

September 23, 2021
Serena, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 23, 2021, in the Serena Middle School Cafeteria. The following members were present: Joe Cantlin, Justin DeBolt (in at 5:19 p.m.), LaDonna Gale, Scott Govednik, Dan McNally, Gary McNelis, and Susan McNelis (in at 6:05 p.m.).

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

The meeting was called to order by President G. McNelis at 5:07 p.m. After roll call, the motion was made by McNally 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 6:05 p.m., was made by McNally and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

It was motioned by Cantlin, with a second by DeBolt, to open the FY 22 Budget Hearing. The 2022 Budget was presented by Superintendent Gifford. Budget reductions will be made during the 2021-2022 school year to account for overspending done in previous school years. Grants will be expended first before using district funds. Review of accounts and balances will occur monthly to ensure overspending is mitigated. The budget will be amended and shared through a public hearing as needed. A motion was made by S. McNelis with a second by Govednik, to close the Budget Hearing and begin the public meeting. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President G. McNelis.

A motion to add Action Item Q, Motion to approve the ISBE FY 22 School Maintenance Grant was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

President G. McNelis requested approval of the amended agenda. A motion was made by Gale, with a second by DeBolt, to approve the agenda. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

President G. McNelis requested public comment. Kelly Hunt addressed the Board.

Items of correspondence included thank you cards from Don Nelson and the Serena High School Art students.

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

Reports:

Enrollment – 651 students in the District.

Buildings and Grounds – A space survey will be sent out on September 24 to community and staff members. These are due back to the District Office by October 8. The ISBE Maintenance Grant for FY 22 will need approval by the Board tonight as it is due by October 8.

Principal Reports:

Principal Goodbred – Thank you to Dollar General for their generous donation of books for each classroom. September Cardinal Award winners were announced. Family Reading Night is tentatively planned for October.

Principal Merboth – PTO will be holding Culver’s Cares Night fundraiser on October 6 and November 24, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Harding will have a virtual NED Show assembly on October 12. (NED stands for Never Give Up, Encourage Others, and Do Your Best.)

Principal Adams – Softball and Baseball teams have completed their seasons. Congratulations to 8th Grade Volleyball for taking 1st Place in the Earlville Tournament and to Soccer for taking 2nd Place in the Newark Tournament. The 5th/6th Grade Girls Basketball season is currently underway. StEPs will be holding their laundry soap fundraiser again this year and are planning on starting an online spirit wear store.

Principal Thomas – Congratulations to September Student of the Month, Katie Baker. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare for Homecoming week. The homecoming game for volleyball will be held on September 23 and soccer on September 25. Juniors and Seniors with GPA’s of 3.5 and higher will receive invitations to the National Honor Society. The induction ceremony will be held on November 10.

Director Reports:

Student Services – School-wide benchmarking has been completed and data gathered will be used for academic interventions. SEL screening will take place in October.

Superintendent Report – 1000 free, cloth, reusable masks were provided to the District through a partnership with LaSalle County ROE along with hand sanitizers for classrooms. Smart TV deliveries are delayed until the end of October. New guidance from IDPH and ISBE, in relation to the Governor’s Executive Orders, will be updated on the website to reflect any changes. A space survey was drafted between our architect and myself to capture all stakeholder opinions, thoughts, ideas, concerns, and recommendations for renovation and/restoration projects for all four buildings. This data will be reviewed and presented at the Board of Education meeting in October so that it can be considered prior to determining any large scale projects for bond.

Discussion/Informational Items:

Shield Testing – We are still in the onboarding phase with the possibility for onsite testing of students and staff by early November.

October Board Meeting Date Change – The meeting has been rescheduled for October 26 at 7:00 p.m. in Harding due to Parent Teacher Conferences.

Action Items:

Motion to approve a P Card for credit card services for Serena CUSD No. 2, was made by Govednik and seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the District FY 2022 budget, was made by Cantlin and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Garnetta Krug as an authorized signer on the Activity Account, was made by Gale and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the FMLA request from Nicole Znaniecki, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the academic salary scheduled stipends for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by Govednik and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the coach salary stipends for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve Kale Duffy as the 8th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by McNally and seconded by Govednik. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve Jacob Stark as the 7th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by DeBolt and seconded by Gale. On roll call, G. McNelis and S. McNelis passed and all others present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve Joseph Sanchez as a part-time custodian for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by Cantlin and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve Chad Mahler as the FFA Advisor for the 2021-2022 school year, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by McNally. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the first reading of updated policies – 2:150 (w/AP), 3:30 (w/org chart), 3:70 (w/AP), and 7:160, was made by McNally and seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the 2021-2022 Elementary School Handbook, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the 2021-2022 Middle School 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 High School Handbook, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

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

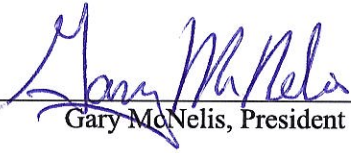
Motion to approve the third reading of the 2021-2022 non-Certified Employee Handbook, was made by S. McNelis and seconded by Gale. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

President G. McNelis requested any further public comment. Kelly Hunt addressed the Board.

Motion to enter back into executive session at 8:35 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 DeBolt, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to come out of executive session at 10:22 p.m. was made by Cantlin and seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 10:23 p.m., was made by S. McNelis, and seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.



Gary McNelis, President



Justin DeBolt, Secretary