

**Rochelle Community Consolidated School District 231**  
**October 13, 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 in the Lincoln Elementary School Cafeteria on October 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Upon roll call: Mr. Zepeda - present; Mr. VanHise - absent; Mrs. Reif - present; Mr. Builta - present; Mrs. Tess - present; Mrs. Vaughn - present; Mr. Casey - present. Present - 6, Absent - 1.

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. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-6; Nay-0. Motion carried. (Ex. "A")

It was motioned by Mr. Builta and seconded by Mrs. Vaughn to approve the September 8, 2020 Special Meeting - Budget Hearing Minutes, Board of Education Monthly Meeting Minutes, Executive Session Meeting Minutes, and BINA Hearing Minutes. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-6; Nay-0. Motion carried. (Ex. "B, C, D and E")

**Audience Comments:** Mr. Jason Deutsch, REEA co-president, thanked the Board of Education, and administration for all the hard work they have done in reopening the school and allowing them to come back to school. He also thanked Superintendent Harper and Assistant Superintendent Doyle for the Memorandum Of Understanding, and Joelle Builta and the other nurses for all their hard work on the front line. He asked when moving forward to please consider all the hard work the staff is doing. They are up to the challenge, but keep their health, safety, and stress in mind.

**Communications:** No communications were presented.

**Special Reports/Updates:**

Hub Program Director Amy Hayden presented on the HUB program and Stepping Stones Preschool.

The Hub program is all remote this year.

- Teachers are having office hours and doing zoom calls from 3:00 -5:00 pm to give extra help.
- Central and Lincoln schools offer conversation small groups for our dual language students to help build speaking and listening skills.
- Lincoln is doing a good job at remedial reading and math groups.
- Outside of student contact:
  - Helping facilitate the food distribution for our remote learners.

- Helping with the Backpack program.
  - Our Site coordinators come up with offline activities trying to keep things engaging for them. We get the activity and all of the supplies to their home if they are a remote learner and for in-person learners it gets sent home in their book bag.

Enrollment is at 257, down 17 students from last fall. We have been able to recruit some new families in the after school program.

The grant is good for five years and the 2021-2022 school year is the last year for the current grant. The last time we renewed the grant it was an automatic rollover. It is hard to know if it will be a rollover or if we will have to go through a more invasive grant process.

As a district, building configurations are changing. Ms. Hayden wants to look at how we can reconfigure our shared sites so it matches the building and better serve the monolingual and dual language programs. (Ex. "F")

### **Stepping Stones PreSchool:**

We know that early intervention is really important and we are excited about helping our students be better prepared for Kindergarten.

- Total enrollment is at 175, which is higher now than last spring, due to some families preferring remote learning.
- There are four different programs within the preschool:
  - Dual Language Program - 50/50 English and Spanish
  - Blended Program for both students with developmental delays and other at-risk factors and those students without at-risk factors in the same classroom.
  - Self Contained Program for students with the highest level of special needs.
  - PreSchool for All is a federally funded preschool program that is open to all students.
- The Dual Language program enrolls 62, including remote learners. We are trying to recruit more native spanish speakers.
  - Students spend the whole day in one language and then alternate the next day.
- Expanded art and science centers because we removed the cloth play centers and materials.
- Adjusted procedures so materials can be sanitized at the end of each pre-school session. (Ex. "G")

**Consent Agenda:** It was motioned by Mrs. Vaughn and seconded by Mrs. Tess to approve the following Consent Agenda as presented:

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

## **SUPPORT STAFF:**

### **Employment**

Annette Gonzalez                      HUB Program (Ex. "J")

## **EXTRACURRICULAR:**

### **Employment**

Chad Stewart                      Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach  
Jennifer Hunley                      Assistant Girls' Track Coach

4. It was approved to appoint Pat Casey, Dianne Kenney and Todd Prusator to two year terms and Donna Drought and Neil Swanson to a one year term to the David Crawford Foundation Board of Directors as recommended by Superintendent Harper.

Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-6; Nay-0. Motion carried.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. It was motioned by Mrs. Vaughn and seconded by Mrs. Reif to approve the Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$5,850,000 General Obligation School Bonds for the purposes of refunding certain outstanding bonds of the District and increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, authorizing the execution of an escrow agreement in connection with said refunding and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.

Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-6; Nay-0. Motion carried. (Ex. "K")

2. Superintendent Harper provided an update on the district's reopening plan.

Superintendent Harper "thank you everyone for really pulling everything together. It has been an amazing team effort. We have not had any major, major issues. We did have to close a couple of classes for remote sessions for 14 days to be inline with Ogle County Health Department guidelines."

November 16th starts the next trimester. Parents have until October 23rd to decide if they are going to continue with their original plan or change to in-person or opt to remote learning. Parent-Teacher conferences have been a good way to give and receive feedback.

We will start planning for the most amount of students in-person:

- We have to be sure we have enough room for social distance.
- May School's concern is space.
- Central School has the highest elementary enrollment and the highest number of students in the classroom.
- There might be some rooms where we might have to take a closer look at how we are going to fit the students in.
- We prefer to keep the five day a week model.

The feedback we have received from administration, teachers and parents is that we want to attempt to teach as many students in person, for as long as we possibly can, as safely as we can.

Superintendent Harper also discussed an "Adaptive Pause", which the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Ogle County Health Department refer to as a temporary closure; a two week push to remote learning. The reason we would do this is because if we would see a spread happening in the moment at one school or all schools that would lead to a potential spread, then we would move to remote learning for typically 14 days. It allows learning to keep going. Teachers would still come in and teach while students remain at home.

Superintendent Harper discussed with the Board about having a "Practice Day" for all students to do remote learning in case we would need to do an "adaptive pause". This would require giving up an in-person instruction day. We want to get teacher and parent feedback on this and see what benefits there is.

**Discussion Items:** No discussion items were presented.

**Executive Session:** No Executive Session was held.

There being no further business, Mrs. Reif moved adjournment and it was seconded by Mr. Zepeda. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-6; Nay-0. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

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David Casey, Board President

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Trisha Vaughn, Board Secretary