

September 29, 2022  
Serena, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 29, 2022, in the Serena High School Board Room. The following members were present: Joe Cantlin, Scott Govednik, Dan McNally, Gary McNelis, and Susan McNelis. Justin DeBolt and LaDonna Gale were absent. Superintendent Lisa Gifford was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by President G. McNelis 6:13 p.m. After roll call, the motion was made by S. McNelis, with a second by Cantlin, 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 7:17 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. He then requested approval of the agenda. A motion was made by Govednik, with a second by S. McNelis to approve the agenda. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Budget Hearing: The budget for FY23 was presented. It was noted there will be a need to amend the budget in January due to grant funds, transportation, fuel, and operations/maintenance needs that are inconsistent in pricing due to market volatility. Being mindful of excess use of the Education Fund is important since this is where all salaries are paid from. Contract negotiations and the increase in starting wages have added pressure to the budget. Educational funds that are normally used for materials, curriculum, and supplies are being offset by ESSER funds to provide some flexibility for needed salary discussions.

Presentations:

September Students of the Month and the Faculty Award winner were announced.

Choir Club – There was a request to start a choir club for Middle School students. There are about 30 students who are interested in joining. Students would be able to perform in the community and for the school.

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

Items of correspondence included a letter from Daniel Plowman wishing everyone a great school year. He also stated how proud he is of the changes at Serena and wants to continue to work to make Serena great.

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

Reports:

Superintendent – Superintendent Gifford talked about the future requirements from ISBE for acceleration of classes based on IAR scores, the pending Summative Rating from the state, and the release of the school report card.

Discussion/Informational Items:

Thank you to the Batavia, St. Charles, and Big Rock libraries and the Aurora Area Retired Teachers Association (AARTA) for their recent book donations to the District. Thank you also to the Wesley Methodist Church Preschool for their furniture donations to our PreK-1 classrooms. The Joint Annual Conference will again be held in Chicago from November 18-20. This is one of the nation's largest state education conferences and is a premier training event for school board members, administrators, and business officials. The RISE project through IVCC is a grant partnership that will provide more class opportunities for high school students. It is projected to launch in a year or two depending on installation of classroom devices. There will be one centralized classroom where students will be able to take satellite classes from different area high schools and/or IVCC.

Action Items:

Motion to approve the hire of 7<sup>th</sup> grade Boys Basketball coach, Josh Myers, was made by Govednik and seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of food service worker, Mary Pistilli, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of substitute food service workers: Virginia Gaskin, Jean McNelis, and Bonnie Hall, was made by McNally and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, G. McNelis and S. McNelis passed and all others present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Technology Coordinator contract for Julie Timm was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Library Coordinator contract for Jen Shugrue (pending salary negotiation) was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, McNally voted "no" and all others present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Golf coach stipend for Chad Baker was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Scholastic B team coach stipend for Nikki Dierzen was made by Govednik and seconded by Dierzen. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the name change on the bank account from Brent Thomas and Megan Adams to Adam Kuelto was made by S. McNelis and seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the updated Bullying Policy for 2022-2023, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$15,000,000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2022, for the purpose of paying claims against the District and increasing the District's working cash fund, and for the levy of direct annual taxes sufficient to pay the principal and interest on such bonds, was made by G. McNelis and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

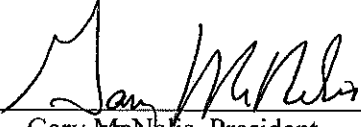
Motion to approve the three phased amended plan for renovation work through BAC Architects starting spring 2023 and ending summer 2025, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the FY23 budget as presented, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve PRESS Policy updates for policies: 6:70, 6:70-AP, 6:80, 6:120-AP3, 6:120-AP3, E1, 6:140, 6:140-AP, 6:250-E, 6:290, and 6:330 pertaining to instruction, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve PRESS Policy updates for policies: 7:10-AP2, 7:15, 7:60-AP2, 7:140-AP, 7:300-E1, 7:300-E3, 7:340-AP1, 7:340-AP1, E5, and 8:20-E pertaining to students, was made by Govednik and seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 8:51 p.m. was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

  
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Gary McNelis, President

  
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Justin DeBolt, Secretary