

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 Monday, September 9, 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 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Tom Rogers, Principal Geneva High School; George Petmezias, Director Learning & Teaching; Todd Latham, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services; Shonette Sims, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

Others present: Brenda Schory, Beni Enas, Lisa Meister, Declan Cook, Ashley Michelli, Kelli Borgie, Julie Feldsien, Jason Lesatz, Tom Anderson, Stephanie Amore, Jessie Yung, Colleen Carreiro, Cathy Fuller, Joe Schoen, Rachael Koehler, Tracy Kelsey, Mia Bradley, Melissa Bradley, Mark Bradley, Scott Hennig, Cali Wronkiewicz.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, August 26, 2024
2. Executive Session, August 26, 2024

Motion by Hooks second by Choi, 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. GHS Dual Credit Defined & Delivered

Shonette Sims, along with Geneva High School staff and students, presented on dual credit courses. Dual credit courses allow students to earn both high school and college credit. Geneva has partnered with Waubensee Community College and College of DuPage to offer dual credit courses taught by Geneva High School teachers. When dual credit started in 2021 there were only two classes offered with 74 students enrolled. Today we offer ten courses with 266 students enrolled. The teachers must have a Qualified Master's Degree (QMD) or any master's degree with 18 graduate credit hours of coursework within the discipline to teach these classes. Currently have 17% of Geneva High School teachers are qualified to teach dual credit courses. Career and College Pathways are part of our Strategic Plan and going forward we will continue to evaluate and enhance course offerings. Students

shared that part of the reason they took dual credit courses was because it saved their families money and because it was interesting to learn about more mature topics that would help them when they started college.

Board Comments, Questions, Concerns: Where do we stand as a community as our school immerses some of our neighbors in this area? Are we a leader? Are we a follower? (We have lower enrollment, and we offer fewer courses.) What would be the average number of courses a high school would offer? (Fifteen to twenty.) We are not turning students away, are we? (No.) How do we promote the dual credit courses? (When students meet with their counselors it is discussed and teachers promote these courses on parent night. We could do a better job of getting the message out about dual credit classes. We have more students enrolled in AP courses than dual credit courses.) What does it look like for the average student long term versus students who take AP courses? What is the difference between an AP course and dual credit? (With the AP courses, colleges may accept them, but they might find something else for you to take. With dual credit you walk out with college credit hours.) Do we plan to offer dual credit in math, science, English versus the electives? (We need to have more conversations about this topic.) The colleges give push back on how many dual credit classes they will allow. Would a course like astronomy be a course that could be used at NIU? (I teach at NIU and what I teach at GHS is similar to what I teach at NIU, so they would be ready for the next class.)

2. Annual Grants Update – George Petmezas

George Petmezas gave an update on state and federal grants. The ESSER III grant started in 2022 to help during the pandemic and will end this year after the funds are spent. The funds were used for curriculum, personnel, and facilities. The ESEA of '65 grant consists of Title I, Title II, and Title IV. The funding was much lower this year compared to last year. These funds are used for our targeted schools, which are Geneva High School, Geneva Middle School North, and Harrison Street Elementary School to assist with at-risk students, non-public Geneva students, professional development, retention and recruitment, well rounded, safe & healthy, and technology. The Career Technology Education (CTE) grant is to help meet the State's career and technical education vision. The Language Instruction Educational Program grant is to support the implementation of high-quality programs for English learners. Evidence-based Funding (EBF) for English Language Learners (ELL) grant is to help support instruction for the ELL program. Lastly, is our library grant. Each school receives approximately \$600 for their libraries.

Board Comments, Questions, Concerns: I have heard that other districts spent their ESSER funds on things they cannot fund with their district funds. Did we do this? (No, we made sure we could support anything the funds were used for.)

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.*

Parents shared their concerns about cell phones and smart devices allowed in schools. They would like for them to not be allowed in the classroom during school hours. There should be zero tolerance for cell phones to allow for a positive impact in the classroom. They are asking for the district to survey teachers and students on this topic.

A parent shared her thoughts on dual credit courses, stating that Geneva needs to add more offerings that would include core subjects. Geneva is behind other districts in this area because they are more focused on AP courses. Waubensee Community College offers over 50 courses that could be dual credit courses. They are encouraging the district to consider adding more courses in the coming years.

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 HB 5057, which was the bill to help with the teacher's shortage, is now a

public act. Veto session is November 12-14 and 19-21.

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

The Superintendent shared an update on the Demographic Study. The analysis included geocoded enrollment data by parcel, analysis of district attendance and planning areas, five years of birth data, construction of Cohort Projection Model and Cohort Survival Rate, and development of empirical projections. It is projected that by 2033-34, enrollment would be up. Key figures for additional analysis are the number of residences per attendance area, percentage of housing occupied by students per attendance area, and the average student occupancy in given housing type by attendance area. The key takeaways are the district’s median age, enrollment has declined, elementary attendance areas are imbalanced, enrollment is expected to decline slightly then slowly increase, and potential new development implications.

He also shared information on the proposed Charles Farm development. The Concept Plan has been submitted to the City of St. Charles. The proposal includes 546 single family homes and 198 townhomes that would be part of the Geneva school district. The implications of this development for Geneva would be approximately 500-700 new students, elementary boundaries would need to be adjusted, additional facility needs could be a consideration, and the financials would have a net positive.

Lastly, he gave an update on the district’s cell phone practices. We are currently working to minimize distractions in the classroom by sharing our expectations and accountability with students. We will continue to reflect and review what is working and what is not working. There needs to be ongoing community engagement, in which we could look at ways to help educate the community.

7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

8. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. Policy Updates: First Reading (Policy 2:240)
 1. Policy 2:70, Vacancies on the Board of Education – Filling Vacancies – Reviewed
 2. Exhibit 2:70-E, Checklist for Filling Board Vacancies by Appointment - Rewritten
 3. Policy 2:125, Board Member Compensation; Expenses – Reviewed
 4. Exhibit 2:125-E1, Board Member Expense Reimbursement Form – Reviewed
 5. Exhibit 2:125-E2, Board Member Estimated Expense Approval Form – Reviewed
 6. Policy 2:160, Board Attorney – Reviewed
 7. Exhibit 2:160-E, Checklist for Selecting a Board Attorney - Rewritten
 8. Policy 4:15, Identity Protection – Reviewed
 9. Policy 4:70, Resource Conservation – Updated
 10. Policy 4:80, Accounting and Audits – Reviewed
 11. Policy 5:130, Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information – Updated
 12. Policy 5:180, Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity – Reviewed
 13. Policy 5:200, Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal – Updated
 14. Policy 5:290, Employment Termination and Suspensions – Reviewed
 15. Policy 6:110, Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program – Reviewed
 16. Policy 6:140, Education of Homeless Children – Updated
 17. Policy 6:150, Home and Hospital Instruction – Reviewed
 18. Policy 7:170, Vandalism – Reviewed

9. INFORMATION

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule (Policy 2:220)
2. FOIA Requests & Board Correspondence (Policy 2:250)
3. Demographic & Enrollment Projections Final Report

10. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE,

New Hires (Policies 3:50, 5:200, 5:280)

- 2. Disposition of Executive Session Minutes January 2024 through June 2024 (Policy 2:220)
- 3. Technology Asset Disposal
- 4. Proposed Construction Management Services
- 5. ProCare Client Services Agreement

Motion by Choi second by Radlinski, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.5. 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 attended curriculum nights and noted that at the high school teachers did touch on the cell phone policy. In conversations with other parents, they were told that not having cell phones in school could be detrimental for them. The Theater Boosters met last week, and their first performance will be October 4-5 and will be "The Great American College Tour." The musical this year will be "Seussical." The Music Boosters met a couple of weeks ago and they are currently running their mum sale. Board members attended the football game and were able to see the 8th grade band march with the high school marching band. Board members attended the Fabyan Elementary School PTO meeting and enjoyed hearing about what is happening in their community and school. Board members enjoyed the presentation on dual credit courses and are intrigued to learn more. Thank you to Brenda Schory for her article about the Board's recent award.

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:46 p.m., motion by Forbes second by Bellino and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

_____ PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____

_____ RECORDING SECRETARY