

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Community Unit School District 201
Westmont, DuPage County, Illinois

October 12, 2021

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL
CALL

On October 12, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., President Coyle called to order the regular meeting of the Community Unit School District 201 Board of Education.

Members present: Leah Conover, Carlos Hevia (entered at 6:10 p.m.), Angela Steketee, Laura Coyle, Adina Hoover (entered at 6:13 p.m.), Kevin Marren

Members absent: Jessica Radogno

Also present: Superintendent Kevin Carey, Business Manager Kimberly Anderson, and the Superintendent's Administrative Assistant Shannon Cossairt.

Pledge of Allegiance

Laura Coyle led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Ms. Conover, second by Mr. Marren, to enter closed session to discuss personnel issues and student discipline.

Ayes: Steketee, Conover, Marren, Coyle

Nays: None.

Motion Carried.

The Board entered closed session at 6:01 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 7:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
September 28, 2021

Motion by Ms. Conover, second by Mr. Marren, to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2021, regular meeting of the Board of Education, as presented.

Ayes: Conover, Hevia, Steketee, Coyle, Hoover, Marren

Nays: None.

Motion Carried.

September 28, 2021
Closed Session

Motion by Ms. Conover, second by Mr. Hevia, to approve the minutes of the closed session of the September 28, 2021, regular meeting of the Board of Education.

Ayes: Conover, Hevia, Steketee, Coyle, Hoover, Marren

Nays: None.

Motion Carried.

October 5, 2021

Motion by Mr. Hevia, second by Ms. Steketee, to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2021, special meeting of the Board of Education.

Ayes: Hoover, Marren, Radogno, Steketee, Coyle, Hevia

Nays: None.

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Ms. Conover, second by Mr. Marren, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

1. Personnel Recommendations

Ayes: Steketee, Conover, Marren, Hoover, Coyle, Hevia

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION
Elementary Stem Program

Ms. Lindsay Pietrzak, Principal, Manning Elementary School, introduced Mr. Steve Ritz, STEM Teacher, Manning Elementary School, to the Board. Mr. Ritz has taught fourth grade in the District for many years, and this year he had the opportunity to teach STEM to the second through fifth graders at Manning. Mr. Ritz presented to the Board, and his presentation included the following:

- STEM Research
- Why STEM Works at Manning
- STEM at a Glance
- STEM 1st Quarter

Mr. Ritz shared the importance of STEM research for students, including the fact 92% of boys and 97% of girls lose interest in STEM if it is not taught to them. There are many important lessons students can take from STEM including problem solving and collaboration. The process of inquiry is a natural way for students to learn, and a dedicated STEM class affords children this opportunity. In the general classroom they may not have as much exposure. Some of Mr. Ritz's STEM students shared what they love about the new STEM program.

Mr. Ritz would like to thank the teachers at Manning for their support, the administration for the opportunity, and the PTO and parents for the donations. Mr. Ritz would also like to thank Shannon Radhe for spearheading the donations.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

Update on the 2021-2022 School Year

Superintendent Carey gave an update to the Board regarding the 2021-2022 school year. He reviewed the following information:

- Guiding Principles
- DuPage County Levels of Transmission.
- Local Positivity Rates
- Staff Covid Data
- Student Attendance Data
- CDC Transmission Levels
- Updated CDC, IDPH, ISBE Guidance
- If a School District Defies Executive Order...
- Reminders
- If Governor Lifts Mask Mandate
- Crossing Guards

Superintendent Carey shared there would be more information regarding crossing guards and transportation at the October 26, 2021 meeting.

If the Governor lifts the mask mandate, the Board had previously discussed the metrics for masks in the buildings. The Board would like to have a plan and be proactive with the Districts metrics.

Public Relations Committee

Adina Hoover shared with the Board an update from the Public Relations Committee meeting that was held on October 7, 2021. One of the biggest challenges is real time communications with the community. How do you address certain issues and having a one way street with giving information and how do you do it effectively without have a full time public relations person? How could the committee serve the role with multiple people? How do we do this with social media and using the websites? Angela Steketee, added what is the future with this? How do we stay ahead and make sure we reach everyone?

November 10, 2021 is the 100th year celebration. It would be great if the Board can attend. One of the goals is to communicate how great our District is. Another event is to host a celebration, possibly December, in honor of the Blue Ribbon Award.

Carlos Hevia added the committee would like to look into a realtor fair. Also, he shared how easy it is for the committee to plan events for the future but not easy for them to do day to day. He also would like to add the District serves communities other than Westmont. We need to try and watch the language we use and not refer to it just as “Westmont School District”.

ACTION ITEMS

Authorization for Chief School Business Official to Enter into Future Pricing Contracts with Vanguard Energy Services

Motion by Ms. Conover, second by Mr. Hevia to authorize the Chief School Business Official to enter into future energy contracts through June 2023 for natural gas and electricity with Vanguard Energy Services as needed.

Ayes: Conover, Marren, Hoover, Coyle, Hevia, Steketee

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Adopt Resolution Establishing Section 457(b) Retirement Plan for District Employees

Motion by Mr. Marren, second by Ms. Steketee, to approve to adopt the resolution establishing Section 457(b) Retirement Plan for District Employees.

Ayes: Conover, Marren, Hoover, Coyle, Hevia, Steketee

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Communications

There will be a meeting of the Elementary School Task Force on October 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. The meetings are a chance to present to all stakeholders. Recordings of the two meetings will be available on the website.

Parent Teacher Conferences are on October 21, 2021 and October 22, 2021, and will be held virtually.

Nadine Norris was awarded a Transforming Library Services Grant in the amount of \$19,840.

The WGN flyover scheduled for October 8, 2021 at WHS was rescheduled to October 15, 2021. Traffic Reporter, Sarah Jindra, who schedules the flyovers, is an alumni of Westmont High School.

FOIA

None at this time.

Alliance Legislative Report

None at this time.

Update on Meeting
Minutes/Agendas/Curriculum
Updates

None at this time.

BOARD REPORTS

Laura Coyle shared that her and Superintendent Carey met with the Village. In the future the two Boards would like to schedule time to get together to discuss mutual topics.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

WJHS PTO Meeting
October 13, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Elementary Future Planning Task Force
October 14, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

SIP Day Dismissal Times for All Schools
October 21, 2021

No Student Attendance
October 22, 2021

Parent Teacher Conferences
October 21, 2021, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
October 22, 2021, 8:00 – 11:00 am

CUSD 201 Board Meeting
October 26, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Not needed at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Conover, second by Ms. Steketee, to adjourn the October 12, 2021, regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:02 p.m.

Motion unanimously passed.



Laura Coyle

President, Board of Education
School District 201

Westmont, DuPage County, Illinois



Jessica Radogno

Secretary, Board of Education
School District 201

Westmont, DuPage County, Illinois