

MINUTES

STEGER SCHOOL DISTRICT 194 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Thursday, November 18, 2021

6:00 P.M.

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

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

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 and Melissa Cunha.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Village of Steger Trustee Steve Thurmond came and spoke to the Board of Education to give an update on a few things the Village of Steger is working on for the fall. The Final yard waste pickup is October 24th, Recycle bins will be collected, Miracle on 34th Street on the Boulevard, and the street projects are wrapping up for the season.

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 October 28, 2021, Board Meeting and Closed Session.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Turner.

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 November bills

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Turner.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Principal observations continue, these have been informative to see their professional practice. It's great getting into our school buildings, visiting with students and staff members. Everything we've done is in complete compliance with the Illinois PERA law for evaluating Principals and Associate Principals.
- On 11/2 and 11/16 our SD 194 STAC/STIL team met. Items up for discussion, to work through, and to make recommendations and decision on included: grant requests, school supervision, our districts fall assessment data, school improvement plans, parent teacher conferences, classroom walkthroughs, wellness activities, mandated trainings, teacher evaluations, response to intervention, small groups, lesson plans, food supplies, switching over to winter in maintenance, technology, special education, and a whole lot more. We do a great job collaborating and problem solving. Great team effort!
- I continue to meet (through zoom), every Monday morning, with sixty-six South Cook County superintendents on matters related to school districts. Items that have been discussed/shared are COVID 19 school outbreaks are going up (last week in Cook County schools there were 50 and in SCISC schools there were 5 (1 still pending), SCISC is creating a truancy officer/attendance group, Administrative Leave Bill (for COVID 19) – On the Governor's desk for signing (he says he's against it, but there are enough votes that supported this bill to override his veto) – no other new legislation, COVID 19 vaccine approved for 5-11 year olds – vaccine clinics are being held, still waiting on word of implementing student mental health days (5 full day, excused absences) - Need something soon – Goes into effect on January 1, 2022.
- November 15th was School Board Members Day. This year's theme was Inspiration and Leadership. On behalf of the SD 194 administrative team, and many others, thank you for all that you do. You are all dedicated public servants.
- COVID numbers are at your seating. Slight uptick, in positive percentage and cases, from my October 2021 report to you.
- We have the Trip I conference this weekend, parent teacher conferences and a short week next week. I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving!
- Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

COVID-19 Metrics - November 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
 - 4/12/21 Phase 4
 - 5/20/21 Bridge to Phase 5
 - 6/17/21 Phase 5
 - 7/26/21 Phase 5
 - 8/19/21 Phase 5
 - 9/16/21 Phase 5
 - 10/26/21 Phase 5
 - 11/18/21 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.
 - 7/11/21-7/17/21 - Will County = 2.5% - Kankakee County = 1.6%
 - 8/1/21-8/7/21 - Will County = 6.8% - Kankakee County = 3.3%
 - 8/29/21-9/4/2021 - Will County = 5.6% - Kankakee County = 6.7%
 - 10/18/21-10/24/21 - Will County = 2.8% - Kankakee County = 3.5%
 - 11/8/21-11/14/21 - Will County = 4.4% - Kankakee County = 5.5%
- 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.
 - 7/11/21-7/17/21 - Will County = 24.1% - Kankakee County = 24.1%
 - 8/1/21-8/7/21 - Will County = 24.4% - Kankakee County = 24.4%
 - 8/29/21-9/4/21 - Will County = 24.8% - Kankakee County = 24.8%
 - 10/26/21 - 11 consecutive days over 20% availability for ICU beds - 20%-22% range.
 - 11/16/21 - 1 consecutive day over 20% availability for ICU beds - 18%-20% 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.
 - 7/11/21-7/17/21 - Will County = 21-Target - Kankakee County = <5-Target
 - 8/1/21-8/7/21 - Will County = 72-Target - Kankakee County = 10-Target
 - 8/29/21-9/4/21 - Will County = 120-Target - Kankakee County = 28-Target
 - 11/16/21 10 Days of COVID-19 Hospital Patient Increases - 1-7 range.
- 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%
- 7/11/21-7/17/21 - Will County = 2.5% - Kankakee County = 1.6%
- 8/1/21-8/7/21 - Will County = 6.8% - Kankakee County = 3.3%
- 8/29/21-9/4/21 - Will County = 5.6% - Kankakee County = 6.7%
- 10/18/21-10/24/21 - Will County = 2.8% - Kankakee County = 3.5%
- 11/8/21-11/14/21 - Will County = 4.4% - Kankakee County = 5.5%

○ 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%
 - 7/17/21 2.5%
 - 8/7/21 6.8%
 - 9/4/21 5.6%
 - 10/24/21 2.8%
 - 11/14/21 4.4%
- 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%
 - 7/17/21 1.6%
 - 8/7/21 3.3%
 - 9/4/21 6.7%
 - 10/24/21 3.5%
 - 11/14/21 5.5%
- 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%
 - 7/17/21 1.9%
 - 8/7/21 4.4%
 - 9/4/21 4.1%
 - 10/21/21 1.8%
 - 11/14/21 2.6%

- School Level Metrics - 11/18/21
 - New cases (Target: Decreasing or Stable)
 - Will County - Not reported in this format anymore
 - Kankakee County - Not reported in this format anymore
 - Cook County - Not reported in this format anymore
 - Youth Cases Increase (Target: Decreasing or Stable)
 - Will County - Not reported in this format anymore
 - Kankakee County - Not reported in this format anymore
 - Cook County - Not reported in this format anymore

• **Northwestern University Dashboard by Zip Code - 7 day positivity rate - Through 11/17/2021**

•	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
•	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
•	7/23/21	60475 (Steger)	2.28%	0.0-0.3 cases a day
•	8/17/21	60475 (Steger)	11.81%	2-3 cases a day
•	9/15/21	60475 (Steger)	8.86%	2-3 cases a day
•	10/26/21	60475 (Steger)	1.75%	1-3 cases a day
•	11/17/21	60475 (Steger)	4.01%	2-7 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
•	7/23/21	60411 (Chicago Hts.)	4.83%	0.7-4.9 cases a day
•	8/17/21	60411 (Chicago Hts.)	6.51%	9-12 cases a day
•	9/15/21	60411 (Chicago Hts.)	5.54%	12-14 cases a day
•	10/26/21	60411 (Chicago Hts.)	2.21%	6-8 cases a day
•	11/17/21	60411 (Chicago Hts.)	3.05%	9-16 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
•	7/23/21	60475 + 60411	4.56%	1-5 cases a day
•	8/17/21	60475 + 60411	7.00%	11-15 cases a day
•	9/15/21	60475 + 60411	5.88%	14-17 cases a day
•	10/26/21	60475 + 60411	2.16%	7-11 cases a day
•	11/17/21	60475 + 60411	3.15%	11-23 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
 - 7/23/21 60466 (Park Forest) 2.72% 0.9-1.1 cases a day
 - 8/17/21 60466 (Park Forest) 7.25% 3-5 cases a day
 - 9/15/21 60466 (Park Forest) 5.56% 2-5 cases a day
 - 10/26/21 60466 (Park Forest) 2.97% 1-3 cases a day
 - 11/17/21 60466 (Park Forest) 7.01% 10-13 cases a day
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- 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
 - 7/23/21 60417 (Crete) 0.94% 0.1-0.4 cases a day
 - 8/17/21 60417 (Crete) 6.19% 1-3 cases a day
 - 9/15/21 60417 (Crete) 6.72% 2-3 cases a day
 - 10/26/21 60417 (Crete) 2.64% 1-3 cases a day
 - 11/17/21 60417 (Crete) 3.14% 2-5 cases a day

Mrs. Helsel spoke to everyone in attendance regarding Covid, Social Media, Parents and Staff. Mrs. Helsel stated seeing negative remarks on social media regarding staff is very upsetting to the Board of Education. Steger School District 194 has fed this community since day one of Covid. A new curriculum was put in place to learn at home, Special Education students were kept up-to-date with service plans, Secretaries taking calls from home, Technology Department working on devices, hot spots and just anyone that needed help with their technology needs, Custodians disinfecting buildings, and Principals trying to get students in the buildings. Mr. Diehl working with the CDC Guidelines while they were changing daily. Mrs. Helsel stated the SD 194 staff has come together for the students and community and the Board of Education is thankful and proud of everything the staff has done during this pandemic.

BOARD MATTERS (Consent Agenda)

A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond and seconded by Ms. Butkus to approve the following item under Board Matters:

- | | | |
|---------------|----|--|
| INFO | A. | Presentation – Steger Intermediate Center Update presented by Janet Inglese |
| ACTION | B. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Digital Equity grant for the 2021-2022 school year, as presented. |
| ACTION | C. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Resolution Regarding Estimated Amounts Necessary to be Levied for the 2021 year. |
| ACTION | D. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the updated Accounts Payable Clerk job description, as presented. |
| ACTION | E. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the updated Coordinator of Learning Resource Centers job description, as presented. |

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

PERSONNEL (Consent Agenda)

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

- ACTION** A. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the retirement of Alice Garcia, Third Grade EL Teacher at Steger Intermediate Center, effective the last day of the 2022-2023 school year.
- ACTION** B. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Amanda Kennedy, Paraprofessional at Columbia Central, effective November 10, 2021.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Turner.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. New Business
- a. Wishing a speedy recovery for Mary Beth Stout from surgery. Mary Beth helps all over the district and is an asset to our district.
 - b. Toys for Tots –Southland Voice
 - c. CC Media Center grand opening will be scheduled soon
 - d. IL Dept. of Transportation contacted us Rt. 1 south of the viaduct will be closed from March –August 2022. Bus routes will possibly change due to the road closure.
- B. Old Business
- a. Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Steger was discussed regarding how long the process has taken and why the district is pushing for an updated agreement since May 2021. Mrs. Helsel did explain the Volleyball season needs to start soon and Mr. Zeman has done an excellent job in the past and they are sure he will do the same this year. New Covid protocols will also be added to the agreement. All board members explained they want the kids in the buildings playing sports. Mr. Stewart was in attendance and stated he was willing to help with any communication with the Village of Steger. Mr. Stewart wants to start planning for the upcoming season of volleyball and basketball. The Village of Steger is supposed to approve the agreement at their upcoming board meeting.
- C. Correspondence
- a. Thank you - Senior Dinner
 - b. Thank you - Senior Dinner
 - c. Thank you – Senior Dinner
- D. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request
- a. October 27, 2021, Inspector M. Kentre
Copies of the most recent Transportation RFP and Beverage (Milk/Water/Juice) RFP documents.

E. Upcoming Dates

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| a. November 19 | Report Cards |
| b. November 22 | Student Dismissal 11:00 a.m. |
| c. November 22 | Parent Teacher Conference – 12:00-2:30 p.m. |
| d. November 23 | No student attendance |
| e. November 23 | Parent Teacher Conference 12:30-7:00 p.m. |
| f. November 24-26 | No Student attendance Fall Break |
| g. November 25 | Happy Thanksgiving |

CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session for this meeting

- 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 7:25 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Sarek and seconded by Ms. Butkus to adjourn the meeting.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Turner.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Education

President, Board of Education