Khadeer
Samantha Lusby	Maria Martinez	Emily Mikolajewski
Shaelyn Postmus	Mary Shultz	Suzanne Smith
Christine Stegenga	Sara Tesmond	Sydney Tiemens
Emily Valentine	Jeanette Villanueva	Carie Widstrand
Megan Youngdahl	Christine Zomparelli	

3rd year status in 2021-2022

Desiree Billetts	Maura Conrad	Jessica Dempsey
Beth Dziadon	Michelle Kalecki	Emily Kenealy
Brian Nolan	Amanda Mizaur	Dana Rogers
Awdrey Varchetto	Jill Velez	Jordan Winters

4th year status in 2021-2022

Lisa Fluga	Kenneth Muehring	Jessica Toran
Benjamin Vaughn		

Tenure status in 2021-2022

Morgan Bouche	Lisa Gatewood	Hailey Pickrum
Laura Smokoska		

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Edwards.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL (Consent Agenda)

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

- ACTION** A. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Sara Kamp, Science Teacher at Columbia Central, effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
- ACTION** B. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Marielui Gonzalez, CNA at Steger Intermediate Center, effective March 2, 2021.
- ACTION** C. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Maternity leave for Jordan Winters, Special Education Teacher at Steger Intermediate Center, and effective August 23, 2021 through October 11, 2021.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Edwards.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

No discussion

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. New Business
- B. Old Business
- C. Correspondence
 - Thank you from Teresa Holl
 - Thank you from Donna Zeszutko
- D. PTA transitioning to PTO
- E. Upcoming Dates
 - March 26 Family Movie Night featuring “Hop” – CC & PV
 - April 2 Good Friday - No school
 - April 5-9 Spring Break – No school

CLOSED SESSION

The open meeting recessed at 7:04 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mr. Sarek.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Edwards.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

The Board went into closed session at 7:18 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Sarek and seconded by Ms. Butkus to go into Closed Session to discuss the following.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Edwards.

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 8:44 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mr. Sarek to adjourn Closed Session.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Edwards.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The open meeting reconvened at 8:45 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Ms. Butkus to return to Open Session.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Edwards.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL

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

ACTION

A. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Administrator contracts, as presented.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Edwards.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Sarek and seconded by Mrs. Raymond to approve the following action items under Personnel Action B-D

- ACTION** B. Approval of Superintendent David Frusher meeting his Performance Goals from 2019-2022.
- ACTION** C. Approval of Superintendent David Frusher's Employment Agreement through June 30, 2024.
- ACTION** D. Approval of Superintendent David Frusher's Performance Goals from 2021-2024.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:49 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, Turner, and Butkus.
Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Edwards.
Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Education

President, Board of Education