

## STEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 220

### Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

6:00 pm – Zoom/In person meeting, publicized and posted for participation.

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Minutes taken by Matt Hayes.

The regularly scheduled meeting of February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 was called to order by President Jim Knetsch.

On roll call at 6:02pm, the following members were present and/or participating over Zoom:

**Board members present:** Chris Cardott, Jim Knetsch, Nate Ramsey, Dean Svela, Marcy DeLille,  
Superintendent Taylor

**Board members present on Zoom:** Chele Wells, Julie Lovett

**Board members late:** None

**Board members absent:** Marcy Delille

**Visitors:** Kortney and Joseph Powell, Brooke and Tim Mendez

**Public comment:** None

#### **Presentations and reports:**

1. No public comments
2. Superintendent Taylor highlighted “Good Things are Happening for Students of Steward”
  - a. No students have been tested COVID positive.
  - b. He highlighted the “Innovative reading program” and commented that good things are happening with that program here at the school.
3. Superintendent Taylor presented information in the “Superintendent and Principal Reports”
  - a. Letters to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders about mathematics planning and coordination between Steward and RTHS was sent out.
  - b. Steward’s grant trend line was highlighted as it has been growing each year.
  - c. Note of appreciation for plant that Mr. Taylor received was shared.
4. Board Member Communication for the Good of Steward.
  - a. Good to see Steward school articles in the newspaper.
  - b. Appreciation for the training Mr. Taylor is doing with Mr. Hayes during the superintendent’s transition period was shared.
  - c. The possibility of opening up the school to full day in person learning with cold lunches was brought up.
  - d. We need to keep our website current with required information.
  - e. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation is planned for May 13<sup>th</sup>.

- f. BTTS annual cost is \$12,000. The possibility of moving our finances to in house was shared. Mrs. Cardott requested moving our current finance book keeping to in house be put on next month's agenda.

5. Lee-Ogle Enterprise Zone updates and revised resolution.

- a. Presentation was postponed for next month. To be held after Rochelle H.S. and Rochelle Middle school presentations.

**On a motion by Dean Svela and a second by Nate Ramsey, and a roll call of all aye, the board decided to carry over the resolution until next month's meeting.**

6. Parent request to address the BOE regarding school attendance and residency.

- a. The Mendez family is wondering if they moved to Rochelle could their kids finish out the school year here. Mr. Taylor said that was allowed according to school policy.
- b. Tuition costs is up to 110% of per capita cost. Per capita cost at present is \$17,281. That would make tuition \$19,009.10 per child.
- c. Brooke and Tim Mendez joined the meeting late and the BOE returned to this item to address their concern.
- d. Brooke owns a home in Steward and Tim owns a home in Rochelle. Their priority is that their kids remain in Steward school to continue the quality education provided by Mrs. Buskohl. (2<sup>nd</sup>) and (K) not (1<sup>st</sup>).
- e. Mr. Taylor asked about their "Joint Parent Agreement". They were asked to bring in papers to say who is charge of each of the decisions in the relationship. All they reported to have is a verbal agreement.
- f. The Board of Education made the decision to discuss this and get back to them.

7. Contract services for student meals

- a. We are moving ahead with Preferred Meals in the absence of a cook.
- b. Preferred Meals have large meals that could be prepared and/or cold lunches for each child to eat when the kids return to eat in school.
- c. Mrs. Lovett shared that Indian Creek is making it work with spacing and box lunches.
- d. Mrs. Wells is concerned that masks be worn at all times if kids are coming back.
- e. Two staff members will not be vaccinated. The rest of the staff will be vaccinated by Friday, Feb 26<sup>th</sup>.
- f. All day on campus learning for all students was discussed.
- ~~g. Mrs. Cardott suggested a return date for full day on campus learning be on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.~~
- h. The Board took action on the idea of returning to campus March 3<sup>rd</sup> after discussing alternative dates. The Superintendent reminded the Board of Education since it wasn't an agenda item it couldn't be voted on. Mr. Taylor asked if the Board of Education was directing the school to move forward to return to full on campus learning on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, asked if the Board of Education was directing him to coordinate the change in format, and if the Board of Education specifically was changing the format of instruction to remove remote learning. Each of the participating Board of Education members, led by the President's question to each one, confirmed the three steps above.

**A motion was made by Nate Ramsey to start back to full day school on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, it was seconded by Dean Svela. Since this wasn't an agenda item the motion was retracted verbally without a motion or vote.**

**On a motion by Nate Ramsey and a second by Dean Svela, and a roll call of all aye, the board decided to accept the Preferred Meals contract.**

8. Adoption for TRS Supplemental Saving Plan called a 457b.
  - a. 401K for not for profits. Like a 403b but different. Need a third party administrator to oversee the plan or have TRS with Voya coordinated.
  - b. There are many retired Steward employees on our register.
  - c. This is a required form to fill out and an agreement to approve for Steward and TRS by end of March.
  - d. The Board of Education will look more into this and make a decision at the March meeting.
9. Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFRCA)
  - a. Review of the FFRA was held. Discussion with the Board of Education members on the benefits to staff. Mrs. Lovett said their school allowed use of time for issues that met the four requirements, with pay.

**On a motion by Julie and a second by Chrissy, and a roll call of all aye, the board decided to allow extension the FFRCA until the end of the school year for up to 10 days if they meet the criteria.**

\*If they can't work because they are sick and we can't find a sub then we cancel class was the approved process.

10. School District Policy Manual: Updates and Procedure.
  - a. The Superintendent shared the process of how the manual is updated each month or so and how updates could be shared with the Board of Education.
  - b. It was discussed how often to review the new policies.
  - c. Press just started this year, this is a new process.
  - d. The Board of Education will look over the adoption and make the decision at the following meeting.
11. District Assessments for Students
  - a. We are planning on taking them but they may be waived by the state. Mr. Taylor signed a letter of request to waive the assessments this year, with the Illinois State Board of Education.
12. Property and Casualty Insurance Application
  - a. Reviewed the application process and Board of Education approved the PSIC vendor by consensus.
13. Meridian Conference Sports Update.
  - ~~a. No competitive sports will be played.~~
  - b. A skills class could be offered for the students. A high school student or parent could oversee the kids. The Board of Education said to organize and arrange the outline shared.
14. Steward School District Staff Register and Annual Personnel Actions
  - a. Steward School District Staff register was shared and recommendations were made b

**On a motion by Chris Cardott and a second by Nate Ramsey, and a roll call of all aye, the board decided to continue employment in school year 2022 of tenured teachers Mrs. Stroh, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Swartz, Mrs. Odle and Ms. Inman.**

**On a motion by Chris Cardott and a second by Dean Svela, and a roll call of all aye, the board decided to continue employment in school year 2022 of certified, non-tenured teachers Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Blumhorst, Mr. Smith and Mrs. Buskohl.**

**On a motion by Nate Ramsey and a second by Chris Cardott, and a roll call of all aye, the board decided to continue employment in school year 2022 of non-certified staff Mr. Hayes, Mr. Koch and Mrs. Reed.**

15. Extra-Curricular Personnel

**On a motion by Chele Wells and a second by Dean Svela, and a roll call of all aye, the board decided to pay a stipend of \$500 to Mrs. Odle for the 2021 Athletic Director position, with an increase due to COVID issues.**

**On a motion by Dean Svela and a second by Nate Ramsey, and a roll call of all aye, the board decided to pay a stipend of \$450 to Mr. Hayes for the 2021 Yearbook Coordinator position, with an increase due to COVID issues.**

16. 2021-2022 school attendance calendar.

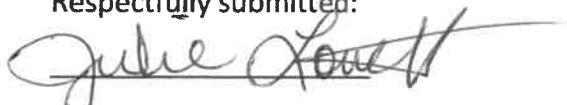
a. Mr. Taylor shared the 2021-2020 calendar with staff and it works for everyone.

**On a motion by Julie Lovett and a second by Dean Svela, and a roll call of all aye, the board decided to accept the 2021-2022 calendar as presented.**

**On a motion by Dean Svela and a second by Chris Cardott, and a roll call of all aye, the consent agenda was approved, including January 20<sup>th</sup> minutes, financial statements, and accounts payable.**

**On a motion by Dean Svela and a second by Julie Lovett, and a roll call of all aye, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.**

Respectfully submitted:



Julie Lovett, Secretary  
Board of Education  
March, 17<sup>th</sup> 2021

Approved by the Board of Education:



Jim Knetsch, President  
Board of Education