

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 Tuesday, October 13, 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: Policy Committee Chair Stephanie Bellino, President Larry Cabeen, Dan Choi, Vice President/Finance Committee Chair Jackie Forbes, Willard Hooks, Paul Radlinski. Late: Molly Ansari. Absent: None.

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

District staff present: Tom Rogers, Principal Geneva High School; 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, Ame Kazmer, Jo Hogan, Julia Camp, Kerrilyn Coffland, Elizabeth Nguyen, Ryker Nguyen, Adam Rechkemmer, Lisa Rechkemmer, Kathy Krella, Michaelle Melnuk, Liz Foulkes, Matthew Karras, John Jonak, Katie Algrim.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, September 28, 2026
2. Executive Session, September 28, 2026

Motion by Choi second by Hooks, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 2.1-2.2.

On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks. Nays, none (0).

Absent, one (1), Ansari. Abstained, one (1), Radlinski.

Motion by Radlinski second by Choi, to approve Molly Ansari to join the meeting by phone. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Tradition of Excellence: GHS Students (Policy 6:330)
National Merit Commended

National Merit Commended

Ryker Nguyen	Lisa Rechkemmer
Gianna Oxler	Andrew Yang

2. Regional Office of Education (ROE) Update
Regional Superintendent John Jonak and Assistant Regional Superintendent Katie

Algrim from the Kane County Regional Office of Education (ROE) presented information to the Board regarding the services the ROE provides to school districts throughout Kane County. The ROE serves more than 100,000 students and over 9,000 educators across the county. Services include educator licensure and staffing support, school safety and compliance assistance, testing administration, and career pathway development. The ROE also provides professional development opportunities and student support services. Each year, the ROE hosts several countywide events, including the Educator of the Year Banquet, Tech Bash, the Scripps National Spelling Bee, and a student photography contest. Mr. Jonak and Ms. Algrim also highlighted their partnership with Geneva 304's Transportation Department in creating a back-to-school safety video reminding motorists how to respond when encountering stopped school buses.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Regarding student services, how does a cooperative integrate with what you are doing such as NIA or other cooperatives? (Here it is Mid Valley, and there is a board that meets. Some districts use the coop more depending on the needs of the students and the programming they have within their comprehensive school programs already.) Are they under your umbrella or are they independent? (When they create a cooperative together, they still need to comply with the same regulations, fire drills, and bus drills like the districts do.) Do you collaborate with private schools as well? (We have nine unit districts, but we also serve the private/non-public schools. We provide them with professional development, and we have networks with them as well.) Do they have the same Health Life Safety compliance as public schools? (Yes, but their compliance is different from public schools.) They also do not have licensure requirements for educators, so we help with that. We also assist with instructional coaching and mapping curriculum. Where does your funding come from? (We get around \$400,000 from the county, which we have reduced by 11.48% since we started. The rest of the funding comes from state or federal grants.)

3. 2026-27 Learning & Teaching Initiatives – Dr. George Petmezas
Dr. George Petmezas presented the district's 2026-27 Teaching & Learning goals and initiatives. He reported that the district adopted the HMH Into Reading program for grades K-5 in spring 2026. Teachers received professional development prior to the start of the school year and will continue to participate in ongoing training throughout the year. For K-8 numeracy, the Illinois Numeracy Plan was drafted during the 2025-26 school year and finalized in July 2026. With the current math curriculum having been in place for 13 years, a committee has been established to review the plan and curricular resources, with the goal of identifying two resources to pilot during the 2027-28 school year.

Dr. Petmezas also shared that the grades 6-8 science curriculum pilot began this fall, and teacher and student feedback will be reviewed to inform a future recommendation. In social studies, the grades 6-8 curriculum is being revised and strengthened to create greater consistency across schools while maintaining teacher flexibility. Regarding PreK-12 cultural competencies, professional development efforts continue, particularly at the middle school level, while elementary library media specialists are curating resources tied to monthly cultural themes. Additionally, new professional development opportunities are available through EmpowerEd, including full-day learning sessions focused on topics such as transforming teaching with AI, interactive whiteboard instruction, data-informed teaching practices, the Illinois Literacy Plan and disciplinary literacy, and executive functioning skills.

Board comments, questions, concerns: I would like to suggest that we bring teachers back in the spring to talk about the literacy curriculum. (We plan to do that.) Your social studies curriculum ends at the Vietnam war. With the pace of change in the world today, I find it difficult that we are not taking that further to be more current. (We

have had conversations around this, which is why we are talking about including topics that are post-World War II.) We can learn from what we did right with the HMH curriculum and maybe where we made mistakes when we are adopting math. Also, if we could please bring teachers in on all those presentations it would be helpful. It seems you have a focus on culture based on the books and things that you use. Is it only based on the country's or is it the culture? (Some of the PD that we provide focuses on cultures, just not where you come from. It is not just the heritage that you connect with. There is also disability culture and also truly understanding a perspective. While you are right that we are highlighting different cultures there are other aspects with which we are connecting.) What do you see in the future as far as gaps and initiatives? (When we look at elementary literacy curriculum, all students will leave with a similar experience regarding literacy. At the middle schools, there may be teachers that only taught one subject for years but now are teaching a subject other than that.) Have you seen any of that with how we changed the middle schools from having teams? (Yes.)

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 reasonably knowledgeable about local, state, national, and global education issues."

None.

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

The Superintendent shared that the district had a successful Homecoming Parade and received positive feedback regarding the student half-day. He expressed appreciation to parents, students, staff, and community members for their support in helping ensure the event was safe and successful.

He reported that the district is planning structural modifications to the Geneva Early Learning Program (GELP) beginning with the 2027-28 school year and beyond. The proposed changes include a four-day student week designed to provide more consistent and uninterrupted instructional time, increased access to staff, stronger classroom routines, better coordination of services and interventions, and an enhanced focus on student achievement and developmental growth. An open house is scheduled for November 11, and registration for the 2027-28 school year will begin in January.

The Superintendent also shared that a recently completed demographic study, based on local birth data, continues to indicate a declining enrollment trend. Additional information will be presented at a future Board meeting.

He noted that parent-teacher conferences were held last week and emphasized their importance as an opportunity for collaboration and communication between families and schools. He thanked families for their participation and engagement.

Lastly, he provided preliminary information regarding a solar energy proposal through the Illinois Shines Program involving the approximately twenty-eight acres of district-owned property located at Keslinger and Brundige Roads. Potential benefits of the proposal include land lease revenue and energy cost savings. Additional Board presentations and opportunities for community engagement will be provided as the proposal is further explored.

7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. Board Action on Red Ribbon Week Resolution

Dr. Barrett shared that the Board will adopt the Red Ribbon Week Resolution at tonight's meeting. He also noted that students from the SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Club will present at the next Board meeting on the dangers of drug and alcohol use.

Motion by Choi second by Radlinski, to approve the above-listed resolution, item 7.1. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Ansari. Abstained, none (0).

8. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. 2027-28 Draft School Calendar (Policy 6:20)

Dr. George Petmezas shared that the Calendar Committee has met twice this school year to discuss the 2027-28 school calendar. The committee has recommended a calendar that closely mirrors the current year's schedule, with staff returning on August 16 and students beginning classes on August 19.

He noted that the School Improvement Day scheduled for September 24 may need to be adjusted. The only other notable change is the School Improvement Day on April 14, which will no longer occur immediately before spring break.

Overall, there are very few changes from the current year's calendar. Kaneland School District will be undergoing construction and plans to begin its school year a couple of weeks later than usual. As a result, students enrolled in the Fox Valley Career Center will also begin classes later.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Did anyone check with O&M about summer projects and when those will be complete? (Yes.) The fall semester is typically the shorter of the two semesters and winter break starts so early, but have we considered starting winter break mid-week? (The reason the mid-week break is hard is because you lose a weekend.) Could you wiggle two days out somewhere else to allow the high school to have finals that week? (We can take this feedback back to the committee.) There is quite a difference in the number of days in each semester. What was discussed regarding this? (The feedback at the high school is that this is the preferred model for most students.)

At 8:15 p.m., Molly Ansari joined the meeting.

2. IASB Legislative Resolutions & Constitutional Amendments Review

Jackie Forbes reported that the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) has released the resolutions and constitutional amendments that will be voted on at the IASB Annual Conference in November. IASB is recommending a "Do Adopt" position on three resolutions: Tier II Pension Reform, Amendment to Existing Position Statement 2.12: Local Tax Collection and Distribution, and FOIA Safeguards. IASB is recommending a "Do Not Adopt" position on two resolutions: School Board Elections – Nominating Petition Signatures and School Meals and Fee Waiver Eligibility. Board members will vote on their preferred positions regarding the resolutions at the next board meeting.

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. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$1,500, Elburn Market, Inc., for GHS athletics team

supplies/uniforms purchases/needs (Policy 8:80)

3. 2026-27 Board Meeting Calendar - Updated

Motion by Radlinski second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.3. 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 that they attended several Homecoming events, including the Homecoming Parade and football game, and noted positive feedback regarding the parade changes. They thanked those who presented during the meeting and commented on the valuable information that was shared. Congratulations were extended to the students recognized for achieving National Merit Commended status.

Board members also attended the Facilities Task Force meeting and expressed appreciation for the participation of the GEA in the process. The task force is expected to bring recommendations for summer 2027 projects to the Board in November for consideration and approval. Members reported that project bids are coming in close to projections, which should allow all planned projects to move forward. One board member suggested that the Board be given a window to decorate during next year's Homecoming festivities.

An update was shared that the Technology Task Force recently met, and that Mike Wilkes will present information at an upcoming meeting regarding technology updates and the district's one-to-one device program. Board members also expressed excitement about the possibility of recognizing a National Merit Finalist in February. Additionally, one board member shared a positive experience participating in a virtual parent-teacher conference.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO LITIGATION, WHEN AN ACTION AGAINST, AFFECTING OR ON BEHALF OF THE PARTICULAR PUBLIC BODY HAS BEEN FILED AND IS PENDING BEFORE A COURT OR ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL, OR WHEN THE PUBLIC BODY FINDS THAT AN ACTION IS PROBABLE OR IMMINENT, IN WHICH CASE THE BASIS FOR THE FINDING SHALL BE RECORDED AND ENTERED INTO THE MINUTES OF THE CLOSED MEETING. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12)]. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)

At 8:34 p.m., motion by Forbes, second by Choi, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.

At 9:11 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

13. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:12 p.m., motion by Hooks second by Forbes and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____ PRESIDENT
(Date)

SECRETARY _____