

July 22, 2021
Serena, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, July 22, 2021, in the Serena Middle School Cafeteria. The following members were present: Justin DeBolt, LaDonna Gale, Scott Govednik, Dan McNally, Gary McNelis, and Susan McNelis. Joe Cantlin was absent.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Lisa Gifford; Principals Brent Thomas and Angie Merboth; and Lacey Anderson.

The meeting was called to order by President G. McNelis at 6:11 p.m. After roll call, the motion was made by S. McNelis with a second by Govednik 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 7:03 p.m., was made by DeBolt, seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President G. McNelis. He then requested approval of the agenda. The agenda was approved as presented.

Presentations:

Mike Perry from Chamlin and Associates with Chris Perra from TEST, Inc. reported on the water issues at Harding. The lead testing of their water registered as non-compliant by public health safety measures, and therefore (after extensive testing and filters on the main water source and drinking fountains) an inhibitor with a phosphate feed is required along with daily testing post installation. The phosphate feed coats the pipes so water passing through them do not come into contact with the pipes, joints, or other plumbing elements that could contain traces of lead. This will allow all drinking sources to test as "non-detect," which is the health safety requirement.

President G. McNelis requested public comment. The following individuals addressed the Board: Brian Caba and Kelly Hunt.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items A through E was made by Govednik, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Reports:

Enrollment – 638 students in the District.

Finance Committee – The Emily Wise Scholarship will be supported through the Foundation for Education with a one-time payment of \$5000 to ensure the scholarship has a lifetime value. The District's technology cycle is at the point where we are replacing Chromebooks every four years. Therefore, rather than incurring a recycling cost, the graduating class of 2022, and all graduating classes thereafter, will leave high school with their Chromebooks. A salary schedule for student related services is anticipated to begin with FY23. A public hearing for ARP ESSER funds will be scheduled for either August 3 or August 4.

Principal Reports:

Principal Thomas – Lions Club scholarship winners, Libby Farrell and Rilan Rosengren, were invited to attend the Serena Lions Club meeting on July 15th and thanked the members for their contribution. Congratulations to the following individuals for competing in the Section 7 FFA Fair: Bradley Armour, Ritchie Armour, Lauren McNelis, Jaiden Mahler, Ryder Baxter, Cole Freebairn, Autumn Massier, and Lane Anderson. The second section of summer school credit recovery runs from July 19-August 5. Summer driving runs July 7-29.

Principal Merboth – The crab tree in front of the school has been removed and the base for the new flag pole will be set next week with a dedication to follow. Registration for new students will be held at all buildings on August 3 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Unpack the Backpack at Harding will be held on August 16 from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Director Report – Student Services Director, Lacey Anderson, reported that grant funds from the previous year have been expended and current grant applications for this school year have been written. A Preschool for All grant, for the 2022-2023 school year, is being investigated. A needs assessment of interventions from a district view was completed.

Superintendent Report– Serena is joining the myOptions.org voluntary program designed to help students plan for their post-secondary education or employment. This is a free program intended for Grades 8-11. Dick Blick’s art supply donation - Six pallets of consumable supplies and equipment are ready to be picked up. This is a blind donation, so items and a total dollar amount are unknown until the items arrive and are unpacked. On August 11, a team of four teachers will travel with Randy Goodbred and Angie Merboth to the Custom Education Showroom to spend a \$1000 reward I earned in April for the district. The funds will be used to purchase more guided reading materials for both Elementary buildings.

Discussion/Informational Items:

The Return to Learn Plan was presented per IDPH, ISBE, CDC, and local guidelines. A special meeting will be held on August 4 in which our Return to Learn plan will be posted and voted on by the Board. Open forums will be held the week of July 26-30 to allow community members to ask questions, state concerns, and share ideas. Meetings will also be held with Union leadership and building and district administration to understand classroom needs, review community input, and to share ideas or concerns.

Action Items:

Motion to approve the 2.5% raise for all certified, non-CBA employees, effective July 1, 2021, was made by S. McNelis, seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the renewal of Randy Goodbred as Sheridan principal for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by Govednik, seconded by McNally. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the renewal of Angie Merboth as Harding principal for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by S. McNelis, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the contract change and renewal of Megan Adams as Middle School principal for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by McNally, seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the contract change and renewal of Brent Thomas as High School principal for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by Gale, seconded by McNally. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the contract change and renewal of Lacey Anderson as the Director of Student Services for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by DeBolt, seconded by McNally. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the contract change and renewal of Ramiro Salto as the Director of Technology for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by McNally, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the contract change and renewal of Lisa McNelis as the Superintendent Secretary for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by Gale, seconded by Govednik. On roll call, G. McNelis and S. McNelis abstained, and all others present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the contract change and renewal of Debbie Fuchs as the Director of Food Service for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by S. McNelis, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the contract change and renewal of Janice Jones as the Director of Transportation for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by Govednik, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the contract change and renewal of Mike McCoy as the Director of Maintenance for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by Gale, seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of Barb Scott as the 5/6 Girls' Basketball Coach for the 2021-2022 season, was made by McNally, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of Katelyn McNamara as the 5/6 Boys' Basketball Coach for the 2021-2022 season, was made by S. McNelis, seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

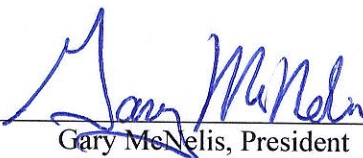
Motion to approve the hire of Kaili Calderone as a School Social Worker for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by S. McNelis, seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the split stipend for Jodi Brodbeck and Jordana Iddings to facilitate the High School STEM Club for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by McNally, seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the summer work request by the Middle School Science Department to complete curriculum mapping and lab organization, was made by S. McNelis, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

President G. McNelis requested any further public comment. There was none.

Motion to adjourn at 8:32 p.m., was made by DeBolt, seconded by Govednik. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.



Gary McNelis, President



Justin DeBolt, Secretary