

August 26, 2021
Serena, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at Sheridan Elementary School. The following members were present: Joe Cantlin (in at 6:14 p.m.), Justin DeBolt, LaDonna Gale, Scott Govednik, Dan McNally, Gary McNelis, and Susan McNelis.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Lisa Gifford, Lacey Anderson, and Principals: Megan Adams, Randy Goodbred, and Angie Merboth.

The meeting was called to order by President G. McNelis at 6:11 p.m. After roll call, the motion was made by S. McNelis with a second by Govednik 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 7:20 p.m., was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President G. McNelis. He then requested approval of the agenda. An amendment was made to strike Consent Agenda Item G in order to seek clarification. An additional amendment was made to strike Action Item A from the agenda, as it was an incomplete sentence. A motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Cantlin and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

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

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

Reports:

Enrollment – 650 students in the District.

Academic Committee – Joe Cantlin reported that they were updated on the District goals which the Board looks forward to seeing the results of. There is support for more consistency and alignment across the District and developing a strategic plan for continued success.

Principal Reports:

Principal Goodbred – Thank you to staff and students for getting the school year off to a great start. Students and families were able to meet teachers, see classrooms, and drop of school supplies at Unpack the Backpack night, held on August 16.

Principal Merboth – Harding's first PTO meeting will be held on September 13. Prior to the meeting, the new flag pole will be dedicated in memory of former student, Trina Becker. Harding will be participating in emergency drills the week of August 23rd.

Principal Adams – The first week of school has been very successful. Softball, Baseball, Volleyball, and Soccer seasons are all underway. 5th/6th Grade Girls Basketball will be starting their season in early September.

Principal Thomas – Thank you to NHS and Student Council for making Freshman/New Student Orientation a success. September 8-12, FFA members will be at the Sandwich Fair helping with set up and running of the petting zoo. Soccer, Volleyball, and Golf seasons have begun.

Director Reports:

Student Services – Currently, there are 107 IEP students. 14 students will be attending out of district placements. New intervention programs, including Wilson reading and Dreambox, were implemented this week.

Technology – Smart TV’s are anticipated to arrive in September. Installation within general education classrooms is scheduled to take place over extended breaks. Student devices have been streamlined this fall to include only three models across the District.

Superintendent Report – Teacher in-service days were held August 16-17. Dick Blick’s art supply donation arrived on August 4. The donation was estimated to be worth \$45,000. Teams from Harding and Sheridan went to the Custom Education Showroom to spend their \$1000 reward. We are continuing to ensure the District uses grant funding first in financial planning. SOPPA (Student Online Personal Protection Act) information is now available on the District’s website. The Mentor Teacher Program will reconvene to update the process and should begin in September. Fast Start, dual credits, and graduation requirements are being reviewed for changes to the 2022-2023 school year to be compliant with Illinois school code and Board policies.

Discussion/Informational Items:

House Bill 24 – This bill amends the school code and provides that sex education course material and instruction in grades 6-12 must include an age-appropriate discussion on sexting; defines “sexting.”. Currently, Serena CUSD is following the programming and curriculum that is in place.

Action Items:

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

Motion to approve the resignation of Jody Rix as the High School Guidance and Athletics Secretary, was made by Govedni and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the resignation of Dave Schrader as a Permanent School Bus Driver, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the resignation of Glenna Schrader as the Transportation Secretary, was made by Gale and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of Jennifer Walters as a Permanent School Bus Driver, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of John Murphy as a Special Education Route Driver, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of Garnetta Schafer as a Secretary, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the hire of Jaclyn Winter as a Substitute Social Worker, was made by Govednik and seconded by S.McNelis. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Jen Rosengren as a long-term substitute teacher for an FMLA leave, was made by Gale and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Shannon Larson as a volunteer coach for 2021-2022 athletics, was made by McNally and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the 2021-2022 stipend list, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the third reading of the 2021-2022 Elementary School Handbook, was made by Govednik and seconded by McNally. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the third reading of the 2021-2022 Middle School Handbook, was made by McNally and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the first reading of the 2021-2022 High School Handbook, was made by McNally and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the second reading of the 2021-2022 Certified Employee Handbook, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the second reading of the 2021-2022 non-Certified Employee Handbook, was made by Gale and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

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

Motion to adjourn at 7:59 p.m., was made by S. McNelis and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.



Gary McNelis, President



Justin DeBolt, Secretary