

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, February 23, 2026, 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, Willard Hooks, Paul Radlinski. Late: None. Absent: None.

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

District staff present: Terry Bleau, Principal Geneva Middle School South; Doug Drexler, Associate Principal Geneva High School; Tom Rogers, Principal Geneva High School; Todd Latham Assistant Superintendent for Business Services; Shonette Sims, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

Others present: Shari Klatt, Jill Marsh, Erica Segebrecht, Helene McBride, Brian South, Sawyer South, Dina Nee, Trevor Huettemann, Rhonda Hibbeler, Eric Hibbeler, Ame Kazmer, Courtney Lackey & Family, Cathy Fuller, Kim Hostman, Reese Lackey, Alannah Nee.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, February 9, 2026
2. Executive Session, February 9, 2026

Motion by Choi second by Radlinski, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 2.1-2.2. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Tradition of Excellence: GHS Students (Policy 6:330)
Girls' Gymnastics

IHSA Girls Gymnastics State Qualifier
Reese Lackey

2. Tradition of Excellence: GMSS Students (Policy 6:330)
Music Students

All-State Junior Choir State Qualifiers

Alannah Nee

Sawyer South

3. College & Career Planning Resources – Doug Drexler & Shari Klatt

Doug Drexler and Shari Klatt presented a new college and career planning resource for the high school called SchoolLinks, which would replace the current system called Naviance. The goal is for every GHS graduate to have a well-informed, realistic, and actionable post-secondary plan. The criteria for new software is student engagement, management of college application processes, data reporting capabilities, integration with existing district data systems, level of training and support, continuity between middle school and high school, cost effectiveness, and positive references. SchoolLinks can be accessed by both students and parents and offers 100+ experiences. It offers a guided postsecondary exploration experience, encouraging students to discover programs and learn more about colleges and universities based on a variety of factors. It is interactive, user-friendly, and easy-to-read, with an extensive list of filters. Students can get a comprehensive list of career paths based on the information that they enter. Other features that SchoolLinks offers is internship tracking, career fair management, employer database, alumni support, GIVE hour tracking, and recommendation letters from non-faculty. Some seniors were asked to evaluate the system and found it easier to navigate, it was user friendly, better organized, and offered more comprehensive information. Our current provider costs \$9,000 annually. SchoolLinks will cost \$8,000 annually but will have some one-time upfront costs. The implementation timeline will start July 1, 2026, for GHS counselors. On August 1, 2026, we will implement GHS seniors and then gradually roll out to the other grade levels.

Board comments, questions, concerns: I am concerned about this rollout over the summer with the Synergy rollout also happening over the summer. What will the seniors have to use over the summer when they are doing college visits? Will they have access to Naviance since the rollout for SchoolLinks will not have happened yet? (There will be a time this summer when they will not have access to either system. SchoolLinks will be able to capture and link the information that we have in our system. No information will be lost.) On the part about careers, most do not know what they want to do, so will it allow them to pivot if they change their mind? (They can retake the surveys, which will pivot them toward the information that they entered, or if they start researching other jobs it will start sending them information.) Once the career exploration happens, does it take it to the next level? (Yes.) How does the rollout look for students? (Our priority will be to roll this out to seniors first.) Can you see which students are using it? (Yes.) Is there an app for SchoolLinks? (Yes.) Once it is rolled out, is this app going to be available to all students? (Yes, but seniors will be the priority with activities.)

4. Content Curious: Social Studies – Jill Marsh, Shonette Sims, Trevor Huettemann & Lucas Rojas

Shonette Sims and district staff shared an update on social studies covering the four discipline areas of civics, geography, economic literacy, and history. At the elementary level, they follow the Illinois Social Studies Learning Standards that uses grade level themes. The elementary day is short and jam packed, so it is hard to find time to fit it all in, but the themes allow us to do that. The themes align with our curriculum resource, which is TCI Social Studies Alive curriculum. The teachers can utilize their own platform for planning, and the students have access to social studies journals.

At the middle schools, there are also themes that apply to the core disciplines. We do not just teach students to learn history, but also to do history and apply it. It starts with a question that the student evaluates and then finds sources to come to a balanced conclusion. There are multiple perspectives, so we try to give them a

preview of doing history. Some things we are looking at now are Columbus Day and the Constitutional Convention. This allows them to learn history in a unique way and to apply those skills to the 21st Century.

At the high school there is a broad theme of transitioning from acquired knowledge to using knowledge to participate in your community and affect change. The four disciplines are seen through our core classes and electives. In civics we go from knowledge to participation, in history it is developing critical analysis, understanding perspectives, and forming historical arguments, in geography it is global systems and interdependence, and in economics it is decision-making in a complex economy.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Back in the 1970's history ended with World War I and when I looked at the presentation, I saw that history still ends at World War I. The impact of change and the pace is significantly faster, yet it seems like we are stopping before things really get going. Shouldn't we be moving forward? (It stops in 8th grade with World War I, but it does continue on in high school. It also gets addressed through the inquiry model.)

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.

GSSA President, Erica Segebrecht, addressed the board about a social media post that was shared on a dormant account without the authorization of their organization. The content of the post does not reflect the official position, values, or voice of the GSSA. As soon as they became aware of the situation, they took action. The post has been removed and accounts responsible have been suspended and/or deleted. Precautions have been taken to ensure that this does not happen again. The GSSA would like to recognize and thank present and past school members for their dedication, service, steadfast support of students and staff, and especially their advocacy and partnership with the GSSA.

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 at the last meeting a board member had asked about the number of bills introduced in Illinois in the General Assembly. She was able to find the article that was dated in 2022 that showed how many bills are introduced in Illinois and neighboring states. There were 10,022 bills introduced in Illinois, 4,476 in California, 4,975 in Iowa, 4,185 in Pennsylvania, and in Ohio 1,080. The budget address was last week and there are some bills that are going to be moving forward in the next few weeks.

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

The Superintendent gave an update on the La Fox of Campton Hills development. The TIF eligibility report is complete, and it has been determined that the area is eligible for designation as a "blighted area." There will be a joint review board meeting scheduled for early March, so it is important that the Developer Donation Agreement remains critical. At the next meeting, information will be shared on D304's attendance area. He also shared the progress the district has made with the Strategic Plan. It has been steady and consistent in the areas of enrollment and staffing, career and college pathways, cultural competencies, and community engagement. Lastly, he shared about Artificial Intelligence (AI). Recently, there was a blog post that came out called "Something Big is Happening." It highlights some key factors that are important for us to know. One is exponential growth and because of this there is

going to be some disruption, uncertainty, and ongoing discussions. We share resources and documents in the district, and we have an AI Committee. What we want to do is focus on why we are here and what our aspirations are.

7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. 2026-27 School Calendar – Amended

This calendar was amended to include a half day of school for the Homecoming Parade.

Motion by Choi second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed, item 7.1. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

8. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. 2026-27 Finance Committee Calendar Draft

This calendar follows the 2025-2026 calendar. During the finance meeting tonight, it was asked that we indicate which meetings might have more content. This will come back to the next meeting for a vote.

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. Out-of-State Trip Requests

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 Financials - January (Policy 4:40, 4:55)
3. Microsoft Licensing Renewal Agreement
4. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$12,073, Fabyan Elementary PTO, for wall climbing system at FES (Policy 8:80)
5. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$2,108.40, Midwest Trading, for GHS Horticulture activity (Policy 8:80)
6. Request to Purchase: \$92,930, ITR Systems, for intercom system replacement at HES & FES (Policy 4:10)
7. Request to Purchase: \$415,800, CDW Government, to purchase 330 staff devices (Policy 4:10)
8. Request to Purchase: \$31,503.79, Gregg Communications, to renew phone system licensing/support (Policy 4:10)

Motion by Choi second by Radlinski, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.8. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

The Facilities Task Force met today, and they continue to work on the ten-year maintenance plan. Two board members are involved in the GEA negotiations, which are going well. Congratulations to our students who were recognized tonight. Tonight's presentations were informative, so thank you to the presenters. Congratulations to Reese Lackey, our State Champion. It was great to hear about her journey. The Health Insurance Committee met recently to discuss upcoming changes. A board member attended the GMSN PTO meeting last week and they talked about year end activities and consolidating some of the efforts with GMSS. Board members got to participate as judges for DECA. Board members attended the recent basketball game last Monday. The all-district orchestra performed, and it was great to see all the various levels perform. Board members got a sneak peak at the

winter showcase, which was a comedy. The band performed at Disney, and it was a great experience for them. Thank you to the directors and chaperones who go on these trips. Thank you to our donors for their generous donations. It was great to have middle school students recognized tonight.

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)]; APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, OR DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVE AS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS IN A PARK, RECREATIONAL, OR EDUCATIONAL SETTING, OR SPECIFIC VOLUNTEERS OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY, INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE, A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL WHO SERVES AS AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR IN A PARK, RECREATIONAL, OR EDUCATIONAL SETTING, OR A VOLUNTEER OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR AGAINST LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY TO DETERMINE ITS VALIDITY. HOWEVER, A MEETING TO CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN COMPENSATION TO A SPECIFIC EMPLOYEE THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAGE INCREASE TRANSPARENCY ACT MAY NOT BE CLOSED AND MUST BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND POSTED AND HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACT [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)]. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)**

At 8:31 p.m., motion by Forbes, second by Bellino, to go into executive session 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; appointment, employment, compensation, or discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee that is subject to the local government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and must be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act.

At 8:54 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:54 p.m., motion by Choi second by Radlinski and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____ PRESIDENT
(Date)

SECRETARY _____