

Rochelle Community Consolidated School District 231
February 9, 2021 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 February 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Upon roll call: Mr. VanHise - absent; Mr. Builta - present; Mrs. Vaughn - present; Mrs. Reif - present; Mr. Zepeda - present; Mrs. Tess - 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. Vaughn and seconded by Mr. Zepeda to approve the proposed agenda with the last minute revisions. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-6; Nay-0. Motion carried. (Ex. "A")

Executive Session: It was moved by Mrs. Vaughn and seconded by Mr. Builta to enter into the Executive Session at 7:03 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. Builta - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-6; Nay-0. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mrs. Vaughn and seconded by Mr. Builta to exit from the Executive Session at 7:40 pm and return to regular session. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-6; Nay-0. Motion carried.

Action Resulting From Executive Session: No action resulted from executive session.

It was motioned by Mrs. Reif and seconded by Mr. Zepeda to approve the January 12, 2021 Board of Education Monthly Meeting Minutes and the Executive Session Meeting minutes.. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-6; Nay-0. Motion carried. (Ex. "B" and Ex. "C")

Audience Comments: No comments were presented.

Communications: Superintendent Harper announced that Lincoln Elementary School Principal Justin Adolph was recognized as Illinois Principals Association (IPA) Principal of the Year for the Northwest Region. Principal Adolph will represent our region, competing for State Principal of the Year. Congratulations to Principal Adolph and thank you for all you do for our staff and community!

Special Reports/Updates: Superintendent Harper and Assistant Superintendent Doyle provided an update of plans for the 2021-2022 school year with a recommendation to transition from a Neighborhood School Model to Attendance Center Model.

- Recommend align K-5 buildings to attendance centers:
Lincoln: Pre-Kindergarten - First Grade
Central: Second Grade - Third Grade
Tilton: Fourth Grade - Fifth Grade
May: None

What is causing May School to operate at half capacity?

- May School has lower district enrollments
- More families choosing dual language programming

Lower Enrollments:

- Average class sizes have dropped
 - This year's Kindergarten is at 141
 - Next year is projected at 120.

Mr. Doyle added that Illinois enrollments are going down. It is not just in Rochelle.

- $\frac{2}{3}$ of our families are choosing to go into the Dual Language program.
 - We now offer 4 classes of Dual Language
- We are somewhere between neighborhood schools and attendance centers. Now the majority of K-5 students are not attending their neighborhood school. It is now 50/50 moving away from the neighborhood school model.
- This plan does not cause any reduction in force (RIFs) for next year.
- Student to staff ratio pretty much stays the same.

Benefits of transition to attendance center:

- Improved educational outcomes for students
- Increased collaboration for teachers
- More equitable education for all students in the community
- Improve financial outcomes for the district and taxpayers
 - Conservative estimates show D231 will save \$200,000 in the first year of transition and \$300,000 each year thereafter.

Downsides to transition to attendance center:

- Student/Family changes
 - Students will transition every two years
- Transportation/drop offs
 - We have had to use shuttle spots due to covid and will continue to do that.
- Teacher changes
- Limited space at Tilton
- Maintaining a vacant building
- Losing a piece of Rochelle history

Based on current Covid19 guidelines, the district could dedicate one K-5 teacher for all remote learners at a specific grade level.

- With remote students all assigned to one teacher, this allows for full day instruction for in-person learning next year.
- With neighborhood schools, we cannot do this without moving families.

Why May and not another building?

- Lincoln is the newest building
- Lincoln and Central are biggest with 20+ rooms
- May is already half full
- Tilton has 2 more classrooms than May and the district kitchen.

Timeline:

Parenting meetings in English and in spanish on February 11.

More teacher meetings in the next coming days.

March: Will publicly share feedback with the Board

April - Board decision

If approved, the district begins the implementation process from May through August.

If non-approval, will stay as it is.

Consent Agenda: It was motioned by Mrs. Tess and seconded by Mrs. Vaughn 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:

I. CERTIFICATED

Resignation

Tony Wyatt

7th Grade ELA at RMS (Ex. “F”)

Employment

None

Retirement

Melissa Frankfother (Ex. “G”)

II. SUPPORT STAFF

Resignation

Diana Brizuela

Cafeteria (Ex. “H”)

Employment

Richard Sarabia

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

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Superintendent Harper proposed the school calendar for the 2021 - 2022 school year. The first day of the regular year will be Friday, August 13th and the end of the regular school year will be Wednesday, May 25th with five emergency days built-in after that. Two days have been scheduled for Teachers' Institute at the beginning of the school year.

It was motioned by Mrs. Vaughn and seconded by Mrs. Reif to approve the 2021-2022 school calendar as presented. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-6; Nay-0. Motion carried. (Ex. "I")

2. It was motioned by Mr. Builta and seconded by Mr. Zepeda to approve the amended IGA for Dual Central Office Between District 231 and 212. Upon roll call all members voted as follows: Mr. Builta - aye; Mrs. Vaughn - aye; Mrs. Reif - aye; Mr. Zepeda - aye; Mrs. Tess - aye; Mr. Casey - aye. Aye-6; Nay-0. Motion carried. (Ex. "J")
3. Superintendent Harper presented an update on the school's educational efforts during the Covid19 pandemic.
 - A large percentage of our staff got vaccinated on January 25th.
 - The second vaccination is scheduled for February 22nd.
 - Superintendent Harper recommends having all-remote learning on February 23rd to prepare for the potential of vaccination side effects.

Discussion Items: March we will follow up to last month's abatement presentation.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

David Casey, Board President

Trisha Vaughn, Board Secretary