

**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, February 13, 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 7:00 p.m. by President Grosso.

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

District administrators present: Doug Drexler, Associate Principal Geneva High School; Larry Bidlack, Principal Geneva Middle School North; Terry Bleau, Principal Geneva Middle School South; Elizabeth Janowiak, Director of Technology; Scott Ney, Interim Director Facility Operations; Craig Collins, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Dawn George, Assistant Superintendent Student Services; Donna Oberg, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Patty O'Neil, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction; and Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: LorriAnn Dowd, Susan & Ron Stevenson, Fred Dresser, Sandra Ellis, Judy Wehrmeister, Debbie Hanson, Lisa Schwer, John Rice, Kathy & Jim VanSpankeren, Dick Graff, Janet and Jonah Gallagher, Tom Finnberg, Allen, Janet & Tom Goier, Sandy & James Bartusek, Allan Dickon, Christy Slawson, Katie Tabor, Chris Bourdage, Mark Schneider, Tina Gaetani.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 2.1 Regular Session January 23, 2012
- 2.2 Executive Session January 23, 2012

A request was made to separate the minutes for vote.

Motion by Stith, second by Wilson, to approve the regular session minutes, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Henry, Moran, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Abstained, one (1), McCormick. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Moran, second by Nowak, to approve the executive session minutes, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Moran, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Henry, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Abstained, one (1), McCormick. Motion carried unanimously.

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS, BOARD REORGANIZATION

- 3.1 Tradition of Excellence Awards - Geneva High School Students
Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Music Festival

The high school associate principal presented James Bartusek (All State Honors Jazz Combo), Tom Goier (All State Jazz Ensemble), Kevin Schneider (All State Orchestra), and Jonah Gallagher (2nd Place *Avant Garde* Division Composition Competition) to the Board of Education in recognition of having been selected to represent the District in the Illinois Music Educators Association competition in Peoria, Illinois, January 26-27, 2012. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to present these students in recognition of their achievements. Ann Green (All State Honors Band) was unable to attend.

The Board presented Tradition of Excellence Awards to the students and congratulated them on their achievement.

3.2 School Improvement Plan Updates: Geneva Middle School North & South

The middle school principals presented an overview of the middle schools' school improvement plans and goals. While there is a solid curriculum in place at the middle school level and many students are successful, there are some students who struggle. Consequently, initiatives have been developed to help all middle school students be successful. They try to get students involved in school activities and in the school community and to let them know there are adults available for support.

The presentation focused on addressing bullying; understanding what bullying is and the impact it can have on the victim, the bystander, and the bully; as well as programs to address the needs of all learners and the academic, functional, and behavioral supports in place for middle school students. At the sixth-grade level, the focus is on the importance of being respectful and understanding aspects of bullying. At the seventh-grade level, the focus is on understanding the impact bullying can have on a student and their school experience. At the eighth-grade level, the focus is on understanding the long-term impact bullying has on both the victim and the bully. Administrators conduct presentations at each grade level to discuss discipline, expectations, the code of conduct, and treating each other with respect. There are also presentations by the counseling staff and the Geneva Police Department on cyber-bullying and Internet safety. Academic, functional and behavioral intervention strategies are in place to help students.

Discussion, comments, questions: is there year-to-year data available through Data Director that shows overall progress (not necessarily because some students don't test well - there are more problem-solving discussions with high school staff when students transition to the high school, but is it less formal); do we have data on the number of recognized instances of bullying (the number varies from year-to-year, that is why we try to be proactive throughout the year and have implemented initiatives to address the problem); this year's program speaker should be invited back again.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent thanked the Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services and Curriculum & Instruction for facilitating evaluator training sessions regarding the new teacher evaluation legislation, and the Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction and Director of Curriculum for facilitation meetings about the new common core curriculum standards. He reported that March 2nd is a teacher institute day and that Geneva will be hosting some of the Kane/DuPage professional development programs scheduled that day.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The President read the following statement:

The meeting agenda includes an opportunity for comments from the audience. It is the prerogative of the Presiding Officer to recognize members of the audience who wish to address the Board during the time reserved for public comment. No discussion of individual students or personnel matters is permitted, as those items are appropriate for closed session pursuant to Section 2 (c) of the Open Meetings Act. If you have a concern regarding an individual student or a personnel issue, you are asked to bring it to the attention of the administration. In the interest of providing all visitors an equal opportunity to address the Board, comments will be limited to five (5) minutes. Those individuals needing more time should submit their thoughts in writing to the Board's recording secretary. Visitors addressing the Board need to come to the podium, use the microphone, and state their full name and address because the proceedings are video recorded for later broadcasting to the community. The Board reserves the right to edit the video recordings for the purpose of excluding any public comment regarding an individual student or a personnel issue. Per Board of Education Bylaw 0167.3, "No interviews should be conducted in the meeting room while the Board is in session." If members of the press/audience want to conduct an interview, they should wait until the conclusion of the meeting, or go out in the hallway or to another room.

Comments included: worked with a financial planner when we made retirement decisions, would like the Board to provide accurate 5-to-10 year projections for the tax increases in order to be able to

determine whether we can deal with the tax increases or not (there are many complex variables associated with that, our financial analysts have made projections, and would encourage you to make an appointment with our Assistant Superintendent Business Services to discuss this topic) - we understand that this is complex, if it could be simplified with projections for 5-years it would be helpful, and I'm disgusted with your response; I always say I'm not going to speak, then see the agenda and have to speak - it appears the Board is conducting business in executive session and outside their meetings - the proposed Finance Committee guidelines don't include any community members or allow for public comment at the meetings - I'm against the entire field turf process, the mysterious donor, taxpayers not knowing what is going on - before they vote, the Board needs to answer whether there are requirements attached to the anonymous donation, whether they have the funds or not, what they know about the background of the recommended bidder, why the recommended bidder's web site already says the contract is theirs - Kefer did a similar project for less than a million dollars - the Board needs to be transparent and tell us what we are getting for a million dollars.

6. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Bid Summary/Award: Burgess Field Renovation, \$1,100,000.00, Nicholas & Associates, Inc. The Superintendent thanked the anonymous donor for the \$500,000 contribution, which is in the bank. He thanked Tom Finnberg and Dave Weede for leading the Friends of Burgess Field campaign and for the \$45,000 they raised. These generous contributions allowed the Board to consider the possibility of the installation of field turf vs. grass in the renovation of Burgess Field. The use of field turf will provide a safer surface for our athletes and our physical education classes, as well as, allow for much greater use of the field. He thanked Jim Bibby of Rempe Sharpe, the City of Geneva, and the Regional Office of Education for their overview of the plan. He reported that we waited to bid this project in order to try to get the best possible price for the project and that the cost for field turf will be less than a grass field.

The Assistant Superintendent Business Services and the Interim Director of Facility Operations reviewed the scope of the project and bid summary. The renovation of Burgess Field is part of the District's five-year capital improvement plan which has been discussed by the Board for the past year (available on the web site). \$500,000 has been budgeted for the rebuilding of the field; \$250,000 in this year's and in next year's budgets. Improvements will include repair of the drainage system, rebuilding the field, the installation of artificial grass, widening of the track, and fencing. In April 2011, the Board accepted the donation from Friends of Burgess Field (\$45,000). In December 2011, the District received the \$500,000 anonymous donation and went to bid. The bid was let in compliance with all legal requirements, it was published, transparent, and open to anyone who wished to attend. The last renovations at Burgess Field were in 1994. Due to the deterioration of the field, the primary concern if nothing was done was injury to players. Four contractors submitted bids. Rempe-Sharpe and Associates, Inc., verified all contractors' references; which provided only positive feedback. Nicholas & Associates of Mt. Prospect, Illinois was the lowest bidder, with a bid of \$1,100,000.00, and it was recommended that they be awarded the bid for this project.

Board discussion, comments, questions: have we done soil testing yet (yes, and the reports are available to review); is funding included to cover the cost of soil removal (yes); want to make it clear that Rempe-Sharpe did prequalifying for all bidders (correct, and the reports are available for review); have we received Nicholas' sub list yet (not yet); I'm familiar with Nicholas and Associates, they are a locally known firm and they will use licensed and certified installers; no firm has a contract until it is approved by the Board of Education - since the bids are announced at the time of the opening, and the lowest bidder is known at that time, contractors often promote that they have the contract - we can't control what they put on their web site; since we don't know if the Kefer project that was referenced during the public comments this evening involved the same scope of work as our project, we can't compare it "apples to apples" - if Nicholas & Associates, Inc. is the lowest responsible bidder, by law, we are required to accept their bid; early in the discussion for this project, the Financial Task Force discussed the project and the possibility of artificial turf with the high school athletic director - FieldTurf is a good product; due to the work, support, and generosity of the donors, the District is able to complete this renovation project with the installation of artificial turf at half the cost to the taxpayers, allow for extended use of the field with out the need for additional practice

fields, and provide additional use of the field for our physical education classes, marching band, and other sports - this is a win; the timeframe for the Board's consideration of this project has been more like 18-24 months - beginning with an athletic field needs assessment study - and discussion of whether additional practice fields were needed - I take exception to the notion that this process wasn't transparent or that discussion or decisions occurred in executive session or outside of the Board meetings.

Motion by Moran, second by Henry, to accept the bid from Nicholas & Associates, Inc., as presented. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Moran, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Henry, McCormick, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

6.2 Board Finance Committee

The President reported that the Board has been considering the creation a finance committee for some time. The finance committee, like the Board's policy committee, would be advisory only and would comply with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act. The President thanked Member Wilson for developing the proposed guidelines for the operation of the finance committee. It was requested that the guidelines be amended to include the Assistant Superintendent Business Services as a member of the committee and that Board member serving on the Finance Committee be required to attend a workshop or class on school district finance provided by the Illinois Association of School Boards or another similarly recognized organization.

Board discussion, comments, questions: the Board has been considering the creation of a finance committee for a number of years, agree that Board members serving on this committee should be required to have training in school finance and would suggest that if in the future the committee be expanded to include community members, that they, too, be required to have training in school finance; there is nothing in the proposed operating guidelines that indicates who appoints members to this committee and it should be included; researched many other districts to see if they have a finance committee and how it operated, believe having a finance committee vs. a financial task force will benefit the Board as well as the community; want to remind the community that this is a first step, it doesn't mean it stops here, while there will be no opportunity for public comment at the finance committee level, there is always opportunity for public comment at the regular board meetings.

Motion by Wilson, second by Stith, to create a Board Finance Advisory Committee, as presented, and to approve the proposed operating guidelines, with the recommended amendments. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Henry, McCormick, Moran, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

Following the vote, the Board President noted that Board members of the Finance Committee would be Nowak and Wilson who were currently on the Financial Task Force. Member McCormick agreed to serve as the third Board member on the committee. The committee chair will be determined at the first meeting.

7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

None

8. INFORMATION

8.1 GHS Counseling & Advising Report: January 31, 2012

8.2 District 304 Public Forums List

No discussion.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Long-term Substitutes Certified

Blauser, Becky, MCS, Grade 4, 1.0 FTE, Effective 2/6/12 to 3/2/12

Curl, Rebecca, GMSN, Social Studies, 1.0 FTE, Effective 2/10/12 to 5/1/12

Pannier, Lesley, HES, Grade 3, 1.0 FTE, Effective 3/12/12 to 5/10/12

Julian, Natalie, FS Preschool, 1.0 FTE, Effective 3/20/12 to 6/4/12

Kettell, Mary Ann, HES, Grade 2, 1.0 FTE, Effective 4/16/12 to 5/7/12

New Hires Support

Kuykendall, David, Garage, Bus Driver, 9 month, Start date 1/26/12

Lund, Brian, GHS, Temporary Custodian, 12 month, Start date 2/14/12

Cooper, Kyle, GHS, Security, Saturday 12 hr/wk, 9 month, Start date 2/14/12

Reappointments/Reclassifications Support

Salas, Guadalupe, GHS Temporary 2nd Shift Custodian to GMSS Full-time 2nd Shift Custodian, 12 month

Long-term Substitutes Support

Beres, Alaina, GMSN, Special Ed Assistant, 7 hr/day, Effective 2/10/12 to 5/1/12

Erickson, Alyssa, GMSN, Special Ed Assistant, 7 hr/day, Effective 2/15/12 to 6/4/12

9.2 Disposition of Executive Session Minutes, July 2011 through December 2011

9.3 Waiver of Rental Fee - 2012, 2013, 2014: Annual Arts & Crafts Show, Mothers Club of Geneva

9.4 Technology Purchase, Phase 1, Five-year Capital Outlay Plan, Computer Replacement, Geneva High School & Mill Creek Elementary School, \$63,991.20, IL State Contract Pricing, Victorin/Heartland Business Systems

Motion by Moran, second by McCormick, to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 through 9.4, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Stith, Wilson, Henry, McCormick, Moran, Nowak, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION

Comments included: I'm not against the turf field but against the process and the fact that everyone was thanked except the taxpayers who will pay for the improvements, perception is reality and in my opinion, the company awarded this bid has questionable ethics, also, the interim Director of Facilities couldn't answer either of the questions asked, I asked the Assistant Superintendent Business Services for the bid documents this morning and didn't get a response, hope the Board chose the right company; concerned about the comments made by Member Henry at the January 23rd meeting about complaining by those who had over extended themselves, agree name calling can be frustrating, but we worked in the private sector, bought our home in Geneva, planned our retirement, and the private sector doesn't give pensions, frustrated that no board member has acknowledged that they blew it, you can blame these problems on anything you want but not on the taxpayers, there are contracts that will be acted on by the Board without any public input, we have pared down as much as we can and we don't see that happening with the Board; is it correct that there will be three Board members on the Finance Committee (yes), who are the administrators on the committee (the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent Business Services), if community members are added to this committee, will they be eligible for training (yes), will you give thought to having community members serve on the Finance Committee (it will be discussed at the Board retreat meeting in March), what are this year's forums (the one last fall was on school finance - it is available to view on Comcast Channel 10 - another forum is being planned for this spring), will there be an opportunity for public input at the next forum (yes), have negotiations with the teachers started (yes), will the public be privy to the contract prior to its being ratified (no, not until after it has been ratified, community members can provide input about this topic to the Board and administration now), many citizens in Geneva are on fixed incomes, believe that they should have input and say in how their money is being spent, what will be expected from them, and want the Board to provide more transparency.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Policy Committee, Financial Task Force, Facilities 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 Communication Task Force has received positive feedback on the newsletter's new format; the Board has held two public forums, with an opportunity for questions and answers, for each of the past six years; accompanied Williamsburg Elementary School third-grade

students on a visit to Arden Court, it was a very positive experience; four members of the Board attended the Illinois Association of School Boards' Kishwaukee Division meeting in Sycamore on Open Meeting Act training; thanked Member Moran for encouraging and supporting the creation of the Finance Advisory Committee, this is a first step; all of the Board members take transparency very seriously and I want to correct some misinformation that is out there - first, math and reading booster programs start in kindergarten - second, the Board of Education did not receive a recommendation from PMA Financial to use \$11 million to pay down debt, William Blair (District's financial consultant) provided a number of options for refunding/restructuring debt (October 24, 2011 Financing Update) for the Board's consideration, one of which was using fund balances for defeasance, and recommend that the Board not use that option; am extremely offended that for the second time comments are being made that the Board is being dishonest, and operating unethically and illegally and not in compliance with the Open Meetings Act - if you believe that is occurring, if anyone believes that, they need to contact the Illinois Attorney General; attended the Parent University over the weekend, it was an excellent presentation with a good turnout and I would encourage continuation of this event; regarding tax projections, this is a topic we may ask our assessors about at a Finance Committee meeting; attended the middle school and high school jazz concert at GMS-North and will attend the Williamsburg Elementary School "Love of Reading" event tomorrow, which is another opportunity for community members to participate in our children's education; the school finance forum is still available on Comcast's Channel 10, for community members that don't have access to Comcast, there will be DVD copies of the forum available to check out at the next Board meeting.

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC BODY AND ITS EMPLOYEES OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)]

At 8:39 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Moran, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Wilson, Henry, McCormick, Moran, Nowak, Stith, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

The President noted that no action would be taken following executive session.

At 8:50 p.m., following a break for the room to clear and for Board members and administrators to respond to questions from the Press and audience, the Board moved into executive session.

At 9:48 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Nowak, and with unanimous consent, the Board returned to open session.

14. ACTION POSSIBLE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:50 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Henry, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____

RECORDING
SECRETARY