

# 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 23, 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 the Vice President led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: 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: Kara Prefountain, Ashley Girard, Erin Kelly, Cathy Fuller, Stephanie Amore, Justyna Ruetsche, Brenda Schory.

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

1. Regular Session, August 26, 2024  
Motion by Forbes second by Hooks, to approve the above-listed minutes, item 2.1. 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. What Makes Your School Special? Literacy PK-12 – GELP Story Champs  
Staff from the Geneva Early Learning Program (GELP) shared what makes their school so special. Our biggest goal at GELP is to prepare our junior Vikings for success in kindergarten and beyond. This is done with consistency in practices, curricular alignment, and developing skills at an age and developmentally appropriate level standard. GELP uses the Story Champs program for literacy, which aligns with what our elementary schools use. It is a multitiered, systematic, and explicit program that strengthens academic skills through storytelling. It also strengthens skills of recalling, sharing of information, acquiring word meanings through context, expanding content knowledge, writing, and comprehending. The stories are built around common childhood experiences and themes. The reason we chose Story Champs is because students with stronger oral language foundations have less difficulty meeting academic expectations, the program exposes students to

expository oral and written language, it uses icons and actions, there are multiple opportunities for differentiation, there are opportunities for generalization across literacy opportunities, and it allows for teaching literacy skills without being literate. Staff shared an example of a basic story structure and videos of our junior Vikings in action. GELP provides a report card for parents through the Home Access Center that measures narrative listening with benchmark assessment, individual proctor, and story grammar/elements.

Board comments, questions, concerns: This sounds fun, and the kids enjoy the program, but we have students that are not coming in just through GELP, but from other pre-schools as well. Do we have any outreach to other pre-schools to offer them the tools we have and use? (One of the reasons we pulled in help and created our own pre-school program is because we must teach the standards even though pre-school is not required to. We also had to offer services for birth to three and three to five. In that three to five setting, our students are eligible for special education services. Some of the external programs want to do their own thing, such as parochial schools that want more of a religious aspect to their teaching.) Do we reach out? (No. We tried to align with the park district pre-school, but they had their own program they were satisfied with.) Do they get numeracy with some aspects of reading comprehension, like word problems? (Right now, the focus is counting, but everything has that element to it. As the year goes on, we have the differentiation piece.) How many students are at GELP? (We have 116 now, but we typically grow by 40-50 more students throughout the year.)

2. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Hearing (Policy 4:10)

1. Public Hearing Agenda

The Board President opened the hearing at 7:30 p.m.

2. 2024-2025 Budget Presentation

Todd Latham presented the final 2024-25 budget, which is required to be adopted by the Board of Education no later than the month of September within the fiscal year it represents. The major changes from the tentative budget to the final budget are staffing levels, grant expenditures and reimbursements, salaries and benefits, Mid-Valley tuition, State and federal grants, and fund transfers. The proposed revenue is \$119,802,398. With fund balance transfers of \$17,687,684, the final budget revenue will be \$137,490,082. The proposed expenditures are \$132,574,203. With fund balance transfers of \$17,261,887, the final budget expenditures will be \$150,261,887. This is a deficit of \$12,771,805. If the proposed budget is approved tonight, we will file the budget with the Kane County Clerk's office, upload the approved budget to the Illinois State Board of Education, adopt the budget in Skyward, update the treasurer's report, present a 5-year projection model, and begin assumptions/forecasting for fiscal year 2025-26.

3. Questions/Comments from Board Members

None.

4. Questions/Comments from Audience Members

None.

5. President Closes Hearing

The Board President closed the hearing at 7:41 p.m.

**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.”*

There is nothing to report tonight, but at our next meeting the resolutions from the Illinois Association of School Boards will be ready for us to discuss and give a thumbs up or down on.

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

The Superintendent shared that the Department of Education has awarded Heartland Elementary School with the Blue Ribbon Schools Award. Only 356 schools nationwide received this award with 18 being in Illinois.

Parent teacher conferences will be held October 10 & 11, with sign up beginning September 25 via the Home Access Center (HAC).

This is homecoming week at the high school and there are events all week long. The parade will be on Friday at 2 p.m. There is an updated early pick-up procedure for elementary and middle schools. GTV will live stream the parade on their YouTube channel for those that cannot be present.

Dr. Barrett thanked Todd Latham and his team for their hard work on the budget. The biggest difference from the tentative to the proposed budget is the planned capital projects. There were projects that were not complete until the new fiscal year, but the funds for those projects were previously budgeted in FY24. Going forward we plan to build a more comprehensive capital plan.

The City of St. Charles has declined the Charles Farm development, which means this project will not move forward. Charles Farm is the latest in a long list of proposed developments for that area and it will not be the last. This development will not be included in future assumptions.

There has been an increase with concerning social media content nationwide that has impacted school districts across the country. Geneva remains vigilant and is asking that you ‘Please Report, Don’t Repost.’

## **7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION**

1. Board Action on Resolution to Adopt Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (Policy 4:10)

Motion by Radlinski, second by Choi, to approve the above-listed resolution, 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 (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

Motion by Hooks second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed policies, items 7.2.1-7.2.18. 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**

### **9. INFORMATION**

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule (Policy 2:220)
2. FOIA Requests & Board Correspondence (Policy 2:250)
3. Suspension Report (Policy 7:200)
4. Out-of-State Trip Request

### **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 Financials - August (Policy 4:40, 4:55)
3. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$2,000, PepsiCo Bottling, sponsorship and scholarship donations (Policy 8:80)
4. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$2,000, Becky Furnish Foundation, for HSS Outdoor Education (Policy 8:80)
5. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$8,089, HSS PTO, for HSS Outdoor Education (Policy 8:80)
6. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$7,000, HSS PTO, for HSS field trips (Policy 8:80)
7. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$3,214.57, HSS PTO, for a one-year subscription to Bloomz - parent communication application (Policy 8:80)
8. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$8,800, FES PTO, for Outdoor Education (\$3,100), birthday books (\$1,500), field trips (\$3,100), water bottle filling station @ plumbed Keurig (\$2,000), assemblies (\$800) (Policy 8:80)
9. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation & Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation, Kane County H2O On the Go grant for a new water fountain
10. EIS Teacher & Administrator Annual Report
11. Mechanical Equipment Pre-purchase Recommendation

Motion by Bellino second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.11. 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 are excited about homecoming week and the events that go with it. Thank you to Dr. Barrett for helping us to understand more about the budget and how it works. Board members congratulated Heartland Elementary School for their recognition award. Thank you to the GELP team that presented tonight. It was great to hear what was happening with our junior Vikings. Thank you to Todd and his team for their year-round work on the budget. A board member would like the district to reach out to other pre-schools in Geneva to try to get them to align their curriculum to

ours. The Theater Boosters met last week, and the underclassman play, “The Great College Visit,” will be October 4 & 5. In early December is the production of “The Christmas Carol” and hope to align one of the performances with the tree lighting in Geneva. The Facilities Task Force met today, and a multimillion-dollar project at the high school was completed, so last week they decided to fire up the new boilers. Board members participated in the VocEd car wash, which was an exciting event. They were raising money for their Unified Special Olympic team. There has been a lot of positive feedback about our changes around the homecoming parade. Thank you to the Harrison and Fabyan PTOs for their generous donations and also to all our PTOs. We cannot do what we do without them. Thank you to the administrative team at Central Office for the great presentations they have been bringing to the board meetings. A board member attended two high school volleyball games, which they had not attended in years. The Music Boosters met last week, where they got an update on the mum sale. Also, do not forget the greenery sale is coming up. The district is starting a new program with lighting, so you can bid these lights goodbye. All current lighting will be replaced with LED lighting, which has a much longer life. Do not forget that our next board meeting is on **Tuesday**, October 15.

**12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC BODY AND ITS EMPLOYEES OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, OR DELIBERATIONS CONCERNING THE SALARY SCHEDULES FOR ONE OR MORE CLASSES OF EMPLOYEES [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)]. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)**

At 8:10 p.m., motion by Forbes, second by Radlinski, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning the salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

At 8:37 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:37 p.m., motion by Cabeen second by Radlinski and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
 PRESIDENT \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Date)

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_  
 RECORDING \_\_\_\_\_

SECRETARY