

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, November 10, 2025, 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, Paul Radlinski. Late: None. Absent: Willard Hooks.

The President welcomed everyone, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Dave Carli, Principal Geneva Middle School North; Todd Latham, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services; Shonette Sims, Assistant Superintendent for Learning & Teaching; Dr. Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

Others present: Cathy Fuller, Mike Graham, Garrett Lane, Jake Austin, Eric & Elizabeth Ott, Jim & Jessica Lehan, Maya Lehan, Rich & Lindsey Calvario, Neil Best, Phil Bellino, Angela Rago, Tushar Nakum, Scott Hennig, Ashley Shanel, Kevin Dempsey, Roma Dagura, Dale Dagura, Kayler Dagura, Danielle Deringer, Kevin Deringer, Kevin Deringer, Toni Blaszyński, Sarah Paulson, Christine Lazaris, Sarah Lando, Nate & Dawn McGowan, Evan Best, Jacob Calvario, Daniel Dempsey, Lachlan Deringer, Jonathan Lando, Evan McGowan, Elliott Wagner, Grayson Ott.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, October 27, 2025
2. Executive Session, October 27, 2025

Motion by Forbes second by Bellino, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 2.1-2.2. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Hooks. Abstained, one (1), Choi.

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Tradition of Excellence: GMSN & GMSS Students (Policy 6:330)
GMSN/GMSS Boys & Girls Cross Country

GMSN Boys Cross Country Team State Qualifiers

Gavin Anderson
Evan Best
Jacob Calvario

Daniel Dempsey
Lachlan Deringer
Owen Knecht

Jonathan Lando
Evan McGowan
Elliott Wagner

GMSN Girls Cross Country State Qualifier
Maya Lehan

GMSS Boys Cross Country State Qualifiers
Grayson Ott

2. What Makes Our School Special: Heartland Buddies Pulling Together – HES Staff & Students

Students from Heartland Elementary School invited the board to join them in making a difference by collecting pop tabs. They shared that pop tabs can make an enormous difference. The Ronald McDonald House Charities uses pop tabs to keep families close to their hospitalized child. You can help by spreading the word and collecting pop tabs to help fill the HES fish tank. When you fill your box house, you can drop it off at HES and it will be added to the fish tank. Students provided board members with box houses and helped them put them together.

3. National Board Members Day – November 15, 2025

Dr. Barrett recognized the board members with a certificate for National Board Members Day. He thanked them for their time and service to Geneva CUSD 304.

4. Content Curious: Physical Education K-12 – GHS Staff

Physical Education teachers from all levels shared what is happening in PE at the various levels. At the elementary level they work on motor and manipulative skill development, social skills, health awareness, fun and engagement, and developing physical literacy. They try to incorporate these things into play to make sure the students are having fun and engaging. The physical literacy cycle is skill competence, confidence, motivation, and participation. The hope is that the students will take these skills and find a way to be active in the community. At the middle schools' students still need to move, and PE needs to be a positive experience. The goals they work on are skill refinement, sports rules, teamwork and strategy, personal responsibility, and an introduction to health. They want their students to be lifelong movers. At the high school, students are offered several options for PE. The goals they work on are personalized fitness, lifelong activities, health and wellness literacy, leadership and independence, decision-making, and student choice. They are hoping that after they graduate that students find something to keep them healthy for a lifetime.

Board comments, questions, concerns: At the high school, how do we focus on mental health? (We incorporate mental health days where we take a break. We started "calm classroom" where we work on relaxation and breathing. We want PE to be fun. We embed things like mindfulness, yoga, and Pilates, which are non-traditional fitness activities.)

5. Proposed 2025 Tentative Tax Year Levy (Policy 4:10) – Todd Latham

Todd Latham presented an update to the 2025 Tax Year Levy, which was presented at the last meeting as the 2025 Proposed Tax Year Levy. The changes from the proposed to the tentative include higher estimations to capture all the property that we can. The amount to levy on special education was increased, and the Municipal Retirement, Social Security, and Fire Prevention and Safety funds were looked at. The proposed levy was \$108,142,811 (3.35%) and the tentative levy is now \$109,012,230 (4.19%). Things that could create potential changes before the final levy are capital and fire safety plans, bids, change orders, funding needs, working agreements and benefits, the economy, changes in funding, and changes to the capital and technology plans. As of June 30, 2025, the cash reserve balance was \$63,144,734. At the December board meeting we will have the Truth in Taxation hearing and the board will vote on the levy.

Board comments, questions, concerns: When you levied more dollars for special education, was that because there was a lack of federal funding? (No, it was just looking back at what we spent last year.)

6. Strategic Plan Goal 1 - Demographic & Capacity Next Steps – Dr. Andy Barrett
The Superintendent shared an update on the Strategic Plan Goal #1, Enrollment and Staffing. This goal talks about enrollment and staffing, and right-sizing as our enrollment declines. After conducting both the Demographic Study and the Facility Capacity Analysis we asked ourselves one question, “How do we best achieve our goals of reasonable, equitable, and sustainable elementary school experiences in Geneva 304.” There were two critical questions that came from the Facility Capacity Analysis. They were in regards to our building’s usage efficiency and is there a need to balance enrollments across the district. When we look at all the data, it tells us that even though we have a difference in enrollments, we are utilizing our buildings efficiently. One thing that we worried about was the difference in class sizes, so as a district we worked on this creating better consistency. Additional considerations are adjusting our boundaries, evaluating our long-term goal for the Geneva Early Learning Program, and the implications of the La Fox of Campton Hills development. We are recommending at this time that we maintain our current boundary structure, continue to collaborate with stakeholders, and determine the most appropriate attendance area for new students from the La Fox of Campton Hills area.

Board comments, questions, concerns: As we are trying to determine an appropriate attendance area for the La Fox development, do we want to do that holding that we will not change boundaries? (Yes, that is the way we would do it for now.) The demographic study that we did last year, how many years out did that look at? (It was ten years, but the strongest data is in five years because it used birth data.) Was the La Fox development part of this study? (No.) Will it be included in the future? (Yes.) Is the data still good from last year? (Yes.)

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.*

Christine Lazaris, Geneva Public Library Director, talked about the partnership between the Geneva School District and the library. The goal is to link student school IDs to their library cards. This would allow students to have access to resources when they are not in school. They are working on a secure way to link this data. Parents will have the option to opt out if they wish. This collaboration would not create a new library card for students who already have one.

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 the General Assembly finished veto session in the wee hours the Friday morning of Halloween. Several bills did pass through the House and the Senate and are now on the governor’s desk for signature. There is one bill to mention and that is SB 243, which is related to FOIA requests. There are two parts to highlight about the updates. One is when an agency receives a FOIA request the request must be within the body of email and not as an attachment, and the other is confirming that a human is making the request.

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

7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. GHS Proposal for New & Modified Courses for 2025-2026 (Policy 6:40)
Motion by Radlinski second by Bellino, to approve the above-listed, item 7.1. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Hooks. Abstained, none (0).

8. **WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION**

The Superintendent shared that November 15 is School Board Members Day and that American Education Week is coming up as well. We have seven **VOLUNTEER** board members who volunteer a lot of time and effort and who care about making our community better. They have a combined service of twenty-six years and have diverse backgrounds and experiences. Thank you to all our veterans for your service! Our students have some great experiences on Veterans Day. The Calendar Committee meets tomorrow to talk about the start of school for the 2026-27 school year. The big consideration is the early start versus the later start. There are many things to consider when making this decision. The committee will be bringing the draft calendar and possibly the next couple of calendars to the December board meeting. He shared that the school district and library district are excited about their upcoming partnership. A key decision is the opt in or opt out options. Any information shared with the library will remain with the library and will not be shared. The district is recommending the opt out option. If the board has no questions, we are ready to draft up the Intergovernmental Agreement. Lastly, he shared how impressed he is with how the school community is trying to support those in need. The district has a community resources page on their website. You heard at a previous meeting about work that was being done for Red Ribbon Week, which included a food drive. The schools and community partners have also stepped up to help those who are struggling.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Is the date of birth necessary when linking student IDs to library cards? (Yes, because that is how the library tracks the individual between libraries. It is also used to track when a child becomes eighteen and moves to an adult card.)

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. Geneva Public Library Partnership Update

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 Financial Report – October (Policy 4:50)
3. Paper Records Destruction
4. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$2,500, Ball Horticultural Company, for GHS horticulture activities (Policy 8:80)

Motion by Choi second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.4. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Hooks. 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, 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 thanked those that presented tonight and thought it was awesome to see our kids present. The Intergovernmental Task Force met for the first time and there were many governmental entities. Thank you to our teachers who get our kids excited about things like the Ronald McDonal House Charities pop tab collection. Congratulations to our athletes who were recognized tonight. The fall play, Romeo & Juliet, is this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at GHS. All shows start at 7 p.m. The Facilities Task Force met today. They are trying to make sure we have the

infrastructure ready for our strategic plan. There will be a long and fruitful discussion about this and the capital that is going to be needed to do this at the upcoming retreat. We will need to figure out how to do all of this if we want to continue to see the performance we currently do from our schools. The Policy Committee met tonight, and they have been working on policies 7:200 and 7:210, which will be coming forward at the next meeting. There are many more policy updates to look at over the next couple of meetings. Thanks to our PE departments for sharing. Thank you to Sandy Riley for putting together the resource page on our website. Thank you to my fellow board members as it is not about agreeing on everything but more about having the conversations.

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 8:33 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 8:41 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:41 p.m., motion by Bellino second by Forbes and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____ PRESIDENT
(Date)

SECRETARY _____