

February 25, 2022  
Serena, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Friday, February 25, 2022, in the Serena High School Library. The following members were present: Joe Cantlin, Justin DeBolt, LaDonna Gale, Scott Govednik, Dan McNally, Gary McNelis, and Susan McNelis.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Lisa Gifford.

The meeting was called to order by President G. McNelis at 6:03 p.m. After roll call, the motion was made by McNally 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) review of executive session minutes; and (5) litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent 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, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to come out of executive session at 7:00 p.m. was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

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

There was a motion by S. McNelis, with a second by DeBolt, to strike Action Item B. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

President G. McNelis requested approval of the amended agenda. A motion was made by DeBolt, with a second by S. McNelis, to approve the agenda. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

President G. McNelis requested public comment. There were comments regarding masking on buses and school dress code.

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

Reports:

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Smart TV installation and rewiring projects are scheduled for Summer 2022. Bonds are falling off soon and discussion of capital projects for the District need to take place soon.

Superintendent Report – Scheduling and course needs for 2022-2023 (and beyond) were discussed. There will be a return to a traditional model of scheduling. Evaluations with final summative ratings all need to be turned in by April 12. Redesign of the school website is currently underway and the goal is to have the work completed by the start of the 2022-2023 school year. Online registration for returning students will run from March 1-April 15. Kindergarten Round-Up will be on April 4 and Preschool Registration will be on June 1. Information was shared on student Mental Health Days and how the District will follow school code associated with the law change to make referral internally. Foundation scholarship packets were distributed and all applications are due April 8, 2022. 5Essential Survey is open through March 11.

Discussion/Informational Items:

ESSER Funds – Information regarding ESSER funds can be found on the District website. The District has half of the funding available, but has reserved it in the event that 1) It was pulled by ISBE, 2) It was needed to compensate for a return on COVID days pending House Bills, or 3) It would be used to fund the curriculum and professional development needs for the District.

Return to Learn Plan – There are no changes to the plan at this time.

Action Items:

Motion to approve the resignation of the Harding Principal, Angie Merboth, effective June 30, 2022, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the honorable dismissal of a certified employee, Abby Fancher, effective May 27, 2022, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of a school psychologist, Brittany Godsey, for the 2022-2023 school year, was made by Gale and seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, DeBolt and Govednik voted “no” and all others present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the rehire of principal, Megan Adams for Harding Grade School, effective the 2022-2023 school year, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the rehire of principal, Brent Thomas for Sheridan Elementary School, effective the 2022-2023 school year, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the contract extension of the current Superintendent, Lisa Gifford, through the 2024 school year, was made by McNally and seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the \$99,394.92 bid for two leveled bookrooms, grades K-6, to be paid for with Title I funds, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

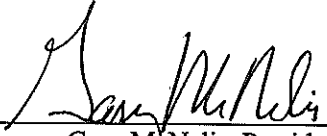
Motion to approve the \$29,831.25 bid for a new scissor lift, to be paid for with District funds, was made by DeBolt and seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the second reading of the 2022-2023 course catalog for Serena High School, was made by Gale and seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to enter back into executive session at 7:55 p.m. 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) review of executive session minutes; and (5) litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent pursuant to the authority granted by 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1), (6), (8), (9), (11), and (21) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act was made by DeBolt and second by Gale. On roll call, all those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to come out of executive session at 10:54 p.m., was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 10:55 p.m., was made by Govednik and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

  
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Gary McNelis, President

  
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Justin DeBolt, Secretary