

October 26, 2021
Serena, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, in the Harding Grade School Library. The following members were present: Joe Cantlin, Justin DeBolt, LaDonna Gale, Scott Govednik, Dan McNally, Gary McNelis, and Susan McNelis (in at 6:10 p.m.).

Also in attendance: Superintendent Lisa Gifford.

The meeting was called to order by President G. McNelis at 6:05 p.m. After roll call, the motion was made by Cantlin with a second by DeBolt 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 S. McNelis and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President G. McNelis.

There was a motion by DeBolt, with a second by Govednik, to amend Action Item B. It was moved to strike, "resolution to dismiss" and replace with "retirement of." On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

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

Presentations – An intergovernmental agreement was requested by Chief Chuck Bergeron to allow the Sheridan Police Department to attach a repeater to the antennae at Sheridan Grade School. The repeater is needed for emergency dispatch units and other supports. This would help the department since their antennae has suffered repeated damage due to its current location. This mutually beneficial agreement would be a cost savings to the Village of Sheridan and no cost to the school district.

President G. McNelis requested public comment. Eric Watkins addressed the Board.

There was no correspondence.

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

Reports:

Enrollment – 649 students in the District.

Finance Committee – ESSER I allotments have been rectified through the audit. ESSER II still has funding and ESSER III has not been allotted yet. These funds must be used to address student learning loss through 2024 and beyond. Funds will be used to support curriculum material needs, teacher professional development for curriculum needs, strategic planning, and summer school. The Space Survey results will be reviewed by the architect and Superintendent Gifford on November 5. These results will be shared with the Board on November 18.

Principal Reports:

Principal Goodbred – Congratulations to Cardinal Award Winners. Red Ribbon Week will be held October 25-28. Report cards have been sent out for the 1st quarter.

Principal Merboth – Congratulations to Harding September Ace Award Winners. The Tree of Kindness is in full bloom with random acts of kindness and students will celebrate with a STEM day for 1st Quarter Celebration. Classroom Halloween parties will be held on October 28 with a parade beginning at 1:00 p.m. Thank you to Mrs. Schrader for her many years of service and we wish her the best in her retirement.

Principal Adams – Serena Middle School had a great time celebrating Homecoming with the high school. Congratulations to September Outstanding Huskers. 7th and 8th Grade Volleyball, Soccer, and 6th Grade Girls Basketball all ended their seasons this month. All levels of Boys' Basketball have begun their seasons.

Principal Thomas – Congratulations to October Student of the Month, Peri Arneson. The Serena Fire Department and FFA teamed up to host Trick of Treating at the Fire Department on October 23. There are currently 12 students signed up to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis on October 27-30. Congratulations to Ava Rosengren and Tessa Kirkman for being selected to participate in the ILMEA District 2 Honor Bands. The Soccer team's season has concluded and Volleyball will start Regionals next week.

Superintendent Report – Midwest Coordination Center will be providing free onsite COVID testing for staff and students. All tests are saliva based and anyone wishing to be tested must submit a consent form. Testing is anticipated to begin on November 8. Holiday performances will take place in the Vintage Gym this year. Middle and High School choir and band will perform on December 14 and Harding and Sheridan K-4 students will perform on December 15. Raptor technologies is being researched as a possible tool used to manage visitor and volunteer check-ins. Smart TV installation is delayed due to shipping. Installation is now scheduled for the summer. Fast Start, Dual Credit, early graduation, online courses, IVVC, and other High School requirements are being updated to increase student accountability, ensure that students are placed in appropriate programs and settings, and to build our own course offerings internally.

Action Items:

Motion to approve the FMLA request for Jenevieve Engel, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the retirement of a tenured employee, Art Bohlmann, was made by Gale and seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the resignation of an Intervention Paraprofessional, Shelby Crose, was made by McNally and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the resignation of the Assistant Bookkeeper, Suzannah Etscheid, was made by McNally and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the resignation of Foodservice Worker, Kara Sinde, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of substitute Food Service worker, Jennifer Walters, at Serena High School, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of 5th/6th Grade Volleyball Coach, Shannon Larson, was made by McNally and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve 5th/6th Grade Volunteer Volleyball Coach, Jessica Warren, was made by Govednik and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of 5th/6th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach, Kip Caputo, was made by DeBolt and seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the travel to the National FFA Convention was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, McNally passed and all others present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the trophy case bid for \$5,302 for the High School cafeteria was made by DeBolt and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the tree care and removal bid from Larry Flemming (from The Tree Guy) for \$4,900 was made by DeBolt and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Central States bus extended lease through summer 2022 for \$7,698.43 (for Bus 20) was made by Gale and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve a two-year lease extension on the 2019 Blue Bird 9-passenger multi-purpose vehicle for \$11,988.49 per year was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Central States bus extended lease through summer 2022 for \$7,698.43 (for Bus 20) was made by Gale and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve Rural ED Consulting to assist with strategic planning for \$16,400, paid for through ESSER III funds, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Sheridan Police Department was made by Govednik and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the five-year renewal of PRESS Plus policies: 1:10, 1:30, 6:100, 6:310, 6:170, 7:220, and 7:230 was made by DeBolt and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the second and final reading of updated policies: 2:150 (w/AP), 3:30 (w/org chart), 3:70 (w/AP), and 7:160 was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the first reading of the IVVC enrollment requirement changes for the 2022-2023 school year was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the first reading of the Fast Start requirement changes for the 2022-2023 school year was made by DeBolt and seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the 2021-2022 High School Handbook, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.


Motion to approve the 2021-2022 Certified Employee Handbook, was made by Cantlin and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the 2021-2022 non-Certified Employee Handbook, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to enter back into executive session at 8:13 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) 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 was made by DeBolt, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to come out of executive session at 9:30 p.m. was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 9:32 p.m., was made by Govednik and seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.



Gary McNelis, President



Justin DeBolt, Secretary