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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, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at Coultrap Educational Services Center, 227 North Fourth Street, Geneva, Illinois.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:19 p.m. by Committee Chair Bellino.

Committee members present: Molly Ansari, Stephanie Bellino. Absent: Willard C. Hooks Jr.

District staff present: Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT (Policy 2:230)

None.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. August 11, 2025

Motion by Bellino, second by Ansari, to approve the minutes as presented. Ayes, two (2), Ansari, Bellino. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Hooks. Abstained, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

### 4. DISCUSSION / POSSIBLE FUTURE CONSIDERATION

1. Policy 7:200, Suspension Procedures

This policy is being reviewed because the board is considering using a hearing officer in the future. They have asked the Policy Committee to review this policy to see how we can make it fit the needs of the board while using a hearing officer.

Dr. Barrett shared suggestions on changes that could be made to this policy to meet the needs of the board. One of the questions on the table was the potential use of a hearing officer and are we doubling up on work. Another question was are we shifting responsibility and not giving parents that opportunity to communicate with the board as outlined in the policy. He provided a few options for language changes:

- A. For review of suspensions, the Board shall designate the superintendent, designee, or a hearing officer to conduct the review.
- B. For review of suspensions of three (3) days or less, the Board shall designate the superintendent, designee, or a hearing officer to conduct the review. For suspensions of four (4) days or more the Board shall rely on the superintendent to determine whether or not to designate a hearing officer to conduct the review.
- C. When a suspension review is conducted by a hearing officer, the student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) may provide a written statement to the Board for consideration along with the hearing officer's report.
- D. When a suspension review is conducted by a hearing officer, the student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) may appear before the Board to provide a statement for the Board's consideration along with the hearing officer's report.

He shared that the board could choose A, B or a modified version of both and then pick C or D to go along with it.

Comments, questions, concerns: Where it says, "the board shall designate the superintendent, designee, or a hearing officer," can we be specific that it be just a hearing officer? (Yes.) When we talk about expulsion hearings, which are different than a suspension hearing, the superintendent has more advocacy than for an expulsion hearing. In general, what percentage of suspensions have a parent/guardian request a review? (It depends on what we consider a review. A good portion would want to challenge a suspension. It is rare that someone goes to this policy to request a formal review but not unheard of.) If we were asked to review more suspensions, that might make it more difficult for us to stay consistent because there are many layers to each suspension. I do like the option of adding an opportunity for parents to write a statement or come and share a statement if the parent so chooses. (Remember that suspensions are at a lower bar than an expulsion, so you may want to allow written and in person for expulsions and maybe just written for suspensions.) The thing about the written statement is that we will have to read the hearing officers' report so if there was one more thing in there, would that be too much more to add? As an elected official I feel like we have a duty and obligation to be present in these kinds of matters. I am open to the hearing officer for the lower threshold, and the written statement is something that needs to stay in the policy. I do not think people look at us as experts, but I feel strongly about the fact that we are talking about kids. Is it fair that seven strangers get to decide what happens to them because I grapple with this? (What you could do is say that a review is going to be conducted by a hearing officer and then include current language in policy with this.) We do not need to decide anything today.

2. Policy 7:210, Expulsion Procedures

This policy is also being reviewed due to consideration of a hearing officer. For expulsions, a formal hearing is required. The language in the policy states that the hearing "shall be conducted by the board or a hearing officer." It also states that, "If a hearing officer is elected, he or she shall report to the board the evidence presented at the hearing and the board shall take such final action as it finds appropriate." The language options are like those for suspensions.

- A. For such hearings, the Board shall rely on the superintendent to determine whether or not to designate a hearing officer to conduct the review.
- B. When a hearing is conducted by a hearing officer, the student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) may provide a written statement to the Board for consideration along with the hearing officer's report.
- C. When a hearing is conducted by a hearing officer, the student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) may appear before the Board to provide a statement for the Board's consideration along with the hearing officer's report.

Comments, questions, concerns: Is it too much to let the parents decide who conducts the hearing? (Yes, because we want to have explicit and consistent criteria in any circumstance.) I wonder from a legal perspective what would be recommended by an attorney. (We have talked about this with our attorney, and they would advocate for a hearing officer over the board because of the legal aspects. Is that consistent with what other districts do? (Yes.) We could also let you have more time to process this before the next policy meeting, and I could have a recommendation for each policy. I would like to have more time to do more research. We would appreciate some recommendations. If you could run these policies by the attorney that would be great. (We can do that.)

5. **INFORMATION**

None.

6. **OUTSTANDING POLICY CLEANUP & REVIEW \***

None.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:55 p.m., on a motion by Bellino, a second by Ansari, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_ CHAIRPERSON  
Stephanie Bellino

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_  
Bonnie J. Johnson