

**GENEVA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 304
227 NORTH FOURTH STREET, GENEVA, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The Board of Education Finance Committee met at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2015, at Williamsburg Elementary School, 1812 Williamsburg Avenue, Geneva, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Bill Wilson.

Committee members present: Dave Lamb, Kelly Nowak, Bill Wilson, Tom Anderson

Staff present: Elizabeth Janowiak, Director of Technology; Donna Oberg, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent

Others present: Leslie Juby, Shelly Rolfe, Mary Stith, Wendy Miller, Brooke Ramey, Martha Behlow, Taylor Egan

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 February 9, 2015

Motion by Nowak, second by Lamb, to approve the minutes as presented. Ayes, three (3) Lamb, Nowak, Wilson. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION

4.1 School Fees Review

The Assistant Superintendent of Business Services presented information comparing student registration fees for Geneva and the surrounding school districts. Geneva currently has the lowest registration fees. Some of the surrounding districts include a technology fee in their registration fees and some have a technology fee that is separate from their registration fees. We have met with the principals to talk about registration fees and moving forward would like to increase registration fees to accommodate technology fees. It is being proposed that we increase registration fees by \$10 for kindergarten thru 5th grade, \$15 for middle school, and \$20 for high school to help cover the cost of technology. These fees would bring in about \$83,000 of additional funds. We would like the Board's feedback on this. All other fees will remain the same.

Board comments, questions, discussion: Would that be our thinking that we would charge a fee that is similar? (Not at this time.) We did talk about buying individual devices and not necessarily a chrome book. The Director of Technology will talk more about this during her presentation at the Board meeting. We are not recommending chrome books because they are too limited. There were in-depth conversations about this. When would you like a decision on this proposal? (We would like to take it to the Board in April.) I think a technology fee is a great idea, but let's make sure the cost isn't too high. We are looking to have the parents purchase insurance on the 1-to-1 devices that go home. If the unit is lost or stolen, then there would be a charge. We are not planning to send units home with 4th and 5th graders, so we would not impose that fee upon them. This fee is a good idea given the significant technology investment. We have not increased registration fees since 2010 and technology is becoming more important. The devices we need cost around \$500 and are more durable. Chrome books are great and more affordable,

but we need units that are more durable. An introductory lower level fee would be better at this time, and then look at a longer term solution. When we have consumables for a class, we charge additional fees. I think if we are going to continue down the road of technology, then we should be looking at fees for any technology consumables as well. Whatever the equipment might be, we should not be charging the same across the board for all levels, because equipment/consumables are different at each grade level. The fees being proposed don't seem too high for what we are using. Are we charging enough? (We are on the low side compared to other districts, so we could go a little higher, but even these higher fees don't cover the actual cost.)

4.2 Budget Update & PMA Information

The Assistant Superintendent of Business Services reported that her initial meeting with PMA was rescheduled for today and that she did not have time to review the information to be able to give a formal update this evening. She will bring this to an upcoming meeting and will have the projected building budgets included.

Board comments, questions, discussion: We talked about adjusting the CPI? (The CPI was adjusted for the two year rolling. For the first two years it's 1.3 and after that we went ten year rolling which is 2.1.) The O&M Capital Plan is seven years rather than five, along with the security plan also for seven years. We also put in the Tech Plan which will be presented tonight, which is lower than what was presented in December. Then we also put in the abatement. We had them run with both the \$14 million balance and a \$12 million balance.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 April

- 3rd Quarter Review
- 2015-2016 Budget (Ed. Fund)

6. ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO FULL BOARD

The Assistant Superintendent will bring the fees back to the April Finance meeting, as well as to the full Board next month.

Board comments, questions, discussion: Is there any way that we can track what kinds of consumables are tied to technology? (It's hard to track at each level and distinguish between teachers and students.) How about toner and repairs then as a start? (Okay.) Is there an opportunity to save on some of the consumables? Could teachers send more things electronically now that students will have devices? (I would think that with 1-to-1 devices this would be possible. We are definitely trending that way.)

7. INFORMATION

7.1 Legislative Update

It looks like SB1 is getting more attention, so things might start moving. There was information that we might see numbers this week on SB1, but to date we have not seen anything. SB16 is a recreation into SB1 with some of the things going on. We are going to look at some of the numbers for the pension shift and SB1. Steve Miller, who is our PMA representative, and his wife Sara are working with ISBE on some of the legislation. He said they might consider a four year phase in with SB1.

The Superintendent reported that he received an email on Sunday from ASBO International saying that we have received the Meritorious Budget award. This is a

very prestigious award. Mrs. Oberg has worked very hard to secure this for our District for a fourth year. It is something where the budget is gone through meticulously by a committee at the ASBO International level and speaks well to not just our financial management and planning. It also recognizes the work put into it. Thank you to Mrs. Oberg. We hope this continues.

Board comments, questions, discussion: You brought up pensions tonight, and Governor Rauner's proposal has something related to teachers pensions. The pension situation is also an area of concern.

8. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:29 p.m., motion by Lamb, second by Nowak, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____ CHAIRPERSON
(Date) William R. Wilson

SECRETARY _____ RECORDING
Dr. Kent Mutchler Bonnie J. Johnson SECRETARY