

November 17, 2016  
Serena, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held Thursday, November 17, 2016, in the Serena High School library. The following members were present: Lesley LaRock, Don McNelis, Susan McNelis, Renee Thompson and Neal Rosengren. Superintendent Marty Felesena and Principals Steve Hanson, Aaron Rios, Joe Landers and Randy Goodbred were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by President Rosengren at 6:15 p.m. After roll call, the motion was made by Thompson and seconded by Don McNelis to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel, collective bargaining, safety, student discipline, parental requests and review of minutes.

It was moved by Susan McNelis and seconded by Don McNelis to come out of executive session and enter into public session at 7:00 p.m. On roll call, those present voted "aye" Motion carried.

President Rosengren requested approval of the agenda. A motion was made by Susan McNelis, seconded by LaRock to remove Action Item F. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Visitors were CUSD2 staff members Amy Walsh, Angie Pokarney, Kara Temple, Kelsey Meyer, Pam Wyman, Dave Hughes, Laurie Clausel, Jen Shugrue and some District parents.

Principal Landers presented the Harding/Serena/Sheridan School Improvement Plan. They use a new process called "Rising Star". Each school's Improvement Team is comprised of that school's principal and a few teachers. He talked about steps being taken to achieve the District goals.

Principal Hanson talked about the high school plan. The high school has 15 students who have signed up for Apex courses next year. On early dismissal days, the staff members take turns presenting something to the rest of the staff. The safety dog has been to the school four times since school started. The high school is also using social media to promote community events.

Robert W. Rowe Library Board President Jen Shugrue gave an update of the library's plan to annex District areas not served by a library. She said that they cannot annex Freedom Township because it already pays taxes to Freedom Township (Mendota) Library. She asked for continued support from the CUSD2 board.

The Enrollment and Development Committee gave its recommendation to the Board about the possible District reorganization. Before the Board makes a decision, they would like to send out a Q & A packet to all District residents. Once the mailers have been received, the Board would like to hold an open public forum. This reorganization is being considered to keep students' needs in the forefront by offering enrichment opportunities. They are looking at making Harding and Sheridan K – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade buildings. Harding would house one class of each grade level, Sheridan would house two. Serena would house 5<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grades. 22 of 65 teachers would

have to change buildings. Class sizes will top out at 23 students per class. K – 4 benefits include students closer to same age, more P.E., music and art opportunities, and the potential for a Pre-K program. The middle school benefits include the opportunity for enrichment and Apex classes. The HS benefits include more teacher collaborations, flexible scheduling, more electives and advanced courses. The board will make a decision based on recommendations from the committee.

President Rosengren gave opportunity for public comment. There was none.

There was no correspondence.

Motion was made by LaRock and seconded by Susan McNelis to approve Consent Agenda Items VIII A thru G. On roll call, all those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Reports –

Enrollment Report – The Elementary total is 437. High school total is 213. Out of District total is 15. The District total is 665 students.

Enrollment & Development – no changes to earlier presentation.

Principal Reports

Principal Goodbred reported that the B-Team boys’ basketball team won the Milton Pope Tournament. 3<sup>rd</sup> graders attended SciTech in Aurora. He thanked Bill Harris for taking students to Marseilles Lock & Dam. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade ski trip is Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. He recognized the November Cardinal Award winners. Spirit Week ends tomorrow. Sheridan GS hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Thanksgiving Feast today.

Principal Hanson reported that there are some of new clubs forming. These include a STEM club in which Kathy Hughes has already applied for a grant. Bass Fishing is an IHSA activity. There are 19 students interested along with Coach DeRango. They will need to get a sponsor who is certified by the state. The high school started the Essential 5 Survey process today. Winter sports season has started.

Principal Landers thanked Dr. Amy Hasty, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parent and vet at Chessie Lane, who brought in Maxwell the therapy pig to visit the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. The students read to him. He thanked all the students who presented and participated in the Veterans Day assembly on November 11<sup>th</sup>. They did a great job showing respect and gratitude to the veterans. Harding will host the Al Stegman Holiday Classic Tournament on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. They will also host a cheerleading competition on that Saturday morning starting at 8:00 am. He also recognized the November students of the month.

Principal Rios reported the 8<sup>th</sup> graders visited Marseilles Lock & Dam. 6-7-8 Club members want to turn the tree stumps remaining from two trees that were cut down into a table and a chess table. 5<sup>th</sup> graders are doing a STEM challenge that requires them to make a parachute which will land an action figure safely. Ron Burden from LaSalle county Farm Bureau finished Ag in the classroom with 4<sup>th</sup> graders this week. They also learned about Serena history with Paul Marshall. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade participated in the Thanksgiving Feast at Sheridan earlier today. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will have its annual Pioneer Day on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. K and 1<sup>st</sup> graders will dress up as pilgrims and

Native Americans and make dessert to share at their feast next week. He also thanked everyone for their help with the Veteran's Day assembly. The grade school along with the high school honored 11 veterans.

Superintendent Felesena reported that President-Elect Trump is considering the abolishment of the U.S. Department of Education. There is still no state budget. The District is waiting for the 4<sup>th</sup> categorical payment from the state from last year. The road amendment from November 8<sup>th</sup> was passed. There are 10-1/2 pages of unfunded mandates that have been passed since 1992. Schools are forced to find a way to pay for them with no extra funding. The District will begin using the new Travel Reimbursement forms on December 1<sup>st</sup>. There must be board approval for total claims over \$250.

#### Discussion/Informational Items –

- A) Tentative Tax Levy – can keep the District's tax rate stable and possibly save an extra \$160,000 by refinancing bonds.
- B) Policies – Policy 7:270 and the policies up for 5-yr. review were discussed for a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.
- C) School Funding Outlook – The state lawmakers are still refusing to work together. It is speculated that no state budgets will be passed until the gubernatorial election in 2018. The hope is that the District would receive the funding owed soon.
- D) School Board Convention – Board members Neal Rosengren, Don McNelis, Renee Thompson, Lesley LaRock and Randy Murley will attend the convention this weekend. Hotels and meals will not be paid for by the District this year.

#### Action Items –

Motion to employ Nicole Milholland as a certified athletic trainer for Serena High School for home games at a rate of \$100 per night was made by Susan McNelis, seconded by Thompson. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to grant Lee McLennan a discretionary, unpaid leave from December 3<sup>rd</sup> to December 31, 2016 was made by Susan McNelis and seconded by Thompson. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the 8<sup>th</sup> grade ski trip to Wisconsin on January 12, 2017 was made by Don McNelis and seconded by LaRock. On roll call, all those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve Board policies 1:10, 1:20, 1:30, 2:10, 3:10, 3:30, 4:80, 5:150, 6:255, 6:260, 7:270 (with option), 7:280, and 7:285 for a second and final reading was made by LaRock, seconded by Susan McNelis. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

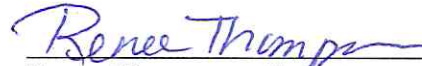
Motion to approve the tentative 2016 tax levy as presented and schedule the levy hearing for December 15, 2016 at 6:50 p.m. in the Serena High School Library was made by Thompson, seconded by LaRock. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve payment of the November 2016 Bond & Interest payment of \$822,225.00 to Heartland Bank and Trust Company on or before November 20, 2016 was made by Don McNelis, seconded by LaRock. On roll call, those presented voted "aye". Motion carried.

President Rosengren requested further public comment. There was none.

Motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. was made by Susan McNelis, seconded by Thompson. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

  
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Neal Rosengren, President

  
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Renee Thompson, Secretary