

**Rochelle Community Consolidated School District 231
September 8, 2020 Board of Education Meeting Minutes**

The Board of Education of Rochelle Community Consolidated School District #231 in Ogle and Lee Counties, Illinois met in regular session at the Lincoln Elementary School Cafeteria on September 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Upon roll call: Mr. VanHise - present; Mr. Builta - present; Mrs. Vaughn - present; Mrs. Reif - present; Mr. Zepeda - present; Mrs. Tess - present; Mr. Casey - Present. Present - 7, Absent - 0.

Superintendent Harper, Assistant Superintendent Doyle, Business Manager Dale, Principal Adolph, Principal Canfield, Principal Cox, Principal Derricks, Principal Young, Assistant Principal Dornink and Hub Program Director Hayden were also present.

It was motioned by Mrs. Tess and seconded by Mr. Zepeda to approve the proposed agenda. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mr. VanHise - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-7; Nay-0. Motion carried. (Ex. "A")

It was motioned by Mr. Builta and seconded by Mrs. Tess to approve the August 11, 2020 Special Meeting - Budget Workshop Minutes and Board of Education Monthly Meeting Minutes. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mr. VanHise - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-7; Nay-0. Motion carried. (Ex. "B and C")

Audience Comments: No comments were presented.

Communications: No communications were presented.

Special Reports/Updates:

1. Enrollment Information - In the Board packet were documents showing this year's enrollment numbers, excluding PreKindergarten, but included Opt-In, Opt-Out and Home School data. There was also a document which shows the year-to-year enrollment trends.
 - Total enrollment is 1,403, excluding PreKindergarten.
 - 899 in-person learners (64%)
 - 474 remote learners (33.7%)
 - 2.5% home schooled
 - 3.5% attend private school, unknown if in person or online

Superintendent Harper stated "We are still allowing students to opt in or opt out." (Ex. "D")

2. New teachers were introduced (Ex. "E"):

Nuala Benisek - 6th Grade Special Education at RMS

Veronica Garcia-Martinez - 6th Grade ELL at RMS
Kevin Hunt - 8th Grade Social Studies at RMS
Jeannie Matura - 2nd Grade at Lincoln
Jocelyn Ortiz - 1st Grade at Lincoln
Kailyn Willis - 8th Grade Special Education at RMS

Consent Agenda: It was motioned by Mr. VanHise and seconded by Mr. Zepeda to approve the following Consent Agenda as presented:

1. It was approved to pay the bills as presented by Superintendent Harper. (Ex. "F")
2. It was approved to accept this month's financial reports as presented by Superintendent Harper. (Ex. "G")
3. The below Personnel Report was approved as recommended by Superintendent Harper:

I. CERTIFICATED

Family Leave Request

Whitney Brandt (Ex. "H")

II. SUPPORT STAFF

Resignation

Monica Scott Paraprofessional at Central (Ex. "I")

Employment

Cynthia Cunningham Sub Paraprofessional at Stepping Stones

Monica Scott Sub Paraprofessional

III. EXTRACURRICULAR - No changes at this time.

Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mr. VanHise - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-7; Nay-0. Motion carried.

The Board of Education of Rochelle Community Consolidated School District #231 in Ogle and Lee Counties, Illinois met in a special session for a public BINA Hearing at the Lincoln Elementary School Cafeteria on September 8, 2020 at 7:10 pm. Upon roll call: Mrs. Tess - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mr. VanHise - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Present - 7, Absent - 0.

Board President Casey announced the intent of the Board of Education to sell not to exceed \$1,200,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the District's Working Cash Fund.

Board Secretary Vaughn read the resolution declaring the Board of Education intends to issue

\$1,200,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds of Community Consolidated School District Number 231, Ogle and Lee Counties for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of said School District, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provide by law.

Board President Casey asked the Board if they have any further comments.

Board Secretary Vaughn stated there was no written testimony.

Board President Casey asked the public for any written or oral comments.

Board President Casey announced that all persons desiring to be heard have been given an opportunity to present oral and written testimony with respect to the proposed issuance of the Working Cash Fund Bonds.

It was motioned by Mr. Builta and seconded by Mr. VanHise to adjourn the public hearing at 7:13 pm. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mrs. Tess - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mr. VanHise - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-7; Nay-0. Motion carried. (Ex. "J")

ACTION ITEMS:

1. It was motioned by Mrs. Vaughn and seconded by Mr. Tess to approve the FY2021 budget as presented at the August 11, 2020 Budget Workshop and at the Budget Hearing prior to this board meeting. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. VanHise - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-7; Nay-0. Motion carried. (Ex. "K")
2. It was motioned by Mrs. Vaughn and seconded by Mr. Builta to approve the Resolution of Intent to Issue \$1,200,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of said School District, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. VanHise - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-7; Nay-0. Motion carried. (Ex. "L")
3. After lying on the table for one month it was motioned by Mrs. Vaughn and seconded by Mr. VanHise to approve the lastest board policy manual updates provided by the Illinois Association of School Boards, Press Plus. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. VanHise - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-7; Nay-0. Motion carried. (Ex. "M")
4. Superintendent Harper provided an update on the district's reopening plan.

- We offered our parents to have their child opt-in or opt-out.
 - We have roughly $\frac{2}{3}$ of our students in school.
- We continue to watch all schools, but Central School more closely
 - Those classes were the biggest because of the Dual Language program.
- We work closely with the Ogle County Health Department, our nurses, health aides, secretaries and principals to monitor absences. We are in constant communication with the OCHD as they are with us.
 - We set-up a weekly meeting with them.
 - Our nurses throughout the county are also meeting with the OCHD and contact tracers as well.
- Thankful to the Board for allowing us to purchase new chrome books/tablet devices, up our internet speed, new routers to increase connectivity, new software licenses like Screencastify to help our teachers to do their job.
- We have had some points of frustration, with some being out of our control.
 - Zoom went down the first day of school.
 - Google Drive went down today.
 - The vendor might have issues also with connectivity that causes problems.
 - Within our control is:
 - We are working to get through the technology concerns. We need to have a reliable connection to the internet.
 - Working on the connectivity
 - Tier off our internet so staff have priority on the internet and students have a reliable connection.
- Our teachers and staff overwhelmingly try to make it work. Everyone is working very hard. We recognize the efforts of everyone across the board.

Mr. Builta asked “What is being done to support the amount of stress/the whole process of the teachers?”

Superintendent Harper stated in early August we had paid Professional Learning Committee meetings to help prep and explain the changes along the way. We started the school year with 5 days with exclusive teacher work time. Two Fridays ago was the third Remote Planning Day. We have two more days to use. We are looking at different options on how to provide teachers with more time for professional development or just time in their room to get caught up.

Mrs. Vaughn thanked the administration and teachers for their work and support to the students. The teachers are making it the best that they can.

Discussion Items: No discussion items were presented.

Executive Session: It was moved by Mrs. Vaughn and seconded by Mrs. Tess to enter into Executive Session at 7:37 pm for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, collective bargaining, pending legal action, student discipline, and other exceptions to the Open Meetings Act. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mr. VanHise - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-7; Nay-0. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Vaughn and seconded by Mrs. Tess to exit from Executive Session at 8:11 pm and return to regular session. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mr. VanHise - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-7; Nay-0. Motion carried.

Action Resulting From Executive Session: It was motioned by Mrs. Vaughn and seconded by Mrs. Reif to approve the updated contract for Seth Richolson. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mr. VanHise - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-7; Nay-0. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Mrs. Reif moved adjournment and it was seconded by Mr, Builta. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mr. VanHise - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-7; Nay-0. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

David Casey, Board President

Trisha Vaughn, Board Secretary