

**REAVIS HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 220
6034 WEST 77TH STREET, BURBANK, ILLINOIS 60459
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M.

LIBRARY

MINUTES

1. OPEN MEETING, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

Time: 6:10 p.m.

The following Board Members were physically present at the meeting:

Ted Arnold
James Brodinski
Andrea Creger, Vice President
Steve Ficker
Russell McKinley, President
Ruben Moreno
Linda O'Dowd, Secretary

Also Present: Daniel J. Riordan, Ed.D., Superintendent
Eric Novak, Chief School Business Official
Julie A. Schultz, Principal
Community Members

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2021.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: S. Ficker
Aye: J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

B. Closed Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 15, 2021.

Motion: L. O'Dowd

Second: R. Moreno
Aye: A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

3. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Ms. Doris Trinidad, senior parent, asked if any of the guidelines have been determined for return to school in the fall. Dr. Riordan first explained to Ms. Trinidad that typically the *Audience Participation* at the board meeting is not a question and answer session. But added that he will be giving a full report on the subject later during the meeting. He did share that currently nothing has been finalized since information is still being collected. The plan is to have information available August 1st.

Dr. Riordan thanked Ms. Trinidad for coming to the meeting.

4. COMMUNITY USE OF FACILITIES

There were no *Facility Requests* at this meeting.

5. FISCAL MANAGEMENT

A. Motion to place the tentative budget for FY22 on display for a period of 30 days.

Motion: S. Ficker
Second: R. McKinley

Dr. Riordan shared as a reminder that following the presentation by Mr. Novak this evening the budget is on display available for public review for a 30-day period. The budget is then put on the August agenda to be voted upon.

Aye: S. Ficker, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

B. Financial Statements dated June 30, 2021.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: J. Brodinski
Aye: R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

C. Payment of Bills for July, 2021.

Motion: L. O'Dowd
Second: R. Moreno
Aye: R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. McKinley
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- D. Approved request to solicit specifications and bids for pavement/seal coating for parking lot/walkways.

Motion: S. Ficker
Second: R. McKinley

Dr. Riordan explained that certain parts of the parking lot need repair. The plan is to solicit bids and have an agenda item for consideration in August. Planning for work to begin following the August board meeting.

Ms. O'Dowd asked if construction traffic would not be in that area after the paving was complete. Dr. Riordan responded that work to the north parking lot will be a temporary fix but the walkways will be a permanent fix.

Aye: L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. McKinley, R. Moreno
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

6. TRAVEL

There were no *Travel Requests* at this meeting.

7. PERSONNEL

- A. Approved the retirement request of Mr. Jeffrey Arsenault, Dean, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Motion: J. Brodinski
Second: A. Creger

Dr. Riordan shared that Mr. Arsenault has been a very dedicated Reavis staff member. He has been a Dean longer than any other person at Reavis. He will be missed. Also adding he has not taken a sick day in his 30 years.

Aye: T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- B. Approved leave of absence according to the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act for Ms. Rachel Newnham, Teacher, beginning August 16, 2021 with an anticipated return October 18, 2021.

Motion: L. O'Dowd
Second: S. Ficker
Aye: J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- C. Approved the hire of the following Summer School Teachers for First Semester:

Mr. Craig Hickey	Government
Mr. Jake Juracka	Physical Education
Ms. Megan Madera	English III/IV
Mr. Matthew Pashakarnis	Algebra/Geometry
Ms. Leslie Shobe-Lettiere	English I/II/Oral Comm

Motion: R. Moreno
Second: R. McKinley

Dr. Riordan reminded the board that although First Semester Summer School has ended the teachers and class schedules are not set in time to make the June agenda.

Aye: A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- D. Approved the hire of the following Summer School Teachers for Second Semester:

Ms. Janet Bustami	Basic Skills English
Mr. Michael Henry	English III/English IV
Mr. Craig Hickey	Economics
Mr. Joseph Illichman	Geometry
Mr. John Larocca	Algebra I
Ms. Megan Madera	English II/Oral Comm
Ms. Krystna Nasinska	English I
Mr. Erik Scheiner	Algebra II
Ms. James Young	Physical Education

Motion: R. Moreno
Second: R. McKinley
Aye: S. Ficker, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- E. Approved the approval of Mr. Giuliano Catalano, Drama Club Co-Sponsor, effective for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion: L. O'Dowd
Second: S. Ficker

Dr. Riordan commented that Mr. Catalano is a new teacher and he is excited that he is getting involved.

Aye: R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- F. Approved the approval of Mr. Antonio DelAlcazar. Bass Fishing Club Sponsor, effective for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion: A. Creger
Second: R. Moreno

Dr. Riordan added that Mr. DelAlcazar is a returning sponsor for the Bass Fishing Club.

Aye: R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. McKinley
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- G. Approved the resignation of Ms. Sandra Ocampo, Hall Monitor, effective July 15, 2021.

Motion: J. Brodinski
Second: S. Ficker

Dr. Riordan thanked Ms. Ocampo for her service to Reavis.

Aye: L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. McKinley, R. Moreno
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- H. Approved the hire of Ms. Brianna Avalos. Assistant Cheer Coach, effective for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion: J. Brodinski
Second: R. McKinley

Dr. Riordan explained that Ms. Avalos is a Reavis graduate.

Aye: T. Arnold, J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

8. OLD BUSINESS

There was no *Old Business* at this meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approved entering into a five-year leasing contract with Midwest Transit Equipment for two (2) 2020 buses.

Motion: L. O'Dowd
Second: A. Creger

Dr. Riordan explained that Mr. Novak has been negotiating with Midwest Transit Equipment for months. It was decided to split the leasing agreements into shorter leases to give Reavis more flexibility when the leases come due.

Mr. Moreno said he did have a concern with the 5-year lease. The President has been speaking about electric vehicles or different type of fuel. How does that prepare Reavis? Dr. Riordan replied the there is a grant available for electric busses. If you own busses or manage a fleet, an application can be submitted. The grant would subsidize the electric busses which cost 3X the amount of regular school busses. Mr. Novak added that is why he suggested splitting the lease timeframes to allow the flexibility to take advantage of the electric option when it becomes available.

Aye: J. Brodinski, A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

- B. Approved entering into a three-year leasing contract with Midwest Transit Equipment for four (4) 2019 buses.

Motion: R. Moreno
Second: A. Creger
Aye: A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O'Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

10. CATEGORICAL REPORTS

- A. Student Reports – No Report
B. Administration – Principal Schultz reported

Summer School

Summer School Session I had 114 students enrolled in remedial classes and 13 students enrolled in a blended learning course for a total of 127 students with 120/127 students passing their respective course (95% passing rate). Summer school session two is currently in session

and will conclude July 29. Failure rates for SY21 second semester are anticipated to mirror the first semester (under 10%).

We are hosting a Title I Bridge Program for all students in the Class of 2025. The program will take place August 2-5; we currently have over 100 students signed up. A parents meeting will be held on August 2.

Important Dates

- Open House, August 11
- Class of 2025 & Class of 2024 Orientation Days, August 17
- First day of school for all students, August 18

Laptop Pick up for any new student to the district and the Class of 2025 are being held on campus July 19, 20, 21.

Opening week focus is on student/staff re-entry and re-engagement which will include social emotional training for faculty, staff, & students.

2021-2022 Planning

Principal Schultz thanked our parents and students for completing the planning survey that was sent to via email. Feedback will be used to plan for our parent universities and student homeroom programs.

Dr. Riordan updated the Board and audience on the tentative plan for school reopening. The guidance coming from the Governor is giving communities local control. Overall Illinois is doing well in regards to the positivity rate. The number one goal of the CDC, State of Illinois, Governor Pritzker and the Illinois State Board of Education is to get students back into school in person. The goal at Reavis is to get back to as close as normal as possible.

Masks is the topic that everyone is interested in hearing the decision. As of now, the guidance is if you are vaccinated you do not have to wear a mask. At the high school level, all students and staff are eligible for the vaccination. Reavis is not allowed to mandate that students and staff receive the vaccination at this point. Reavis also cannot mandate that a family report if their student was vaccinated. Approximately 230 Reavis students were vaccinated on-site. Reavis does have the right to require employees to report if they have received the vaccination. At the end of the school year, at least 70% of the staff had been vaccinated.

Dr. Riordan is also looking to Stickney Public Health Department for recommendations. The current positivity rate in Stickney is less than 1% which Dr. Riordan checks daily. Decisions will be made by following the data.

Another concern is social distancing. Reavis classrooms are pretty large. The guidance is suggesting to keep students 3 feet apart as best as possible. There will not be all school assemblies indoors. Orientations will be held in the auditorium that can seat up to 1000. The cafeteria will be open. The courtyard will be opened and additional picnic tables will be added for any student who would like to eat outside. Plans are being made to purchase a tent to cover the courtyard so it still may be used during inclement weather. This is just an example of conscience decisions being made.

The big issue will be quarantines. At this time, it is unknown how this will be handled. An outside company is being reviewed to bring testing to Reavis. The test is FDA approved. There will no longer be an option to stay at home for remote learning. If a student has to

quarantine and miss school, they will follow the procedure that is currently in place for a student that misses multiple days. That is working with their counselor to have work sent home.

After school begins and there is an idea of what the vaccination rate is in the building, Reavis will consider offering another vaccination day. Incentives may be considered to encourage students to get the vaccine. There have been ideas to give each student who gets vaccinated \$25 Ram Bucks that can be used for various things such as cafeteria charges, yearbooks, homecoming tickets or senior breakfast.

There are some requirements regarding masks. Masks must be worn while traveling on the bus. That includes traveling to/from school or any sport/activity team travel. Staff is still wearing masks in common areas or if visitors are in the office. Visitors will be required to wear masks to be in the building. Outside sports do not have to wear masks.

Ms. Creger asked if a player tested positive will it still require the team to quarantine? Dr. Riordan responded that it will part of the plan regarding testing. The hope is if schools are doing random testing then quarantines can be limited. This is part of the reasoning for hiring a part-time nurse. There will be a lot to manage with all students in the building.

Dr. Riordan concluded his Covid report by stating the data will continue to be reviewed when decisions are being made. The plan is to leave the guidance as is for now then release new guidelines on August 1st.

Dr. Riordan also reported that the handbook changes have been completed. He suggested scheduling a Student Services Committee meeting in August to review the minor changes that were made this year. The biggest change was renaming the internal suspension program from RISC to CARE. Principal Schultz added that it is an intervention-based program versus a punitive program.

Capital Projects are on schedule. Currently are under budget. Some things may not be completed prior to the first day of school but nothing that would prevent the opening.

- C. Teachers Union – No Report
- D. Support Staff Union – No Report
- E. Maintenance Union – No Report
- F. Board Reports – No Report

Mr. Mike Markham, SPM Architects, Inc., gave a presentation on the Capital Project. Providing the Board with updates and visual renderings.

Dr. Riordan shared an update on the AERO project. Everything is moving in the right direction. There is not any major announcement to be made but governing board are receiving phone calls stating to be patient that good things are happening. The real positive is it is being discussed. Nothing is official but hopefully will be hearing something in the next couple of weeks. There is a process to receiving the funding.

Dr. Riordan publicly thanked Mr. Novak and Principal Schultz for their hard work this summer that allows him to focus on other projects such as the AERO project. He also thanked Maintenance staff Mike Hock, Mark Appleby & Brian Bembenek for attending meetings and staying in touch with the contractors and Mike Markham. Dr. Riordan also thanked the Exempt staff and Support staff for doing what they do to keep things running smoothly. The Maintenance staff for keeping the grounds looking better than ever. Dr. Riordan added that when he recently visited the new AERO site the Reavis Maintenance staff was there cutting the lawn. Making sure the property looks maintained for the neighborhood. He also thanked Mr. Jim Ward, Summer School Director and the coaches/sponsors for getting students on campus and getting them engaged.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Time: 8:11 p.m.
Motion: T. Arnold
Second: S. Ficker
Aye: A. Creger, S. Ficker, R. McKinley, R. Moreno, L. O’Dowd, T. Arnold, J. Brodinski
Nay: None
Vote: 7-0

Signed and approved this 24th day of August, 2021.

President

Secretary