

November 18, 2021
Serena, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, November 18, 2021, in the Serena High School Library. The following members were present: Joe Cantlin, Justin DeBolt, LaDonna Gale, Scott Govednik, Dan McNally (in at 6:14 p.m.), Gary McNelis, and Susan McNelis.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Lisa Gifford.

The meeting was called to order by President G. McNelis at 6:11 p.m. After roll call, the motion was made by Cantlin with a second by S. McNelis 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 7:08 p.m., was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. 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 S. McNelis, with a second by Govednik, to add Action Item O (per ISBE's request) on 11/18/2021. 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.

Presentations:

Angela Kalsto, of BCA Architects, presented the space survey results. There was limited participation across the district, therefore making it difficult to gauge the true needs of buildings and facilities. The data provided was reviewed and will be used to help the district determine any capital improvements that may be needed.

Kyle Hendrickson presented the annual audit. While the district had some excessive expenditures form FY 21, the budget is balanced. Our credit score is 4.0, the highest score a district can have. Maintaining oversight of the funds and making the suggested improvements to follow current best practices will continue to keep the district in a healthy financial state.

President G. McNelis requested public comment. Jeff Wynn, Cindy Shroba, and Kelly Hunt addressed the Board.

Items of correspondence included a thank you from the Sheridan Fire Department and Resource Bank.

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

Reports:

Enrollment – 649 students in the District.

Faculty/Board Committee – Continuous improvement strategic planning was discussed per the needs identified. Focus groups will be formed in January to support the work along with needs assessment surveys from various stakeholders. There will be an overall focus on equity for sustainable programs and collaboration among administrators, board members, community, students, teachers, and staff.

Superintendent Report – The SIP workday on 11/12/2021 provided an overview and timeline for the curriculum work this year for math and reading. Equity data will be part of the 2022 School Report Cards. The Health Department is very pleased with our internal control measures for COVID prevention. Onsite testing will begin after Thanksgiving break to ensure everyone has their account set up and consent forms have been submitted.

Action Items:

Motion to approve the audit reports for FY 2021, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

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

Motion to approve the snow bid from Mike’s Snow Removal, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the bus bid from Central States Bus Sales, Inc. for the 2022-2023 fleet, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of cafeteria worker, Esperanza Ramos, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the resignation of the JV Girls’ Volleyball Coach, Chris Bjork, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Middle School Boys’ Basketball volunteer assistant, Mike McDonald, for the 2021-2022 season, was made by Gale and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the High School Girls’ Basketball volunteer assistant, Katelyn McNamara, for the 2021-2022 season, was made by Govednik and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the High School Boys’ Assistant Basketball Coach, Chris Gunier, for the 2021-2022 season, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the High School Boys’ Volunteer Basketball Coach, Randy Goodbred, for the 2021-2022 season, was made by McNally and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the policy updates to the Elementary School Handbook was made by DeBolt and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the first reading of the Board of Education meeting calendar for 2022 was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

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

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

Motion to approve the updated version of policy 7:180 as requested by ISBE on 11/18/2021 was made by DeBolt and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to enter back into executive session at 8:45 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 Govednik, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to come out of executive session at 9:25 p.m. was made by S. McNelis and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 9:25 p.m., was made by McNally and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.



Gary McNelis, President



Justin DeBolt, Secretary