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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, October 28, 2024, 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 Vice President Forbes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Doug Drexler, Associate Principal Geneva High School, Lauri Haugen, Principal Fabyan Elementary School; Adrian Ramirez, Assistant Director for Business Services; Shonette Sims, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

Others present: Andrew Lothson, Erin Lothson, Latoya York, Chris York, Andy Cozzi, Heath Covan, Drew Longo, Elisabeth Peacock, Heidi Gibbon's, Heather Costello, Brian Costello, Pamela Doll, Wendy Miller, Katie Rusk, Kristy Diamond, Wendy Schaper, Cathy Fuller, Colette Titus.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, October 28, 2024

Motion by Forbes second by Hooks, to approve the above-listed minutes, item 2.1. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Hooks. Nays, none (0). Absent, None (0). Abstained, two (2), Choi, Radlinski.

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Fabyan Elementary School: What Makes Our School Special

Staff and students from Fabyan Elementary School shared that what makes their school special is that there are three unique programs in their building. They are Fabyan Elementary, Mid-Valley Special Education, and the Geneva Early Learning Program. There are 347 students and 92 staff in the three programs. Fifth graders can participate in "Falcon Pals" and "Pre-School Buddies." Coach Austin, who is the PE teacher at Fabyan, also teaches an adaptive PE class, partners with the PTO on the Fun Run, and many more fun events. Through the library, students can participate in a Halloween pumpkin contest, the Young Explorers Group, and can enjoy new flexible seating. A bi-monthly newsletter, called the Fabyan Facts, is sent to all parents. PTO President, Merritt Nemcek, shared that Fabyan makes everyone feel included and that partnership is the key. Bus driver, Julie Smith, shared that the students from Fabyan that ride her bus are kind, cooperative, and respectful. These

are just a few of the things that make Fabyan special.

2. Recognition of Retirees

Board members recognized Tracey Pankow for her many years of service and dedication to Geneva CUSD 304. She will truly be missed.

3. National Board Members Day – November 15, 2024

Dr. Andy Barrett recognized the Geneva Board of Education for their service and dedication to Geneva CUSD 304.

4. English IV – Graphic Novels Presentation – Geneva High School Staff

Staff from Geneva High School's English department gave an overview of the graphic novels that are used as part of the English curriculum. These graphic novels are used to focus on elements of argument and composition, and rhetorical analysis skills. They are specifically designed to prepare students for college entry English classes. It is thought that graphic novels have low academic value, are seen as light reading, have lower standards, dilute rigor, and lack serious themes and complex ideas. Graphic novels are aligned with Common Core Standards, compliment traditional text, address complex themes, employ symbolism, tone, and narrative perspective, helps students analyze the rhetorical choices made by the authors and illustrators, understand how visuals can enhance or contrast with textual messages, are increasingly used in professional fields, teach students how multimodal storytelling is relevant, and expand a student's ability to decode and critique information. Graphic novels are used in conjunction with the original text and when possible, the corresponding film. Board members were invited to visit any English IV class when they are teaching graphic novels.

5. Proposed 2024 Tentative Tax Year Levy (Policy 4:10) – Todd Latham

Adrian Ramirez, Assistant Director for Business Services, provided an update on the proposed 2024 tentative tax levy, which was presented at the last meeting. A new slide was added to show the historical levy request to extension, which shows what we requested and what we received. For the estimated 2025 tax receipts a change was made by moving \$87,000 from Bonds & Interest to Special Education. This did not change the total levy, but it did change the capped levy from 4.41% to 4.51%. There will be a Notice of Public Hearing to Adopt the Levy for Tax Year 2024 at the December 18 board meeting. At that meeting, the board will vote on the Truth in Taxation Compliance Resolution, Certificate of Levy, and the Tax Levy Resolution.

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)

The Superintendent shared again that we are honoring our board members for School Board Members Day on Friday, but also those that served in the military. It is important to reference Veteran's Day, because today there were a lot of educational experiences for kids in Geneva 304. At the middle schools, the kids take the lead to recognize those that served by giving a presentation to the whole building and they have veterans attend. Staff from Heartland Elementary School, along with the Superintendent, flew to Washington DC to a ceremony where they received the Blue-Ribbon Award. Students at Heartland were able to watch the ceremony and cheered on their school. Mrs. Hornberg did the schools announcements from the Washington Monument on Thursday morning.

7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. Policy Updates: Second Reading – **Updated, Reviewed & New** (Policy 2:240)
 1. Policy 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure – Updated
 2. Policy 2:265, Title IX Grievance Procedure - Rewritten
 3. Policy 5:100, Staff Development Program – Updated
 4. Policy 7:20, Harassment of Students Prohibited – Updated
 5. Policy 7:185, Teen Dating Violence Prohibited – Updated

Motion by Hooks second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed policies, items 7.1.1-7.1.5. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

2. GHS Proposal for New & Modified Courses for 2025-2026 (Policy 6:40)

Motion by Bellino second by Choi, to approve the above-listed proposal, 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. 2025-26 School Calendar Draft (Policy 6:20)

Shonette Sims shared that the committee has met a couple of times, and they will meet again. The conversation has been centered around the start date. We are looking at the 11th or the 18th. The 11th is more palpable to our colleagues at the high school because it balances out their semesters better. It also helps balance out our dual credit courses. However, for our families and other educators the 18th is better. Right now, our surrounding districts are split with some starting on the 11th and some on the 18th.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Last year, we started later because we wanted to make sure we did not start too early. So, is this why we are talking about the 11th and the 18th? (Yes.) We talked about this at the Facilities Task Force meeting, because one of the concerns we had was getting everything done at all the schools. It does not look like either date will be restricted. It is important that we have some consistency for our families, because for a few years we were at that earlier date and now we have gone back to the later date. Families are already starting to make plans for the summer, so please take this into consideration.

9. INFORMATION

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule (Policy 2:220)
2. Suspension Report (Policy 7:200)
3. Tax Year 2024 Tentative Levy Memo (Policy 4:10)

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 – October (Policy 4:50)
3. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$35,541.14, Geneva All Sports Boosters, to support GHS Athletics (Policy 8:80)
4. American Education Week Resolution

Motion by Hooks second by Choi, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.4. 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

Board members congratulated the football team on their win last week and wished them good luck in their game this Saturday. They thanked those that presented this evening for sharing such valuable information. Board members thanked veterans for their service. One board

member attended the Geneva Middle School South PTO meeting and was thankful for all that our PTO's do for our schools. Board members wished everyone a happy thanksgiving. The IASB Annual conference is coming up, so we hope those going enjoy it. There will be more policies coming up at the next meeting. There have been a lot of updates lately in the past few meetings. We have been splitting them up as they are rolled out to allow us to spend more time on some of them. One board member attended the Geneva Middle School South Veteran's Day Ceremony and there was an overwhelming sense of community like in our presentations this evening. The bus driver that described our students as kind, cooperative, and respectful really showed that our students learn by example. It was great to hear how Fabyan Elementary School embraces the three different programs in their building. Board members attended the GEA Trivia Night and had a wonderful time. Thank you to the All Sports Boosters for their generous donation.

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:42 p.m., motion by Forbes second by Radlinski and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

_____ PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____

_____ RECORDING
SECRETARY