

MINUTES

STEGER SCHOOL DISTRICT 194 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Thursday, May 20, 2021

6:00 P.M.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by President Helsel. Members present Helsel, Page, Turner, Raymond, Edwards and Butkus. Members absent: Sarek

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 welcomed parents that were in attendance, newly appointed Village Trustee Cindy Trotier and newly appointed Village Trustee Steve Thurmond.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Turner and seconded by Mrs. Raymond to approve the following items:

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| ACTION | A. | Approval of the minutes of the April 15, 2021, Board Meeting and Closed Session. |
| ACTION | B. | Approval of the minutes of the April 28, 2021, Board Meeting and Closed Session. |
| ACTION | C. | The Superintendent recommends the board review the minutes from the October 12, 2020 and October 19, 2020, Closed Session meeting and they be kept closed. |
| ACTION | D. | The Superintendent recommends the board approve the destruction of the recordings from the October 17, 2019, November 5, 2019, and November 19, 2019, Closed Session meetings. |

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

Helsel, Page, Edwards, Raymond, 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 Ms. Butkus to approve the following item under Financial Accounts:

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

Helsel, Page, Edwards, Raymond, 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 August 31, 2020 through May 11, 2021; 27,172 free breakfasts and lunches have been provided to our families for children up to age 18. This is a running total increase amount from 19,410 from last month, which is 7,762 additional breakfasts and lunches.
- **Technology Update:** Our school district has deployed 1413 mobile devices for students to use at home during remote learning. In addition, 56 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 1406 mobile devices and the hot spots at 55.
- Illinois Governor JB Pritzker announced on Monday, May 17, 2021 that Illinois has aligned its mask guidance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which has raised many questions, including what authority controls (federal, state, local), what phase Illinois is in, and whether Illinois is operating under a disaster proclamation. Yes, the 16th disaster proclamation was issued on April 30, 2021, and remains in effect for a period of 30 days for all regions in Illinois. We expect that the Governor's Office will issue another disaster proclamation on May 29, 2021, as Illinois will still be in the Bridge Phase of the Restore Illinois Plan. Additional disaster proclamations may follow even when Illinois enters Phase 5.
- Illinois has entered the Bridge Phase, pursuant to Executive Order 2021-10 (COVID-19 Executive Order No. 79) issued on May 17, 2021. "The intent of the Executive Order is to safely, and in a manner consistent with CDC guidance, expand activities that were limited during prior mitigation Phases of the State's Response to the COVID-19 pandemic." The Governor's Office has indicated that **Illinois may enter Phase 5 as early as June 5, 2021.**
- One of many, but probably the biggest question on many people's minds has been? **Will K-12 Schools be Required to Resume Fully In-Person Learning for 2021-2022 School Year?** We received an update on this just yesterday, as the State of Illinois is set to mandate full-time, 5 days a week, in-person learning at public schools this fall. We've been informed by ISBE that school districts should plan to resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days in the 2021-2022 school year (which we will bring forward our district's plan for your consideration and a recommendation for your approval). This will be a requirement for the 2021- 2022 school year, with the narrow exception being that remote instruction be made available for students who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine and are under a quarantine order by a local health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health. School districts that want to continue remote offerings on an individual student basis, if that will best meet the individual student's learning need, may do so under other sections of the law, Dr. Carmen Ayala, Illinois State Superintendent of Public Instruction, has shared, citing parts of the Illinois School Code that allow districts to offer remote or blended learning to qualifying students. Some students with medical conditions who are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine or who aren't under quarantine order may meet criteria for homebound or hospital instruction. According to the Illinois School Code, **"a child qualifies for home or hospital instruction if it is anticipated that, due to a medical condition, the child will be unable to attend school, and instead must be instructed at home or in the hospital, for a period of two or more consecutive weeks or on an ongoing intermittent basis."** Dr. Carmen Ayala, Illinois State Superintendent of Public Instruction, stated more guidance will be released in the coming weeks. This will be from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- I continue to meet (through zoom), every Monday morning, with sixty-six South Cook County superintendents on matters related to school districts. Most of our focus has been on Covid-19 vaccine availability (especially for children and adults, age 12 and older), resources/funding coming to school districts from the federal government to address needs caused by the Covid-19 pandemic (ESSER III money around July 1, 2021), and bills in the Illinois General Assembly in Springfield.

- Illinois Legislature
 - Heated session this week. Many bad bills (unfunded mandates, controversial curricular units, requiring an hour of daily unstructured play time, etc.) being brought up, hopefully amended, or killed all together. Bad bills can, and will, be folded into other, more popular bills, have to be careful of this, so they don't "sneak" through. Will look into legislators who have filed an extension their bill, because these bills can be resurrected at a future veto session.
 - Working on US Congressional redistricting and the state budget.
 - Good support on Illinois's Evidence Based Funding for school district's. This is great for our school district!
 - Ten days left in this session. Hold on to your hat!
- On April 20th, May 4th, and May 18th, our SD 194 District Administrative Council and District Instructional Team Leaders met. We continue to meet at least twice a month at a big team. We continue to collaborate on school operations and leadership updates and how we can support one another, focused on curriculum updates, professional development, vacancies and staffing our schools for next school year, problem solving, end of the year processes, technology matters, and anything we can do to support our students, families, staff members, and one another. We have a hard working team!
- Our Principals are hard at work interviewing candidates for current vacancies in our school district. SD 194 is drawing good interest, as demonstrated by the amount of applicants and the quality of the candidates. We'll continue to bring forward recommendations for your consideration for hire.
- This morning I had my SPEED Operating Committee Meeting, proudly serving as the representative from SD 194. Topics that were on our agenda included being informed that SPPED has a very large summer learning program for the student that attend SPEED, ESSER funds from the federal government, some personnel matters, our regular monthly agenda items. 319 students total attend SPEED, including 12 students from SD 194.

COVID-19 Metrics - May 20, 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
 - 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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%
- 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%
 - 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%
 - 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%

- School Level Metrics - 5/2/21 - 5/8/21
 - 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 5/18/2021**
 - 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
 - 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
 - 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
 - 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
 - 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

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.

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| INFO | A. Columbia Central School 8 th grade graduation update presented by Bruce Nieminski, Tom Aguirre, and Adam Schoff. |
| INFO | B. Steger School District 194 Last Day of School Parade - June 4, 2021 |

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| INFO | C. | Steger School District 194 Summer Learning Materials presented by Jan Lenci. |
| INFO | D. | The Multilingual Department at the Illinois State Board of Education has awarded Steger School District 194 the Bilingual Education Award (BEA) \$10,000. |
| ACTION | E. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the updated job description for Associate Principal of Columbia Central. |
| ACTION | F. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the updated job description for Associate Principal of Steger Intermediate Center. |
| ACTION | G. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the contract with Cara Curtis (Occupational Therapy Services) effective August 23, 2021, through June 3, 2022, as presented. |
| ACTION | H. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the contract with Jana King (Speech Language Pathologist) effective August 23, 2021, through June 3, 2022, as presented. |
| ACTION | I. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the contract with Tim Breshock (Physical therapy services) effective August 23, 2021, through June 3, 2022, as presented. |
| ACTION | J. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the contract with Omni Therapeutics, INC. (Physical therapy, Occupational, Speech-Language Pathology, Social Work and Psychology services) effective August 1, 2021, through July 31, 2022, as presented. |
| ACTION | K. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the Summer Feeding Plan 2021, as presented. |
| ACTION | L. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2021-2022 Title I School-wide Plan for Steger Primary Center. |
| ACTION | M. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2021-2022 Title I School-wide Plan for Steger Intermediate Center. |
| ACTION | N. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the 2021-2022 Title I School-wide Plan for Columbia Central. |
| ACTION | O. | The Superintendent requests, as stated in his Superintendent Employment Contract, for the 2020-2021 contract year, to exchange five (5) vacation days at his current per diem in lieu of taking said days. |

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

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| ACTION | A. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the retirement of Teri St Pierre, Human Resources at the Administration Center, effective August 2021. |
| ACTION | B. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Heather Olsen, Music/Choir 5-8 at Columbia Central, effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. |
| ACTION | C. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Christine Zomparelli, 2 nd grade Teacher at Steger Intermediate Center, effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. |
| ACTION | D. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the resignation of Gina Bock, Itinerant Resource Teacher at Steger Intermediate Center, effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. |
| ACTION | E. | The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of |

- Noah Huffman, Dishwasher at Columbia Central at \$11.00 an hour, effective May 3, 2021.
- ACTION** F. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Michelle Perry, Special Education Teacher at Columbia Central at BA4+15, effective for the 2021-2022 school year.
- ACTION** G. The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the employment of Mayra Pacheco, Para-Professional at Steger Intermediate Center at \$12.00 an hour, effective for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Jan Lenci, Director of Teaching and Learning presented an update regarding the Learning Resource Center at each building.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. New Business
 - a. Jan Lenci, Director of Teaching and Learning discussed upcoming curriculum mandates. State Guidance will be coming out soon and we will be following any and all guidelines.
 - b. Damage to manhole covers, playground equipment, and the storage trailer behind Columbia Central at Sarek Park. The Board of Education discussed updating cameras, lighting and Steger Police will be monitoring the area more often.
 - c. The Board of Education is looking at options for park equipment on the hill at Steger Intermediate Center.
 - d. Family Movie Night "Goonies" – Mrs. Helsel thanked Steger-South Chicago Heights Public Library, SD 194 Technology Department, SD 194 Food Service and SD 194 Grounds and Maintenance Department. It was great to see so many families attend the event. Another movie night will be scheduled during the summer.
- B. Old Business
- C. Correspondence
 - a. Thank you note – Mattox Family
 - b. Thank you note – Zesetuko Family
 - c. Thank you note – Helsel Family
- D. PTA transitioning to PTO
 - a. Waiting for financials/ audit
- E. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request
- F. Upcoming Dates
 - a. May 31 Memorial Day - No School
 - b. June 3 Columbia Central 8th Grade Graduation
 - c. June 4 Last day of school for students
 - d. June 4 Last day of school Reverse Parade
 - e. June 7 & 8 Remote Learning Planning Days

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:23 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Page and seconded by Mrs. Turner to adjourn the meeting.

Upon roll call all members voting aye:

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

Members voting nay: None. Members absent: Sarek.

Members abstaining: None. Motion carried.

Secretary, Board of Education

President, Board of Education