

**Rochelle Community Consolidated School District 231  
December 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 in the Lincoln Elementary School Cafeteria on December 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Upon roll call: Mrs. Reif - present via phone; Mr. Zepeda - absent; Mr. VanHise - present via phone; Mrs. Tess - present via phone; Mrs. Vaughn - present; Mr. Builta - present via phone; Mr. Casey - present. Present - 6, Absent - 1.

Superintendent Harper, Assistant Superintendent Doyle, and Business Manager Dale were also present.

It was motioned by Mrs. Vaughn and seconded by Mr. VanHise to approve the proposed agenda. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mrs, Reif - aye; Mr. VanHise - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-6; Nay-0. Motion carried. (Ex. "A")

It was motioned by Mrs. Vaughn and seconded by Mrs. Reif to approve the November 10, 2020 the Board of Education Monthly Meeting Minutes and Executive Session Meeting Minutes. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mrs, Reif - aye; Mr. VanHise - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-6; Nay-0. Motion carried. (Ex. "B")

**Audience Comments:** No comments were presented.

**Communications:** No communications were presented.

**Special Reports/Updates:** Matt Schuler, representative from WIPFLI, LLC, presented a brief recap of the FY2020 Annual Financial Audit Summary. There were no significant findings.

Covid did cause a challenge getting the audit done. He commended Business Manager, Dale and his team for working through it and helping get the audit done. (Ex. "C")

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

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

**CERTIFICATED**

**Family Leave**

Andrea Young-Hernandez (Ex. "F")

## **SUPPORT STAFF**

### **Resignation**

Baylor, Jacqueline                      School Nurse at Lincoln (Ex. "G")

### **Employment**

Debra Cicogna                              School Nurse at Lincoln (Ex. "H")

4. It was approved to extend to Nephertiti Valle and she intends to accept an offer of employment as a teacher upon completion of her Bilingual Endorsement. (Ex. "I")

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

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

1. It was motioned by Mrs. Vaughn and seconded by Mr. VanHise to adopt the proposed 2020 Tax Levy as presented, which requests \$9,388,250, (3.99%). Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mrs, Reif - aye; Mr. VanHise - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-6; Nay-0. Motion carried. (Ex. "J")
2. Superintendent Harper presented the first reading of the Board Policy Manual updates, Press Plus 106 edits. These changes are the result of the School Code Statutory or Legislative changes. No action was taken as these edits must lay on the Board table for the required one month and be placed on the January agenda for adoption.
3. It was motioned by Mr. Builta and seconded by Mrs. Vaughn to accept the FY20 audit as was prepared and presented by WIPFLI LLP, Certified Public Accountants. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mrs, Reif - aye; Mr. VanHise - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mr. Builta - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-6; Nay-0. Motion carried.
4. Board President Casey appointed Mrs. Vaughn and Mr. Builta to the Ad Hoc Committee to review the closed session minutes before the January board meeting.
5. Superintendent Harper presented an update on the schools reopening plan during the Covid19 pandemic.
  - Superintendent Harper thanked the students and their families for partnering with us and the staff for making this the best learning opportunity that we can possibly do. He

continues to think in-person learning is best, but until January 19th we will make an adaptive pause. Our staffing remains strong. We did have a staffing issue at Stepping Stones. That program would have had to go into an adaptive pause if we had not already done so. We have been able to have many of our staff stay in the building.

- We continue to request our parents still call in any absence. We want to know if it is an illness to allow more time for the tasks that are due. We are trying to monitor our numbers and aid the Ogle County Health Department as best we can. We will continue to provide graphs and charts, but will identify the adaptive pause data. We are very dedicated to returning on January 19th.
- Our big concern is attendance and asking administrators, secretaries, and teachers to track the daily attendance. After the first week we had over 90% of our attendance at four of the schools. Our RMS average attendance is 84%. We continue to have staff and administration checking in with those students that are absent and those that are not checking in on zoom or not doing well with their work .
- D231 STAR Assessment Grade Comparison from 2019 to 2020. (Ex. “K”)

Superintendent Harper thanked the curriculum team for gathering this data.

### Reading

In November we saw a lot of strong numbers come back. Across the board we see fewer kids that do not meet. This one snapshot shows what our students and parents are doing at home and the work we are doing in the classroom is paying off. The data for this test also includes the remote learners that really haven't been with us since March 12th. The current 6th graders improved in 4 out of the 5 categories.

### Math

Math is an area that we need to be more concerned with. We know we need to work more on the math side. There is a dip in learning. We will take this data and combine it with what we are seeing in the classroom and with our remote students and try to triangulate the data and figure out the best choices for going forward.

**Discussion Items:** No discussion items at this time

**Executive Session:** No Executive Session was held at this time.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

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David Casey, Board President

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Trisha Vaughn, Board Secretary