

Achieve Excellence and Empower Students to Succeed

Educate and prepare students with the **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS,** and **PERSONAL QUALITIES** to be productive citizens.



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, October 27, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Coultrap Educational Services Center, 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

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

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

District staff present: Doug Drexler, Associate Principal Geneva High School; Terry Bleau, Principal Geneva Middle School South; Dave Carli, Principal Geneva Middle School North; Tom Rogers, Principal Geneva High School; Todd Latham, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services; George Petmezas, Director Learning & Teaching; Dr. Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

Others present: Brian Clairmont, Alicia Hann, Theresa Kettlewell, Shannon Cournaya, Stephanie Anderson, Robbie Keller, Lisa Oleson, Josh Oleson, Blake Oleson, Joslyn Oleson, Sheila Goodfellow, Jason & Sara Keller, Kathleen Papasevastos, Jonathan Papasevastos, Kerrigan Smith, Anderson Family, Lisa Meister, Brian & Kelly Torrence, Jim & Kim Quisling, Cherie Clairmont, Richard & Amy Klein, Mary & Cate Costello, Phil Trimble, Dylan Anderson, Ben Clairmont, Lian Goodfellow, Noah Kettlewell, Blake Makowski, Logan Novay, Ethan Olds, Will Quisling, Nick Torrence, Matt Trimble, Emmeline Anderson, Hailey Henson, Benjamin Schmidt, Eric Hatczel, Troy Potsic, Esther Crandell, Chloe Cournaya, Corlett Klein, John Thomas, Shawn Costello, Cathy Fuller, Timothy McQuesten.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, October 14, 2025
2. Executive Session, October 14, 2025

Motion by Hooks second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 2.1-2.2. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Choi. Abstained, none (0).

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Tradition of Excellence: GHS Students (Policy 6:330)
Boys Golf, National Merit Commended, Girls Tennis

Boys Golf State Qualifiers

Dylan Anderson	Noah Kettlewell	Blake Oleson
Ben Clairmont	Blake Makowski	Will Quisling
Ian Goodfellow	Logan Novay	Nick Torrence
Robbie Keller	Ethan Olds	Matt Trimble

National Merit Commended

Emmeline Anderson	Hailey Henson	Jonathan Papsevastos
Alexa Cosky	Ryleigh Heskin	Benjamin Schmidt
Catherine Costello	Kirill Lunin	Somansh Tripathi
Ethan Ellis		

Girls Tennis State Qualifiers

Chloe Cournaya
Corlett Klein

2. GHS Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD Club) – Timothy McQuesten & Lettie Klein & GHS Sponsors Lisa Meister & Kerrigan Smith
Staff and students from the GHS SADD Club shared that when this club first began it was students against drunk driving, then it evolved into students against drinking and drugs, and now it has evolved into destructive decisions. We look at decisions kids are making on the weekend and how adults can be more open and inviting so that kids will talk to them. The nation celebrates this week each year to send a message to the community about taking responsibility for their health and making healthy decisions regarding substance abuse. For some teens, refusal skills are effective in teaching them how to analyze the influences around them, but for other teens a strictly “just say no” approach is not as helpful. We need to help teens who want to take steps towards positive changes in their lives, even if it is small steps. The major principles of harm reductions are care, support, actions, and response. This year’s theme is “Life is a Puzzle, Solve it Drug Free.” Teens who are involved in their community have a sense of belonging and are less likely to engage in risky behavior. The six principles of a healthy life style are having a natural high that is your passion, surrounding yourself with positive peer influences, finding a positive mentor to encourage you, having a firm belief in your talents and abilities, setting goals for yourself and your future, and building resilience to help you get through challenges in life. At the high school, there are many things we do to encourage students to stand up to peer pressure. As a community we can offer fun things for teens to do to encourage healthy decisions. As a parent, we encourage you to have open dialogue with your kids.

3. Middle School SEL Presentation – Terry Bleau & Dave Carli
Terry Bleau and Dave Carli shared that new this year at the middle school campus is that every Monday twenty-nine minutes is set aside for social emotional learning. All certified staff are assigned to smaller groups of students and are utilizing the newer version of the Second Step program. They used the older version in the past, but the newer version has more lessons and better content/presentations. Previously, each content area gave up two days a year to deliver their Second Step lesson, but more lessons would mean giving up more days of instruction. By moving to a Monday plan, it now allows all classes to still meet. To make this work, each class had to be four minutes shorter on the first day of the week. This allows for all content areas to share the time loss instead of just the core content areas. The units in Second Step include: mindset and goals; developing a positive sense of self; thoughts, emotions, and decisions; and managing relations and social conflict. There are six bullying lessons we are using to separate the units, because this is a topic we want students to see all year long. Each grade level works on a different lesson during each unit. Next year we will collect staff feedback on how it went this year. This will allow us to modify and adapt the plans as we continue to use the Second Step program.

Board comments, questions, concerns: How are we communicating this with parents and what are we sharing about these lessons? (We did the basic communication at the beginning of the year. With it being the first year, we have not been sending things home every week or month, but this is something we could add to the newsletter.) Are there plans to collect student feedback? (We will take that into consideration during this first year.) Two years ago, we did a pilot program at one of the middle schools. Has this been done away with? (It was at South, and it has been dissolved. We are embedding it into each class period instead.) We chose the pilot because it was not working and now, we are going back to how it was. Are we doing any data research on this? (During the time leading up to the implementation we did a lot of research and reading about students and their developmental levels. We learned that our students are not developed, so we needed to change some of our practices in the standard classroom.) When you do the evaluation of this program you have to include the criteria of the pilot program you did previously and where have you moved on that.

4. Dual Credit Study Update (Policy 6:310) – Doug Drexler

Doug Drexler shared that the dual credit program allows students to simultaneously earn both high school and college credit. High schools can partner with colleges for specific courses that are taught by high school teachers who are approved by the college. Students must meet the same prerequisites as on-campus students. Geneva High School currently offers fifteen dual credit courses, which offers benefits like reduced duration and cost of earning an undergraduate degree, increased course flexibility, and students are more adaptable and marketable to employers. Some universities are still hesitant but are becoming more open to the idea. Expanding the dual credit program helps students meet their general education requirements and the courses would be open to a wide range of students. High school faculty must meet specific requirements to teach dual credit courses. The high school has laid out some strong contenders for dual credit courses in the core departments with some rolling out in the 2026-2027 school year. When fully enacted, a high percentage of students will be able to have access to college credit hours. We will work with Human Resources to develop the personnel infrastructure, look at calendar implications, look at potential changes to district rankings, and continue with Phase 2 of the Dual Credit Expansion Study.

Board comments, questions, concerns: My concern is about courses like speech, critical film, and horticulture. Will those only be offered as dual credit? (One mandate from years ago is it had to be dual credit students only in the class, however that has changed. We really are not changing the experience or difficulty.) We need to think about how we communicate this information to students and parents. (We do educate students and parents on dual credit.) Have we looked at how much it would affect our budget to have staff that are qualified to teach dual credit courses? (Yes, we have. Most of our teachers already have a master's degree, so their compensation is based on already having that. There will need to be conversations about hiring teachers that already have a master's and how do we get our current teachers to that point that do not have a Master's.) You talked about having an earlier start date and how that could affect dual credit courses. Can you elaborate on this? (More specifically, the end date is the end date of the college course and that is typically a week before our winter break begins. So, in the first semester there is already a week shaved off. To get students through the topics, we would like to check a box that we touched on that topic briefly.)

5. Proposed 2025 Draft Tax Year Levy (Policy 4:10) – Todd Latham

Todd Latham presented the 2025 draft levy, which is composed of the Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV), new property/construction, Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), Consumer Price Index-Urban (CPI-U), tax rates/max rates, total extension, revenue recapture, and Truth in Taxation. The estimated 2026 tax

receipts, minus the bonds and interest, are \$108,142,811 (3.35%). The tentative levy will be presented in November and the final levy and hearing in December. At the December meeting the board will vote on the Truth in Taxation Compliance Resolution, Certificate of Tax Levy, and Tax Levy Resolution.

4. 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.

Alicia Hann, Family and Engagement Specialist, from Birth to Five Illinois, which is a non-profit organization working to build a stronger, more inclusive, and equitable early childhood system shared that they were created to help better understand how to help families with young children thrive in their communities. Some of the caregivers and residents are residents of your school district. Her job is to listen and share back to both sides. Locally, they see programs and services that do not have nearly enough pre-school, childcare, and early intervention openings for children. They share the wants and needs to the leadership to bring about change. Some of those include our Regional Office of Education and the nine school districts that comprise it, as well as local and state elected officials. Our team is currently working with providers, local community leaders, libraries, and families to address the recommendations that they have talked to us about. As they continue to engage with local leadership, they also seek to engage with local district administration. School districts play a critical role in aiding parents and caregivers. There are reports that can be found on their website at www.birthtofiveil.com.

5. 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 how to do the legislator and public acts lookup at www.ilga.gov. She touched on Public Act 104-0075, which is about public school seat belts. There were a couple of questions regarding this public act at the last meeting, and it does define that it is newly purchased school buses that would need to be equipped with seat belts. It also states that the district does not have to ensure that everyone is using the seat belt or that it is fastened correctly. The General Assembly is back in session tomorrow for veto session trying to push some last things through until they meet again next year.

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

The Superintendent shared that District 304 offers over 150 different after school activities for students to participate in. This includes athletics, arts, activities, clubs, and much more. These activities are supported by over 285 staff members. He also shared the district's plan for inclement weather. The number one priority is to have in-person learning, however, depending on the situation there could be a late start, an E-learning day, or an emergency day. This year the district is looking at different start dates for the 2026-2027 school year. They are August 13 and August 20. The Calendar Committee is also looking at a potential two-year adoption to allow parents time for planning. Lastly, the Illinois School Report Card will be released in a few days. It will be the same test but will have new cut scores and proficiency ranges. These changes will create a significant variation in rigor across grades and subjects, districts will see a drop in math proficiency in grades 3-8, and districts will see higher proficiency in ELA compared to math. He shared the scatterplot of all unit districts in Illinois, which demonstrates the percent proficient by expenditure per pupil. Geneva continues to perform well above the state average in all content areas and grade levels.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Is this only happening on the Illinois Report Card or will we see this on some of the testing we do? (Where you will see the changes is on Illinois Assessment of Readiness, which is a state mandated test.) Something you and your team need to do is look at the cost per student, because we are on the higher side.

7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. IASB Legislative Resolution & Constitutional Amendments

The resolution and constitutional amendments were presented at the last meeting. There were a couple of questions regarding the resolution for seat belts on buses. One was a question about whether this was only for smaller districts or districts with lower income. The resolution indicates that they want to establish a school bus safety equipment grant to provide financial assistance. There was also a question about whether students had to use the safety belts, and we do not. We also do not need to provide any training. There was no information on crashes or injuries. For our transportation department it will be becoming familiar with this change, but the biggest thing will be the cost. There was also a waiver option that would go through 2034. The board has agreed to vote "Do Adopt" for the resolution and the constitutional amendments.

Motion by Cabeen second by Hooks, to approve Jackie Forbes to vote "Do Adopt" at the Delegate Assembly on the above-listed, item 3.1. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Choi. Abstained, none (0).

8. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. GHS Proposed New and Modified Courses for 2026-2027 (Policy 6:40)

Doug Drexler presented the GHS course recommendations for the 2026-2027 school year. The recommendation includes one new course and six existing courses. The Yearbook and Yearbook Leadership courses will be opened to freshman. The Computer Science Principles course will be split into two semester courses. The AP Computer Science A course will have an additional possible prerequisite pathway for students. The Campaigns & Elections and the Social Issues in Sports courses will be open to sophomores. The Psychology 2 course will be brought back and have a prerequisite of 'B' or better in Psychology 1 (formerly Psychology). We will also seek dual credit status for students completing both Psychology 1 & 2. It also includes informational updates regarding dual credit courses, NCAA-approved courses, and the junior/senior fitness courses. These new and modified courses have been reviewed by department chairs, Counseling & Advising Department, and administrators. Some of these recommendations will require resources to implement, but are unlikely to require significant changes in staffing, space, or materials.

Board comments, questions, concerns: When you are opening these courses to lower grade levels what happens if there are too many that want to take it, will the juniors and seniors have priority? (Yes.) For the computer courses will there be any proficiency requirements? (Not in the course selection process itself, but in the first week of the course there is.)

9. INFORMATION

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule (Policy 2:220)
2. Suspension Report (Policy 7:200)
3. Geneva Public Library Partnership Update

10. 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 Report – September (Policy 4:50)
3. Amergis Healthcare Staffing Agreement
4. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$2,484.79, Geneva All Sports Boosters, for GHS sports annual letters & pins and fall senior night flowers & popcorn (Policy 8:80)

Motion by Ansari second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.4. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Choi. Abstained, none (0).

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Policy Committee, Finance Committee, Boundary Task Force, Communications Task Force, Facilities Task Force, Technology Task Force, 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

Board members attended the WES PTO meeting. This meeting was well attended and very robust with lots of information. The most important part of attending these PTO meetings is that we get to see and interact with parents. Thank you to all parents that participate in PTOs. A board member attended the world language induction ceremony. There was good representation of our French, German, and Spanish programs. Congrats to those students. A board member attended a play at the high school put on by the Illinois Theater Honor Society. It was called "A Visit to the Rainbow Bridge." Congrats to all our fall athletes. Thank you to Timothy and Lettie for speaking tonight. Thanks to tonight's presenters for the valuable information. Congratulations to our National Merit Scholar students. Board members attended the Technology Task Force meeting and got a preview of the capital expenses coming up and a system update and the challenges they are working through. A board member attended the Kishwaukee Division meeting last week hosted by the St. Charles School District and was able to talk with other board members. A board member attended the football game last Friday and it was senior night. Thank you to Ms. Hann for her public comment on issues that are affecting young students in our community. A shout out to the Theater Boosters who have Romeo & Juliet coming up November 13-15. The lights in the PD room were recently replaced with LED lights, as part of the lighting upgrade the district is doing.

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, OR DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVE AS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS IN A PARK, RECREATIONAL, OR EDUCATIONAL SETTING, OR SPECIFIC VOLUNTEERS OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY, INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE, A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL WHO SERVES AS AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR IN A PARK, RECREATIONAL, OR EDUCATIONAL SETTING, OR A VOLUNTEER OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR AGAINST LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY TO DETERMINE ITS VALIDITY. HOWEVER, A MEETING TO CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN COMPENSATION TO A SPECIFIC EMPLOYEE THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAGE INCREASE TRANSPARENCY ACT MAY NOT BE CLOSED AND MUST BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)]; COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC BODY AND ITS EMPLOYEES OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, OR DELIBERATIONS CONCERNING THE SALARY SCHEDULES FOR ONE OR MORE CLASSES OF EMPLOYEES [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)]. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)**

At 9:27 p.m., motion by Ansari, second by Radlinski, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to appointment, employment, compensation, or discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the

public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee that is subject to the local government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and must be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act; collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning the salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

At 9:49 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:50 p.m., motion by Bellino second by Forbes and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____ PRESIDENT
(Date)

SECRETARY _____