



**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 23, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Coultrap Educational Services, 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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Cabeen.

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: Tom Rogers, Principal Geneva High School; Doug Drexler, Associate Principal Geneva High School; Tim Baker, Safety Security Supervisor; Matt Johnson, Assistant Director Transportation; Mary Dunmead, Director Transportation; George Petmezas, Director Learning & Teaching; Todd Latham, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Shonette Sims, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Dr. Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

Others present: Brenda Schory, Timothy McQuesten, Lisa Meister, Ashley Andreuccetti, Timothy Adkins, Brandon Burggraf, Hunter Finn, Liam Kelleghan, Blake Makowski, Nolan Mayer, Logan Novay, Christian Novay, Ryan O’rourke, Caden Sorensen, Matthew Trimble, Zach Butler, Eric Hatzel, Heath O’Rourke, Pat & Nicole Finn, Maria Burggraf, Brandon & Kristy Adkins, Phil & Denise Trimble, Shawn Makowski.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, October 10, 2023
2. Executive Session, October 10, 2023

Motion by Choi second by Forbes, 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. Tradition of Excellence: GHS Students (Policy 6:330)
 Boys Golf

Boys Golf State Qualifiers

Timothy Adkins
 Brandon Burggraf

Blake Makowski
 Nolan Mayer

Ryan ORourke
 Laksh Patel

Benjamin Clairmont
Hunter Finn
Liam Kelleghan

Christian Novay
Logan Novay

Caden Sorensen
Matthew Trimble

2. GHS Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD Club) – Adrianna Curshellas, Timothy McQuesten & GHS Sponsors Lisa Meister & Ashley Andreuccetti
Timothy McQuesten, Lisa Meister and Ashley Andreuccetti shared information about Red Ribbon Week and its importance. Each year there is a responsibility to send a message to the community on how to make mature decisions about substance abuse. Statistics show that teens who are involved in their communities have a sense of belonging and stability and are less likely to engage in bad behaviors. SADD highlights six principals that help facilitate a drug free lifestyle. These principals are finding a natural high, surrounding yourself with positive influences, finding a positive mentor, having a firm belief in your talents and abilities, setting goals for your future, and building resilience to help get you through challenges in life. “Be Kind to Your Mind, Live Drug Free” is this year’s theme. It is important to acknowledge the pressure that society puts on students. Teens fall into peer pressure for many reasons, so Red Ribbon Week is a time to celebrate the good choices that we make.

3. Proposed 2023 Tentative Tax Year Levy – Todd Latham
Todd Latham presented the proposed 2023 Tentative Tax Year Levy stating that the purpose of the local property tax is to access funding to maintain and enhance the programs associated with providing our students with a high-quality educational experience. Local property taxes represent approximately 85.9% of the total school district revenue. Township Assessor determine the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) used to determine the amount of the taxes levied by the Board of Education. New construction is estimated at \$11,500,000 and is part of the total EAV. All district funds are capped except for the Debt Service Fund. The Truth in Taxation law requires that the district publicly, through publication and public hearing, disclose their fund balance and intention to adopt an aggregate levy. The hearing will be held at the December 11, 2023, Board meeting followed by approval by the Board of Education. As of June 30, 2023, the district had fund balances totaling \$82,619,833. This year’s tax levy is \$101,394,585, which would mean on a \$350,000 home, the taxes could increase by \$143.47. This will vary based on final individual homeowner EAV, exemptions, and assessments.

4. Elementary Literacy Update – Shonette Sims & George Petmezas
Shonette Sims and George Petmezas gave an update on the roll out of the new elementary literacy program. Our mission is to teach all students to read in order to apply their skills when they are reading to learn. Reading lessons should be inclusive of the five reading components: phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. The goal of the Reading Committee was to review the current program, research best practices, review the current instructional model and resources, identify the structure of the 90-minute reading block, and establish a common structure, a shared scope and sequence and a common resource. To implement this program, we had to provide professional development, lesson instructions, and look at student assessment. Our 90-minute reading block has increased to a 105-minute reading block, which is broken down into interactive read-aloud, direct instruction, and responsive instruction. Parents can support this new program by continuing to read to or with their children, encouraging them to talk about what they have read, discuss vocabulary in the book, and discuss like books read at home. Moving forward, we hope to bring presentations to the Board on spelling and leveled texts.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Teachers and educators are doing a great job at getting this down to parents to understand what is new. (The K-2 reading is changing weekly.) Phonics and phonemic awareness are not the same and that is one thing that is confusing for parents. It is encouraging to see that we are starting early with K-2. Where does special education come into this to help bridge the gap? (We did provide professional development for some of our unique instruction groups. It depends on the students IEP. The priority is for them to remain in the classroom for the direct instruction, but if they have a need greater than the core curriculum can provide, they might be pulled from the class.) What was missing in the previous curriculum that made you make this change? (It was the inconsistency across our district and when we started to evaluate the amount of time our learners were engaged with grade level content, we identified that was far too few moments

of their day.) Does this mean that teachers do not need to go to outside resources to supplement or make things more interesting? (No, we would prefer that not be happening.) So, you are discouraging teachers to go to outside resources? (That is correct.) What is your primary objective in the next three years? (We would like to see far more students succeeding and improve student performance with less students being pulled for interventions.)

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 the General Assembly is starting a veto session tomorrow. They will also meet Wednesday, Thursday, and again November 7-9.

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

The Superintendent shared that discussions have continued regarding strategic planning. We have worked with HYA Consultants, and they have provided us some information that can be shared. This would be a final proposal and we have gotten some recommendations on a consultant that can shepherd us through this process. Where we landed as a team, is that we want to focus on organizational planning. We will be seeking formal approval at the next meeting.

He also shared that we have a full house tonight, which brings us back to the board meeting location. There are four needs we are looking for in a location and that is versatility, accessibility, practicality, and consistency. We would like to propose our transportation center, which meets our four needs. If the board agrees, we would like to hold our December meeting in this new location.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Is the parking good there? (Yes, there is plenty of parking.) What about the trains? (This was a concern that we also had.) Will people be parking in or around our buses? Can they be moved to another location in the lot? (If we are expecting a large crowd, we can certainly move the buses to the east end of the lot.) Coultrap is a central location, but I would be willing to give it a try. Maybe we could offer a map to indicate where people can park.

The committee working on the 2024-25 school calendar has been working hard. There was positive feedback on the earlier parent teacher conferences this year. Most of the conversation has been around the start date. If we follow what we have been doing teachers would be coming back on August 12th and students on August 14th. Some of our neighboring districts are starting at this time and we do have shared programs with some of them, but if we maintain this schedule, then next year we would start even earlier. The committee will continue to discuss this and bring a draft to the board at the next meeting.

Board comments, questions, concerns: What is the last day of school if we start on the 19th? (It would still be before Memorial Day.) Does it make the semesters uneven starting on the 19th? (Yes.) How many years have we had finals before winter break? (Seven.)

Dr. Barrett has been taking action steps to support our "Believe in Geneva" goal. He has been engaging with community partners, participating in rich opportunities for student connection, collaborating with colleagues, and fostering a positive culture.

Lastly, administration has been preparing for emergency days as there are implications for students, families, and educators. Our number one priority will be in-person learning. If weather is expected to improve, we could have a late start day. If the weather should be bad all day and we have time to plan, we could do an e-learning day. If there is sudden unexpected bad weather, we would call an

emergency day.

7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. IASB Legislative Resolutions

Jackie Forbes shared that these resolutions are just for IASB and advocacy services. They do not vote to pass laws. There are five resolutions to discuss.

- Industrial Construction – the board agreed to vote not to adopt.
- School Resource Officer – the board agreed to vote to adopt.
- Bus Driver Regulations – the board agreed to vote to adopt.
- Employment History Review – the board agreed to vote not to adopt.
- Alternative Safe School Funding – the board agreed to vote not to adopt.

Any resolutions that are not adopted, those districts will have the opportunity to plead their case.

Motion by Forbes second by Choi, to approve the above-listed resolutions be voted on based on Board input, 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. Policy Updates: Second Reading – **Updated, Reviewed & New** (Policy 2:240)

1. Policy 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure – **Updated**
2. Policy 2:265, Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure – **Updated**
3. Policy 5:10, Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment – **Updated**
4. Policy 5:20, Workplace Harassment Prohibited – **Updated**

Motion by Choi second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed policies, items 7.2.1-7.2.4. 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 the School Bus Bid (Policy 4:60)

Todd Latham shared that the district conducted a bid opening on October 16, 2023, for the purchase of gasoline, propane, and/or diesel-powered buses with warranty options. Two bids were received. The cost of fuel for gas buses increased 4.8% and diesel buses increased 7.8% over the prior year. Propane fuel is at \$1.89 per gallon. Diesel is at \$4.37/gallon and gasoline is at \$3.84/gallon. If we go with propane, we will have to put in a concrete pad with fencing and run electrical. We are recommending that the board accept and approve the bid for nine 72-passenger Blue Bird propane buses in the amount of \$1,255,950, seven 30-passenger gasoline buses totaling \$721,462, and four 24-passenger gasoline buses totaling \$430,528.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Do you have a capital investment that you will have to put in other than the pad and fencing to put in the distribution system for propane or will the propane supplier do that for you? (They will put a pump in for us. It looks like there will be a per cost with an upcharge. Still much less than gasoline or diesel.) Is there an estimate for the pad, fencing, and electrical? (We are looking at around \$8,000-\$11,000.) Can you talk about the difference between the different types of buses from a maintenance standpoint? Is there any special training our mechanics will need for propane buses? (For propane there is minimal training. They are like gasoline engines with some conversions on them, which we were told training would be provided. Parts for the propane buses are less costly than diesel and you would not need the Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) system.) How does propane handle in colder temperatures, and will there be any limitations? (There are no limitations, and when propane is in liquid form to the engine it is better than diesel.) What about warmer conditions? Have we looked at air conditioning? (We have not looked at buses with air conditioning.) Is it a pump for propane like what we use for gas? (It is very similar.) What savings do you see? (It is mostly in the cost of fuel.) Midwest Transit did not put in a bid, so is that going to be a problem that we only have one bid? (Midwest Transit does not have propane buses but hopes to by next year.) Does the price of propane fluctuate like gas? (It holds steady.) In the future would you see your smaller buses going to propane? (Yes, if we are happy with this purchase.)

Motion by Cabeen second by Radlinski, to accept the bid from Central States Bus of Oswego, IL., and approve the purchase of nine (9) 72-passenger propane buses in the amount of \$1,255,950 and

a five (5) year warranty for \$30,690, 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).

Motion by Radlinski second by Ansari, to approve the purchase of seven (7) 30-passenger gasoline buses in the amount of \$739,726 and four (4) 24-passenger gasoline buses in the amount of \$412,264 from the State Bid Program, 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).

4. Proposed 2023 Tentative Levy Receivable in 2024

Motion by Radlinski second by Choi, to approve the above-listed proposed tentative levy, item 7.4. 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 Proposal for New & Modified Courses for 2024-2025

Doug Drexler shared proposed new and modified courses for Geneva High School. They are recommending two new courses and minor modifications to seven existing courses. The following courses will be renamed: Applied Technology will be Computer Applications, Discrete Math 2 will be Quantitative Literacy and Statistics, and Discrete Math 1 will be Discrete Math. Advanced Earth Science: Natural Disasters, Astronomy, and Chemistry/Physics will be opened to sophomores if they meet the prerequisites. We would also like to add a course prerequisite to Advanced Placement Macro-Economics, combine Music Theory 3 and 4 and call it Advanced Placement Music Theory, and add a wellness course called Walking for Wellness. There have been ongoing conversations with Waubensee Community College and College of DuPage regarding aligning additional existing GHS courses with their counterparts at the community college level. An agreement has been reached for dual credit on five courses. Lastly, students will be offered the option to take Driver Education during Early Bird period beginning next year.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Would the walking class be primarily outside? (Yes.) Will it be required for safety that students must stay on the sidewalks? (Safety will be important. In talking to other districts, students create walking routes for the class. Other schools say it is not the lack of sidewalks, but the amount of traffic when creating routes.) Are you eliminating any courses? (No.) How many courses do we currently offer? (Around 160.) You might want to be careful that you are not diluting classes. (We have classes every year that we do not run due to low enrollment.) Are the life sciences courses stable in terms of enrollment? (They are very robust.)

9. INFORMATION

1. FOIA Requests (Policy 2:250)
2. 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: \$3,695.38, GHS PTO, funds will go to various departments for wish list items (Policy 8:80)

Motion by Forbes second by Bellino, 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

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

The Communications Task Force met this morning and discussed the cadence of emails that are sent between the district and the schools. We talked through strategies to streamline district communication and different ways to communicate. It is interesting as things have evolved, that we

are trying to create some equity and consistency within the district. It is great to see students being recognized as fall sports are wrapping up. Congratulations to our golfers that were recognized tonight and to our football team for making it to the playoffs. Board members are looking forward to the football playoff game this weekend. The Music Boosters met last week, and their holiday greenery sale is going on now through November 8th. An email was shared with the board inviting us to attend the Turkey Trot, which is a great event. The orchestra concert was this week. Thank you to all our presenters tonight and the hard work that went into the presentations. Board members attended the Williamsburg PTO meeting that was well attended for an early morning meeting. Tomorrow is the Theater Boosters meeting at GHS, and they are always looking for volunteers. There was good discussion on the listening tour at the Communications Task Force meeting.

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

APPROVED _____
(Date)

_____ PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____

_____ RECORDING
SECRETARY