

August 4, 2021
Serena, IL

A special meeting of the Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, in the Serena Middle School Cafeteria. The following members were present: Joe Cantlin, Justin DeBolt, LaDonna Gale, Scott Govednik, Dan McNally (in at 6:21 p.m.), Gary McNelis, and Susan McNelis (in at 6:11 p.m.).

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

The meeting was called to order by President G. McNelis at 6:00 p.m. After roll call, the motion was made by DeBolt 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 6:45 p.m., was made by S. McNelis, and seconded by Govednik. 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.

Visitors included Brian Caba and Kelly Hunt.

Presentations:

Public Hearing for ARP ESSER Funds – ESSER I, II, and III all have specific ways the funding should have been spent. Rectification of the spending needs to be completed. ESSER III will be spent after a community survey is shared to allow for stakeholder input. A public hearing should have happened prior to spending ESSER I and ESSER II funds. Both funds are currently exhausted. The full APR-ESSER III plan will be posted on the District website for public viewing.

Return to Learn Plan 2021-2022 – The purpose of this plan is to ensure in-person learning (full school days and weeks) to the greatest and safest extent possible while considering local conditions and metrics. The recommendation is for universal masking regardless of vaccination status. This plan is subject to change per any new guidance or changing metrics. Our attorneys are reviewing our plan to ensure appropriate language has been used. Upon confirmation, this plan will be posted to the District website.

Consolidated Plan for 2021-2022 – This plan is created annually to ensure that all Title funds are used appropriately for the targeted groups during the school year that the funding is provided. There will be additional work this year to ensure appropriate restructuring of the MTSS cycle to account for COVID-19 related learning loss.

Action Items:

Motion to approve the hire of Gabrielle Nestor as Food Service Assistant for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by DeBolt, and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of Shelby Crose as a Paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by Gale, and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.


Motion to approve the ARP-ESSER funds plan, was made by S. McNelis, and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Return to Learn plan for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by Govednik, and seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Consolidated Plan for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by DeBolt, and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

President G. McNelis requested any further public comment. Board Member McNally responded to the visitor’s comments and general acknowledgment that the District needs the support of all parents to ensure that any plan we use this year can be done and done well to keep students in class five days a week for a full school week.

Motion to adjourn at 7:34 p.m., was made by S. McNelis, and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.



Gary McNelis, President



Justin DeBolt, Secretary