

July 28, 2022
Serena, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, July 28, 2022, in the Serena High School Cafeteria. The following members were present: Justin DeBolt, LaDonna Gale, Scott Govednik, Dan McNally, and Gary McNelis. Joe Cantlin and Susan McNelis were absent.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Lisa Gifford.

The meeting was called to order by President G. McNelis 6:15 p.m. After roll call, the motion was made by McNally, with a second by Gale, to go into executive session for the purposes 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 7:10 p.m. was made by Govednik and seconded by DeBolt. 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 DeBolt, with a second by Govednik, amend the agenda and add action items "D" and "S" to the listing for personnel reasons. 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 Govednik, to approve the agenda. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

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

John Vezzetti, our bonding agent, was present to see through the Resolution for bond procurement.

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

Reports:

Superintendent Report – The Food Pantry's progress, operation, and donating organizations were shared. The Pantry is located next to the Middle School concession stand and will be open at select times for community access outside of school days. It is still anticipated to open in August. Thank you to the following supporters and sponsors: Resource Bank, The Community Garden, Serena Methodist Church, United Way, and the Midwest Food Bank.

Discussion/Informational Items:

Discussion regarding the Learning Plan (formerly a Return to Learning Plan), is a state-mandated plan which outlines our continued response to COVID. The District is returning to a pre-2019 atmosphere with the intent to remain this way all year. If needed, mitigations will be reinstated per the Health Department's guidance following IDPH, ISBE, and CDC.

Action Items:

Motion to approve the resignation of Paraprofessional, Karly Westvig, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the resignation of Summer Driver's Education Instructor, Jennifer Jobst, effective June 1, 2022, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the resignation of Food Service Director, Debbie Fuchs, effective June 30, 2023, was made by G. McNelis and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the resignation of PE Teacher, Kelly Burks, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of 2022-2023 8th Grade volleyball coach, Lindsey Brooker, was made by G. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, Gale voted "no" and DeBolt, Govednik, McNally, and G. McNelis all passed. Item was tabled with the request to re-enter Executive Session after the other action items were completed to discuss.

Motion to approve Mark Bucz and Jeremy Whiteaker as volunteer Middle School baseball coaches for the 2022-2023 school year, was made by Govednik and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to hire Mark Bucz as the 2022-2023 Middle School soccer coach, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of Technology Director, Keegan Hays, was made by G. McNelis and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Consolidated Plan for 2022-2023, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Serena Middle and High School Student Handbook for the 2022-2023 school year, was made by Gale and seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, McNally voted "no" and all others present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Serena Elementary School Handbook for the 2022-2023 school year, was made by Govednik and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the 2022-2023 Learning Plan, was made by Govednik and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the PRESS Policy updates for policies 4:180, 5:40, and 5:40 AP in response to P.A. 102-667 amendments to the Health Care Right of Conscience Act, was made by DeBolt and seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, McNally voted "no" and all others present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the PRESS Policy updates for policies 2:150 AP, 7:270, 7:270 AP1, 7:270 AP2, 7:270 E1, 7:285, and 7:285 AP in response to the mandated requirement to adopt policy related to anaphylaxis policy that aligns with ISBE for managing life threatening food allergies in schools, was made by Govednik and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the PRESS Policy updates for policies 2:230, 4:10, 4:180 AP1, and 7:10 AP1 in response to updated school code and legislative changes, was made by Govednik and seconded by McNally. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Resolution declaring the intention of Serena Community Unit School District No. 2, LaSalle County, Illinois, to avail of the provisions of Article 19 and Article 20 of the School Code of the State of Illinois, as amended, and to issue (i) funding bonds in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 and (ii) working cash fund bonds in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the 2022-2023 Bread Bid with Alpha Baking Co., was made by Gale and seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the 2022-2023 Milk Bid with Prairie Farms, was made by DeBolt and seconded by McNally. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.


Motion to approve the hire of Alicia McNally as a long-term Math substitute teacher, was made by DeBolt and seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, McNally passed and all others present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to enter back into executive session at 7:53 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 Govednik and second by DeBolt. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to come out of executive session at 8:24 p.m., was made by McNally and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of 2022-2023 8th Grade Volleyball Coach, Lindsey Brooker, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "no". Motion failed.

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



Gary McNelis, President



Justin DeBolt, Secretary