

**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, January 26, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at Williamsburg Elementary School, 1812 Williamsburg Avenue, Geneva, Illinois

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- 1.1 Roll Call
- 1.2 Welcome
- 1.3 Pledge
- 1.4 Reminder to sign attendance sheet

Board members present: Leslie Juby, David Lamb, Mike McCormick, Vice President Kelly Nowak, Policy Committee Chair Mary Stith, Finance Committee Chair Bill Wilson.  
Late: President Mark Grosso. Absent: None.

The Vice-President welcomed everyone, reminded them to sign the attendance record, and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Lynn Reilly, Assistant Director of Student Services; Anne Giarrante, Director of Student Services; Brigid Buchman, Instructional Innovation Facilitator; Elizabeth Janowiak, Director of Technology; Stephanie Martin, Coordinator of Early Childhood; Dr. Andy Barrett, Director of Learning & Teaching; Aaron Rosengarn, Assistive Technology Instructional Facilitator; Craig Collins, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Donna Oberg, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Patty O'Neil, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; and Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: Annie Seitelman, Ann Murtaugh, Julie Williams.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Per Board Policy 0167.3, Section C, Attendees wishing to speak at the Board meeting must register their intention to participate in the public portion(s) of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting. Complete the form found 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.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 3.1 Regular Session, January 12, 2015
- 3.2 Executive Session, January 12, 2015

Motion by Lamb, second by McCormick, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 3.1 & 3.2 as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Stith, Wilson, Nowak. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Grosso. Abstained, none (0).

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

- 4.1 Pre-School Update

Anne Giarrante, Lynn Reilly and Stephanie Martin presented the current state of the preschool program. Friendship Station began its program with our preschool program with just two classrooms, and within the first two years it increased to four. Students are identified for our program through screenings and early intervention. Assessment teams are responsible for all evaluations, eligibility meetings at the preschool and screening students on a monthly basis. This year, 16 students have been added to the program. Currently, the three and four year olds in the instructional program attend four days a week for 2.5 hours a day, and the three and four year olds in the integrated program attend two days a week for 2.5 hours a day. The integrated programs are partnered with the park district at Friendship Station and the instructional programs are housed at Fabyan. A

comparison was done to show how we compare to surrounding districts regarding the number of days per week and the number of hours per week for both the integrated and instructional programs. The number of students in the integrated and instructional programs has been rising over the last three years. In the future, we would like to assess available space to accommodate the increasing enrollment of students in the instructional program, increase the number of days of attendance for all pre-school students, increase the amount of time that four year olds attend to prepare them for full-day kindergarten, and to continue to work collaboratively with the Geneva Park District to follow research-based curriculum that aligns to the Early Learning Standards.

Board comments, questions, discussion: Has anything changed with screening over the past 4-5 years? (Play-based assessment is something new we have done for evaluations.) What is the typical interaction with parents? (With a full evaluation, if students don't separate well from the parents, sometimes we keep parents in the assessment room until the student feels comfortable. At that point, the parent meets with the nurse and social worker to go over their questionnaire to elaborate more on some of the questions. The parents are also part of the team for the eligibility meeting.) Do parents initiate the screening process? (Yes.) How do we compare with other districts with number of instructional students? (Don't know, but we will find out.) How are integrated students handling going from a short day to full-day kindergarten? (It depends on the student. Most of the integrated students do well, but instructional students tend to struggle with the transition.) If they had a longer day, do we have space to house them? (Space is an issue even if we don't increase the hours per day.) Is enrollment increasing? (Yes.) Are the physical requirements different by law than what a regular classroom has to have? (No.) As you are gathering data, I would like to see the total enrollment for pre-school population for the last five years. The percent of students is growing, and we are doing a better job of identifying, but I would like to see the trend data. What does this mean in the future for staffing, population, space, etc.? (We are not looking to make any major changes for next year.) We always need to look at future growth. We looked at a variety of our school buildings that would meet our requirements. We have to look at ground floor, a separate entrance, four classrooms that are next to each other, and restrooms that are close by. We didn't want to move the Mid Valley programs, but we will have to move them in order to meet our requirements for preschoolers. We also wanted to find space near the park district or current preschool. Western Avenue really works out and meets the requirements. When students are going from preschool to full-day kindergarten our preschool hours are really low. These recommendations would have been made even if we didn't have full-day kindergarten.

#### 4.2 5<sup>th</sup> Grade 1-to-1 Update

Brigid Buchman presented the Fifth Grade Technology Integration program update. The goals of this program are: students will demonstrate self-direction and independence, students will use technology tools to communicate and collaborate, students and teachers will be immersed in a creative, complex, and adaptive learning culture, and students will apply appropriate digital citizenship. She involved the Board members in a demo of Kahoot!, which is a feedback assessment tool for students. Teachers can gather data from this program into Excel to show where further instruction is needed. Our teachers need adequate professional development to insure success. We have created a matrix to determine the needs of the teachers. The different categories are Active, Collaborative, Constructive, Authentic, and Goal-Directed. The results so far show that Collaboration is the winner. Student use of collaborative tools has increased 23% from the beginning of the year. We are focusing on the Authentic category where students will learn how to create global connections, choose which tool to use, and meaningful ways to use. We hosted a parent night where 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers spoke to about 68 parents about the program. We also had our "Hour of Code" back in December where students learn to write code. We had a tough start but once they caught on it was great. Our units and lessons are changing, so we interviewed students for their thoughts.

Board comments, questions, discussion: Are all of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers using this? (Yes, and they are sharing their data.) I think a lot of us here agree that with technology our kids are becoming more isolated, so it's nice to see that the opposite can be true. I am excited about the collaboration taking place amongst our teachers. They are in fact modeling that really good behavior for our children. Please thank Mrs. Bauer for giving me my login for Kid Blog. Please let us know about the parent

night next year, because I think some of us would like to attend.

**5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

The Superintendent reported that we have started a new semester and everything is going smoothly. We are up for financial review for our financial rating with Standard and Poor's. They do this every three years, so we are in the process of preparing for it. Thank you to Donna for her work on that. We are in the thick of evaluations of teachers, principals and other staff at this time, as due dates are approaching quickly. We are at the mid-year testing assessment data analysis for our students comparing how students have done based on earlier data, and also based on a variety of scores that include a calculation of grade level scores and on expected growth scores.

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

None.

**7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATIONS**

**7.1 Impact Fees on Infill and Redevelopment Properties**

The Superintendent reported that there is a City of Geneva ordinance regarding impact fees but doesn't really speak to credits. Credits are being granted to developers by the City. Concerning to us in that regard is that this conflicts with the philosophy of the school district which is based on having those future residents pay their fair share of the new construction, technology, and the land that's used for school buildings. That has stated that in our Goals Booklet forever, so with that as our guide, providing credits to developers on impact fees does not really coincide with the goals of our District. We are presently trying to work with the City so that those credits are not given. President Grosso is at the Committee of the Whole meeting this evening to plead our case before it goes before the entire council.

Board comments, questions, discussion: Did the city express any undo hardships? (No. We asked that those credits not be granted by the city. The credits were granted in the past.) Do you know what may constitute an undue hardship? (I don't.)

President Grosso joined the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Are we correct to assume the City is doing this to encourage development? (We would have to ask the City that question.) The amount of taxes we are collecting on the property will be less. Once the land is improved, it will take 1-2 years before we see additional income to the District. I have no say what happens in the City of Geneva, nor do I have a vote, because I don't live in Geneva, but I am in the Geneva School District. The actions that are being taken that I have no control over are impacting what taxes are being paid by me and my neighbors that do not reside in Geneva. I am being taxed without being represented. I just came from the Committee of the Whole meeting at City Hall and I did speak on this issue to the aldermen. I told them that as a representative of District 304, I object to the discounts that are being applied to us in regard to the fee being assessed to the developer. I expressed that this was a bad precedent to set. It's not fair to the homeowners of Geneva that developers can come and not pay their fair share. For us, it amounted to \$12,000, which I equated to one classroom of computers. I was very encouraged by some of the conversations that the aldermen were having prior to public comment. Did I hear correctly that the developer didn't ask or show any hardship? (They filed for credit but I have not seen the application. I don't know how they proved hardship.) What have we done as a District on this issue? (We have been in consistent correspondence with the City and other districts, and searching codes and ordinances. We may want to draft a model code.) I think they are leaving a governing body out of the equation. We all need to sit down together to determine what's right for everyone. I did speak with Mary McKittrick, and she is willing to come and talk to the Board and explain the City's position on it. I think we all have concerns. My fear is that the City is proceeding with an interpretation that doesn't seem relevant or fair to all involved. The calculated fee is \$32,000 and the net fee that we expect for that past year is about \$20,000 which underwrites educating a student for a year and a half. We need to start looking at some sort of ordinance. We did object to the Seventh Street project in early December, and we talked with the City about collaborating on the ordinance. I'm disappointed that it continues to go this

way, even while they are considering the next development and possibly others.

**8. INFORMATION**

- 8.1 Suspension Report
- 8.2 FOIA Requests

**9. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 9.1 Monthly Financial Reports & Interfund Transfers
- 9.2 Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE, New Hires

Certified Staff Long-Term Substitutes

Baron, Katie, GMSN, Guidance Counselor, effective 2/5/15 – 6/1/15

Support Staff New Hires

Godlewski, Dan, GHS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 1/22/15

Olinger, Andrew, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 1/22/15

Support Staff Resignations

McKinness, Robin, GHS, Security, 9 month, effective 1/17/15

Martin, Jennifer, GMSN, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 1/23/15

Roeder, Amie, MCS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 1/23/15

Support Staff Long-Term Substitutes

Benavides, Kenneth, WES, Special Education Assistant, 09 month, effective 1/9/15 – 2/20/15

Administrators New Hires

Poteete-Kriegermeier, Kristy, CO, Communications Coordinator, 12 month

9.3 Pay Request #2: \$13,419, Mid-Atlantic Service & Supply Corp. dba Commercial Window Shield's, labor to install security film on main entrance windows for GMSN, GMSS, WES, WAS, HES, and HSS

9.4 Pay Request #3: \$23,034.50, Happ Builders, security upgrades at GHS McKinley and Center Street entrances

9.5 Disposition of Executive Session Minutes July 2014 through December 2014

Motion by Juby, second by Grosso, to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 – 9.5. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

**10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION**

None.

**11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

*Policy Committee, Finance Committee, Boundary Task Force, Communications Task Force, Facilities 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, REMS Grant Advisory Board*

Mary reported that she attended the Geneva Coalition for Youth meeting, and they are planning a Chick Chat workshop for girls in 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Kelly, Leslie and I will be heading down to Springfield to meet with representatives to talk about Vision 20/20. Leslie reported that she attended the Governor's P20 Council last week. They discussed the kindergarten assessment for next year, the early childhood grant and changes to PARCC. We had a presenter from PARCC who said that she is interested in real time feedback from educators. I will share her information. Bill reported that with the finance meeting coming up, we need to discuss Senate Bill 1 which used to be Senate Bill 16. Mark reported that he, along with Mary and Bill, attended a presentation at Western Avenue by two outstanding educators. They put on a great presentation for the parents on behavior and many other topics. Kelly reported that the GAF put in a lot of hard work on their Karaoke Night. They raised around \$5600. Get ready for next year. The Sports Boosters are desperately in need of someone to take on the responsibility of Spirit Wear and concession sales. Please let me know if you are interested and I will give you more information. She did send out emails about putting together a Trivia Night but did not get much response so she reached out to the Music Boosters and GAF. Watch your mail for an invitation from IASB for the spring dinner 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)]; THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)].**

At 8:25 p.m., motion by Grosso, second by Lamb, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives; the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

At 8:38 p.m., following a break to relocate to the Williamsburg conference room, the Board moved into executive session.

At 8:57 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by McCormick, and with unanimous consent the Board returned to open session and relocated to the Williamsburg cafeteria.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:00 p.m., motion by Juby, second by Wilson, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

RECORDING  
SECRETARY