

March 19, 2020  
Serena, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, March 19, 2020, in the Serena Middle School Gym. The following members were present: Renee Thompson, Joe Cantlin (in at 6:12 p.m.), Justin DeBolt, Gary McNelis, Susan McNelis, Stephanie Thompson. Dan McNally was absent.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Spencer Byrd, Principals Randy Goodbred and Angie Merboth, Interim Co-Administrators Megan Adams and Lib Whiteaker, Chad Baker and Kevin Noll.

The meeting was called to order by President R. Thompson at 6:12 p.m. After roll call, the motion was made by S. McNelis with a second by S. Thompon to go into executive session for the purpose of: (1) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; (2) school safety; (3) student discipline; (4) pending litigation; and (5) review of executive session minutes pursuant to the authority granted by 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1), (6), (8), (9), (11), and (21) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to come out of executive session at 7:06 p.m., was made by S. McNelis, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

President R. Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance. She then requested approval of the agenda. The agenda was approved as presented.

President R. Thompson requested public comment. The following individual addressed the Board: Laura Morel.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items A through G was made by S. Thompson, seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Reports –

Enrollment Report – 661 students in the District.

Principals Report –

Principal Merboth – March Ace Award Recipients: Kindergarten – Khloe Davis, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Audree Gregory, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Hudson DeBernardi, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Colton Larson, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Clayton Thompson. Work packets for the week of March 30<sup>th</sup> were sent home on March 16<sup>th</sup> in case we are not back in session following Spring Break. Kindergarten Roundup was held at Serena High School on March 16<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. 16 students signed up. A Preschool parent meeting was held on March 13<sup>th</sup> to update parents on the proposed Preschool restructure. Harding PTO held Family Skate night on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Harding and Sheridan will participate on 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Step Up Day on

March 31<sup>st</sup>. Joseph Roberts has been teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade students about the history and etiquette of the United States flag.

Principal Goodbred – The Sheridan and Harding PTO Daddy Daughter Dance was a big hit! Thank you also to the PTO for sponsoring swim lessons for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at the YMCA . The students had a great time during Mr. Foreman's roller skating unit. Kindergarten Roundup was held on March 16. Sheridan had 20 students sign up. Thank you to Phil Margowski for all of his work cleaning continuously for the past few weeks and throughout the day. Thank you also to the staff for getting schoolwork ready for the students to take home over the extended break. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Scholastic Breakfast has been postponed and will be rescheduled. Congratulations to the following March Cardinal Award Students: Kindergarten – Cael Nitsche, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – Kensley Heuser and Gemma Malfatti, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Ginger Edwards, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Ellis Brown and Logan Sanchez, and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Kaden Heuser and Avery Thompson.

Middle School Athletics – The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball team finished their season with a 20-2 record. They were 14-2 in the Jr. 10 Conference and took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the conference. The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball team finished the season with a 21-2 record. They were a perfect 16-0 in the Jr. 10 Conference taking 1<sup>st</sup> place. This was their second year undefeated. They took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Jr. 10 Conference Tournament. The Junior 10 Spelling Bee on March 17 was postponed and will be rescheduled. Winter sports awards have been postponed and will be rescheduled. Track will begin when school is back in session. The Junior 10 voted to not align their seasons with IESA next year. They will consider it again for the 2021-2022 season.

High School – Congratulations to the following students: February Student of the Month - True Kempiaak. March Student of the Month - Tony Pusateri. Student Excellence Award - Nicole Manke, Bandt Fiavre, Libby Farrell, and Bobby Falling. Athletes of the Week - Katie Baker, Tony Pusateri. Taylor Staton, and Conner Holdiman. IVVC Outstanding Spring Students - Raiden Kaufman and Sean Kelly. The PSAT and SAT test dates are tentatively scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Lauren Hohenberger and the Student Council for organizing the Sadie Hawkin's dance held on March 13<sup>th</sup>. The FFA and Toy and Craft Show held on March 1<sup>st</sup> was a great success. The Academic Bowl team finished their season with a record of 4-7, and placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the conference tournament. Thank you to Dana Aicher and your team on a great season.

Middle School – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dodgeball Tournament was held on March 7<sup>th</sup>. There were 14 student teams and 7 adult teams. Thank you to everyone who helped support the tournament. The money raised will go towards field trips and activities for the students. A new parent organization was recently formed for Serena Middle School. The name StEPs, stands for Students, Educators and Parents. The first meeting was held on March 9<sup>th</sup> and the parents in attendance elected a board. The next meeting will be held in April. On March 9<sup>th</sup>, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade attended the IVCC Teen Showcase. Thank you to the parents for all of their hard work on the Daddy Daughter Dance held on March 14. There were around 190 in attendance. Mrs. Gregor's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade students recently completed 3D maps to represent the setting in the novels they were reading. Mrs. Sesto would like everyone to know this is Youth Art Month. She regularly posts the amazing projects her classes create on her Unit 2 Instagram account. Congratulations to the following February students of the month: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Payton Taylor, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Hayley Thompson, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Jenna Setchell, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Karlee Stankovich.

## Superintendent Report –

Discussion/Informational Items – Thank you to all of the teachers and staff who attended the voluntary roundtable to discuss the Coronavirus. Thank you to Debbie Fuchs and the kitchen staff, Serena Lions Club, and other community members who helped with food distribution for local families while school is out this week and over Spring Break. March 30<sup>th</sup> will hopefully be the last Act of God Day. Optimistically, we will return to school on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The District Improvement Plan was submitted to the Board of Education today.

Discussion/Informational Items – Angie Merboth presented information regarding the Preschool Proposal. Some of the changes would be: three sections would change to a blended program, 3 year olds can chose three or five days per week, 4 year olds would attend five days per week, transportation would still be provided to those who qualify, tuition would be \$120/month for five days per week and \$100/month for three days per week. Preschool registration will be held on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Action Items –

Motion to approve Betsy Dolder ELE Regular Ed was made by S. McNelis, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Megan Adams as the Middle School Principal for the 2020-2021 and the 2021-2022 school year, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, G. McNelis passed, and all others present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Jennifer Duffy as the District Bookkeeper, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the non-renewal of the Director of Student Services, Paige Hamill, was made by G. McNelis, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the honorable dismissal of the District School Nurse position, Laura Morel, was made by Cantlin, seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the second and final reading of Press Plus Policy updates, Issue 102, as presented, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to set Tuesday, May 19, 2020, as the date for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation at 6:30 p.m., was made by S. Thompson, seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Serena Middle School’s membership in the IESA, was made by DeBolt, seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Serena High School’s membership in the IHSA, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Preschool changes for the 2020-2021 school year as presented, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

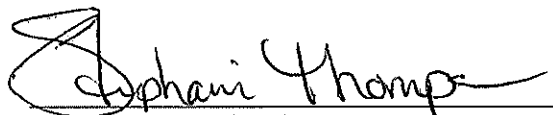
President R. Thompson requested any further public comment. There was none.

Motion to enter back into executive session at 8:10 p.m. was made by S. Thompson, seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to come out of executive session at 11:14 p.m., was made by DeBolt, seconded by S. Thompson. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 11:14 p.m., was made by S. McNelis, seconded by S. Thompson. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

  
Renee Thompson, President

  
Stephanie Thompson, Secretary