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

GENEVA CUSD 304

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, August 10, 2026, 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, 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: Todd Latham, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Dr. George Petmezas, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Dr. Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

Others present: Dalena Welkomer, Cathy Fuller, Alan Schwing, Matthew Karras.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, July 13, 2026
2. Executive Session, July 13, 2026

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. Retreat Session, July 20, 2026

Motion by Bellino second by Hooks, to approve the above-listed minutes, item 2.3. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, one (1), Ansari.

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. E-Learning Plan Hearing (Policy 4:180, 6:185)
    1. Public Hearing Agenda

    At 7:05 p.m., the board president opened the hearing.

    2. E-Learning Plan

    Dr. George Petmezas shared that the district is required to have an E-Learning Plan in place in the event there are adverse weather conditions. This plan must be submitted every three years. These specific requirements must be part of this plan: (1) the day must be at least five clock hours; (2) students must be able to access technology and internet; (3) provide learner support; (4) monitoring of participation; (5) provide eLearning guidelines; (6) provide professional development; (7)

association/employee group consultation; (8) evaluation; and (9) communication. The benefits of an eLearning day are that it allows for the end of the school year to be predictable and constant, allows educators to advance learning more effectively, ensures that end of the year activities are maintained, promotes flexible learning and operations, and promotes learning beyond the school walls. In order to move forward with a distance learning plan the Board of Education must approve the plan. It then is submitted to the Kane County ROE for final approval.

3. Questions/Comments from Board Members

In the event that there is cold weather, has there been a scenario where there is an ice storm that has created power outages? (No, but if there is no power, we would probably call an emergency day instead of an e-learning day

4. Questions/Comments from Audience Members

None.

5. President Closes Hearing

At 7:19 p.m., the board president closed the hearing.

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.*

None.

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 that Public Act 104-0602, which was House Bill 4375, has passed. This has to do with the transfer of funds and will help us as we are working on the budget. House Bill 4137 was also signed and is now a public act. The act allows districts to use existing budgeted funds, including transportation funds, to provide extended stays for unhoused students. It does not provide extra money for the districts. At the last meeting, she talked about evidence-based funding and this year we received an additional $4,750 over last year. More information on this can be found on the Illinois State Board of Education website. A local legislator shared that the General Assembly has been talking about district funding specific to capital needs, which is a need for many districts.

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

The Superintendent shared that all the summer capital projects are substantially complete and finished ahead of schedule. Planning for next summer's capital projects has already begun and you will start to see things coming forward for approval in the coming months. Thank you to our operations team for all their hard work. To fund these building improvements the district has been using existing reserves and has been proactive and forward-thinking in their planning. The Board of Education was recently able to have a traveling retreat where they toured several buildings to look at the needs of each building and to look at the work that was currently taking place. ParentVUE is live and parents should have access through the ParentVUE app. There will be ongoing and additional training for staff as we continue forward. There are many features in Synergy, but they will be rolled out over time. Thank you to everyone for their effort and patience as we navigate through this transition. At our next meeting, we will highlight our goals and begin to talk about next steps with our Strategic Plan for 2026-27. There will be an opportunity for discussion, thoughts, and feedback as we look ahead to the winter retreat.

7. **BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION**

1. Board Action on Resolution to Adopt E-Learning Plan (Policy 4:180, 6:185)

Motion by Radlinski second by Hooks, to approve the above-listed resolution, item 7.1. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

2. Board Action on 2026-2027 Proposed Resource/Textbook Adoption (Policy 6:40)

Dr. Petmezas shared that these textbooks have been on display at the district office and are now being brought forward for approval from the Board.

Board comments, questions, concerns: The two textbooks that are in the 3-ring binders will be books, right? (No, they actually come in a 3-ring binder. Students will also have access to textbooks online.)

Motion by Hooks second by Choi, to approve the above-listed, item 7.2. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

3. Board Action on Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed $22,000,000 General Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2026B, for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds of the district, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the proposed sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof

Dalena Welkomer from Raymond James shared that the resolution to be voted on sets forth the parameters and gives those that have authority to sell the bonds at a future date without further board action. There are parameters within the resolution that have to be met in order for those that have authority to bind the district. Based on current market conditions we are estimating gross debt savings to be $650,000 and present value savings of about $590,000. The refinancing is being done with an accelerated amortization, which means that essentially your annual debt service is no different to capture the savings at the end. Once the resolution is approved the next step would be going for a bond reading, which we are targeting for August. We would then sell the bonds in early September and close in early October.

Board comments, questions, concerns: With October, November, and December, are you using monthly rates to get the best rate? (The market is going to continue to fluctuate on a monthly basis, so it would be hard to say that November would be better than October. The key benefit to having a parameters resolution is that the delegates have the flexibility, with Raymond James guidance, to make a decision on when it is the best time.)

Motion by Radlinski second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed $22,000,000 General Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2026B, for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds of the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the proposed sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof, item 7.3. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

8. **WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION**

9. **INFORMATION**

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule (Policy 2:220)
2. FOIA Requests & Board Correspondence (Policy 2:250)
3. FY2025-26 End of Year Recap (Policy 4:80)

10. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE, New Hires (Policies 3:50, 5:200, 5:280)
2. Disposition of Verbatim Record of Closed Meetings January 2024 through December 2024
3. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: $4,500, Ken's Auto Center ($1,500), State Bank of Geneva ($1,500), Feagan's Law Group ($1,500), for GHS athletics team supplies/uniforms purchases/needs (Policy 8:80)
4. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: $10,000, HES PTO, for playground equipment (Policy 8:80)

Motion by Forbes second by Choi, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.4. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Board members thanked Dr. Barrett and Brian Pedersen for the traveling retreat to see firsthand the needs of district buildings. ParentVUE is open and with any new system comes some learning so please be patient. Board members are looking forward to opening day and the start of the new school year. This meeting is a reminder of all the things that go on behind the scenes like textbook adoption, the rollout of Synergy, and the e-Learning Plan. The Facilities Task Force met today, and it was an interesting meeting. We received a list of around fifteen to twenty projects that all had "completed" next to them. There were no major overruns on any of the projects, and all were completed. You will see many things coming forward in the next few months to plan and prepare for 2027 summer projects. The Policy Committee met today with thirty-one policies to review. These policies will come forward to the board for a first reading at the next meeting. Thank you to Dalena Welkomer from Raymond James for presenting information on the refinancing of debt. It will be interesting to see how the governor's ban on phones in the classroom evolves. Congrats to the technology team for rolling out Syngery early. A board member attended the young entrepreneur event in Geneva. It was a rainy day, but the students were still enthusiastic and there were so many things to look at. A board member attended National Night Out which was held at Geneva Middle School South. There were many agencies there as well as families. Thank you to our donors for their generous donations. It is great to see how local businesses and our PTOs help our students.

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE SETTING OF A PRICE FOR SALE OR LEASE OF PROPERTY OWNED BY THE PUBLIC BODY [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6)]; DISCUSSION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS LAWFULLY CLOSED UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, WHETHER FOR PURPOSES OF APPROVAL BY THE BODY OF THE MINUTES OR SEMI-ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE MINUTES AS MANDATED BY SECTION 2.06 [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21). [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)

At 8:02 p.m., motion by Forbes, second by Bellino, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body; discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by section 2.06.

At 8:36 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

14. POSSIBLE ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Disposition of Closed Session Minutes – January 2026 through June 2026
Motion by Radlinski second by Forbes, to approve keeping the above executive minutes closes, item 14.1. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

15. ADJOURNMENT
At 8:37 p.m., motion by Forbes second by Bellino and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED ____________________________ ________________________PRESIDENT
(Date)

SECRETARY ____________________________