

October 27, 2016
Serena, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held Thursday, October 27, 2016, 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 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 Susan McNelis and seconded by Thompson to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel, negotiations, safety, student discipline, and parent requests.

It was moved by Myer and seconded by Thompson 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 Myer, seconded by Susan McNelis to remove Action Item F. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Visitors were Kyle Hendricks from Gorenz & Associates, Dan McNally and Jessica Kempiak.

An audit presentation of FY16 was made by Kyle Hendricks.

President Rosengren gave opportunity for public comment. Dan McNally had some questions about the middle school concept. President Rosengren gave him a copy of the district reorganization handout that would help answer his questions.

There was no correspondence.

Motion was made by Susan McNelis and seconded by Thompson 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 446. High school total is 215. Out of District total is 6. The District total is 667 students.

Finance – President Rosengren reported the local property tax money is 99% in. The District has received only 7.5% of State Funding (\$111,000). The FY16 fourth State categorical payment of \$191,547 still has not been received. First quarter expenditures are on track. Due to lack of state funding, first quarter revenues are about \$320,000 short.

IVVC – Supt. Felesena reported that IVVC had their audit. They sold their old welding equipment for \$6,000. There were 200 visitors at the IVVC Open House. The new director has visited all the high schools who take part in their programs. Allie Bertrang is the IVVC student of the month. She is in the Cosmetology program.

Enrollment & Development – President Rosengren showed a PowerPoint presentation on screen. The committee has met 3 times to form a recommendation for a middle school concept. They would like to send an informational packet to the community. This packet would include that the committee was put together in 2012 to look at cost saving options due to a financial crisis. In 2014, the committee updated their mission statement, goals and vision for the District. To obtain these goals, a middle school concept would be needed. There would be a Q & A page. It would list benefits of a middle school concept including: daily P.E., Art & Music, class sizes at or below 23 students, daily STEM, electives (Tech, Health, Speech), and enrichment opportunities including APEX online classes. The bus route times would stay the same. There would be no busing for Algebra, band or chorus. K-4 schools would be Harding and Sheridan with grades 5th - 8th housed in Serena. There would be positions for all current staff members. No one would lose their jobs.

Principal Reports

Principal Hanson reported the Performing Arts Club is in full swing. They will perform a play in March of 2017. Thomas Wehner will be an election judge this year. Mary Marshall got a chance to serve on Sue Rezin's advisory council in Morris. 43 families came to the Parent/Teacher conferences this week. They used a new format with all the teachers in the gym.

Principal Goodbred reported that Parent/Teacher conferences went well. He recognized the students of the month. The A-Team basketball team is doing very well. There will be a PTO Book Fair in November at Robert Rowe Library.

Principal Landers reported that Parent/Teacher conferences were fantastic. He thanked the SHS student council for babysitting so parents could talk to their child's teachers. He thanked the PTO for hosting the Book Fair during conferences. Harding GS will have a Halloween parade and parties on Monday. He thanked Coach Duffy and Coach Thompson for kicking off the cheer season. Thanks to Coach Duffy and Coach Staton for a great start to basketball season. The A-Team took 1st place in the Newark Early Bird Tournament. He congratulated the students of the month.

Principal Rios thanked HS Spanish teacher Mrs. McMahon for letting junior high enrichment students come to her class to hold conversations with her students. The SGS students learned some very basic Spanish and wanted to test it out. 6-7-8 Club members worked with Mrs. Hoppis to design Bully Prevention T-Shirts. They will be on sale soon. 5th graders attended an assembly with Deputy Felecia Rasmussen about bullying and the effect it has on others. 4th graders decorated their classroom door for Bully Prevention month. They also won an ROE 35 (along with 5th grade) dealing with severe weather. He thanked Mrs. Mikos for sending some of her students down to 2nd and 3rd grades to teach Science lessons. It was great to see the HS students interacting with the GS students. K and 1st grades are focusing on character building and helping students be good friends to all. He thanked PTO for providing dinner for teachers during Parent/Teacher conferences. He congratulated 8th grader Emma Holdiman for winning an award from LaSalle County ROE for outstanding citizenship.

Superintendent Felesena reported the Serena drainage work is done. There will be road closures in the area. Next week 30th Rd. will be closed. Starting November 14th, Rt. 52 will be closed at the tracks for 5 days. He is working through the bus schedules with Geoff Pierce. There were some problems with SGS scoreboards but they have been repaired. They also bought a portable scoreboard to be used in case of future problems.

Discussion/Informational Items –

A) Snow Removal – Bob’s Mowing and Landscaping was the only bid received. This included Serena and Harding. He will help with Sheridan, if necessary. He will plow automatically when there is 2 or more inches of snowfall. The District can call him if we need help any other time.

B) Policies – Policy 7:270 deals with EpiPens and Narcan overdose meds. Sheridan Fire Dept. carries Narcan. It was recommended not to carry these because of cost and expiration dates. Several policies are up for a 5-year review.

C) Travel Expense Guidelines – State Law requires all travel expenses to be approved. This applies to any school employee and includes transportation, lodging and meals. Mileage reimbursement will follow IRS rate only if a District vehicle is not available. Lodging reimbursement will be limited to the conference rate. There will be no reimbursement for meals if they are offered free at the conference. Otherwise there will be a \$7 breakfast, \$11 lunch and \$15 dinner reimbursement limit.

D) School Board Convention – Packets were handed out to members about 3 upcoming opportunities at the Convention. The Resolutions committee needs a board member to sit in at their meeting.

Action Items –

Motion to approve the reassignment of Jennifer Hoppis from HS Business/Technology Teacher to HS Guidance Counselor from approximately November 23, 2016 to March 7, 2017 was made by Don McNelis, seconded by Murley. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the reassignment of Genie Marshall from HS Aide to HS Business/Technology Substitute from approximately November 23, 2016 to March 7, 2017 was made by Thompson and seconded by Susan McNelis. On roll call, all those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to employ Sara Zbrowski as a temporary substitute aide from approximately November 23, 2016 to March 7, 2017 was made by Susan McNelis, seconded by LaRock. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the 2016-2017 compensation package for Superintendent Marty Felesena was made by Susan McNelis, seconded by Thompson. On roll call, all those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve audit reports submitted by Gorenz & Associates for FY16 was made by LaRock, seconded by Don McNelis. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.


Motion to approve Bob’s Mowing and Landscaping as the lowest, most responsible bidder to perform the duties of snow removal for the 2016-2017 school year, as presented, was made by Murley, seconded by Thompson. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Board policies 1:10, 1:20, 1:30, 2:10, 2:130, 3:10, 3:30, 4:80, 5:150, 6:255, 6:260, 7:270 (with option), 7:280, 7:285 for a first reading was made by Murley, seconded by Susan McNelis. On roll call, those presented voted “aye”. Motion carried.

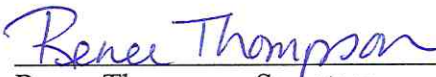
Motion to approve travel expense guidelines, as presented was made by Myer, seconded by Susan McNelis. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

President Rosengren requested further public comment. There was none.

Motion to adjourn at 9:29 p.m. was made by Susan McNelis, seconded by Myer. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.



Neal Rosengren, President



Renee Thompson, Secretary