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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, August 24, 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 Cathy Fuller 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: Cathy Fuller, Matthew Karras, Julie Filipski.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, August 10, 2026
2. Executive Session, August 10, 2026

Motion by Ansari second by Choi, 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. Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Hearing (Policy 4:10)

1. Public Hearing Agenda

At 7:04 p.m., the Board President opened the hearing.

2. 2026-2027 Budget Presentation

Todd Latham presented the final FY budget to the board, which had previously participated in the development of financial assumptions, reviewed the preliminary and draft budgets, and approved the tentative budget.

Mr. Latham reviewed the major changes from the tentative budget, including adjustments to staffing levels, grant expenditures and reimbursements, salaries and compensation, health insurance and dental benefits, Mid-Valley and Fox Valley Career Center tuition, personal property replacement taxes, Evidence-Based Funding, capital projects, and fund transfers.

The proposed budget reflects total revenues of \$124,488,203, a decrease from

the tentative budget, and total expenditures of \$131,110,571, which are also lower than the tentative budget. Despite ongoing efforts to reduce expenditures and manage costs, the district is projecting a deficit of \$6,622,368. The district plans to utilize fund transfers to offset the deficit for the current year but will need to explore additional long-term financial solutions in the future.

Mr. Latham explained that, upon Board approval, the district will file the budget with the Kane County Clerk's Office, submit it to the Illinois State Board of Education, update the Treasurer's Report, prepare for the 2026 tax levy, continue work on the five-year financial projection model, and begin developing assumptions and forecasts for FY 2027-2028.

3. Questions/Comments from Board Members

With the reduction in the transportation funds, are we still planning to purchase the same number of buses this year? (We think we will be able to purchase eight this year. Originally, we had hoped to purchase ten.)

4. Questions/Comments from Audience Members

Why is there such a significant difference in Health Life Safety from 2026 to 2027? (In 2026, we were finishing up a ten-year cycle and in 2027 we are beginning a new ten year-cycle.)

5. President Closes Hearing

At 7:24 p.m., the Board President closed the hearing.

2. Strategic Plan Goals Update (Policy 3:10) – Dr. Andy Barrett

Dr. Andy Barrett provided an update on the district's Strategic Plan, highlighting key accomplishments achieved during the 2025-26 school year across the four strategic goal areas.

Goal #1: Enrollment & Staffing Significant progress was made in managing enrollment and staffing needs, including adjustments to elementary attendance boundaries, continued implementation of the middle school structure transition, and reductions in Geneva High School staffing based on enrollment trends. The district also finalized a Developer Donation Agreement related to the La Fox development, implemented an elementary class size target process, collaboratively updated employee contracts, and working agreements, and completed the initial phase of the Support Staff Classification Study.

Goal #2: College & Career Pathways The district advanced college and career readiness efforts by developing a long-range plan for dual credit expansion and increasing dual credit course offerings. Additional accomplishments included launching a new student college and career platform, expanding career exploration opportunities for students in grades K-8, and continuing discussions with community partners to strengthen future pathways for students.

Goal #3: Cultural Competencies Efforts to promote cultural competencies included elementary-level professional development and ongoing staff discussions, implementation of monthly cultural themes across elementary library media centers, and the realignment of elementary Accelerated and Enriched (A/E) literacy instruction. Geneva High School also expanded its cross-cultural and community service initiatives, while the district partnered with the Geneva Park District to develop a Community Cultural Fair.

Goal #4: Community Engagement The district strengthened community connections through a new library card partnership with the Geneva Public Library, multiple Community Connects events, targeted communication campaigns, enhancements to communication practices, and improvements to the accessibility of electronic communications.

Looking ahead, the district will continue reflecting on and refining its work to establish priorities for the 2026-27 school year, collaborate on the superintendent's evaluation process, and maintain ongoing communication and community awareness efforts.

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."

None.

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

Dr. Barrett shared highlights from Opening Day and reinforced the district's mission to support and inspire students. The school year began with staff professional development during the first week, followed by the first day of student attendance on Thursday.

School activities and community events are already underway, including the recent Corn Boil and the first football game of the season. Dr. Barrett noted that these events have provided great opportunities to connect with students, families, staff, and community members.

For the 2026-27 school year, the district has implemented Synergy as its new student information system. While the rollout has been successful overall, staff continue to work through a few minor issues and system bugs as part of the transition process.

7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. Board Action on Resolution to Adopt Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (Policy 4:10)

Motion by Hooks second by Forbes, 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).

8. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. Policy Updates: First Reading – **Updated, Reviewed & New** (Policy 2:240)
 1. Policy 2:30, School District Elections – Review & Monitor
 2. Exhibit 2:70-E, Checklist for Filling Board Vacancies by Appointment – Rewritten
 3. Exhibit 2:120-E3, Resolution to Appoint a Delegate to the Illinois Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly – New
 4. Exhibit 2:220-E1, Board Treatment of Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings & Minutes – Rewritten
 5. Exhibit 2:220-E3, Closed Meeting Minutes – Rewritten
 6. Exhibit 2:220-E5, Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes – Rewritten
 7. Exhibit 2:220-E8, Board of Education Records Maintenance Requirements & FAQ's - Rewritten
 8. Policy 2:230, Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board - Updated
 9. Policy 3:40, Superintendent - Review & Monitor
 10. Policy 3:50, Administrative Personnel Other Than the Superintendent -

- Review & Monitor
11. Policy 3:60, Administrative Responsibility of the Building Principal - Review & Monitor
 12. Policy 3:70, Succession of Authority - Review & Monitor
 13. Policy 4:120, Food Services - Review & Monitor
 14. Policy 4:175, Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications - Review & Monitor
 15. Policy 5:40, Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease - Updated
 16. Policy 5:70, Religious Holidays - Updated
 17. Policy 5:110, Recognition for Service - Review & Monitor
 18. Policy 5:140, Solicitations By or From Staff - Review & Monitor
 19. Policy 5:185, Family and Medical Leave - Review & Monitor
 20. Policy 5:240, Suspension – Updated
 21. Policy 6:70, Teaching About Religions - Updated
 22. Policy 6:80, Teaching About Controversial Issues - Updated
 23. Policy 6:190, Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities - Updated
 24. Policy 7:30, Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer - Review & Monitor
 25. Policy 7:40, Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students - Updated
 26. Policy 7:80, Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance - Review & Monitor
 27. Policy 7:130, Student Rights & Responsibilities – Updated
 28. Policy 7:330, Student Use of Buildings – Equal Access - Rewritten
 29. Policy 7:345, Use of Educational Technologies; Student Data Privacy and Security - Review & Monitor
 30. Policy 8:70, Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities - Updated
 31. Policy 8:100, Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies - Review & Monitor

Policy Committee Chair Stephanie Bellino reported that most of the policies reviewed were recommended for monitoring or required only minor updates. Policies 2:230, 7:30, 7:40, and Exhibit 2:120-E3 warranted additional discussion and review. Policies 2:230 and 7:30 required minor revisions to align with current district practices and PRESS recommendations.

9. INFORMATION

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule (Policy 2:220)
2. FOIA Requests & Board Correspondence (Policy 2:250)

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 Financials - July Expenses & P-card Reports (Policy 4:40, 4:55)
3. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$4,850, Geneva Baseball Association, deposit for varsity baseball field turf (Policy 8:80)
4. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$7,000, Mocat, Inc. (Nobel House) (\$1,500), D & A Fox Valley Plumbing (\$1,500), E. Ray Construction (\$1,500), The Matts (\$2,500), for team supplies/uniform purchases/needs (Policy 8:80)
5. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$500, Wabash Valley College Bass Fishing Team, for GHS Bass Fishing Club activities account for the Titan Memorial (Policy 8:80)

Motion by Forbes second by Bellino, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.5. 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 shared their enthusiasm as the district begins the new school year,

extending a warm welcome to staff, students, and families. Several members attended the district's opening day event, noting that it was both inspiring and energizing. Members highlighted the opportunity to hear from alumni representing a variety of career paths and experiences, as well as a performance by the district's music staff.

Board members also attended the annual Corn Boil, recognizing it as a valued community tradition. An update was shared that the Theater Boosters will announce the upcoming year's productions next week. Appreciation was expressed to community members for their generous donations in support of students and district programs.

Looking ahead, board members noted that the Facilities Task Force is expected to present recommendations in October regarding projects planned for next summer. Timely action will be important to ensure project schedules remain on track. Members also acknowledged that the topics presented during the meeting were significant for the district's future and thanked Todd and his staff for their work in developing the proposed 2026-27 budget.

Finally, board members shared their excitement about attending the season's first football game, which concluded with a Geneva victory.

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)]; 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)]. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)

At 8:06 p.m., motion by Forbes, second by Ansari, 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; 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.

At 8:43 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:43 p.m., motion by Ansari second by Forbes and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____ PRESIDENT
(Date)

SECRETARY _____