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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, January 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: 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 Geneva High School students led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Dave Carli, Principal Geneva Middle School North; Terry Bleau, Principal Geneva Middle School South; 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: David Drab, Pablo Drab, Gregory Tarasyuk, Cailla Swanson, Lisa Harkins, Cathy Fuller, Olivia Hagen.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, January 13, 2025
Motion by Choi second by Radlinski, to approve the above-listed minutes, item 2.1. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).
2. Board Retreat, January 17, 2025
3. Executive Session, January 17, 2025
Motion by Hooks second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 2.2-2.3. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, one (1), Choi.

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Geneva High School – What Makes Your School Special
Tom Rogers, along with Geneva High School students, presented on what makes their school special by highlighting caring, community, and respect. First, the caring nature of our students. During the holiday season, the extra curricular clubs, honor societies, and athletic teams gave their time and talent to participate in several service projects. We also have caring staff who take the time to praise their colleagues. Second, we have bragged about our community for years about what it is

like to work at Geneva High School, and we always say that the support we receive from the community is second to none. When we hire a new teacher, we always say that our community has extremely high expectations for us, but we are so grateful for the help and assistance our community provides in helping to meet those expectations. Staff and students promote community by hosting different events for some of our elementary schools, our music department performs at different community events, and some of our departments partner with local businesses to raise funds for different events. Lastly, our students are respectful to one another. We have kicked off our first “Respect Week” to reinforce the habits that have been instilled in our students. Geneva high school students shared some of their experiences at GHS. One student has become a mentor for the unified basketball team and shared how she found joy in mentoring these students. Another student is new to the district and shared how welcomed he felt. In his short time at GHS, he now has goals and hopes to be a firefighter.

2. Middle School Enrollment & Staffing Presentation – Dr. Barrett, Terry Bleau & Dave Carli

Dr. Andy Barrett, Terry Bleau, and Davi Carli presented on middle school enrollment and staffing. This presentation aligns with our Strategic Plan that has four key goal areas with tonight focusing on enrollment and staffing. Two goals within enrollment and staffing are recruitment and retention and staffing and facility capacity. These goals drive the work that is happening. The district did a demographic study to try to determine long-term what enrollment might look like, so now it is time to take the next step. Our enrollment has been declining for some time, but what the projections are showing us is that we are going to level out and be stable over the next ten years. At the middle schools, the challenge is declining enrollment and the middle school model that has not changed in years. Last school year, we began reviewing enrollment data with middle school faculty to discuss the challenges and potential solutions. When we talk about what we might do to address this challenge we need to think reasonable, equitable, and sustainable. Our current model is designed to support twenty sections and four teams of students. Last year, Geneva Middle School South (GMSS) went to nine sections in 6th and 7th grade. This year, Geneva Middle School North (GMSN) went to nine sections at all grade levels. In 2025-26, GMSS will drop 8th grade to nine sections. This will be done through attrition (retirements). In 2025-26, the community will notice that 6th graders will no longer have teams in order to start the process of having one singular grade level team. This will also allow us to experiment with structures and routines at a single grade level to figure out how to support students in this new model. In 2026-27, due to retirements, GMSS will drop to eight sections per grade, while GMSN remains at nine. No students will be on teams and exploratory staffing will necessitate moving back to semesters instead of trimesters. Many structures in place are based on teams, so we will spend the next few years planning for this. In 2027-28, GMSN will drop to eight sections per grade level, which should stabilize the schools for the near future.

Board comments, questions, concerns: What about the impact on the students academically, socially, and emotionally? (We have gotten smaller which allows for teachers to work with smaller groups of students. They will still have all the opportunities that they have now but with smaller class sizes.) These changes will not change how our teachers interact with students. Part of the team model lends to communication about students. Have we thought about how with this new model teachers would meet to have these discussions? (We envision we would still have teachers who are off during a period to be able to collaborate. The opportunity to meet can still happen.) The non-certified administrative staff will also need to be shared between schools in the future. What direction are you going? (This has already started. We have an administrator that has an office at each school.) Our district is lean on administrators compared to other districts. Will we still see, in Home Access, what classes our child has and which teacher? (Yes, and this is already

happening.) Now that we will be going from trimesters to semesters, will we lose any exploratory options? (Up until about eight years ago, we offered semester courses for exploratory classes. We stopped this practice because we were unable to staff these classes. We made some changes that allowed students to have additional art time. We are looking to roll back to what we had before without wood shop.) Are there any other impacts that we might see? (The only thing we thought of was grades.) How will that work for next year? (We will still be on trimesters.) What about foreign language with the new set up? (Foreign language is something that only eighth graders can choose to do.)

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.*

None.

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 elected officials are back in session in the General Assembly. She was able to attend a legislative breakfast last week where she heard local legislators talk about some of the priorities, including looking at Tier II pensions.

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

The Superintendent thanked the technology team for the work they do behind the scenes to make sure our technology is working and our transportation team for getting our kids to and from school safely and on time. He also revisited the inclement weather plan, stating that historically we look for an air temperature of -15 degrees or a wind chill of -30 degrees before we call off school. There are many factors when making this decision. He also shared a snapshot of the Illinois Report Card to show where Geneva is performing compared to other unit districts in Illinois.

Board comments, questions, concerns: When you get together to discuss frigid days, do you look at individual stations? (Yes.) What do you use to look at the weather? (Weather Bug, Weather Underground, and AccuWeather are the three I use the most.) As a community member, we are at times together with others who know we are board members and like to talk about property taxes, so this Illinois Report Card is a great tool to look up information on our district. Does the report card link to specific schools? (Yes.)

7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. Policy Updates: Second Reading – **Updated, Reviewed & New** (Policy 2:240)
 1. Policy 6:60, Curriculum Content – **Updated**
 2. Policy 6:135, Accelerated Placement Program – **Updated**

These policies have been reviewed by the Policy Committee, administration, and the Board of Education.

Motion by Bellino second by Hooks, to approve the above-listed, items 7.1.1-7.1.2. 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. 2025-26 Board Meeting Calendar - Draft

This calendar draft aligns with the current board calendar. It will be brought back to the board 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. 2025-26 Budget Calendar

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 - December (Policy 4:40, 4:55)
- 3. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$1,239.40, Special Olympics Illinois, GHS Special Olympics uniforms and basketballs (Policy (8:80)
- 4. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$1,000, The Humke Group, Inc., for the GHS Robotic Club (Policy (8:80)
- 5. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$7,012.77, Geneva Music Boosters, for wish list requests (Policy (8:80)

Motion by Forbes second by Radlinski, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.5. 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

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 shared that they loved tonight’s presentations and thanked those that presented. Board members reminded everyone of the recent loss in the community and reminded them to continue to check in with one another. The Theater Boosters met two weeks ago and on February 6th and 8th, the play “Little Women” will take place. Tickets are on sale, so we encourage everyone to come out and see the show. Board members attended the GHS PTO meeting where they were already planning spring events. They are working on post prom and are still in need of volunteers. Board members attended the MCS PTO meeting, where attendance was low, but there was still great conversation. Thank you to the groups that donated gifts this week. Thank you for the retreat on the 17th. It was a great use time overall and we accomplished a lot. Heartland Elementary School had a flag raising ceremony and ball to celebrate their Blue Ribbon award. One of our GHS students was on the news for participating in a half marathon. Everyone is encouraged to come out on Saturday for the Unified Vikings basketball game at Geneva High School.

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:47 p.m., motion by Forbes second by Choi and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____ PRESIDENT
(Date)

SECRETARY _____ RECORDING SECRETARY