

MINUTES

STEGER SCHOOL DISTRICT 194 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Monday, July 26, 2021

7:30 P.M.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by President Helsel. Members present Helsel, Page, Raymond, Edwards, Sarek 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, Rachael Diehl, Anthony Graziani and Melissa Cunha.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Helsel explained to the audience that during the meeting they will be having an open discussion. If anyone has, a question please raise your hand and we will answer any questions. The Board of Education understands this is an important topic and they want to make sure everyone gets to give their opinion or ask questions.

Mr. Norcutt, President of Steger Education Association

Mr. Norcutt spoke for the teachers stating some want mask and some do not want mask and ask if the decision could be held off until the beginning of school. He stated they wanted the children to wear mask. Mr. Norcutt thanked the Board of Education for the inviting them to the meeting.

BOARD MATTERS (Consent Agenda)

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

DISCUSSION A. Discussion regarding the Steger School District 194 plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

Dr. David Frusher, Superintendent of Steger Schools

Thanked everyone for coming out to the late evening meeting. Dr. Frusher spoke about the July 9th new guidance, full in-person learning, and Covid-19 metrics in our area. The following items were reviewed and discussed with the audience.

The following items run as normal before Covid-19

- Student school day resumes back to regular full days and hours 7:50 a.m./8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Attendance is taken daily
- Grades will be based on the district's traditional grading procedures
- Staff can resume normal lunch/break operations
- Access to school buildings for students, parents, and staff.
 - Logging all visitors into the building as normal.
 - Visitors - mask required if unvaccinated (signage will be posted)

Mask

Option 1

Universal masking - Everyone wearing a mask 100% for staff and students

Option 2

IDPH adopted the CDC guidelines and then ISBE agreed to follow

Vaccinated staff and students - No Mask

Unvaccinated staff and students - Recommended to wear a mask

Option 3

No mask for vaccinated or unvaccinated staff and students

Ms. Peters, Staff Member stated teachers and students should wear mask.

Mr. Vaughn, Staff Member asked for clarification on options.

Mr. Norcutt, Staff Member wanted to make sure the teachers are not the mask police.

Transportation

Masks are required at all times for all individuals while on the school bus. This CDC order applies to all public transportation systems including public school buses.

Mr. Diehl stated the following.

Assigned seating still being reviewed.

Cameras are on all buses and will be reviewed if problems arise.

Lunch - Food Service

Maintain as much physical distancing as possible, at all times. We will utilize space to the maximum with the cafeteria, stage, and outside areas at each building.

No longer need to pack separate meals/bags

No longer need to use single-use items (i.e., plates, utensils, cups, trays)

No need to limit food service approach

Mr. Vaughn, Staff Member asked how would regular lunch operate? Guidance was read that students can take off their mask at lunch. Lunch service will go back to serving as before Covid-19.

Ms. Rachael Diehl, Director of Food Service

Lunch staff is ready to go back to serving students daily.

Round tables being used, will try to social distance as much as possible.

Slower process going through the lines.

Social Distancing

Three feet of social distancing, or less, to ensure that all students have access to in-person learning.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

We will follow the same guidelines put in place last year for extra cleaning and disinfecting. The district will increase the frequency of its cleaning and disinfecting to reduce the risk of exposure. The custodial staff will receive and follow training on recommended cleaning and disinfecting techniques following the CDC and OSHA guidelines.

The daily cleaning and disinfecting routine will include the following:

- High touch areas (door handles, light switches, pencil sharpeners, keyboards, hands-on learning materials, sinks, faucets, toilets, etc.)
- Non-high touch areas will be cleaned and disinfected each night
- An electro-static sprayer with disinfecting solution will be used to disinfect all surfaces nightly
- Disinfectant supplies will be distributed to each teacher for use as needed

Ventilation

Air handlers are set to replace inside air with outside air 4-5 times per hour. Air filters were upgraded to MERV 15 were possible (MERV 13 or higher is recommended by CDC)

Restrooms

Restrooms should be assigned to classrooms to ease contact tracing. Restroom breaks should be scheduled to maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible. Signage promoting hand hygiene will be posted in every restroom.

Drinking fountains

All drinking fountains will be turned off / closed until further notice. Drinking fountains with bottle fillers will remain available for filling reusable water bottles. There will be refilling stations provided at Columbia Central.

Physical Education Class - Locker Room

P.E. will follow what option is chosen for mask option
Outdoor activities - no mask worn at any time for everyone is recommended by IDPH

Sports and ExtraCurricular Activities

Athletics will follow IHSA and IDPH sports guidance.
July 21, 2021 spoke to IHSA and they are having a board meeting in August to discuss masks. For now they are leaving any decisions up to the school districts.

SD 194 is still following the policy of wearing a mask at all times. IDPH guidance at this time is not to wear a mask while outside.

Sports we have practicing in July/August
Baseball
Softball
Cross Country

Mr. Nieminski noted himself and other districts in our conference are waiting for the IHSA August meetings for more information.

Remote Learning

No more simultaneous instruction

Students under Quarantine

- Remote learning can be made available for students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, only while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.\
- Students will access work through Google Classroom
- Jan Lenci will explain at the meeting

Students under health condition

- Posted letter and return date of Thursday, July 29, 2021
- Approved students will be outsourced the entire school year

Technology

Steger Primary Center 1:1 in the building, devices do NOT go home with students

Steger Intermediate Center 1:1 in the building, devices do NOT go home with students

Columbia Central 1:1 student issued device taken home daily

Students and Teachers are to sanitize their devices.

Snow Days

The SD 194 emergency day plan is being completed and must be school board approved and SCISC approved by September 1, 2021. All SD 194 students will take a device home to use for the emergency day. The day will not need to be used as an emergency day at the end of the year.

ACTION

- B. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Steger School District 194 plan for the 2021-2022 school year, as presented. Regarding the mask options the Board of Education decided on Option 2 adding a few words.

Vaccinated staff and students - No Mask

Unvaccinated staff and students - Recommended to wear a mask but not required

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Turner.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:09 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Sarek and seconded by Mrs. Edwards to adjourn the meeting.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Turner.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Education

President, Board of Education