

December 15, 2022
Serena, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, December 15, 2022, at Serena High School in the Board Room. The following members were present: Joe Cantlin (in at 6:08 p.m.), Justin DeBolt, LaDonna Gale, Scott Govednik, Dan McNally (in at 6:13 p.m.), Gary McNelis, and Susan McNelis. Superintendent Lisa Gifford was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by President G. McNelis 6:02 p.m. After roll call, the motion was made by S. McNelis, with a second by Govednik, 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 7:06 p.m. was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Gale. 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 S. McNelis with a second by Govednik to approve the agenda. On roll call, all those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Presentations:

Students of the Month and the Staffuly Award winner were recognized.

2023 Tax Levy – Increased EAV (Equalized Assessed Value) for all properties in the area could result in a higher tax bill for residents, but this is not due to the District’s levy. The District levied lower this year than last, which means \$4.28 of taxpayers’ total tax bill goes to the District. Other municipalities can still cause an increase in the overall tax bill.

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

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:

Board-Teacher-Administrator Committee – The group gathered for an initial roundtable discussion on December 6. The Union Leadership Team and the Superintendent will meet monthly to address any specific district concerns. Dates for collaborative and continual conversations were established.

Discussion/Informational Items:

Therapy Dog Program – Shelli Ocepek, a representative from the United Way of Eastern LaSalle County, reached out to the District regarding their therapy dog program. This program is fully funded by the United Way but requires the District to have a primary and secondary handler. The dog would live with the handler when not at school. Additional information is needed before a final decision can be made.

Foundation Scholarship – Scholarship packets will be distributed to students in February.

Donations — Additional donated books through the Aurora Retired Teachers Association have been delivered. To date, Serena has received over 250 books from this organization. Blick's Art Supply has three pallets of art supplies to donate to the District again this year with a value estimated to be over \$10,000. The Husker Hearth has received monetary donations from several organizations, individuals, and families.

Husker Hearth — A local investor, Resource Bank, and Northern Illinois University representatives met with the Superintendent on December 13 to discuss initial ideas about an edible campus at Serena. More information regarding the scope of this project will be presented at the February Board meeting.

Action Items:

Motion to approve the resignation of substitute food service worker, Mary Sandra Pistilli, effective November 29, 2022, was made by DeBolt and seconded by McNally. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the resignation of substitute food service worker, Mary Way, effective November 30, 2022, was made by Gale and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the resignation of substitute food service worker, Darcy Hermann, effective December 20, 2022, was made by McNally and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of Melinda Temple as Food Service Director, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the All State Band workshop and symposium trip January 25-28, 2023, in Peoria, Illinois, was made by Govednik and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the 2023 Tax Levy, was made by Govednik and seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the updated organizational chart, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

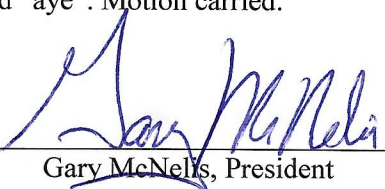
Motion to approve the 2023 Board of Education meeting dates, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve BCA Architects to seek bids for the 2023 Building Renovation Project at Serena High School, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to enter back into executive session at 8:26 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 Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to come out of executive session at 10:32 p.m., was made by Govednik and seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 10:33 p.m. was made by Cantlin and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.



Gary McNelis, President



Justin DeBolt, Secretary