

February 27, 2020
Serena, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, February 27, 2020, in the library at Serena High School. The following members were present: Joe Cantlin, Justin DeBolt, Dan McNally, Gary McNelis, Susan McNelis via phone (out at 9:35 p.m. and back in at 10:07 p.m.), Renee Thompson, and Stephanie Thompson.

Also in attendance: Superintendent Spencer Byrd, Principals Randy Goodbred and Angie Merboth, Interim Co-Administrators Megan Adams and Lib Whiteaker.

The meeting was called to order by President R. Thompson at 7:00 p.m. After roll call, the motion was made by S. Thompson with a second by Cantlin 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 8:17 p.m., was made by S. Thompson, 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. Motion was made by Cantlin to table Action Items C-E. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Joseph Roberts, the new full-time custodian at Harding, introduced himself to the Board. He is planning to use his military and Boy Scout experience to educate the students about the history of the United States flag and proper flag etiquette.

The Middle School SIP Team proposed new schedule changes for next school year. They would also like to bring back the PTO at the Middle School.

The High School Scheduling Committee presented their new schedule changes as well. Some of the changes proposed are renaming Advisory to Homeroom and moving it to earlier in the day, have three lunch periods, and adding more minutes to class periods.

The Preschool planning committee presented some updates on proposed improvements for the next school year. They would like to move to a Blended Program that the Illinois State Board of Education prefers.

President R. Thompson requested public comment. The following individuals addressed the Board: James Beal, Jenny Engel, Veronica Erickson, Jenni Duffy, and Maureen Moren.

Items of correspondence included thank you notes from the families of Sharon Marco and Angela Merboth

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

Reports –

Enrollment Report – 662 students in the District.

Principle Search Committee – Laurie Clausel and Chad Baker presented the job postings and search timeline for the High School and Middle School principals for the Board to approve tonight.

Principals Report –

Principal Merboth – February Ace Award Recipients: Kindergarten – Emery Navarro, 1st Grade – Eddie Christensen, 2nd Grade – Caden Niles, 3rd Grade – Leanna Milashoski, 4th Grade – Landon Leadingham. Congratulations to John Ourth recipients Landon Leadingham and Anabella Miller. They enjoyed a breakfast and awards ceremony on February 20th at Streator High School. Family Reading Night was held on February 7th at Harding Grade School. Kindergarten Roundup is scheduled for March 16th and Preschool registration for March 31st. The District Daddy Daughter Dance will be held on March 14 from 6-8:30 p.m. in the Middle School gym.

Principal Goodbred – The PTO had a very successful cookie dough fundraiser. Dr. Lockett, the presenter for the Title One Family Reading night, gave two outstanding assemblies about reading and music at Sheridan Grade School. Robert Rowe Library sponsored dentist, Doctor Jay. He spoke to the students about dental hygiene. Students were given a toothbrush and toothpaste. The second grade class collected 243 items for the Sheridan Food pantry for the 100th Day of School. Jean McNelis and Karly Westvig were guest readers this month. John Ourth Award winners Kayden Heuser and Keira McNelis were recognized at a breakfast at Streator High School on February 20th. February Cardinal Award Students: Kindergarten – Flynn Caba and Paislee Schiltz, 1st Grade – Kinsley Battles and Graham Schaller, 2nd Grade – Anisten LaRock, 3rd Grade – Molly Benjamin and Kennedy Wormley, and 4th Grade – Ron Evans and Connor Baker.

Middle School Athletics – The 7th Grade Basketball team won the Amboy tournament. The 8th Grade Basketball team took 2nd place. Congratulations to 8th Grade Basketball team for winning the Bruce Goebel Tournament. Both 5th and 6th Grade Volleyball teams continue to improve. On March 6th, the Junior 10 will be voting whether to align their seasons with IESA next year. This would allow Serena to join the IESA in girls volleyball and basketball and boys basketball in the 2020-2021 school year. This would also allow for competition in softball, baseball, track, and scholastic bowl. The Junior 10 Conference Spelling Bee will be held on March 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the Serena High School gym.

High School – Thank you to Middle School and High School Staff and administration for welcoming Megan Adams and Lib Whiteaker. Thank you also to Doug Fieldman and Joe Hughes for filling in the classrooms. Congratulation to Daughters of the American Revolution winner,

Cheyenne Banister, who was recognized in December at a ceremony held at the Reddick Mansion. Tara DeJacimo was selected to receive the Student Excellence Award at LaSalle County's February Board Meeting. John Ourth Award winners were Nicole Manke and Brandt Faivre. Congratulations to Brandt Faivre for being the recipient of the Sons of the American Revolution award this year. Congratulations to the High School Boys and Girls Basketball teams on their seasons. The High School Band will perform at the Midwest Music Festival at Lemont High School on February 29. The Serena FFA Toy and Craft show will be held on March 1st. Academic Bowl has several meets coming up. Student Council Sadie Hawkins will be held on March 13th in the High School Gym.

Middle School – Makenzie Manke was recognized as a LaSalle County Board Student Excellence Award winner at the County Board Meeting on February 13th. John Ourth Award winners Cadence Slocum and Tanner Faivre were recognized at a recognition breakfast at Streator High School on February 20th. Brianna Delaney, Ava Rosengren, and Tim Shugrue participated in the Illinois Valley Community College Junior High Honor Band Festival on February 8th. The Middle School Leadership Team held a meeting on February 20th with a focus group of parents that have been heavily involved in grade school PTO's. The first meeting will be held on March 9 and will be open to all Middle School families. The softball banner was awarded to our State Softball team on February 18 and hangs under the scoreboard in the Vintage Gym. The Dodgeball Tournament will be held on March 7.

Superintendent Report – Summer school this year will be held at Sheridan Grade School this year. The Middle School summer camps will be held again this year. There are plans to expand High school summer school opportunities: APEX online courses for credit recovery, Driver's Education, and other classes for credit. Parents are encouraged to register early as there is limited seating. We received two bus bids: Midwest Transit and Central States Bus Sales. We will retain our business with the lowest bidder, Central States. Seven bids were received for our Health Life Safety Tuckpointing project that is to be completed this summer. The bid was awarded to Safeway Tuckpointing Company.

Discussion/Informational Items – The final calendar for 2020-2021 will be presented for approval tonight. Serena Middle School graduation date is still being discussed.

Action Items –

Motion to approve the resignation of Dorothy Newsom from the position of daytime custodian at Harding Elementary School, effective February 6, 2020, was made by G. McNelis, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the resignation of Amber Skinner from the position of Cheerleading coach, effective immediately, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the resignation of Kale Duffy from the position of 5th-6th Girls Basketball coach, effective immediately, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the resignation of Jenna Goldman from the position of Serena High School Assistant Softball coach, effective immediately, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the resignation of Malinda Vatland from the position of the Director of Business, effective Friday, May 29, 2020, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, DeBolt passed, and all others present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Kale Duffy as the Middle School Baseball coach, grade levels 7-8, for the 2020 fall season, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Joe Roberts as the full-time Harding custodian, effective February 28, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Logan Forth as the part-time custodian at Sheridan, effective February 28, and pending approval of all paperwork, was made by McNally, seconded by S. Thompson. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the employment of Karly Westvig as the Assistant Softball coach for the 2019-2020 Varsity softball season, 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 Jacqueline Thompson and Dain Twait as Volunteer Assistant Softball coaches for the 2019-2020 Varsity softball season, was made by DeBolt, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the addition of an Assistant Track coach stipend for this school year 2019-2020, due to the increase of participation numbers, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by McNally. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the stipend proposal for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, between the school district and Megan Adams, Elizabeth Whiteaker, and Angie Merboth for the additional administrative duties and administrative duties and responsibilities that they will be assuming for the remainder of this school year, 2019-2020, 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 Medical Leave for Tiffany Muffler, she will be absent March 16 -20 and on March 30. She will use sick time. Motion was made by S. Thompson, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Maternity Leave for Jenna Goldman, she will be absent starting May 18 and will return on October 5, 2020. Motion was made by S. Thompson, seconded by McNally. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the second and final reading of the 2020-2021 School Calendar, as presented, was made by DeBolt, seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Middle School Principal and High School Principal job postings and search timeline, as presented by the Principal Search committee. The position will be posted on IASA job bank tomorrow, Friday, February 28, 2020, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the first reading of the Press Plus Policy updates, Issue 102, as presented, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the first reading of the Curriculum Guide for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented, was made by DeBolt, seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to accept the lowest bid from Central States Bus Sales, Inc. for the two-year Bus Lease agreement for the 2020-2021 school year and the 2021-2022 school year for the amount of \$15,015.89 per bus, for a total of 12 buses, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to accept the lowest bid from Safeway Tuckpointing Company for the Health Life Safety district tuckpointing project to be completed during the summer of 2020 at a total cost of \$93,500, was made by G. McNelis, seconded by McNally. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.


President R. Thompson requested any further public comment. The following addressed the Board: James Beal and Veronica Erickson.

Motion to enter back into executive session at 10:24 p.m. was made by S. Thompson, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to come out of executive session at 12:24 a.m. on 2/28/2020, was made by S. Thompson, seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 12:25 a.m. on 2/28/2020, was made by McNally, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.


Renee Thompson, President


Stephanie Thompson, Secretary