

April 23, 2020
Serena, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, April 23, 2020, in the Serena Middle School Gym. The following members were present: Renee Thompson, Joe Cantlin, Justin DeBolt, Dan McNally, Gary McNelis, Susan McNelis, and Stephanie Thompson.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Spencer Byrd, Principals Randy Goodbred and Angie Merboth, Interim Co-Administrators Megan Adams and Lib Whiteaker, Brent Thomas, Jenny Hoppis, Jessica Kempiaak, and Pete Morsovillo.

The meeting was called to order by President R. Thompson at 6:15 p.m. After roll call, the motion was made by Cantlin with a second by S. McNelis 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; (2) school safety; (3) student discipline; (4) pending litigation; and (5) review of executive session minutes pursuant to the authority granted by 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1), (6), (8), (9), (11), and (21) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to come out of executive session at 7:46 p.m., was made by Cantlin, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

President R. Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance. She then requested approval of the agenda. The agenda was approved as presented.

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

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

Reports –

Enrollment Report – 660 students in the District.

Principals Report –

Principal Goodbred – Thank you to Debbie Fuchs and her staff for the outstanding job they have done feeding the families in our district. We have been able to continue with our food backpack program due to generous donations from the Serena Lions Club, Feed His Children, as well as local church groups. I would like to thank everyone who drove by the school during the parade on April 3rd. We had a great turn out. Thank you to the staff, students, and parents at Sheridan for working together to make this difficult time run as smoothly as it has. Thank you to Phil Margowski and Logan Forth for all of their hard work keeping the school clean. Online registration has started for the 2020-2021 school year.

Middle School Athletics – Track season was cancelled. All schedules for the 2020-2021 seasons are complete.

Principal Merboth – Thank you to staff, students, and parents during remote learning. We have been contacting families to check in and see if they have any needs from the school. A second round of food bags we delivered on April 16th. Thank you to Kelly Baker for creating two videos for the Harding families – one featuring teachers holding up signs for their students and the other showing students working remotely. Both of these can be found on Facebook and were shared via Remind. Online Preschool registration started on March 25th and online registration was opened up to the entire District on April 10. Registration packets are available at each building for parents unable to register online. We have recently subscribed to the ParaEducator Online Training Program. This program is designed specifically for paraprofessionals and covers both general education and special education environments.

Middle School and High School – Thank you to all of our faculty and staff for staying in contact with our students to not only help them with their work, but more importantly, to make sure they are safe, healthy, and have everything they need. Students are doing a fantastic job during remote learning. Thank you to our food service staff for going above and beyond during this time. Maintenance staff have been continuing to keep our buildings clean everyday while also utilizing this time to complete many other projects on their summer list. Announcements have been emailed daily to all students, their families, faculty, and staff. They are also posted daily in video form on Facebook. We have been recognizing students that have earned 3rd quarter honor roll and remote learning superstars. The bin pick up and drop off system, implemented at all of the schools, has been very successful. Wellness check phone calls were made to Unit 2 families last week and we were able to speak with the majority of our families. We received a lot of positive feedback and families were very appreciative that we reached out.

Superintendent Report – Thank you to all of the parents, staff, administration, and students during remote learning. Welcome to Brent Thomas, our new high school principal. Thank you to everyone involved with the teacher negotiations contract.

Congratulations to the following Excellence in Education Award Recipients:

Educator Award:

Angie Merboth – Principal, Harding
Bridget Faivre – 4th Grade, Harding
Kelsey Meyer – 3rd Grade, Sheridan
Nicole Sullivan – Special Education, Serena Middle

Support Staff:

Lisa McNelis – Secretary to the Superintendent

Retiring Educator (20+ years of Total Service – Includes service from other school districts)

Dave Hughes – 35 years – Math, Serena High
Kathy Hughes – 21 years – Science/Chemistry, Serena High
Jackie Twait – 27 years – Kindergarten, Sheridan

Angie Pokarney – 33 years – 1st Grade, Sheridan
Becky Gavin – 33 years – Special Education, Sheridan

FOIA Request Report – The District received 12 requests in March. Legal fees for FOIA requests for March is \$7,711.25.

Discussion/Informational Items – Please be sure to turn in your Statement of Economic Interest forms to the District Office if you haven't already done so or filed it with the County Clerk.

Action Items –

Motion to approve the resignation of Kelly Burks from the position of High School Assistant Volleyball Coach, effective immediately, was made by S. McNelis, seconded by S. Thompson. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the resignation of Leona Whiteaker from the position of 5th and 6th Grade Volleyball Coach, effective immediately, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, G. McNelis and S. McNelis passed, and all others present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Jodi Brodbeck for the position of High School Science Teacher, for the 2020-2021 school year, was made by McNally, seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Mikayla Schmidt for the position of Elementary Social Worker, for the 2020-2021 school year, was made by S. McNelis, seconded by S. Thompson. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Abby Fancher for the position of Elementary Speech Pathologist, for the 2020-2021 school year, was made by S. McNelis, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Jessica Warren, for the position of Regular Elementary Teacher at Sheridan Grade School, for the 2020-2021 school year, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Ashley Butzen for the position of Special Education Teacher at Sheridan Grade School, for the 2020-2021 school year, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Brent Thomas for the position of High School Principal, for the 2020-2021 school year and the 2021-2022 school year, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, McNally passed, and all others present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Lexi Leiteritz for the position of High School Business Education Teacher, for the 2020-2021 school year, was made by S. McNelis, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, McNally voted “no”, S. Thompson passed, and all others present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Megan Crutchett for the position of Math Teacher at Serena Middle School, for the 2020-2021 school year, was made by Cantlin, seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, McNally passed, and all others present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Bud Durland for the position of Substitute Bus Driver, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Matt Sedwick for the position of High School Assistant Track Coach, for the 2019-2020 school year, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, McNally passed, and all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Nicole Sullivan for the position of Middle School Interventionist, for the 2020-2021 school year, was made by S. McNelis, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the FMLA request made by Kelly Burks from September 28, 2020 through December 22, 2020. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to renew the District’s Hillman Pediatric contract for OT and PT services, as presented for the 2020-2021 school year, was made by S. McNelis, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Bond and Interest payment, not to exceed \$51,312.50, to Heartland Bank and Trust, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the “Petition to Graduate Early”, made by students Ryan Ensor, Joel Ewing, and Lily Kempiak, 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 approve the LEASE budget as presented by our Technology Coordinator, for the 2020-2021 school year, was made by DeBolt, seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted “aye”. Motion carried.

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

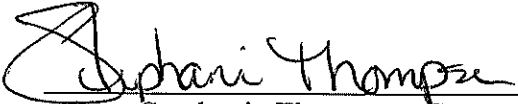
Motion to enter back into executive session at 9:05 p.m. for the purpose of: (1) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; (2) school safety; (3) student discipline; (4) pending litigation; and (5) review of executive session minutes pursuant to the authority granted by 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1), (6), (8), (9), (11), and (21) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act was made by S. Thompson, seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to come out of executive session at 12:32 a.m. on April 24, 2020, was made by Cantlin, seconded by S. Thompson. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 12:32 a.m., on April 24, 2020, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.



Renee Thompson, President



Stephanie Thompson, Secretary