

August 22, 2019
Serena, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, August 22, 2019, in the cafeteria at Sheridan Grade School. The following members were present: Joe Cantlin, Justin DeBolt, Dan McNally, Renee Thompson and Stephanie Thompson. Kale Duffy and Gary McNelis were absent.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Spencer Byrd, Principals Aaron Rios, Ann Hoffmann, Randy Goodbred, and Angie Merboth. Mike McCoy, Laurie Clausel and Paige Hamill.

The meeting was called to order by President R. Thompson at 6:21 p.m. After roll call, the motion was made by McNally 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 7:50 p.m., was made by McNally, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

President R. Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President R. Thompson requested any changes to be made to the Agenda. There was none.

Public Comment –

FFA Advisor Chad Mahler introduced the FFA officers. Permission to attend the National Convention on October 30 – November 2, 2019 was requested

Laurie Clausel reported on the Washington D. C. trip that took place this summer.

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

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

Academic Goals Committee – Principals were asked to determine goals for their buildings. Some of the goals discussed were: student achievement, programs or curriculum, relations, balanced literacy, standards-based report cards, grade-level team meetings, summer school, and building needs.

Principals Report –

Principal Rios reported that Freshman Open House had a teacher attendance rate of 100%. Unpack the Backpack went well. 92% attendance from 5th-8th grade families and 100% of teachers attended that night. Serena Middle School calendar fundraiser raffle will be held again this year. Serena High School Homecoming Week Activities include: Fun Run for elementary age students, a Bags Tournament for middle school students, and soccer and volleyball games for high school students. There will be a car cruise/show held on September 22nd to kick off homecoming week. New this year to SMS, students will be able to participate in an IESA speech competition.

Assistant Principal Ann Hoffmann reported spirit wear website is up and running and website closes on September 6th. The Husker Way is looking for parent volunteers to help out with events that occur throughout the year. The Husker Way is selling raffle tickets during the day. Students have the opportunity to win White Sox tickets, a movie, Taco Bell gift cards or a Serena spirit basket. The drawing will be held on August 30th during the assembly. Student Excellence parking spots will be selected on August 23rd and students will be able to begin using those spots on August 26th. The Safety Committee's first meeting will be held in the library on August 28th at 3:15 p.m.

Principal Merboth announced Harding PTO is holding a Family Movie Night on August 24th. Staff and students voted on movie. PTO will provide water, juice and popcorn. The school received a letter which included pictures of Harding Grade School dated 1918. Principal Merboth would like to preserve the pictures on canvas to display in the building. Harding will be practicing emergency drills over the next two weeks. Robert Rowe Library has started a little library at the school. Teachers have been challenged to invite at least one mystery reader per quarter in their class this school year.

Principal Goodbred thanked teachers and students for getting the year off to a great start. He also thanked Phil Margowski and Wyatt Seaborn for the summer work completed at Sheridan. 3 Screen Assembly for both elementary school will be held at Harding Grade School on September 25th at 9:00 a.m. Spirit Week is September 23-27 to go along with Serena High School Homecoming Week. Guest readers will be starting as well. Students have been practicing emergency drills.

Middle School Athletics – Softball is 5-0 and Baseball teams is 1-1 at this time. Soccer and 7th/8th Grade Volleyball have been practicing and first game will be August 22nd. 5th/6th Grade Girls Basketball started practice and will play their first game on September 9th. Fall sports are going well. Some kids are playing two sports which keeps them very busy. Serena will host the IESA regional tournament in September.

Superintendent Report –

Superintendent Byrd presented the preliminary budget. There will be a public budget hearing on September 24, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at the Serena MS/HS Library.

Discussion/Informational Items – Angie Merboth and Paige Hamill presented information about the Harding preschool program. They discussed goals, eligibility, and program information. Currently, there are 24 students enrolled. The preschool will have a couple of visitors this month: Jim Wyman from WSPY on August 23rd at 12:00 p.m. and Annette Barr from the Ottawa Times on August 26th at 12:30 p.m.

Action Items –

Motion to approve the employment of Dorothy Newsom as Full-Time Custodian at Harding Grade School, effective August 23, 2019, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Alicia Sesto as Full-Time Art Teacher at Serena Middle/High School for the 2019-2020 school year with her salary to begin retroactively beginning on the first day for teachers to report to school, August 12, 2019, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Lani Gamlin as Serena High School Cheerleading Coach for the 2019-2020 school year, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the resignation of Marci Glade, Serena High School secretary, effective November 1, 2019, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to accept Jennifer Hoppis’ request for FMLA leave for the Illinois Air National Guard for a total of 34 days starting August 26, 2019 through October 2, 2020, was made by DeBolt, seconded by S. Thompson. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the resignation of Kale Duffy from CUSD2 Board of Education due to personal reasons, effective immediately, was made by DeBolt, seconded by R. Thompson. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the resignation of Miranda Zahn, Art Teacher at Serena Middle/High School, effective immediately, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by McNally. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

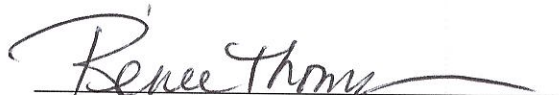
Motion to accept Dean Derango’s request for ERO based on current CBA to begin next school year, 2020-2021, and then run consecutively for four years with his last school year being 2023-2024, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the tentative budget and hold a public budget hearing on September 24, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at the Serena MS/HS Library was made by S. Thompson, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the FFA overnight trip request to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis from October 30 – November 2, 2019, was made by McNally, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

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

Motion to adjourn at 9:13 p.m. was made by S. Thompson, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, those present voted “aye”. Motion carried.


Renee Thompson, President


Stephanie Thompson, Secretary