

January 23, 2020
Serena, IL

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

Also in attendance: Superintendent Spencer Byrd, Principals Angie Merboth, Randy Goodbred, Assistant Principal Ann Hoffmann and Kevin Noll.

The meeting was called to order by President R. Thompson at 6:17 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; (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 7:15 p.m., was made by S. McNelis, seconded by Cantlin. 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 any changes be made to the Agenda. There were none.

There were no items of correspondence.

President R. Thompson requested public comment. The following individuals addressed the Board: James Beal, Veronica Erickson, Elizabeth Kempiaik, Don McNelis, Jenny Hoppis.

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

Reports –

Enrollment Report – 654 students in the District.

Buildings and Grounds Committee Report – There have been a lot of issues with heating and cooling as the buildings continue to get older. Dave Gray from Mechanical put together a three-year preventative maintenance agreement. They proposed to come out quarterly, which will hopefully level off frequency of repairs and the District can save 30% if we use Mechanical's vendors.

Principals Report –

Assistant Principal Ann Hoffmann recognized John Ourth Award winners: High School – Brandt Faivre and Nicole Manke; Middle School – Tanner Faivre and Cadence Slocum. The next Husker Way assembly will be held on January 31st during advisory. The Middle School Student Council is planning their annual dodgeball tournament for March.

Principal Goodbred thanked the PTO for sponsoring the 2nd Quarter Scholastic Breakfast. The 100th Day of School will be on Friday, January 24th. Each class has different activities planned and the PTO will be helping out as well. He also thanked Feed His Children, local churches and the Serena Lions Club for their donations to help needy families at Sheridan Grade School. There will be guest readers in February for each class. Winter Spirit Week will be February 10-14. Congratulations to John Ourth Award winners: Kayden Heuser and Keira McNelis. January Cardinal Award Students: Kindergarten – Joey Rapp and Dominik Cartwright, 1st Grade – Riley Wagner and Xavire Alvarez, 2nd Grade – Karter Walters, 3rd Grade – Allison Watkins and Kailey Heuser, and 4th Grade – Aleeyah Cook and Kolton Walters.

Middle School Athletics – Awards night was held on January 14th. There was a great turnout to recognize for 5th and 6th grade boys and girls basketball, 7th and 8th grade boys basketball, and 5th-8th grade cheerleaders. 5th and 6th grade volleyball is off to a great start. 7th and 8th grade girls basketball has started. Thank you to the coaches for all of their hard work with their teams.

Principal Merboth congratulated Harding January Ace Award Recipients: Kindergarten – Reagan Cantlin, 1st Grade – Everett Cantlin, 2nd Grade – Isabella Meyer, 3rd Grade – Max Peterson, 4th Grade – Colton Rodrick. John Ourth recipients are Landon Leadingham and Anabella Miller. They will enjoy a breakfast and awards ceremony on February 20th at Streator High School. The 100th day of school is January 24th. 4th Grade will be attending a Raptor Day at the Peru YMCA on January 24th. Family Reading Night is scheduled for February 7th at Harding Grade School. Kindergarten and preschool flyers have been distributed. Kindergarten Roundup will be held on March 16th from 4-6pm at Serena High School. The new preschool bus has arrived.

Superintendent Report – Illinois State Board of Education has given the district a financial rating of Excellent. Malinda Vatland, Director of Business Services and Superintendent Byrd will be going to PMA headquarters for their annual meeting with our representative to discuss cash flow and investments. Two steering committees were recently formed to look at the structure of the middle school and high school schedules. Any suggested changes will be brought to the next board meeting in February.

Discussion/Informational Items – Serena High School graduation date is proposed to be on May 16, 2020. A draft calendar for 2020-2021 was presented.

Action Items –

Motion to accept the resignation of Chris Bjork as the 5th and 6th Grade Boy's Basketball Coach, was made by DeBolt, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve Chris Bjork as the Head Track Coach, for the 2019-2020 school year, was made by S. McNelis, seconded by G. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve Jolee Denbow as the Part-time Paraprofessional for the 2019-2020 school year, was made by McNally, seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the request by the Transportation Department that at the end of the school year, when drivers are allowed to submit their sick days for reimbursement, that they be reimbursed at the tier rate the driver is currently at, was made by G. McNelis, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, DeBolt passed and all others present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the first reading of the 2020-2021 School Calendar, was made by McNally, seconded by DeBolt. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to set the Serena High School graduation ceremony for 6:00 p.m., on Saturday, May 16th, 2020, was made by S. McNelis, seconded by Cantlin. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

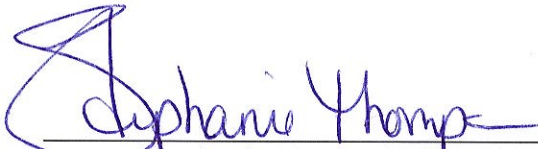
Motion to approve the Maintenance Agreement as presented in the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting by Mechanical for the period of February 1, 2020 to January 31, 2023, was made by G. McNelis, seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, all present voted "aye". Motion carried.

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

Motion to adjourn at 7:56 p.m., was made by Cantlin, seconded by S. McNelis. On roll call, those present voted "aye". Motion carried.



Renee Thompson, President



Stephanie Thompson, Secretary