

## 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 Tuesday, May 27, 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: Policy Committee Chair Stephanie Bellino, President Larry Cabeen, Dan Choi, Vice President/Finance Committee Chair Jackie Forbes, Willard Hooks, Paul Radlinski. Late: None. Absent: Molly Ansari.

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

District staff present: Julie Dye, Principal Williamsburg Elementary; Tim Wyller, Principal, Mill Creek Elementary; Tom Rogers, Principal Geneva High School; Brian Pedersen, Director for Operations & Maintenance; George Petmezas, Director for Learning & Teaching; Todd Latham, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services; Shonette Sims, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Dr. Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

Others present: Sherri Wyllie, Michael Wyllie, Lisa Meister, Jeff & Laura Bjerklie, Tyler Zeeck, Emily Mosciano, Rene Swidenbank, Kevin McLaughlin, Audrey Bridges, Martha Behlow, Thomas Kosog, Karen Kosog, Travis Rein, James Masciano, Maddy McAuliffe, Conor McAuliffe, David Drab, Colleen Ortiz, Sofia Borter, Harper Kobbeman, Pablo Drab, Christian Ortiz, Tracy DeDuffee, Jay Prichard.

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

1. Regular Session, May 12, 2025
2. Executive Session, May 12, 2025

Motion by Choi second by Bellino, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 2.1-2.2. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Ansari. Abstained, none (0).

3. Board Retreat, May 16, 2025
4. Executive Session, May 16, 2025

Motion by Radlinski second by Choi, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 2.3-2.4. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Ansari. Abstained, one (1), Forbes.

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

1. Tradition of Excellence: GHS Students (Policy 6:330)  
Girls Track, Special Olympics

#### IHSA Girls Track State Qualifiers

Sofia Borter	Harper Kobbeman	Taylor Peahl
Alyssa Flotte	Hadley Mason	Annabel Stevenson
Alyssa Golden	Ava Mehren	Lexi Weber
Bridget Hecker		

#### Special Olympics State Qualifiers

Pablo Drab	Christian Ortiz
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### 2. Recognition of District Retirees

#### 2025 Retirees

Jeff Bjerklie	Karen Kosog	Jay Prichard
Audrey Bridges	Dave Kuykendall	Sue Rasich
Kathy Brouillette	Tracy McDuffee	Jean Richardson
Pamela Decker-Nelson	Kevin McLaughlin	Kim Severson
Michelle Ernst	Jacqueline Morris	Jim Venneri
Nancy Hamilton	Kate O'Malley	Sherri Wyllie
Debra Hanson	Laura Pacelli	

### 3. 2025-26 Preliminary Education Fund Budget – Todd Latham

Todd Latham presented the 2025-26 preliminary education fund budget. The revenues include EAV/local taxes, state revenue, evidence-based funding, and federal revenue. The expenditure's include salaries, benefits, purchased services, supplies, capital projects, non-capital equipment, and other expenses. He is estimating revenue to be \$80,901,847 and expenditures to be \$81,025,301. He shared a five-year summary for both revenues and expenditures. The preliminary budget assumptions are to provide competitive wages, project full staffing with exceptions, invest and use interest income to counter inflation, maintain fund balances in case of overages, and invest in the learning environment. Areas of concern include economic and external factors, inflation exceeding 2.5%, reduced investment opportunities, staffing challenges, changes at state and federal levels, and delayed or reduced categorical payments. The district will continue to monitor end-of-year revenues and expenses, receive earlier grant financials, monitor health benefit elections, staffing changes/updates, changes in enrollment, estimate transfer amounts, review revenue sources, and monitor spending. Overall, the education fund is estimated to have a deficit of \$123,454.

### 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.*

Staff and Geneva graduates voiced their concern regarding the sunseting of the German program at Geneva High School. They shared that this is more than just a class. It is a community that has traveled together, who knows everyone by name, and so much more. This program has opened doors for students, like studying abroad and jobs. Many students that have been through this program described the class as a family. Although enrollment is down, they know there are several factors to consider when making this decision and they hope that the district will give them the opportunity to try and grow this program over the next year.

### 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 this is the last week of the General Assembly's current session.

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

The Superintendent shared that this is a busy time of year and there are wonderful things happening around the district. There are awards ceremonies, scholarship awards night at GHS, celebrations, and students transitioning from pre-school to full-day kindergarten, elementary into middle school, and middle school into high school. High school graduation and eighth grade promotion are coming up next week. This is a fantastic way to end the year.

He shared that the board recently had a retreat where they were able really look at and have conversations about the strategic plan. This is a five-year plan so there will be more conversations in the future. A lot of work was done on the first goal, which is enrollment and staffing. We started the year by conducting a demographic study and presenting it to the board and community. Just recently, we completed a capacity analysis at each of our buildings to start looking at how the demographic study and demographic trends align or do not align with our capacity analysis. We will share information with the community on the capacity analysis in the fall. Also, this year, we have been able to build some more class size consistency at the elementary level and have seen some reductions at the secondary level as well.

A lot of quality work has also been done in the area of Career and College Pathways. The team at the high school, along with Shonette Sims and George Petmezas, is doing a formal study of dual credit. We have created the Illinois PSCE (Post Secondary & Career Expectations) framework, which aligns with this goal. We have also embarked on some formal college and career pathways, which are required by the State. We are in the initial stages of some formal programmatic investigations to see if there are any high-leverage career programs that could be offered at GHS.

With Cultural Competencies, one of our first goals was to form a committee. The committee has started with a demographic review of our district and how that could be insightful to us. One accomplishment this year in this area was by starting to identify and catalog the current activities we do in the district. They started at the elementary level and are now looking to identify common experiences for all our kids to have. We are also looking to partner with some of our community partners to develop some of these cultural competencies.

In terms of our Community Engagement goals, we have done an excellent job. Dr. Barrett has tried to be more visible and available to connect with people. One thing we have made some headway on is streamlining some of our electronic communications. We are also working on the district calendar, based on communication from the public about how hard it is to know what is happening in the district.

We have had speakers here to share with us about the German program. Our goal, from an administrative perspective, is recognizing what some of our students have said, that this is a multi-year commitment. When we look at our enrollment and staffing goal and how we have reduced our staffing thoughtfully is how we came to our approach to not offer German 1 for the 2025-26 school year and then sunset the program.

Board comments, questions, concerns: This is not typically how something like this is managed. There will be no vote tonight, but we will make a decision. This is the first time we have ever talked about a class as it is typically managed by the administration. Every year there are courses that are no longer in the course catalog. If we make a decision on this course, it might set a precedent for other courses. With

our strategic plan we have talked about driving cultural competency. This is not just looking at this as a course but instead as part of our strategic plan. We have talked about the complexities of this situation. It is a part of our role to represent our stakeholders. The community piece is very important to us, so that our students have a place to grow and thrive. Some of us do support the decisions of the administration but right now we cannot support sunsetting a course. Geneva is a Blue-Ribbon school and having 3 languages is what a Blue Ribbon should have. We would like to see us run this program one more year and address this issue again next year if needed.

After hearing the board's thoughts, Dr. Barrett's take away is that we should run German 1 for the 2025-26 school year and address the issue again next year if needed. He thanked our dedicated administrators who must make these tough decisions.

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

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

1. 2025-26 Policy Committee Meeting Calendar – Draft  
This item has been tabled for a future meeting.

**9. INFORMATION**

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule (Policy 2:220)
2. FOIA Requests & Board Correspondence (Policy 2:250)
3. Suspension Report (Policy 7:200)

**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 - April (Policy 4:40, 4:55)
3. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$2,200, Dave & Patty Newcomb, to purchase a new bass trombone for the band program (Policy 8:80)
4. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$\$8,000, DABgiving360, for musical instrument purchases at GHS (Policy 8:80)

Motion by Choi second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed, items 3.1-3.4. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Ansari. 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, Joint PTO, 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. There have been many conversations with stakeholders regarding the German program, and it would be great to hear more from our students who are currently in the German program. The board congratulated the seniors who will graduate next week and the 2025-26 district retirees. The best of luck to all. Congratulations to our students who received the Tradition of Excellence Award tonight. The jazz dinner was a great evening, and it was wonderful to see our students perform. Congratulations to all our athletes who are still out there playing! There are many activities happening this time of year and there are more to come. The high school band, orchestra, and choir performed at the cemetery on Memorial Day. Thank you to those students who performed.

**12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO 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 8:49 p.m., motion by Hooks, second by Forbes, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to 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 Forbes second by Bellino and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

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

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_