

**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, November 26, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at Coultrap, 1113 Peyton, Geneva, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Roll Call
- 1.2 Welcome
- 1.3 Pledge
- 1.4 Reminder to sign attendance sheet

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Grosso.

Board members present: President Mark Grosso, Matt Henry, Mike McCormick, Vice President Kelly Nowak, Policy Committee Chair Mary Stith, Finance Committee Chair Bill Wilson. Late: None.
Absent: Tim Moran.

The President welcomed everyone, led them in the Pledge and reminded them to sign the attendance record.

District administrators present: Tom Rogers, Principal, Geneva High School; Scott Ney, Director, Facility Operations; Craig Collins, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Donna Oberg, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Patty O'Neil, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction; and Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: Denise LaCure, Sandra Ellis, Ron & Susan Stevenson, John Rice, Mark Altmayer, Andrew Thomas, Allison Thomas, Bob Mann, Maureen Weiler, Jamie Dunlap, Marin Leone, Karen Leone, Paul Darrow, Rick Nagel (Geneva Patch), Judy Wehrmeister (GEA), Chris Bourdage, Ed & Jennifer Bianchina, R. L. Cabeen, Brenda Schory (K.C. Chronicle), Wynn & Marilyn Church, and a few who did not sign the attendance record.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The President reminded those wishing to speak that we would continue to conform to the policy dealing with public participation at board meetings, that comments or discussion regarding individual students or personnel matters were not permitted, that individuals wishing to address the Board should come to the podium, use the microphone, and state their name and address as the meetings are video recorded, and that an individual's comments would be limited to five minutes.

Comments included:

Why can't we freeze the levy? Why not ask the county assessor for a levy in a dollar amount equal to the June and September 2012 payments and let the percentage flow from that number? Why can't we stay within a budget? A 1.5% levy is proposed and it will generate more in 2012. The revenue for this year is projected to exceed expenses in the Education budget. State law suggests we should maintain 25% but Geneva has 68%. We need to live within a budget. Why try to get more when we already have surplus funds?

First, I'd like to suggest that we get a sound system with a stand for the audience microphone. Thanks to the Board for their work on the teachers' agreement and I appreciate the President's comments at the last meeting about moving forward and renewing relationships. I think the 1.5% levy amount is reasonable, is a compromise and is in the middle of the 3% that could be levied. I don't want to be taxed out of the community either and a 0% levy would be okay if it works, but a 1.5% levy is reasonable. Perhaps the Board could comment later about the impact \$900,000 in cuts would have with a 1.5% levy. Again, thanks for the work that you do.

Dollar amounts and percentage amounts can get confusing. When you talk in percentages, you lose track of the actual dollar amounts. I agree with the first speaker that a flat levy amount or a freeze at the 2011 dollar amount would still allow us enough funds to run the district.

I'm glad the second speaker brought up the \$900,000 cuts. It is not a cut from the budget because there is no budget yet. With a 0% levy, the District would still get an increase in dollars next year. The levy process is backward to how a budget should work. Past Boards over levied and built up reserves. In June we had \$53 million in reserves. With that amount in reserves, there is no need to levy for next year. When do we stop adding to the reserves? Cut costs or spend down the reserves and do not tax through the levy process. I'd like to see the Board and the Administration develop a ten-year plan to spend down reserves and pay down the debt. Please consider a tax levy freeze this year. The taxpayers deserve a break.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 3.1 Special Session October 17, 2012
- 3.2 Executive Session October 17, 2012
- 3.3 Regular Session November 12, 2012
- 3.4 Executive Session November 12, 2012

Motion by McCormick, second by Wilson, to approve the above-listed minutes, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Henry, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

4. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 4.1 Tradition of Excellence Awards: Geneva High School

Girls Tennis, Girls Cross Country, Boys Cross Country, Illinois DECA State Officer
The Geneva High School Principal thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the students to the Board for recognition. The Board presented each student with a Tradition of Excellence Award and congratulated them on their achievements.

The following students were recognized for their accomplishments:

Girls' Cross Country IHSA Class 3A State Meet, State Qualifiers: Kathryn Adelman, McKenzie Altmayer, Jordan Andersen, Kassidy Donohue, Sydney Gelis, McKenna Happold, Marin Leone, Laura Marschitz, Emma McSpadden, Kylie Monahan, Brooke Nusser, Mackenzie Williams
Upstate 8 Conference Champions, Regional Crown, Third Place Sectionals, Sixth Place State

Boys' Cross Country IHSA Class 3A State Meet, State Qualifier: Michael Bianchina
Third Place Sectionals

Girls' Tennis Singles IHSA Class 2A State Tennis Tournament, State Qualifier: Kirby Einck
Upstate 8 Conference Champion, Kane County Chronicle Tennis Player of the Year, Third Place Sectionals

Illinois DECA State Officer, Vice President: Andrew Thomas
Andrew is the first Geneva High School student who has represented the entire State of Illinois for DECA. He will serve as one of the organization's vice presidents.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Last week's parent/teacher conferences were well attended. Several Board members attended workshops and meetings during the Illinois Association of School Boards' annual conference in Chicago the weekend of November 16-18th. Winter sports and activities throughout the District are now in progress.

6. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Agreement between Geneva C.U.S.D. 304 & City of Geneva: Grant of Electric Distribution Easement

The City of Geneva requested a revision to an agreement pertaining to an existing twenty foot storm water easement located on the west line of Burgess Field from Center Street north to Gray Street to allow for a storm water, electric and fiber optics easement to bury the primary electric lines in order to help alleviate power outages at the football field and the homes on Maple Lane that back up to the football field.

Motion by Wilson, second by Stith, to approve the agreement, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Henry, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

6.2 2013-2014 School Calendar

The Superintendent explained that the calendar has been reviewed by the administration and the President of teachers' association. While minor revisions may still occur, they would not impact the starting, ending, or winter break dates.

Motion by Nowak, second by McCormick, to approve the 2013-2014 school calendar. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Henry, McCormick, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

None

8. INFORMATION

8.1 FOIA Requests & Responses

Received = 4. Total Costs = \$327.50. Total Employee Hours = 9 hrs. 15 minutes.

Bergman, Garin, 11/2/12, requested the number of teachers, support staff and administrators who have been terminated for performance reasons over the last three years; the number of teachers who live in the Geneva School District; no names, just numbers. Employee hours to complete/respond = 2 hrs. 35mins. Cost to complete/respond = \$63.11.

Bergman, Garin, 11/6/12, requested all cost reduction proposals submitted by the teachers and administrators from 2007 through today. Employee hours to complete/respond = 3 hrs. 20 mins. Cost to complete/respond = \$146.64. Attorney hours/cost = 0.2 hrs/\$38.

Ellis, Sandra, 11/6/12, requested an electronic copy (DVD) of the video of the 11/5/12 Board of Education meeting as well as the 11/5/12 Finance Committee Mtg. Employee hours to complete/respond = 2 hrs. 5 mins. Cost to complete/response = \$49.08.

Ellis, Sandra, 11/13/12, requested an electronic copy (DVD) of the video of the 11/12/12 Board of Education meeting. Employee hours to complete/respond = 1 hr. 15 mins. Cost to complete/respond = \$30.67.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

9.1 Monthly Financial Reports and Interfund Transfers

9.2 Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE, New Hires

Long-term Substitutes Certified

Pannier, Lesley, HES, Grade 2, 1.0 FTE, 1/15/2013 to 3/4/2013

New Hires Support

Helm, Rod, All Schools, On-call Substitute Custodian, 12 Month, Start Date 11/12/2012

Murray, Daniel, All Schools, On-Call Substitute Custodian, 12 Month, Start Date 11/12/2012

Kasarda, Carole, MCS, Special Education Assistant Floater, Temporary, 3 hrs/day, 9 Month, Start Date 11/14/2012

Flahaven, Kevin, GHS, Technology Assistant, 7 hrs/day, 9 Month, Start Date 11/26/2012

Recommendation to Add a Special Education Assistant, GMSS, Grade 6

9.3 Bid Summary/Award: 2013-2014 School Bus Purchase, Four, 24-Passenger Buses, \$190,428, Midwest Transit Equipment

9.4 Bid Summary/Award: Snow Plowing Services, \$1,345.00, LawnBoyz, Fabyan & Mill Creek Elementary Schools, 1-Year Contract/ Plow Parking Lots Only; \$4,135.00, BLP Construction, Inc., 1-Year Contract/Plow & Salt Geneva Middle Schools North & South Parking Lots

9.5 Gifts, Grants & Bequests: \$500, MB Financial Bank, \$500 Pentegra Systems & \$500 Johnson Controls for Leadership Breakfast; GMS-South Parent, 300 Pounds of Plastic for the GMS South Tech Ed Room Molder

The President requested that Item 9.4 be voted on separately because one of the contractors plows for his home owners' association.

Discussion/questions/comments: Why are we bidding buses now? (This purchase is for 2013-2014, we are purchasing these buses with no buy-back and we plan to keep them for five or more years.)

Motion by Wilson, second by Henry, to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, and 9.5, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Stith, Wilson, Henry, McCormick, Nowak, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Henry, second by Wilson, to approve Consent Agenda Item 9.4, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Wilson, Henry, McCormick, Nowak, Stith. Nays, none (0). Abstained, one (1), Grosso. Motion carried.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION

None.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Policy Committee, Finance Committee, Facilities Task Force, Communication Task Force, Joint PTO, Geneva All-Sports Boosters, Geneva Music Boosters, Geneva High School Theater Boosters, Academic Foundation, GEARS, K-12 Discipline Committee, Geneva Coalition for Youth, PRIDE, REMS Grant

Comments included: The Illinois Association of School Boards' annual conference provides Board members an opportunity to take part in education-related workshops and meetings and provides the added benefit of being able to interact with Board members from school districts throughout Illinois.

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC BODY [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1); AND PENDING LITIGATION [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)]

At 7:39 p.m., motion by Henry, second by McCormick, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, and pending litigation.

At 7:48 p.m., following a break for the room to clear, the Board moved into executive session.

At 8:15 p.m., O'Neil and Attorney Petrungaro left the executive session and the meeting.

At 9:13 p.m., motion by Henry, second by McCormick and with unanimous consent, the Board returned to open session.

14. ACTION POSSIBLE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Wilson, second by Henry, to accept the administrative recommendation regarding the dismissal of a specific employee of the public body, effective immediately. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Henry, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

At 9:15 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Stith, to return to executive session to consider matters pertaining to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, and pending litigation. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Nowak, Stith, Wilson, McCormick, Henry, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

At 9:17 p.m., Collins, Ney, Oberg and a member of the support staff left the meeting.

At 9:18 p.m., following a short break for the room to clear, the Board went into to executive session.

At 9:42 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Henry, and with unanimous consent, the Board returned to open session.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:42 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Henry, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____

RECORDING
SECRETARY