



**GENEVA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 304
227 NORTH FOURTH STREET, GENEVA, ILLINOIS
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR SESSION
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District Number 304 met in a regular session on Monday, September 25, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Coultrap Educational Services, 227 North Fourth Street, Geneva, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER (Policy 2:220)

1. Roll Call
2. Welcome
3. Pledge
4. Reminder to sign attendance sheet

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Cabeen.

Board members present: Molly Ansari, Policy Committee Chair Stephanie Bellino, President Larry Cabeen, Dan Choi, Vice President/Finance Committee Chair Jackie Forbes, Willard Hooks, Paul Radlinski. Late: None. Absent: None.

The President welcomed everyone, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Tim Baker, Safety Security Supervisor; Mike Wilkes, Director for Technology; George Petmezas, Director for Learning & Teaching; Todd Latham, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Shonette Sims, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Dr. Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

Others present: Brenda Schory, Stephanie Dawkins.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, September 11, 2023
2. Executive Session, September 11, 2023

Motion by Forbes second by Bellino, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 2.1-2.2. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. GenOmetrics – Mike Wilkes, Shonette Sims, Dr. Andy Barrett
Administrators shared that the process of GenOmetrics is to gather information on staff and student technology use and perceptions, instructional practices and student learning related to technology, and to progress toward the district vision. This information allows us to evaluate our progress, reflect on our current models and practices, and to improve institutional and instructional decisions. The district has been using a standardized tool called BrightBytes, which shows historical content over the past seven years. A team has been meeting and has decided to pilot a new survey tool. This survey was sent to staff and students using a locally developed tool that gathers actionable insights regarding skills and strategy training, technology usage and beliefs, and age and grade appropriate questions and verbiage. Much progress has been made over the past year leading us to be able to identify actionable data to support decision making and reflection. The outcomes supported by the in-house tool were focused on professional development for middle school teachers, development of consistent experiences for middle school students, and resource renewal decision-making at all

levels. Looking ahead we would like to adopt the Technology Insights Survey, refine the survey to reflect critical insights, determine survey approach with committees and leadership, and continue to refine/revise the survey as needed. We did learn recently that the BrightBytes survey tool is being decommissioned, so this is the right time to be sharing this information.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Is there a listing of the tools you are referencing for teachers that we can look at? (Yes.). Do you know if there are any tools available to students that struggle with writing, specifically text to speech? (That might be its own presentation. This is why Microsoft Suite has been the cornerstone because it offers these types of tools.) Please be mindful that anytime you have an internally developed product it can become costly as you begin to build on to it. I like how we are using this data because it can be very targeted. It is helpful that you understand what technology is out there, because as a parent and Board member it helps us to understand why we are making the choices that we do.

2. Fall Grant Presentation – Shonette Sims

Shonette Sims gave an update on the district's annual grants. We are currently eligible for the American Rescue Plan Elementary & Secondary Emergency Relief (ARP ESSR III), Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA of '65), CTE Consolidated, Language Instructional Education Plan (LIEP), EBF for ELL, and the library grant. There are allocations left in all these grants and we are anticipating rollover funds from last year as well. The ARP ESSER III will be used for curriculum, personnel, and facilities. The ESEA of '65 consists of Title I, Title II, and Title IV funds, which cover different things, such as low-income students, curriculum, retention & recruitment, technology, and non-public enrollees. LIEP supports the implementation of high-quality instructional programs for English learners (ELs), professional development and training for staff, and to promote parental, family, and community participation in the ELs education. Sixty percent of the funds from the EBF for ELL grant must be spent on instruction. The EBF for ELL funds can also be used to support students and staff and can be braided with the LIEP funds. The library grant is shared with all schools and is an annual allocation from the Secretary of State.

Board comments, questions, concerns: With Title I funds, how do we make sure that it is equitable across the district? (We are a targeted Title I district and not schoolwide. To be schoolwide, 40% of our students must be on free/reduced lunch.) Did you say that Title II funds can only be used for personnel? (Yes, because this grant is more limited on what the funds can be used for.)

3. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Hearing (Policy 4:10)

1. Public Hearing Agenda

The Board President opened the hearing at 7:43 p.m.

2. 2023-2024 Budget Presentation

Todd Latham shared the 2023-24 final budget that he will ask the Board to approve later in the meeting. At this point in the budget development process, the Board of Education's Finance Committee has participated in financial assumptions development, reviewed the preliminary budgets, draft budget, and approved the tentative budget that includes all district revenues and expenses. The proposed changes from the tentative budget are staffing levels reviewed and updated, grant expenditures and reimbursements, salaries and compensation per agreements, health insurance increases, Mid-Valley tuition, State and federal grant carry overs, and fund transfers. The proposed budget has estimated revenue at \$115,747,964 This is just \$9 more than the tentative budget. The proposed budget has estimated expenditures at \$126,650,286. This is \$945,385 less than the tentative budget. This leaves the district in a deficit of \$10,902,322 that will come from the fund balances. When you add in other sources of revenue and expenses the total estimated revenues are \$128,650,286 and the expenses are \$139,104,961. The next step is to file the budget with the Kane County Clerk's office, upload the approved budget to the Illinois State Board of Education, adopt the 2023-24 budget in Skyward, update the treasurer's report to approved budget numbers, tax year 2023 levy, begin preparing the Meritorious Budget, and begin forecasting for fiscal year 2024-25.

3. Questions/Comments from Board Members

None.

4. Questions/Comments from Audience Members

None.

5. President Closes Hearing
The Board President closed the hearing at 7:50 p.m.

4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Board Member Code of Conduct #8 - "I will be sufficiently informed about and prepared to act on the specific issues before the Board, and remain reasonable knowledgeable about the local, State, national, and global education issues."

Jackie Forbes shared that the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) 2023 Resolutions Committee has released their report that will be voted on by the Delegate Assembly in November at the annual conference. These resolutions are not about passing law. It is us sharing information with IASB to let them know if we support or do not support resolutions that they will use when lobbying. The timeline for this procedure started back in April when the submission form was opened for districts to submit their ideas for resolutions and closed in mid-June. The first Friday in August, the Resolutions Committee had their meeting to discuss the proposed resolutions. In September, the committee put together their report and shared it with all members. At the Joint Annual Conference, there is another meeting where they will talk again and on Saturday of the conference is when the Assembly and representatives will vote. There are five resolutions begin brought forward. Please look them over and at a future meeting we will discuss how we would like to vote on the proposed resolutions.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Policy 3:40)

The Superintendent provided follow-up on strategic planning, saying the district has begun to investigate consultation services and are working with a variety of organizations that can help facilitate a process like what we were talking about with BrightBytes earlier. There are many services out there. They all have similarities to the process and approaches they have, but there are also key differences. We are looking for someone who aligns with our structural goals. There are a few good ones that Cabinet will review and they will bring back to you their top choice(s).

It was great to see so many students participating in the different homecoming activities. The parade was great but is something that we need to be thinking about for next year. There were more students pulled out early this year at our other schools than in the past. We want to maintain the community pride, but also have a good safe event. There are logistical issues that must be considered as well. Parents, office staff and teachers find it incredibly challenging when this many students are leaving early. We will continue our conversations and come back to you with more information.

Parent/Teacher conferences are coming up on October 5 & 6, which is before the next board meeting. Conferences used to be held during Thanksgiving week. Making this change allows for all grade levels to have conferences at the same time, unlike the past.

We have been talking about a new board meeting location that has included meeting structures, topics and needs. The current space is good for some meetings, but not others. We need a location that would be good for both, so that we are not moving equipment and that has better handicapped accessibility.

The National Blue Ribbon School Recognition distinction is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning. There were 353 school nationwide that were chosen, with four of the high schools being in Illinois. It is great to receive an award like this, but we do not want to become complacent.

6. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. City of Geneva TIF Resolution

The Board President gave board members an opportunity to make one last comment before they voted on the TIF resolution.

Board comments, questions, concerns: This is a complicated issue and there is no denying that TIF 2 has had a positive impact on the east side of Geneva. After reading all the information I can see that there are additional incremental positive impacts with further development in that area. I also recognize that there is significant development that has not been completed. The district has missed

out on those incremental increases of EAV for the last twenty-three years. Now, the city is asking to extend TIF 2 for another twelve years, which means that for a total of thirty-five years the EAV will be frozen. The district will recover, but after thirty-five years it will still take 10-12 years to recoup the money lost. As a Board member, we have a fiduciary duty to the school district. There needs to be a way to make this more acceptable to the district and it could be as easy as shortening the extension or changing the EAV date. Do they know what kind of businesses they want on the east side? (It is a public/private partnership. They will accept proposals from interested parties, but the key component is the road work.) Are they going to change the zoning? (I do not think there will be any changes to zoning.) My understanding of why they needed a twelve-year extension is because it will take that long to get the funds needed to cover the cost of the work, which will be completed well before the TIF expires. There is value in completing the road work because that community is made up of our students. It would have been nice to have more time to discuss and think about this. Once the roadway is complete, we will be able to see the value and people will want to live there. There have not been many comments from the community on this topic.

Motion by Choi second by Hooks, to support the above-listed TIF resolution, item 6.1. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks. Nays, one (1), Radlinski. Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

2. Board Action on Resolution to Adopt Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (Policy 4:10)
Todd Latham went over the budget document briefly before the board voted.

Motion by Cabeen second by Bellino, to approve the above-listed resolution, item 6.2. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION

8. INFORMATION

1. FOIA Request (Policy 2:250)
2. Suspension Report (Policy 7:200)
3. Out-of-State Trip Request

9. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE, New Hires (Policies 3:50, 5:200, 5:280)
2. Monthly Financial Reports – August (Policy 4:50)
3. GEA Memorandum of Understanding
4. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$11,635.54, FES PTO, for assembly, birthday books, field trips, outdoor education, and new recess equipment
5. EIS Teacher & Administrator Annual Report

Motion by Choi second by Radlinski, to approve the above-listed, items 9.1-9.5. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(PRESS Policy 2:230) *Per Board Policy 2:230, attendees wishing to formally address the Board must register their intention to participate in the public portion(s) of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting. Complete the form in the Welcome to Our Meeting brochure (print legibly) and give it to the Presiding Officer or the Recording Secretary before the meeting is called to order.*

None.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Policy Committee, Finance Committee, Boundary Task Force, Communications Task Force, Facilities Task Force, Technology Task Force, Joint PTO, Geneva Academic Foundation, Geneva All-Sports Boosters, Geneva Music Boosters, Geneva High School Theater Boosters, GEARS, K-12 Discipline Committee, PRIDE, Fox Valley Career Center, IASB/Legislative, IASB Kishwaukee Governing Board

The Theater Boosters have their first performance of the year coming up this Friday and Saturday

with their One Act Plays. The high school band visited the University of Illinois for a band day. Board members congratulated the high school on their recent recognition, noting that Geneva is a great community, and everyone contributed to this award. The Technology Task Force met and were given updates on upcoming projects and the GenOmetrics presentation that was given tonight. It was mentioned in this meeting that it is important that if you see something, to say something. Cyber awareness and safety are the key. The Music Boosters just wrapped up their mum sales. They did have extras to sell but will not in the future. They are now moving onto their greenery sale. Board members attended many of the homecoming activities, such as the parade and football game. Tonight's board meeting was rich in content, so thank you to the presenters and for the TIF discussion. The Theater Boosters will be selling their checkbooks again. Last years checkbooks are good until October 31. The Facilities Task Force met, and the team did an excellent job this summer with the many projects that were happening. They are now in the punch list stage for many of the projects and hopefully, they can close those out soon. One board member will be traveling to France as a representative of Geneva with one of the council members.

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:42 p.m., motion by Forbes second by Bellino and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

_____ PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____

_____ RECORDING
SECRETARY