

October 3, 2019
Serena, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held Thursday, October 3, 2019, in the library at Harding Grade School. The following members were present: Renee Thompson, Joe Cantlin, Justin DeBolt, Gary McNelis, Susan McNelis in at 7:34 p.m., and Stephanie Thompson in at 7:13 p.m. Dan McNally was absent.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Spencer Byrd, Principals Angie Merboth, Aaron Rios, and Randy Goodbred. Assistant Principal Ann Hoffmann in at 6:50 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President R. Thompson at 6:04 p.m. After roll call, the motion was made by Cantlin with a second by DeBolt 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 and (2) review of executive session minutes pursuant to the authority granted by 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) and (21) of the Open Meetings Act. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to come out of executive session at 7:17 p.m., was made by G. McNelis, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

President R. Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President R. Thompson requested public comment. There was none.

Correspondence was received from Resource Bank wishing Serena schools a successful school year and from Serena Middle School Softball team and coaches thanking the staff for all of their support during their season. .

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

Reports –

Enrollment Report – A total of 660 students in the District.

Transportation Report – As preschool program grows, more vehicles may be needed to transport students. Substitute drivers are still needed. Angie Merboth, April Kaforski, and Jen Cole will be training to be substitute SPED drivers.

Principals Report –

Principal Merboth September Ace Award recipients. They enjoyed a pizza lunch with Mrs. Merboth on September 20th. Sheridan and Harding teamed up on September 25th for an Elementary

Assembly. Fox River Resort donated food for each building's food pantry for students in need. Fairmont Minerals donated \$1000 to use towards food for each elementary buildings food pantry. Harding was awarded \$100 to purchase books for the library from the LaSalle County Retired Teacher's Association. Harding PTO purchased a Cricut for the staff. Mrs. Merboth and Mrs. Muffler observed Wallace's developmental preschool program on September 27th. The first round of data team meetings was held on September 27th. On October 4th, teachers will be participating in Teachers Observing Teachers.

Principal Goodbred reported Sheridan PTO had their first meeting and set up their fundraising ideas for the year. The students has a great Spirit Week last week. September ACE Students and Cardinal Award winners were announced.

Middle School Athletics – 8th Grade Night was September 30th for the Soccer team and October 1st for the Volleyball team. Fall Sports Awards will be held on October 17th at 5:00 p.m. in the Vintage Gym. Girls Softball and Boys Baseball finished their second year. Baseball finished with a 6-7 record. Softball finished 13-3 and won the IESA Regional and Sectional. They advanced to IESA State Quarter Finals and lost 0-2 to Villa Grove. Soccer team defeated Newark to win the Newark Soccer Tournament. 7th Grade Volleyball team won the Paw Paw tournament. 8th Grade Volleyball won the Consolation Championship at the Paw Paw Tournament. 5th/6th Grade girls basketball season is going well. It has been a great year!

Principal Rios announced tutoring will be available during advisory for Serena Middle and High School students. FAFSA night will be held October 16th at Ottawa IVCC campus. Military Night will be held on November 5th at Serena High School. On October 23, during Parent/Teacher conferences, an IVCC representative will be present to talk with high school students and parents. Due to recent flooding of the student parking lot, the SHS homecoming dance will be rescheduled for October 19th from 6-8 p.m. The car show has been rescheduled for October 20th. Senior night for soccer will be held on October 11th and volleyball on October 21st. Congratulations to DARE award winner Cheyenne Banister. SMS Student Council officers were announced.

Assistant Principal Ann Hoffmann reported that Spirit Wear sales were very successful. Spirit wear will also be available to purchase before the holidays. Husker Way assembly will be held on October 4th. Thank you to staff members and their families for supporting our students in and out of school.

Superintendent Report – Superintendent Byrd thanked Harding and Sheridan for hosting the recent SIP (School Improvement Day) afternoons and reported they were very successful. The next SIP afternoon will be held in Serena. The Special Education Department office will be painted and carpeted in the near future to help make it more welcoming. Superintendent Byrd proposed a District school assembly for Veteran's Day in Serena; a committee will meet next week to start planning. Information regarding current school bonds were presented; the school district is in a good position to look at a capital project within the next five years. Mike Alstadt, our architect, will help with a capital needs assessment questionnaire. On October 25th, Superintendent Byrd and Malinda Vatland, Director of Business Services, will meet with Jerry Castelli (current District Treasurer) and Mike Walker (new District Treasurer) to discuss the District Treasurer transition.

Action Items –


Motion to approve the appointment of April Kaforski as a substitute Special Education Driver for the 2019-2020 school year, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, and all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the appointment of Joe Cantlin as the new Community Unit School District No. 2 Board of Education Vice-President effective immediately, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, Cantlin passed and all others present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

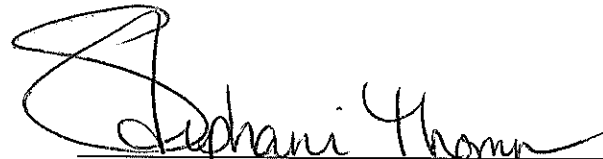
Motion to approve the first reading of the Press Policy update Issue 101, as presented, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

President R. Thompson requested any further public comment. There was none.

Motion to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. was made by S. Thompson, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.



Renee Thompson, President



Stephanie Thompson, Secretary