



**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, October 25, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Geneva Middle School South, 1415 Viking Drive, Geneva, Illinois.

**1. CALL TO ORDER (Policy 2:220)**

1. Roll Call
2. Welcome
3. Pledge
4. Reminder to sign attendance sheet

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Egan.

Board members present: Larry Cabeen, Dan Choi, Jackie Forbes, Tammie Meek, Vice President/Finance Committee Chair Mike McCormick, Policy Committee Chair Alicia Saxton, President Taylor Egan. Late: None. Absent: None.

The President welcomed everyone and led them in the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Tim Baker, Security Supervisor; Doug Drexler, Associate Principal Geneva High School; Laura Sprague, Communications Coordinator; Todd Latham, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Dr. Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: Ryan Deniz, John Zimny, Lauren Sower, Erin DiSilvestro, Debbie Myszkowski, Luke Myszkowski, Ava Myszkowski, Stephanie Bellino, Lisa Meister, Ashley Andreucetti, Carlie Gore, Elissa Gore, Kristin Jones, Laura Petrucci, Chrissi Bretz, Roxanne Shilka, Pat Hirschtick, Kate Bochte, Doug Gullang, Dasia Gullang, David & Claudia Eichelberger, Scott Black, Linnea Mason, Matt Mason, Patti Hodge, Mira Franco, Lesley Wagner.

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

1. Regular Session, October 12, 2021  
Motion by McCormick, second by Meek, to approve the above-listed minutes, item 2.1. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, McCormick, Meek, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

**3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Red Ribbon Week Activities:  
GHS Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD Club), Carlie Gore & Ruby Ferguson  
GHS Sponsors Lisa Meister & Ashley Andreucetti

Members of the SADD Club shared that the entire nation is celebrating Red Ribbon Week to send a message to the community to take responsibility for their health and to make sensible decisions regarding substance abuse. There is a lot of pressure on teens to fit in with different crowds, and much of that pressure is placed on them by their own perceptions of what normal behavior looks like. The Red Ribbon Week Committee and the SADD Club try to send a different message to teens to let them know what the real world is, and that not many teens are out using drugs on weekends.

Statistics show that teens who are involved in their community are less likely to get involved in risky behavior. They work by six principles to lead a drug free lifestyle. Red Ribbon Week is about encouraging your friends, family, and community to continue making smart, healthy choices. They encourage parents to talk about healthy decisions amongst your families.

Sponsors of the SADD Club shared that, during Red Ribbon Week, students give back with the annual food drive. They are also working with the GTV students to promote healthy decision-making and being brave by standing up to peer pressure. Also, we send notifications out to parents on how they can discard leftover medications. Teens underestimate how dangerous things like marijuana and prescription painkillers really are.

#### **4. 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 is in their veto session. There has been movement on a few bills, but she will have more to share at our next meeting, since bills are still being amended at this time.

#### **5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Policy 3:40)**

The Superintendent shared that we are close to the end of the first trimester at the elementary level with parent/teacher conferences coming up. We also have tournaments for the fall athletic activities going on. There is a volleyball tournament tomorrow, Wednesday is boys' soccer and today we found out that our swimmers on our cooperative swim team won conference. We have football playoffs coming up on Saturday, which is particularly great news, because we have not been in the playoffs for several years.

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

##### **1. IASB Legislative Resolutions**

Jackie Forbes shared, that as the delegate for the school board, we do have our Delegate Assembly meeting coming up next month, and we have many resolutions to review. There were two resolutions that received comment from the public last week that we need to discuss. The first one is resolution #15-Child Safe Gun Storage and resolution #2- Student Safety and Protection Plan. The committee agreed not to adopt resolution #15, but the feedback we received was in favor of adopting. Other resolutions discussed were resolution #11-Clean Energy Infrastructure Federal Funding and resolution #9-Health & Sex Education Curriculum.

Board comments, questions, concerns: For resolution #15, they argued over specifics of the language the same as they had the previous year. The fact that this resolution is an expansion draws less concern. The challenge is how to enforce it. This is an overreach of what a school board should and can recommend. The Board agreed to vote to not adopt this resolution. For resolution #2, there are rural districts, and they are looking to have someone on the premises. District rationale is important; however, this does not apply to us. This is not an arm the teacher resolution. In some cases, districts have police officers twenty minutes away. This resolution sets a dangerous precedence. The Board agreed not to support this resolution. Is there any new information on resolution #11, other than what is listed? (No.) There is concern about too much local variation on resolution #9. The resolution was to maintain local control over sex education curriculum. The Board will support this resolution.

#### **7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION**

##### **1. GHS Proposal for New & Modified Courses for 2022-2023**

Geneva High School Assistant Principal Doug Drexler shared that curriculum planning for the 2022-2023 school year has already begun. They are recommending one new course called Art Foundations and changes to several existing courses. Additionally, they are seeking approval for a textbook titled *The First Day of School: How to Be an Effective Teacher*, which would support the dual credit Teaching Internship course. These recommendations are unlikely to require significant changes in staffing, space, or materials.

##### **2. 2021 Tentative Tax Levy (Policy 4:10)**

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Todd Latham shared an overview of the tentative tax levy. The purpose of the local property tax is to access funding, which represents approximately 83% of the total school district revenue. The total dollars levied, and the total assessed property is how we determine the tax rate. The Equal Assessed Value (EAV) of property and new property gives us an estimated total EAV. All our funds are capped and subject to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), except for the Bonds & Interest Fund. The district is expected to levy approximately 3.40% in new revenue, with an overall estimated increase of 2.84% over the 2020 levy. The next step will be to bring the finalized levy to the Board for approval at the November meeting.

## 8. INFORMATION

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule
2. FOIA Requests (Policy 2:250)
3. Suspension Report (Policy 7:200)
4. Out-of-State Trip to Pigeon Forge, TN

## 9. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE, New Hires (Policies 3:50, 5:200, 5:280)

### New Hires Certified Staff

Cabeen, Pam, GHS, French, .8 FTE, effective 10/25/21

### FMLA Certified Staff

Rhea, Andy, GMSS, Language Arts, effective 12/20/21-2/18/22

Doty, Emily, GHS, Counselor, effective 1/19/22-4/20/22

Cotter, Jordyn, HSS, ELL, effective 12/17/21-3/25/22

Essex, Laura, GMSN, Language Arts, effective 2/7/22-4/29/22

### Resignations Certified Staff

Tortorello-Allaway, Antoinette, GHS, French, effective 10/20/21

### New Hires Support Staff

Amezquita, Kevin, All Buildings, Custodian, effective 10/19/21

Cabrera, Michael, GHS, Security, effective 10/25/21

De Loera, Rose, CO, Substitute Services/HR Administrative Assistant, effective 10/28/21

Hill, Josh, All Buildings, Grounds, effective 10/18/21

### FMLA Support Staff

Ernst, Thomas, TRAN, Bus Driver, effective 8/9/21-TBD

Griffith, Ronnie, CO, Administrative Assistant, effective 11/8/21-1/3/22

Todd, Christine, HSS, Classroom Assistant, effective 11/19/21-12/23/21

### Resignations Support Staff

Flores, Miguel, FES, Custodian, effective 10/19/21

### Reclassification Support Staff

Prado-Viveros, Epifania, WAS, Custodian (GHS) to Custodian (WAS), effective 10/6/21

### Retirement Support Staff

McCool, Sharon, GMSS, Special Education Assistant, effective 1/14/22

2. Monthly Financials - September (Policy 4:40, 4:55)

Motion by McCormick, second by Cabeen, to approve the above-listed, items 9.1-9.2. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Choi, Forbes, McCormick, Meek, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, one (1), Cabeen.

## 10. 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.*

Several community members shared concerns and comments with the Board about visitors in buildings, face masks, test scores, sex education and IASB resolutions.

## 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, Geneva Coalition for Youth, PRIDE, Fox Valley Career Center, IASB/Legislative, IASB Kishwaukee Governing Board*

Geneva High School had their orchestra concert, which we were able to attend in-person. Board members attended the Williamsburg PTO meeting last week. There are great things happening and a lot of positive energy at Williamsburg. The Music Boosters will be hosting concerts this year, which is exciting. They currently have their holiday sale taking place through November 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be a faculty recital on January 21<sup>st</sup> at Geneva High School. Board members attended the Support Staff Committee meeting where there was discussion about the challenges with enrollment. The Facilities Task Force met today, where they shared good reports on solar powered energy. Thank you to the presenters from the high school on Red Ribbon Week. It was great to hear students are working with the community on their annual food drive. The GHS choir performance drew a very enthusiastic crowd. Geneva Middle School South will have their choir concert this week. Thank you to Todd Latham for the levy presentation tonight. We appreciate those who came out to attend and speak at tonight's meeting. At the recent COVID Task Force meeting it was shared that there are volunteer positions open at the elementary schools. Please reach out to your school to see where you can help.

**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 FOR ONE OR MORE CLASSES OF EMPLOYEES [5ILCS 120/2(c)(2)]; THE PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR THE USE OF THE PUBLIC BODY, INCLUDING MEETINGS HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING WHETHER A PARTICULAR PARCEL SHOULD BE ACQUIRED [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5). [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)**

At 8:37 p.m., motion by McCormick, second by Cabeen, 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 for one or more classes of employees; the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

At 9:17 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

**14. POSSIBLE ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Memorandum of Understanding

No action taken.

2. Possible Land Action

Motion by Cabeen, second by Choi, to approve the purchase of the Metra Property that includes Parcel A-5.17 acres for \$250,000 and Parcel B-3.24 acres for \$34,000, item 14.2. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, McCormick, Meek. Nays, two (2), Saxton, Egan. Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:18 p.m., motion by Cabeen, second by Choi and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_

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