

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 26, 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 the members of Williamsburg Student Council led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Doug Drexler, Associate Principal Geneva High School; Tom Rogers, Principal Geneva High School; Mike Wilkes, Chief Information Officer; 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, Lisa Meister, Kerrigan Smith, Deanna Tira, Agnes Dyer, Jeffrey Gomberg, Justin Stieth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

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

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

Motion by Choi second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed minutes, item 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. What Makes My School Special – Harris Street Staff & Students

Several students from Harrison Street Elementary shared what makes their school so special. They explained that the Husky Way is to be kind, be safe, and be responsible.

The students highlighted many of the activities and field trips they enjoy, including the Husky Dance, visits to Brookfield Zoo and Hickory Knolls Discovery Center, and trips

to the high school. They also shared information about the many clubs available to students, such as Student Council, Boy Scouts, Husky Drama, Husky Tails, Young Author Guide, and Patrol.

In addition, students spoke about the many events organized by the PTO, including the Fall Fair, Book Fair, Husky Dance, and other activities that help bring the school community together.

The students noted that Harrison Street Elementary is supported by approximately eighty dedicated adults who help them learn and stay safe each day. These adults include specialists, instructional assistants, tutors, special educators, office staff, custodians, and teachers.

Finally, the students shared that a school would not be a school without its students. They described some of the opportunities and experiences that make Harrison Street special, including the buddy bench, pumpkin painting activities, and fun programs in the library. Many students said their favorite parts of Harrison Street are the Husky Hut, along with PE, music, and art classes.

2. GHS Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD Club) –Agnes Dyer & Deanna Tira & GHS Sponsors Lisa Meister & Kerrigan Smith

Members of the SADD Club shared the importance of Red Ribbon Week and discussed modern, evidence-based approaches to drug prevention. They emphasized that prevention efforts should focus on empathy, support, and positive relationships rather than fear-based messaging. This year's theme, "Make a Difference, Be a Hero, and Stay Drug Free," encourages students to support their peers, raise awareness, and make healthy choices. Students highlighted the SADD Club's focus on community involvement, positive peer influences, mentorship, goal setting, and resilience. They also shared that the club supports the annual food drive and is partnering with GTV students to promote healthy decision-making and resistance to peer pressure. Students concluded by encouraging parents and community members to support teens through open communication and positive opportunities for involvement.

3. 2026-27 EdTech Committee Work (Policy 2:150)

Dr. George Petmezas and Mike Wilkes provided an update on topics being discussed by the EdTech Committee. The committee reviewed progress on artificial intelligence (AI), including the development of staff and student guidelines, alignment with existing policies, implementation of data privacy and usage expectations, and the establishment of approved resources and safeguards. The committee has gathered feedback from staff and students and will continue exploring age-appropriate ways to introduce AI to students. Discussion also focused on technology use, including balancing instructional needs with appropriate screen time. The committee is reviewing device use models, with general consensus supporting classroom-only use for grades K-1, while continued discussion is needed for grades 2-5. Considerations include consistency, educational needs, e-learning readiness, and future opportunities. Lastly, the committee reviewed learning platforms, including the use of Schoology at Geneva High School and assignment management options at the middle school level, while emphasizing the importance of thoughtfully selecting curriculum resources that balance digital engagement with hands-on learning materials.

Board comments, questions, concerns: As we are moving forward with AI, we need to proceed with caution and evaluate how the high school program has gone. As we are looking at how we are using it at the high school level and expanding it, I hope we are considering if this was the right decision and considering student feedback. We need to ask ourselves if we are teaching our kids AI literacy and helping them

decipher what is AI and what is not. Is that something we are discussing? (We solicit our staff and students annually. We just did this last week by revisiting the questions we have asked and adding additional questions we feel will help guide that conversation.) Are kids using computers or technology because it helps them and do we have data that shows this is helpful to students? (The platforms that we use help us identify areas of growth and need for students.) The biggest complaint I hear about our elementary students is the weight of the device. Pre-COVID versus post covid, do you have numbers in terms of those allocations for screen time? (We are not hearing that things have normalized in that way.) It seems what we are really hearing has to do with the younger learners, not the high schoolers. For those children with special needs or language issues, who makes the decision to give students a device? (That decision is made by our IEP team and the parents.) Regarding the survey you mentioned, do you do any kind of interviews with the students? (Not at the elementary or middle school level, but the high school may have groups that look at things on a wider range of topics.) Regarding the learning platform, have you looked at standardization from middle school to high school? (We are not necessarily looking for a new platform, but our five-year contract ends in June.) If you do go to a cart system for grades K-1, what happens during an e-learning day? (We talked about that and the expectation is that we still have students utilizing elements of their device. If we know there is a strong possibility of closing school, we will send devices home with K-1 students.)

4. Proposed 2027 Draft Tax Year Levy (Policy 4:10) – Todd Latham

Todd Latham presented the draft levy to the board, highlighting Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) growth from 2017 through 2026. He explained that rate-setting EAV reflects the final taxable valuation after statutory adjustments. Mr. Latham also reviewed trends in new construction and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) growth over the same period. New construction represents additional EAV generated by newly constructed improvements that were not included in the prior year's tax base.

In addition, Mr. Latham reviewed Consumer Price Index (CPI) trends from 2017 through 2026. Other topics discussed included debt service levies, capped and non-capped levies, revenue recapture, and the impact of market costs on the district.

Mr. Latham reported that the estimated 2026 levy is $111,597,000, representing an increase of 3.61% over the prior year. Assumptions used in developing the 2026 tax levy include a CPI-U of 2.7%, a PTELL cap of 5%, estimated EAV of $2,273,000,587, an EAV increase of 7.72% over the previous year, and $4,715,000 in new construction. The projected capped levy increase is 4.46%, while bond and interest levies are expected to decrease by 1.75%. Estimated tax receipts are projected at $111,597,000, an increase of $3,886,774 from the prior year.

Board comments, questions, concerns: With the rise in interest rates, does that affect how the assessor looks at things? (We did not model for this, but we can for the tentative levy.) Do you have a chart that shows the total levy increase trend year over year? (No, but I can add it to the tentative levy presentation.)

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."
Jackie Forbes shared that the General Assembly's veto session is scheduled for November 17-19 and December 1-3. This is when they would act on any pending bills. They do not typically propose new bills during this time though.

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

The Superintendent shared that the Illinois School Report Card will be released this week and noted that the State has updated its accountability system, including new metrics, additional designation levels, and multiple pathways for growth. Future presentations will provide more details on district data and its use.

The Geneva Early Learning Program (GELP) has approved a four-day student week beginning in 2027-28. An open house for prospective families is scheduled for November 11, and registration for the 2027-28 school year will open in January.

Updated enrollment projections continue to show a gradual decline over the next several years. Significant demographic changes or new housing development would be needed to increase enrollment beyond current forecasts.

The district's Inclement Weather Plan was reviewed, with an emphasis on prioritizing in-person learning. A communication test will be sent on October 29 to ensure families can receive weather-related notifications.

Finally, the Superintendent thanked principals and building leaders in recognition of Principal's Week and Principal's Day.

7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

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

Dr. George Petmezas shared that the calendar being presented mimics the 2026-27 school year calendar.
Motion by Bellino second by Hooks, to approve the above-listed, 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. IASB Legislative Resolutions & Constitutional Amendments (Policy 2:120)

Board members agreed that they would follow the recommendations of IASB.

Motion by Forbes second by Choi, to approve the recommendations from IASB on the resolutions and constitutional amendments, 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).

8. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. GHS Proposed New and Modified Courses for 2027-2028 (Policy 6:40)

Doug Drexler presented proposed new and modified courses for the 2027-28 school year. While some recommendations will require additional resources, they are not expected to result in significant changes to staffing, facilities, or instructional materials. Requests for approval of specific texts and other resources will be brought forward in the spring.

Geneva High School (GHS) is seeking dual credit status for three existing courses: AP Chemistry, AP Precalculus, and Precalculus. The anticipated cost for adding dual credit to these courses is $13,658.

The district is also proposing three new courses with a dual credit option: Introduction to Literature, Music in America, and Latin American History. Each course will have prerequisite requirements, and the estimated implementation cost is $15,100.

Board comments, questions, concerns: The AP versus dual credit, is there any kind of requirement of the students to choose? (There is no requirement from the student.) Is the declaration date for the dual credit a specific date or does that differentiate between the classes? (It follows the college's registration.) Do these dual credit classes come with an additional fee for students like the AP courses? (It depends on the college. Waubonsee Community College charges $12 per credit hour and College of DuPage does not charge a fee.) If it is AP and dual credit does that increase the fee? (Yes.)

2. Community Solar Power Presentation by OneEnergy

Forrest Howk of OneEnergy presented a proposal to develop a community solar field on district-owned property near the bus barn on Keslinger Road. OneEnergy has completed 55 Midwest solar projects and operates eight community solar projects in Illinois. The project would connect to the ComEd grid, allowing customers, including the district, to subscribe to solar energy at discounted rates.

The proposal would provide the district with an estimated $3.3 million in lease revenue over 30 years and approximately $1.4 million in energy savings over 15 years. The site would include solar panels and native landscaping features such as trees, shrubs, a rain garden, and pollinator habitat.

If approved, the next steps would include negotiating a lease agreement and completing ComEd requirements, with construction potentially beginning in spring 2028.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Not all solar panels are the same, so what kind of panel do you use? (We use bi-facial panels, which are glass on both top and bottom. We develop, construct, and operate but do not make our own panels.) How do you manage that inclement weather, such as hailstorms? (It is a large cost upfront, but if something were to happen to one of the panel's we would replace the panel.) The panels slowly degrade over time so how long do they last? (The typical life span of a solar panel is thirty years.) What happens in the second fifteen years when the Illinois Shines program ends? (The project will generate electricity, but it would not be part of the Illinois Shines program at that point.) Would we still get that discount? (I would need to get back to you on that.) Are the savings you have estimated just for the first fifteen years? (Yes.) After thirty years, do you then remove the panels? (Yes.) So, the subscription obligation, what happens if our usage drops? (When you sign up you must provide your historic use. After that we would do annual updates.) Since we are not on ComEd in Geneva how does that work? (Two schools and bus barn are on ComEd.)

9. INFORMATION

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule (Policy 2:220)
2. FOIA Requests & Board Correspondence (Policy 2:250)
3. Suspension Report (Policy 7:200)

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. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: $2,736.32, Lurvey Supply, brick donation for the outdoor classroom (Policy 8:80)

Motion by Choi 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 thanked all presenters for their thoughtful presentations. Several members attended recent school and community events, including the orchestra concert, the Theater Boosters meeting, and the one-night performance of *The Cage Birds*. They noted that the fall play, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, will be presented on November 12 and 13 at 7:00 p.m. and November 15 at 2:00 p.m. Theater Boosters are also selling checkbooks as a fundraiser.

Board members recognized the many activities taking place across the district as fall sports conclude and numerous concerts and performances are held. They shared updates from the Music Boosters, including the ongoing greenery sale, which ends November 9, with pickup scheduled for November 21. Upcoming events include the faculty recital on January 22 at 7:00 p.m. and a possible casino night fundraiser in March.

One board member attended the IASB Kishwaukee Division meeting, where the Board was recognized with a governance award and members heard a keynote presentation. Another board member attended the Williamsburg PTO meeting and commended the dedicated parent volunteers who support the school's many activities and events.

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 p.m., motion by Forbes second by Bellino and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____ _____PRESIDENT
(Date)

SECRETARY_____