

February 23, 2017  
Serena, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held Thursday, February 23, 2017, in the Serena High School library. The following members were present: Lesley LaRock, Don McNelis, Susan McNelis, Randy Murley, David Myer, Renee Thompson and Neal Rosengren. Superintendent Marty Felesena, Principals Steve Hanson, Aaron Rios, Joe Landers and Randy Goodbred were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by President Rosengren at 6:16 p.m. After roll call, the motion was made by LaRock, and seconded by Susan McNelis to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel, student discipline and review of minutes.

It was moved by Susan McNelis and seconded by Thompson to come out of executive session and enter into public session at 7:05 p.m. On roll call, those present voted "aye" Motion carried.

President Rosengren requested approval of the agenda. Visitors were Geoff Pierce, Branden Franzen, Times reporter Kate Reynolds and District staff and parents.

Principal Hanson introduced junior Branden Franzen, who would like to study to be a cardiothoracic surgeon. He has a unique opportunity through Envision to attend a 9-day program at the University of Chicago in June. It is through National Youth Leadership Forum and earns 2 credit hours through George Mason University. Branden asked the Board for help with the cost of this opportunity. The Board will consider this and let him know by the next meeting.

Geoff Pierce talked to the Board about the 2017 band trip to Atlanta, Georgia. They will leave on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> and return on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. The band members will visit Six Flags, perform at the aquarium, and tour historic Atlanta. The cost would be \$695 per person. There are 28 students and 3 chaperones.

Russell Perkins gave an update on the Harding roof repairs. There is an estimate of \$152,000 with a \$15,000 contingency and a \$17,000 architect fee. Russell would like to get bids for the job.

Public comment included Kale Duffy requesting more info about the reorganization.

Correspondence included a thank you card from the McLennan family for the flowers sent in memory of Lee.

Motion was made by Don McNelis and seconded by LaRock to approve Consent Agenda Items IX A thru H. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Reports –

Enrollment Report – As of January 31, 2017 the elementary total was 458. High school total, with out-of-District total, was 220. The District total was 678 students.

Building and Grounds Committee Report – Supt. Felesena reported that the parking lots will be worked on where the roads meet the lots. Sheridan and Serena will get the lockers worked on over the summer (new paint and hardware). They are working on getting quotes for the job. The middle school will get upgraded bathrooms. The grade school library will be split into 2 classrooms. Dave Myer asked about sidewalk repairs. Supt. Felesena said that would be part of the 10-yr. life safety review. Mr. Myer would also like to see a monitor (\$11,000) for the hot water heater so they will not have any problems with pipes bursting again. Supt. Felesena said that there are some problems with the scoreboard in the vintage gym.

IVVC Report – Don McNelis reported IVVC will offer an applied mathematics course. He said that they have not received any state-owed funding this year. They have 4 months of money left. There is an engine competition with 2 girls competing.

### Principal Reports

Principal Hanson recognized Jarrid Thorpen as the student of the month. There are many activities this week for FFA Week. Boys’ basketball Regionals are tomorrow.

Principal Goodbred said Spirit Week is next week. There was a science Alliance assembly yesterday. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders will attend an engineering workshop at U of I on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The Isle Royale trip is May 21<sup>st</sup>. He thanked Nikki Dierzen for coaching Scholastic Bowl.

Principal Landers congratulated Libby Farrell for finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the LaSalle County Spelling Bee. Libby will also represent Harding at the You Be the Chemist Challenge at IVCC on Saturday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>. He thanked ADV/SAS for offering programs to grades K, 2, 4, 6 and 8. Topics ranged from cyber bullying to dating violence prevention. He congratulated the girls’ basketball team for placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Bruce Goebel Winter Classic. He thanked HGS PTO for sponsoring the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade swim program at the YMCA. They had a great turnout at parent/teacher conferences. He thanked 678 Club and SHS student council for babysitting. He also reported that they had several students piloting student led conferences throughout the grade levels.

Principal Rios recognized the students of the month: Sean Kelley, Wes Ihrig, Bradley Armour, Izzy Neupert, Jaden Anderson, Paige Blankenship, Jayce Dobo, Tucker Whiteaker, and Brianna Clark. 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been constructing sailboats by using properties of air. They will race them to see which design will travel farthest. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will travel to Sheridan tomorrow for Meet Addy activities. Jr. High was invited to the FFA assembly tomorrow.

Superintendent Felesena reported the Kindergarten Roundup will be held March 4<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 5:30 in the SS cafeteria. The state still owes the District \$480,000 in late payments. Repairs for the frozen pipes cost \$60,000. Insurance reimbursed the District \$40,000. There are some new state laws as of 1/1/17. These include travel expenses, and residency hearing processes. Driver’s Ed must now teach students proper behavior if pulled over by police. Interfund transfers bill was extended so that money can be moved between accounts by the board. The District must test water for lead annually. Rules for teacher certificates are now more relaxed so that state transfers will be easier. There is also new asthma legislation in effect.

### Discussion/Informational Items –

A) IASB Spring Dinner Meeting – March 9<sup>th</sup>. Supt. Felesena told members to let him know if they want to ride together.

**B) School Calendar for 2017-18 – Start 8/14/17 (teachers) Students start 8/15/17. Last day is 5/23/18.**

**C) Gym/court naming possibilities - Many have brought up naming a gymnasium for Al Stegman. President Rosengren said there would need to be a formal request (verbal or written). A committee will be put together to research this request. Susan McNelis and Lesley LaRock volunteered. The Board will ask Marcia Hitchins, Chad Baker and Paul Finley to be part of this committee also. President Rosengren would like to have thorough requirements so there will be no problems in the future.**

**D) Fuel Bidding Process – Supt. Felesena said the District has a 2,000 gallon diesel and a 1,000 gallon gasoline tank. Currently they get bids when it is time to fill the tanks. This is usually FS or Arneson. If needed, the Board could get bids from more area businesses for fuel tank fill-ups. The tanks were updated over Christmas break.**

**E) District Reorganization Update – The RIF list was completed and sent to the Teachers’ Association on February 1st. Master schedules are being completed. Serena Middle School will be part of the Junior 10 Athletic Conference next year. The goal is to move to the IESA the following year. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades may remain part of the Fox Valley Conference or seek independent scheduling elsewhere. Licensed staff has been talked to about the next year assignments. April 17<sup>th</sup> institute will be used to plan for next year. Support staff will be talked to next week. They will be presented with an employment agreement in March to outline specific duties, hours and pay rates for next year. Student placement for next year is still being worked on. At this time, Serena Middle School’s projected enrollment is 186. Harding class sizes are K-12, 1<sup>st</sup>-23, 2<sup>nd</sup>-16, 3<sup>rd</sup>-21, 4<sup>th</sup>-13. Sheridan class sizes are K-18, 1<sup>st</sup>-20 & 19, 2<sup>nd</sup>-15 & 15, 3<sup>rd</sup>-13 & 13, 4<sup>th</sup>-13 & 13. Serena High School is projected to have 233 students. By mid-April, letters will be sent home to parents outlining details of their children’s school assignments, bus routes, and drivers. There will also be some transition opportunities for students and parents to get acquainted with the new schools.**

**F) Candidate Forum – will be held on Thursday, 3/16/17 in the SHS cafeteria at 6:00 pm.**

#### Action Items –

Motion to accept the resignation of Amber Grenda as High School Guidance Counselor, effective June 30, 2017, was made by Thompson and seconded by LaRock. On roll call, all those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the resignation of Angela Konzal as Reading Aide, effective June 30, 2017, was made by Susan McNelis and seconded by Don McNelis. On roll call, all those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the retirement of Becky Gavin as Special Education Teacher, effective June 30, 2020, was made by LaRock and seconded by Susan McNelis. On roll call, all those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the retirement of David Hughes as High School Teacher, effective June 30, 2020, was made by Don McNelis and seconded by Thompson. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the retirement of Kathy Hughes as High School Teacher, effective June 30, 2020, was made by Susan McNelis and seconded by LaRock. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the retirement of Jackie Twait as Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2020, was made by LaRock, seconded by Thompson. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Jeremy Jenkins as High School Track Co-Coach for the 2017 season was made by Thompson, seconded by LaRock. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Brad McGill as High School Track Co-Coach for the 2017 season was made by Don McNelis, and seconded by Murley. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve John Banister, Don Blasing, and Kevin Anderson as Volunteer High School Bass Team Sponsors for the 2017 season was made by Susan McNelis, seconded by Thompson. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the following Licensed Personnel Renewals: 2<sup>nd</sup> year probation – Dana Flahaven (HS Special Education), Jim Jobst (HS Driver Education), Brad McGill (HS Social Science), Laura McGill (HS Special Education), Angela Pippenger (HS English), Kara Rutherford (HS Special Education), Gina Kilbride Schock (Psychologist), and Samantha Watkins (Speech/Language Pathologist); 3<sup>rd</sup> year probation – Bridget Faivre (Elementary Teacher), and Angie Merboth (Title/Interventions); 4<sup>th</sup> year probation – Jeremy Foreman (Physical Education), Kelly Friestad (Physical Education/Health), and Corinne Norem (Elementary Teacher); Tenure – Miranda Zahn (Art), was made by Myer and seconded by Murley. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried

Motion to approve the 2017 Licensed Personnel RIF List was made by Susan McNelis and seconded by Thompson. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the 2017 Support Staff Seniority List was made by LaRock, and seconded by Don McNelis. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the 2017 SHS Band Trip, as presented, was made by Murley, and seconded by LaRock. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve middle school membership in the Junior 10 Athletic Conference for the 2017-2018 school year was made by Myer, and seconded by LaRock. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.


Motion to approve the 2017-2018 school calendar, as presented, was made by Murley, and seconded by Don McNelis. Those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to enter into a 3-year agreement with Homefield Energy for the purchase of electricity was made by LaRock, and seconded by Murley. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the solicitation of bids for the Harding Roof Project was made by Thompson, and seconded by Murley. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

President Rosengren asked for any more public comment. Stephanie Thompson and Dan McNally sought more information from the Board about the District reorganization.

Motion to adjourn at 9:48 p.m. was made by Myer, seconded by Susan McNelis. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

  
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Neal Rosengren, President

  
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Renee Thompson, Secretary