

**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 24, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at Coultrap, 1113 Peyton, Geneva, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Roll Call
- 1.2 Welcome
- 1.3 Pledge
- 1.4 Reminder to sign attendance sheet

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

Board members present: Matt Henry, Mike McCormick, Vice President Kelly Nowak, Policy Committee Chair Mary Stith, Finance Committee Chair Bill Wilson. Late: None. Absent: President Mark Grosso, Tim Moran.

The Vice President welcomed everyone, led them in the Pledge and reminded them to sign the attendance record.

District administrators present: Tom Rogers, Principal, Geneva High School; Doug Drexler, Associate Principal, Geneva High School; Craig Collins, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Donna Oberg, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Patty O'Neil, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction; and Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: Fred Dresser, Robert Cabeen, Sandra Ellis, Chris Bourdage, Sue Farley, Leslie & Emma Juby, Valerie Macy, Jennifer Welenc, Jim Law, Anna Lee, M. J. Bankmann, Jenny Scott, Brad Scott, Mark Pennington, Amy Gibson, Clark Thompson, Lori Dowd, Ed Bowman, Tory Malay, Sue Sarkauskas (Daily Herald); Ron & Susan Stevenson, Wynn & Marilyn Church, Suzy Shogren, Denise Bellendir, Tim Pease, Doug Benjamin, Debbie Kanarowski, Jacqueline Hansen, Deb Jongebloed, Martha Behlow, Roxanne Curtis, Julie Williams, Joe Landau, Adam D. Gibbons, Dan Riner, Debbie Hanson, Ken Silvatore, Geneva Teachers, Donna Roman, Charles Barber, Denise LaCure, Gail Ryan, Brenda Schory (K.C. Chronicle); and other individuals who did not sign the attendance record.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Vice President reminded audience members that comments or discussion regarding individual students or personnel matters were not permitted and that individuals wishing to address the Board should come to the podium, use the microphone, and state their name and address as the meetings are video recorded. She added that over the past few weeks, she has had opportunities to talk with many parents and community members and she wanted to convey that the Board respects our teachers and all of the District's employees and wanted everyone to think not of "us" and "them," but as "we."

Comments included:

I'm a retired Geneva educator and taxpayer here to speak for the teachers. While we are all aware of the budgetary considerations, I think we all know that in order to get good people, you must give them good wages. There must be consideration and give and take on both sides. Let's all come to some good solutions.

Want to speak of my experience with Geneva schools. Am a parent of two children - son a graduate of GHS and a daughter a sophomore at GHS. When my son was in third grade, had surgery and was in a body cast. His teacher brought cards from his classmates and sat by his bedside. In high school, his Spanish teacher worked with him before school. His football coaches taught him the importance of academics, character and community service and they spend time beyond the school day so the students can have successful seasons. Thanks to all the teachers who plan and organize events for students and who have made a

difference in our children's life. My husband was born and raised in Geneva. He graduated from GHS in 1968 and still speaks highly of the teachers who influenced his life. We moved to Geneva so our children could have a quality education. Please listen to those in the community who value teachers and not those vocal few who are negative. Would like the Board to show that they also value the teachers by settling the contract now.

This is my first Board meeting. Thanks to the Board and hope this is the type of turn out you have for most meetings and that I can make more of them in the future. Have no children in the District but do support it. Am a proponent of incentive pay and compensation for jobs well done. I urge the Board to consider enacting that type of effort for our dedicated teachers. I also think there are parts of the District's compensation program that we should take a critical look at given the environment that we are operating in and the budgets we are faced with. Spend money in the classroom and I urge the Board to redirect resources from administration to students in the classroom. This is a difficult job and you have my respect, but in times like these, can't see us expanding the budget because we have long-term debt.

I'm the choral director at GHS and have taught in District 304 for 25 years. I'm frustrated, angered and hurt by the events that have led to this point in efforts to negotiate in good faith for a contract that teachers believe is reasonable, cost effective, and fair to all parties. I'm encouraged that the Board has agreed to meet twice in the absence of the Board president. The members of the school board are unwilling to consider our most recent request. How can Board members sleep at night? Members of the negotiating team have spent hours to present a contract they feel is modest and fair relative to the economic status of the District. We have worked over a month without a contract. It is apparent that the teachers are in a struggle to be regarded as professionals worthy of respect. Teachers are being attacked personally in social media, and are being accused of being greedy, selfish, and ungrateful. Nothing could be farther from the truth. I will not apologize for saying that District 304 teachers have been dealt a slap in the face after all that they accomplish on a day-to-day basis with our most precious resources, our students, your children. Our behavior has an impact on our students. I urge Board members to negotiate in good faith in a timely fashion. The teachers are striving as professionals for an equitable and a swift resolution to negotiations. Will the Board of Education be able to do the same?

I'm a 16 year Geneva resident and taxpayer. In the past 16 years my taxes have only gone done one time in 2009 by 1/2 percent. My home value in the last five years has dropped from \$510,000 in 2006 to \$368,000 today - a 29% drop in value. From 2007 to today my taxes have increased 14.92%. When is it going to stop? When are my taxes going to go down?

I'm a Geneva A&E teacher, parent, and taxpayer. Moved to Geneva in 1988 for the schools. Education was a top priority for us. Became involved with PTO and witnessed the special collegial atmosphere of the district and the work of warm, professional teachers and administrators. Got my teaching certificate and began my teaching career as a fourth grade teacher in Geneva. Currently, I teach third through fifth graders. There is nothing I'd rather be than an educator. Geneva's changed in the past twenty-three years, but people still move to Geneva for the school district, so we must be doing something right. The Board, administrators and teachers have common goals that focus on learning and the development of all students - academically, socially, and emotionally, and collaborate to meet the needs of all students. Many cuts have already been made across the district, including the A&E Director and secretary. Those responsibilities were picked up by already overextended administrators, secretaries and teachers. No one is complaining. The District is successful and parents are part of the team. Students are the number one priority in Geneva and the teachers need to be number two in order to attract, retain, and reward good teaching.

This is one of the first Board meetings I've attended. I want to thank the Board for their service to the community. They are an integral part of the process and they do a thankless job and are getting bombarded from all sides. Family has lived in Geneva over sixteen years and we chose it for the quality of its schools. To have quality schools, you need quality teachers. To have quality teachers, you need to treat them like professionals and compensate them well. But it's really not about compensation, it more about treating teachers like professionals. I have two children, one a senior and one a freshman. The

taxes I pay are clearly worth it. My wife is a long-time Geneva teacher and I've seen the effort she puts in, including nights and weekends. She feels students are the most important thing. Colleagues tell me about the positive affect my wife has had on their children. I hope that you will come to a fair and equitable solution in these negotiations for all involved.

I'm tired of the rhetoric. For the past eight weeks, District employees have spoken about how they are disrespected and not treated fairly. Many have applauded from the audience. They have said the Board needs to sit outside itself and look at the whole picture; people in Geneva used to have civic pride; there will be dire effects if the teachers are forced to take a hard freeze; the trust between the Board, administration and teachers has been eroded; everyone used to be united for one purpose; must haves should not be brought to the table; there is rancor from the outside; and very negative groups have been destructive and divisive and there is no place in the community for them. According to the 2012 fiscal year teacher/administrator salary report, which is part of tonight's consent agenda, it's clear the contract issue is all about finances and economics. The real facts are that there were 366 full-time teachers in FY 2011 and FY 2012. In 2012, 5.7% of them received raises of more than 20%; 7.4% of them received raises between 10% and 19.99%; 24.6% received raises between 5% and 9.99%; 35% received raises between 4% and 4.99%; 9.3% received raises between 3% and 3.99%; 3.5% received raises between 2% and 2.99%. 344, or 94%, of the 366 teachers received a salary increase. 50 teachers make over \$100,000, 38 in the \$90's; 62 in the \$80's; 74 in the \$70's; 62 in the \$60's; and 57 in the \$50's. Maybe the negative group in the community is the best thing that ever happened to this community. Facts can't be disputed. Thanks to the Board members for doing exactly what they were elected to do; respect taxpayer interests.

I want to thank the Board for allowing me to speak on behalf of the teachers my children have had. Have a junior in college and a senior at GHS. Our teachers have done a phenomenal job with our kids. Attended the Board meeting two weeks ago and was upset that no one except teachers were standing up for the teachers and the job they do. The Board says they know how wonderful our teachers are and you are all working together, and I believe you do. I know at least two of you do. I wrote a letter addressed to the school board, took it to our building PTO meeting, and those in attendance signed it. (The letter was read aloud and a copy was given to the Recording Secretary to distribute to the Board members.) The reader indicated the following: while they were not privy to the details of negotiations, they didn't feel that a zero percent increase over the next three years was acceptable; that the economy has improved, is expected to continue to improve, and many in the community have received and expect to receive at least cost of living increases over the next three years; no raises sends a message to teachers that they are expendable and replaceable; if our teachers were compensated based on performance measures, the District couldn't afford the raises; while the Board may be frustrated with negotiations and with the Union representatives, we ask that Board members remember that while the teachers come to board meetings in green tee shirts, they go to work every day so the students continue to achieve. Thank you for listening.

The Board Vice President noted that working without a contract doesn't mean teachers are not being paid. We are operating under the provisions of the prior contract. She noted that she's been on the Board for five years and feels very fortunate to have the privilege of working with six other individuals who care about this District and the community, and that includes everyone - the taxpayers, the teachers, and above all, the students. She asked that everyone keep in mind that the Board members are all working very hard to represent everyone's best interests and trying to balance, sometimes on a very thin knife blade. She added that they are doing their best and will get through this and asked that individuals remember we are part of a community and that this was not an "us" or "them" situation.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 Special Session September 8, 2012

3.2 Regular Session September 10, 2012

3.3 Executive Session September 10, 2012

Motion by Wilson, second by Stith, to approve the minutes, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, five (4), McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson. Nays, none (0). Abstained, one (1), Henry.

Motion carried.

4. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARING/BUDGET ADOPTION

- 4.1 2012-2013 Budget Hearing
 - 4.1.1 Public Hearing Agenda
 - 4.1.2 2012-2013 Budget
 - 4.1.3 Questions/Comments from Board Members
 - 4.1.4 Questions/Comments from Audience Members
 - 4.1.5 President Closes Hearing

At 7:36 p.m., the Vice President convened the budget hearing, welcomed those in attendance, and introduced the Board members and the Superintendent. She explained the legal requirements regarding the public hearing and the procedure that would be used during the public hearing; i.e., a summary of the budget would be presented, there would be an opportunity for questions/answers from the Board members and then from the audience members, the hearing would be closed, and the Board would take action on the 2012-2013 budget. According to statute, the budget was made available for public inspection in the District's office, on the District's web site, and through a notice of the public hearing posted in the Kane County Chronicle newspaper on August 2, 2012.

The Assistant Superintendent Business Services reviewed the 2012-2013 budget, the budget process, timeline, assumptions, and a history of the District's revenues and expenses for all funds.

Development of the budget began following the adoption of the 2011-2012 budget. Beginning in May, the budget has been presented in sections to the Finance Committee and the full Board. The budget assumptions included the following: a CPI of 1.5% (from the levy of December 2011 - taxes being paid in May and September 2012); an increase in student lunch and milk fees; an 89% proration of general State Aid (approximately \$246,000 less than received last year); lower Corporate Personnel Property Replacement Tax due to Regional Office of Education cost shift to local school districts; a reduction in the REMS grant funds (from \$305,000 last year, to \$95,000 this year, after this year the funds are gone); the elimination of Education Jobs Funds (\$213,000 last year, eliminated this year); the reduction of State reimbursements (74% prorated for transportation this year); and allocation of State funding (didn't receive the 4th quarter payment until August, after the conclusion of the 2011-2012 fiscal year); salary increases per agreements (we have agreements with all employee groups except teachers); increased insurance benefit costs (9.4% for PPO, 4.4% dental); the elimination of ARRA funding (reduced by about \$303,000); planned technology (\$600,000 from Education Fund, \$500,000 from O&M Fund) and capital improvements; and maintaining current level spending in all other areas where possible (includes supplies, professional development, etc.)

The District's 2012-2013 total budget includes \$89,863,401.00 in revenues, \$93,774,463.00 in expenditures, and a shortfall of \$3,911,062.00. The District's revenues to expenditures ratio have remained relatively level since 2010. The budget does not reflect salary adjustments for teachers or the possible shift of teacher pension costs from the state to local school districts. The budget would need to be amended to reflect any changes necessary for teacher salary adjustments when negotiations are concluded. Reserves will be used to cover the shortfall and balance the budget.

The shortfall in the O&M Fund (\$2,359,798) is due to the Burgess Field renovations and approved capital improvements. Since the \$500,000 donor contribution toward Burgess Field renovations was received in June, prior to the end of the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the entire \$1 million cost for the renovation is reflected in the 2012-2013 budget. The shortfall in the Transportation Fund (\$4,178,318) is due to the timing of the District's, two-year bus buy back program. We receive revenue in June when we sell the buses back and don't expend the funds to purchase buses until the fall. The District has reduced its fleet of seventy-one passenger student buses from 66 in 2009 to 54 in 2012. Due to efficiencies made in routing, we were able to reduce another 3 buses this year, bringing our total number of seventy-one passenger buses down to 51. We hope to be able to reduce 1 more bus in the 2013-2014.

The Assistant Superintendent Business Services added that the District hopes to be able to again abate an additional dollar amount back to the taxpayers to maintain the 2009 level. She noted the tentative beginning fund balances are un-audited and the audit will probably be

in October. We want to keep the Education Fund balance at \$15 million. Any amount above \$15 million would be used for abatement to help offset bond payment increases. She stressed that the District needs to continue to keep the reserves in order to offset the bond payments.

Board discussion, comments, questions:

While I am aware the budget is available on our web site, has anyone come to review the budget or called with questions. (No one came in to review the budget or called with any questions.)

While I don't have any questions, I want to make it clear to the community that while the budget shows a shortfall, it was a deliberate plan to use some reserves to offset some of our costs. Consequently, it looks like our expenditures exceed our revenues, but the budget was intentionally designed that way.

I know that the administration and Finance Committee worked hard on the 2012-2013 budget. It's unfortunate that it is going up but as was just pointed out, the fact that we are able to use some reserves to keep it at a negative or even impact, is good.

I feel the upcoming freight-train of the debt problem is something that we have to keep on the horizon. As a member of the Finance Committee, I feel it is something we need to plan for. In terms of these one-time expenditures, we are eating into our reserves, and we are going to have to take it on the chin going forward because the debt is going to take up a lot of it. Other than that, I think the budget is fine. I've not heard from any of my neighbors or friends that they had a problem with it.

Thanks to the Assistant Superintendent Business Services for her work on the budget and for explaining the deficit. Our budget captures our current revenues and expenditures. When there is even a tiny difference, for example, money that comes in the last accounting period, or when we are expecting money, it doesn't mean that the world is coming to end. It means that we are drawing down reserves and that is something that we promised our taxpayers we would start to thoughtfully look at, and we have. It allows the Board to make improvements to our buildings and to keep up with maintenance without asking for any new tax dollars. While the Board President is not present tonight, he indicated his support for this budget at the last Board meeting.

Questions from the public:

Regarding the expenditures for the buses. There is a huge shift from one year to the next. In this budget there is a deficit. Why? (At the end of two years, the District sells the buses back and we'll get close to \$3.5 million back, which will go back into revenues. Consequently, revenue and expenditure alternates every other year. In the past, the District would purchase and sell back buses every year so you wouldn't see the shift from year to year because the revenue and expense would be in the same year. Keeping the buses for two years vs. one, you see the year-to-year, up-and-down shift.) And that causes the great fluctuation in the budget? (Yes.) Will we see that kind of deficit next year? (No.)

In looking at the transportation budget numbers for the last three years, the amounts are about \$7.3, \$7.5, and \$7.2 million. If the total number of buses decreased from 66 to 51, that is about a 15% reduction in the number of buses. (We reduced from 66, seventy-one passenger buses down to 51, seventy-one passenger buses. We also have 2, thirty-five passenger buses, and, 2, twenty-two passenger buses.) If we're dropping 15% of our buses, why are the expenditures still increasing? (Some of the expense is for special education transportation; a large portion of the cost is for homeless transportation. The District receives no reimbursement from the State of Illinois for homeless transportation, yet the District is mandated to provide transportation to homeless students regardless of the cost. Last year, it was about \$80,000.) So, 15% of our buses is \$100,000 or \$1 million? (One bus is \$80,000.) So, about \$1.4 million. Then, I should see a \$1.4 million drop. (We have seen about a \$1.2 million drop in the budget over the last four years.) We dropped 15 buses this year? (No, we have reduced the number of buses gradually over the last four years.) I don't see any reduction in the budget and we have to have reductions. Using reserves to balance the budget is like dipping into a savings account. If I spend \$10,000 a month and earn \$10,000 a month, I have a zero balance budget. If I spend \$12,000 a month, and only

make \$10,000, and then I dip into my savings \$2,000 a month, I don't have a zero balance budget. I've lost \$2,000 that month. I don't understand how using reserves is a positive. It's a negative. (When we talk about zero balance, we try very hard to keep our routine expenditures, those we have year-to-year in the normal course of business, very flat. We are dipping into the reserves for extraordinary things, like maintenance that needs to be done on our buildings. We are doing our very best to make reductions in the budget and keeping it frozen. We are also responding to the will of our community who have asked that we slowly target those withdrawals.) Those reserves are money that taxpayers have already paid or been over taxed. It's not reserves, you just got the money ahead of time. We need to run a balanced budget, which means zero change in value. While I appreciate all your efforts, it still doesn't show that we've realized that we are living beyond our means. If we're spending more than we're making, we're living beyond our means.

What is the percentage of total budget to reserves and how does it compare to neighboring comparable sized school districts? (Don't know what our neighboring school district's reserve funds are. Do know that at the end of June 2011, Geneva's was 46%.) There are obviously fluctuations. (\$15 million of the reserves are Working Cash Funds, and when the Working Cash Fund was approved by the voters, it was strictly to be used for cash flow, so when tax dollars didn't come in on time, there were funds to use instead of issuing tax anticipation warrants, which cost the District and taxpayers money. \$15 million out of the 46% is set aside for that purpose.) What fraction of the total budget is staff salary? (About 84%.)

I appreciate all the hard work that the Board and administration have done for us. On capital expenditures, under O&M, it appears we are spending a lot of money on HVAC systems and it seems we always have. Have heard complaints from high school students that it still isn't right. Believe the control systems at the two middle schools are to be completely changed. Did we have the wrong HVAC systems to begin with? Did we not have the right contractor? Seems like about \$2 million in capital outlay is in HVAC and that is a concern. Relative to transportation, never was a proponent of the one-year lease buy-back program or the lease program at all. The buses are built to last for at least ten years. I suggest we buy the buses and keep them for ten years. Every five years, buy five new buses. We have the bus barn and while the equipment and repair costs would go up, I believe that buying and keeping the buses would offset the cost of leasing them. I believe we need to do a study to see what other districts are doing. Looking at transportation and potential repair work in schools, we might find additional savings.

In my corporation, we do a lot of budgets. We do scenario analysis. Things don't always go as planned. The state is broke. Is there a contingency built into this budget in the event that things don't go as planned? (The Finance Committee has looked at a number of scenarios over the past several years. Last year, we implemented a minimum reserve amount that we want to maintain in the Education Fund because we receive taxes in two installments. When we get to the end of May, the District is typically \$18 million in the hole waiting for the next installment of funding. We set the minimum for the Education Fund and established the Working Cash Fund, which is the one constant that we can rely on, in order to be able to cover our expenses without borrowing funds from a bank for a few months to cover cash flow and pay our bills. We have policy that dictates the minimum amount we have to maintain in reserves and that has resulted in savings to the District because it gives us a good bond rating. We also have small contingencies built into our budget to cover the cost of additional teachers that may be necessary due to enrollment or class size fluctuation.) My only other concern is the long-term debt of the District. I noticed on the presentation slides that it said revenue shortfall. Not everything is the result of a revenue shortfall. The expense side of the equation should get equal weight.

Relative to a previous question about spending reserves, a Board member pointed out that we are using some of our reserves, on a small, annual basis, in order to extend the life of our equipment and facilities. It's not that the equipment is bad, that it has gone bad, or that it was improperly installed. We are simply allocating a small amount of funds every year out of the money that we've saved for the purposes of trying to maintain our equipment and facilities. If we didn't add those costs into the budget, it would be balanced. Unfortunately, the most expensive contract is typically HVAC, which is the life-blood of a building and one of the most expensive systems.

The Vice President reminded audience members that the Board of Education's Finance Committee meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. prior to the first Board meeting of the month and are open to the public.

A Board member commented that there were some good questions and points being made tonight, but wanted to note that several years ago, when the District stopped receiving all of its payments from the state, the Board did add a contingency to the budget and stopped factoring in the full amount of revenue from the state to which it is entitled. That is why reduced state funding was included in the budget assumptions that were presented during tonight's presentation. We are aware we don't get all of the payments from the state and we added a buffer into the budget so that the budget more accurately reflects what we may actually receive. Regarding transportation, facts do not speak for themselves. Facts speak for those who created them. In reality, if you look at the State Board of Education's study of transportation, it would show that our transportation costs are extremely high. The reason for that is because we do a bus buy-back program and very few school districts in Illinois do that. The bus buy-back program is no longer being offered. Geneva was one of the last school districts to be able to take part in the program. There are only so many used buses you can sell back to others. When we sell those buses back, the State of Illinois' school district budget forms do not show that as part of transportation. It is considered a sale of an asset and, consequently, it is not calculated into how they determine our transportation costs. Current and previous administrators have asked the state why they calculate transportation the way that they do and it is because they are not use to a bus buy-back program. Every year, we explain to the community that the District gets the money back but that it won't be reflected in the state's transportation report. Regarding HVAC costs, the Board did request information about those costs and the Director of Facility Operations reported that some of the HVAC upgrades we are making were not even available five years ago and the upgrades will save the District money in the long run.

Last year, I met with the Assistant Superintendent Business Services and reviewed the budget prior to it being adopted. It was a tough job. It's great that you make them available but you have to know what you are looking at for there to be any value. The fact that people don't come in to read the document is understandable. What is the current first day of school head count vs. last year? Is it going up or down? (We are pretty stable. We don't know the actual headcount yet because it is processed through the student-data system directly to the state. The state will issue the official report. We do know that we plan our sections based on the number of students we have and they have remained pretty stable.) When will we know the information? (When we receive the fall housing report from the state.) What will be the net effect on my property tax bill, the 1.5%? (The 1.5% was last year's levy and was already assessed on your home and you've already paid those taxes. Information and options for this year's levy, which will be for the following year's budget, will be presented to the Finance Committee and the Board during October and November and must be adopted in December. The CPI from last December was 3%. That is the maximum increase that could be taken.) So what is the net effect on my property taxes for next year? (It depends on where the assessed valuations come in and where new construction comes in. We won't know that until we receive all of the numbers from the assessor and put a levy together.) Do you know what it will take to keep it at zero? (It would probably take a lot less than what we got last year because, even though we'd levy zero percent, there will still be an increase depending on where the assessed valuation comes in. If the assessed valuation goes down, typically, your rate goes up because you have less people paying the whole, total dollar amount. It makes it a bigger "piece of the pie" for everyone else. Until all of the pieces are put together, I couldn't say exactly where your increase will come in. There will be some slight increase, but it won't be substantial, depending on EAV. It's starting to come back.) Will the District look at what it takes to keep it at zero? Will that be a priority? (Of course we will. The administration will present several scenarios for the levy - whether to increase; whether to keep it level; whether to decrease; what we might do with dollars to abate back on debt payments. We will look at all different scenarios for the levy. These are all topics that will be considered and discussed at Finance Committee meetings. The levy discussion actually started at the September Finance Committee meeting and will continue through December. In January and February we'll be discussing abatement and available reserve funds. During the meetings there will be discussion about the tax impact. Following discussion at the Finance Committee level,

there will be discussion by the full Board. Finance Committee meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. prior to the first Board meeting of the month and are open to the public. There is a wonderful presentation prepared by the Assistant Superintendent Business Services on the District's web site that walks one through the mechanics of how the levy works. Last year, when the Board's Finance Committee was still just a Task Force, we met with the Assistant Superintendent Business Services and explored options, one of which was a zero levy, but we need to point out that even if the District requests not a single dollar over what we requested the prior year, the rate was still going to go up for two reasons. First, the EAV fell considerably. Second, on the bond side, as we already pointed out, our debt service is climbing. What we tried to do last year was look at scenarios for a levy on the operating side and the bond side, which is set by the County and is contractual. We tried to determine what would yield the lowest possible increase to our taxpayers. It did not turn out to be a zero-based levy but we will look at all options again this year and that will be the revenue for next year's budget. We are always working on a multi-year cycle.) Please try to focus on keeping the taxes at zero increase. The homeowners would like that. I've seen a 17% increase in taxes in the past six years and it has to stop.

How do you break percentage salary down between wages and benefits? Is there a formula or a percentage that goes to health care? A percentage that goes to pension? (Yes there is and there are different account numbers in the budget for salaries and benefits and we can break it down by percentages. The Assistant Superintendent Business Services offered to meet with the speaker and go over this with him.)

At 8:45 p.m., there being no other questions from the public, the Vice President closed the hearing.

4.2 2012-2013 Budget Adoption

Motion by Wilson, second by Stith, to approve the 2012-2013 Budget, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), McCormick, Stith, Wilson, Henry, Nowak. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent reported that building-level data meetings are occurring throughout the District, as well as regional data workshops to meet state requirements regarding the new principal and teacher evaluation models. We are focusing on the framework for teaching. He thanked the evaluation committee members for their collaboration as we work to implement the new evaluation system. High school Homecoming is October 5th and 6th. Back-to-School Open House events had a high level of parent attendance and he thanked staff members for their efforts in preparation for the events and the Board members who were able to attend them.

The Vice President noted that while the Board President has no students enrolled in Geneva's schools, he attended Back-to-School Open Houses at three different buildings.

6. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Board Policy Updates: Second Reading/Adoption

6.1.1 2432, Driver Education, Amended

6.1.2 2464, Program for Academically Talented Students, Amended

6.1.3 2510, Adoption of Textbooks, Amended

6.1.4 2521, Selection of Instructional Materials and Equipment, Amended

6.1.5 7540.03, Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety, Amended

6.1.6 7540.04, Staff Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety, Amended

6.1.7 8315, Information Management, New

The Policy Committee Chair reported that she'd received no feedback and none of these policies had been revised since the first reading.

Motion by McCormick, second by Henry, to approve the policy updates, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Stith, Wilson, Henry, McCormick, Nowak. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Geneva High School Program of Study Proposals

The Assistant Superintendent Curriculum and Instruction reported that the high school principal and associate principal were both in attendance to answer any questions from the Board regarding the 2013-2014 proposed course modifications to better meet the needs of our students. The modifications reflect changes in course titles and prerequisites and should not impact staffing levels.

Board discussion, comments, questions: As Chairman of the Finance Committee, am pleased to see these proposals will not have an impact on staffing levels for next year's budget. Thanks to the high school administration for doing a wonderful job over the past several years of trying to creatively adapt what we already have and make it work for our students. However, in my opinion we won't be able to continue to not add courses at the high school. It is important that we continue to keep our high school's curriculum current and updated and I hope that the economy is turning around so that we might be able to do that.

8. INFORMATION

8.1 FOIA Requests & Responses

8.2 Suspension Report

No discussion.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

9.1 Monthly Financial Reports & Interfund Transfers

9.2 Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE, New Hires

New Hires Certified

Themanson, Lauren, HES/HSS, Instrumental Music, .40 FTE, Start Date 9/11/2012

Resignations Certified

Rick, Rebecca, HES/HSS, Instrumental Music, .40 FTE, Effective 9/13/2012

9.3 Revised 2012-2013 School Board Meeting Calendar

9.4 2012 Administrator & Teacher Compensation Report

9.5 Disposition of Executive Session Minutes January through June 2012

9.6 Disposition of Verbatim Record of Closed Meetings January through December 2010

No discussion.

Motion by Wilson, second by Henry, to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 through 9.6, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Wilson, Henry, McCormick, Stith, Nowak. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION

None.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Policy Committee, Finance Committee, Facilities Task Force, Communication Task Force, Joint PTO, Geneva All-Sports Boosters, Geneva Music Boosters, Geneva High School Theater Boosters, Academic Foundation, GEARS, K-12 Discipline Committee, Geneva Coalition for Youth, PRIDE, REMS Grant

Board members reported the following: They attended PTO meetings at Mill Creek, Williamsburg, and Geneva Middle School South to discuss the Board's 2012-2013 goals. Questions at the Mill Creek PTO meeting focused on the elementary boundary study to be conducted this academic year.

They also attended a P.R.I.D.E. volunteer meeting and reported that we probably have more P.R.I.D.E. volunteers right now than we have teachers willing to use them.

The Illinois Association of School Boards' Kishwaukee Division meeting is Thursday, September 27th, at the new DeKalb high school. Board members were encouraged to attend if their schedule allowed.

The parent volunteers in our school district do an amazing amount of work through the PTO and other parent volunteer groups. Would like to note that as Board members, we understand the value that each person has in their profession, whether they are a salesman, a lawyer, nurse, teacher, or someone who collects garbage. Each person is a value and an

asset in any society. The Board members realize this is a community and this is a community school district. This is not Silicon Valley. This is not Naperville, where there are several school districts and several corporate headquarters. This is Geneva. We are all in this together and that is what we are all thinking about.

To the earlier speaker that suggested that some of the Board members are on her side, I don't know where you got that idea, but it's not true. As a Board, we are working in unanimity to try to work with the teachers and to get to a resolution. The Board is not allowed to talk about anything else but I feel that speaker's statement was erroneous.

The Geneva High School Theater Boosters are working through the process to obtain nonprofit status in order to raise money, hold charitable functions, and allow donors to receive a tax credit.

Kudos to the high school students participating in the Model U.N. program. They comported themselves very well and I want to thank the staff members who worked with the students and facilitated the event. I attended a Kane County Regional Office of Education focus group on the functions of their office. I would suggest that as they continue their strategic planning process, we should see more of them and that we invite them to do a presentation at a future Board meeting. (There was consensus to extend an invitation to the ROE to make a presentation at a future meeting.)

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC BODY AND ITS EMPLOYEES OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)]; AND PENDING LITIGATION [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)];

At 8:33 p.m., motion by Henry, second by Wilson, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, and pending litigation. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Henry, McCormick, Stith, Wilson, Nowak. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

The Vice President announced that action was not anticipated following the executive session.

At 8:40 p.m., following a break for the room to clear, the Board moved into executive session.

At 9:19 p.m., motion by Henry, second by Wilson, and with unanimous consent, the Board returned to open session.

14. ACTION POSSIBLE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

None taken.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:20 p.m., motion by McCormick, second by Wilson, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____ PRESIDENT
(Date)

SECRETARY _____ RECORDING
SECRETARY