

MINUTES

STEGER SCHOOL DISTRICT 194 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Thursday, December 17, 2020

6:00 P.M.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Helsel. Members present Helsel, Page, Edwards, Turner, Raymond and Butkus. Members absent: Sarek.

Also present:

Dr. David Frusher, Eric Diehl, Bruce Nieminski, Tom Aguirre, Adam Schoff, Tim Tufts, Janet Inglese, Jeff Nelson, Venus Smith, Anthony Graziani, Melissa Cunha and Via phone conference Jan Lenci and Kim Mahoney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

MINUTES

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

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| ACTION | A. | Approval of the minutes of the November 19, 2020, Board Meeting and Closed Session. |
| ACTION | B. | The Superintendent recommends the board review the minutes from the May 20, 2020, Closed Session meeting and they be kept closed. |
| ACTION | C. | The Superintendent recommends the board approve the destruction of the recording from the June 13, 2019, Closed Session meetings.. |

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Sarek.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

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

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

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Sarek.

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 12/18/2020, 5735 free breakfasts and lunches have been provided to our families for children up to age 18. This is a running total increase amount from 3818 from last month, which is 1917 more meals.
- **Technology Update:** Our school district has deployed 1317 mobile devices for students to use at home during remote learning. In addition, 52 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 1008 mobile devices and 51 hot spots.
- On 12/8/2020, I attended and completed my annual Administrator Academy requirement as an Administrator in Illinois, which was Administrator Academy #3000 – Illinois Performance Evaluator Retraining – Student Growth. This is the one required student growth retraining course for teacher and administrator evaluators who are renewing their designations required to evaluate educators.
- Formal observations of our Principals and Assistant Principals have all been completed for their 2020-2021 summative evaluation. They are working on the net steps, which are completing their artifacts and self-reflection. All PERA state guidelines and timelines continue to be followed and met.
- Unfortunately, our Steger School District 194 Annual Holiday Party was cancelled this year due to COVID 19 safety concerns. Our Board of Education continued to give everyone a holiday gift. I know that our staff members greatly appreciate the annual holiday party and gift, and for you thinking of them, especially during this unprecedented time, so thank you. I would like to thank our awesome building secretaries for passing out gift bags in their office or providing curb side pick-up. In addition, thanks to Melissa for coordinating the ordering and delivery. Thanks to Laurie Jones, Debbie Page, and Michele Helsel for making the gumball machines.
- Holiday gifts, from our Board of Education, were also given to the Steger Village Hall, Steger Police Department, Steger Fire Department, Steger EMA, South Chicago Heights Village Hall, South Chicago Heights Police Department, South Chicago Heights Fire Department, the Bloom Township Treasurers Office – Rob Grossi, and the Steger-South Chicago Heights Public Library. We are very thankful for these wonderful partnerships, and we are grateful for their support.
- As a district, we've been monitoring local and national COVID-19 metrics. I, along with others, will be providing a local COVID-19 Metrics update later in this meeting during agenda item 9A. Steger School District Return to School Plan Update.

BOARD MATTERS (Consent Agenda)

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

INFO

- A. First reading of Board Policy changes as recommended by Press Plus and IASB.
 1. 3:40 Superintendent
 2. 3:40 –E Checklist for the Superintendent Employment Contract Negotiation Process
 3. 4:80 Accounting and Audits
 4. 4:90 Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds
 5. 5:270 Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment
 6. 6:20 School Year Calendar and Day
 7. 6:315 High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8
 8. 6:340 Student Testing and Assessment Program

- 9. 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students
- 10. 7:140 Search and Seizure
- 11. 7:30 Extracurricular Athletics

- ACTION** B. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2020 Tax Levy, as presented.
- ACTION** C. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the agreement with Illinois Electric Brokerage and Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. for electrical services for 59 months.
- ACTION** D. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve acceptance of the donation from The Flower Lady Foundation in the amount of \$1,440 to support the Columbia Cares program.

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

PERSONNEL (Consent Agenda)

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

- ACTION** A. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the retirement of Nancy Shugan, RTI Math Specialist at Steger Intermediate Center, effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
- ACTION** B. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the retirement of Mary Kirk, First Grade Teacher at Steger Primary Center, effective at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.
- ACTION** C. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Karen Schuit, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at Steger Intermediate Center, effective December 14, 2020.
- ACTION** D. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Marielui Gonzalez as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at Steger Intermediate Center at \$15.00 an hour, effective for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Eric Diehl – update on Covid-19 isolations and cases throughout the district.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. New Business
 - a. Mrs. Helsel expressed appreciation to everyone for doing his or her job everyday through these different times. Mrs. Helsel stated she spoke to Anthony Carter, President of the SEA and he expressed his gratitude for the gifts and cookies given out to staff.
- B. Old Business
- C. Correspondence
 - a. Thank you card from the Massey Family and Edwards Family.
- D. PTA transitioning to PTO
- E. Upcoming Dates

CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session

BOARD MATTERS

A motion was made by Mrs. Raymond and seconded by Mrs. Butkus to approve the following action items under Board Matters ACTION B.

DISCUSSION A. Steger School District 194 Return to School Plan update

Dr. David Frusher - spoke regarding the Covid-19 numbers in Region 7, Cook, and Will County.

Jan Lenci – Covid-19 numbers are going down, buildings are ready for staff and students to return and students will benefit coming back into the buildings to learn. Jan recommended all staff to return to the buildings on January 19, 2021 and the students that will be attending In-Person Learning to return to the building on January 25, 2021. There will not be a new survey for parents to choose In-Person Learning or Remote Learning. The option they chose in fall will be followed. If a parent wants to change their choice, they will need to contact the school.

Tim Tufts – Technology is ready.

Anthony Graziani – Buildings are ready.

Kim Mahoney – Special Education is ready. It is critical to get students back into the buildings and learning.

Multiple board members asked the administrators questions regarding Covid 19 daily percentage, downward trends, teaching In-Person and Remote in the same class, and hours for In-Person Learning.

The Principals of Steger Primary Center and Steger Intermediate Center spoke regarding reviewing the SD 194 Return to School Plan after holiday break.

The Board of Education stated the parents that selected In-Person Learning would start in the building while others learn remote. Then situations will be accessed and changes will be made if necessary. When the time is right, the district will request all students return to school.

ACTION B. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve modifications to the Steger School District 194 Return to School Plan, as requested.

1/4/2021-1/15/2021 – Remote learning will continue for all students, through an adaptive pause on a return to in-person learning. This will provide a safe window of days for those who have traveled over winter break.

1/19/2021-1/22/2021 – All SD 194 Staff Return (In-School). Teachers will teach from their classroom and **all students will continue to be on remote learning**. Professional development, and building and safety protocols and procedures, will continue to be shared and reviewed with all staff members.

1/25/2021 – Families who selected in-person learning on the October 2020 Student Choice Commitment Survey for their students will return to school buildings. These students will begin in-person learning with teachers in school along with the students on remote learning.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Sarek.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:51 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Page and seconded by Mrs. Edwards to adjourn the meeting.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Sarek.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Education

President, Board of Education