

**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, April 23, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at Coultrap, 1113 Peyton, Geneva, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Board members present: President Mark Grosso, Matt Henry, Mike McCormick, Tim Moran, Vice President Kelly Nowak, Policy Committee Chair Mary Stith, Finance Committee Chair Bill Wilson.
Late: None. Absent: None.

District administrators present: Doug Drexler, Associate Principal Geneva Community High School; Adam Law, Principal Heartland Elementary School; Scott Ney, Interim Director Facility Operations; Andy Barrett, Director of Curriculum; Craig Collins, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Dawn George, Assistant Superintendent Student Services; Donna Oberg, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Patty O'Neil, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction; and Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: Patrick J. Murphy, Lori Dowd, Fred Dresser, Jim & Kathy VanSpankeren, Anthony Oliver, Karen McQuillan, Eva Larocca, Jan Dillon, Paul Dillon, Adil Jaffer, Kathy Jaffer, Jaimie Humbert, Darlene Kilmer, John Rice, Karen Farley, Kathy & Glen Kallhauge, Dale & Marjie Grischow, R. L. Cabeen, Daniel, Marg & Christopher Warren, Anita & Madeline Hazel, Dawn & Carley Weddle, JoAnn & Fred Cregier, Craig, Sue & Collin Lillibridge, Madison Olesen Family, Neal Ebert, Debbie Hanson, R. & M. Swanson, Nancy Powers, Gwen Gelfuso, Rick Nagel (PATCH), Jennifer Leman, Gail Ryan, Jeff Graber, Christina Gaetani, Camrai Damore, Becky Colbert, Brenda Schory (KC Chronicle).

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 2.1 Regular Session April 9, 2012
- 2.2 Executive Session April 9, 2012

The President noted that a revision to the April 9, 2012, regular session minutes had been requested and the minutes presented for approval reflected the change.

Motion by Wilson, second by Stith, to approve the above-listed minutes, as revised. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), McCormick, Moran, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Abstained, one (1), Henry. Motion carried unanimously.

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS, BOARD REORGANIZATION

- 3.1 Tradition of Excellence Award: Student Recognition, Geneva High School
WYSE Team

The GHS associate principal introduced the high school's WYSE Team. The team competed in the Illinois State Competition on April 5, 2012 and placed ninth (9th) overall.

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Team members include:

James Bartusek, Brian Favis, Madeline Hazel, Kyle Kallhauge, Courtney Kein, Joshua Kilmer, Collin Lillibridge, Madison Olesen, Mia Schrilla, Grace Smith, Rachel Spitzig, Leah Walker, Christopher Warren, Carly Weddle

Individually, **Kyle Kallhauge** placed 6th in Engineering Graphics and **Joshua Kilmer** placed 2nd in Computer Science.

The students were presented the Tradition of Excellence Award by the Board and congratulated on their achievements.

3.2 Illinois Association of School Business Officials Certificate of Achievement: Facility Management Designation Program - Scott Ney

The Interim Director of Facility Operations was presented a Certificate of Achievement from the Illinois Association of School Business Officials for completion of its Facility Management Designation Program. The Designation Program is designed for individuals who oversee school facilities, typically takes three-to-five years to complete, and requires the completion of required and elective courses on topics covering school finance, payroll, accounts payable and receivable, purchasing, employee welfare and insurance plans, budgeting, cash management and investments, debt management, employee handbooks, facilities management, law and negotiations, workers compensation, time management, and Illinois State Board of Education reporting. The award was presented by John Robinson, the head of the association's Professional Development Committee, Chair of their Planning & Construction Committee, and the former Geneva C.U.S.D. 304 Director of Facility Operations, who congratulated Ney on this achievement.

3.3 Success for All Students - Heartland School Improvement Update

The principal gave a PowerPoint presentation which focused on Heartland's school improvement plans and goals for reading, writing, math, and social/emotional awareness. Reading goals included increasing reading comprehension through leveled text and discussion across grade levels; developing and using common language for reading; reading blocks; guided reading; and reading intervention. Math goals focus on number sense K-2 and algebra 4-5; problem solving; and math intervention. Writing goals focus on increasing students' ISAT reading extended response, as well as writing instruction and intervention. Social/emotional awareness goals focus on increased student well-being, connectedness and a sense of belonging through programs such as Hearts Full of Character - including a TV broadcast, Caught Being Good, bullying prevention - social workers work with fourth and fifth grade students, student anxiety awareness and social/emotional curriculum. Student data is used to help identify students' strengths and weaknesses and to develop instructional interventions. Early interventions are beneficial for all students, and the earlier the identification the better for students to achieve success.

Board discussion, comments, questions: tone of feedback from parents (very positive about teacher-student relationships and about programs); length of time Community Crisis social workers has been working with students and any cost to the district (two years, the first year they worked only with the fifth grade, this year they work with fourth and fifth, the social workers from Community Crisis, are based out of Elgin, there is no fee or cost to the district); having been a teacher, and an administrator at the high school and the middle school level, what is your perspective as an elementary principal (it is great to have had an opportunity to see all the phases of student maturity, as well as seeing the connections in program content, it is a lot of fun).

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent reported on activities planned for students transitioning from elementary to middle school and from middle school to high school; partnerships with VALEES, the Fox Valley Career Center and the Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative; Prairie State Achievement testing which is occurring this week for high school juniors; Administrative Professionals Week being celebrated this week; Teacher Appreciation Week, which is celebrated the first week in May; the Regional Office of Education's annual Educator of the Year Awards Night scheduled for May 11, 2012; and planning that is underway for the high school prom and for the recognition of the District's retiring staff members. He thanked all of the volunteers who work to make these activities a success, and especially the volunteers for the after prom activities.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The President reminded audience members that comments or discussion of individual students or personnel matters were not permitted.

There were no comments from the public.

6. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Board Policy Updates:

6.1.1 Policy 6110, Federal Funds, REVISED, 2nd Reading/Adoption

- 6.1.2 Policy 6231, Budget Implementation, REVISED, 2nd Reading/Adoption
- 6.1.3 Policy 6610, Student Activity Fund, REVISED, 2nd Reading/Adoption
- 6.1.4 Policy 6620, Petty Cash, REVISED, 2nd Reading/Adoption
- 6.1.5 Policy 6680, Recognition, REVISED, 2nd Reading/Adoption

The Policy Committee Chair reported that the revisions to these policies were part of the Committee's on-going policy review and clean-up and changes dealt mainly with language/semantics.

Motion by Henry, second by Nowak, to approve the policy revisions, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), McCormick, Moran, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Henry, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

6.2 Resolution for Dismissal: Educational Support Staff

The Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services reported that statute requires that we extend a notice of dismissal, at least thirty days prior to the end of the current school year, to those educational support staff members whose positions may not be required in the next school year. This action protects the school district from employing individuals whose position may not be available due to budget reduction, enrollment uncertainty, program elimination, or position reconfiguration. Once enrollment, staffing and budget parameters are known, some of these individuals may be re-employed.

Motion by Stith, second by Wilson, to approve the resolution for the dismissal of twenty-six Educational Support Staff members, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Moran, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Henry, McCormick, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

Educational Support Staff Personnel to be dismissed at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year:

Special Education Assistants - Jennifer Bui, FS; Cindy Diemand, FS; Emily Erzen, FES; Janice Morgan, HES; Rachel Nerand, GMSS; Judith Neumann, WES; Cynthia Rodriguez, MCS; Jacqueline Salesky, WAS

Reading Lab Assistants - Pamela Demarco, GMSN; Rhonda Holycross, GMSS; Sheri Littleton, GMSS; Elaine Mainzinger, GMSS

Kindergarten Assistants - Sheila Finch, MCS; Jennifer Macritchie, HES; Colleen Monahan, FES; Dina Pray, HSS; Teresamarie Siciliano, WAS; Nancy Vandenakker, WES

Reading Tutors - Suzan Farley, HES; Maureen Powelson, WAS; Jill Vandermeij, HES; Helen Wilbur, WES

Classroom Assistants - Julie Jacques, HES; Sharon Neswold, MCS

Bilingual Classroom Assistants: Iris Paniagua, HSS

Secretary 9 Month - Alice Duever, GHS

6.3 GHS Out-of-Country Trip Proposal: France, Summer 2013

The Superintendent reported that GHS World Language teachers have requested permission to organize a summer 2013 trip to France for GHS students. The purpose of the trip is to provide an educational and cultural experience for the students that will reinforce and enhance their language abilities and cultural appreciation. He added this trip is consistent with previous out-of-country trip proposals, will not occur if a minimum number of students don't sign up to participate, and that there was no cost to the district.

Motion by Nowak, second by Moran, to give permission to the GHS World Language teachers to organize the 2013 summer trip to France, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Henry, McCormick, Moran, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

6.4 Authorization to Let Bids: Geneva High School Auditorium Seating & Carpeting Replacement

The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Business Services requested authorization to let bids for seating and carpeting replacement in the auditorium. The auditorium is used for instruction, practices, and productions by our students, by many community groups, and for student and staff meetings. The GHS Theater Boosters and the Geneva Music Boosters have volunteered to raise funds to help defray the cost of the renovations to the high school auditorium.

The 600-seat auditorium was added to the high school in 1974. The seats are thirty-eight (38) years old and many of them are broken, have required extensive maintenance/repair, or have been removed in compliance with ADA requirements. Removing seats has reduced capacity, resulting in reducing the attendance at many of the events held in the auditorium. The proposed project would be

completed in two phases. Phase one would replace seating and the worn, frayed carpeting. Phase two would replace incandescent lighting with updated fixtures and the sound system microphones. The microphones need to be replaced because the bandwidth frequencies are now being used for cell phones and Homeland Security. Chair replacement samples are available for review in the main office of the high school. Seating plans are being reviewed by an architectural firm in order to assure compliance with state and federal statute. Estimated cost for seat replacement is \$150,000, carpeting replacement is estimated at \$42,500, and microphone replacement is estimated at \$10,000. The District plans to apply for an energy efficiency grant to replace the lighting. Estimated cost for the auditorium improvements is between \$150,000 and \$210,000. Funding would come from previously approved capital projects that came in under budget. If the administration is authorized to solicit bids for the project at this time, a recommendation would be brought to the Board for consideration at its May 28, 2012 meeting. If a bid is approved at the May 28th meeting, the project could be completed during the summer.

Board discussion, comments, questions: the current seats have a writing surface, are we looking at this type of seat again (yes, every other chair would have that feature); is that prudent, does that feature make the seats cost effective (we need the space to be flexible, the auditorium is used for instruction and the GHS administration would like to have the same type of seats, but we can look at this with the Superintendent's Facility Task Force) okay; at this time the administration is only requesting authorization to let bids (correct, and the seats that are being proposed are practical, not high-end); want to clarify that the funding for the auditorium improvement would be from approved capital projects that came in under budget and there would be no additional line items to the budget (that is correct); the GHS Theater Boosters and Geneva Music Boosters are excited about working together to raise funds to help defray the costs for the seating replacement and they might be able to raise a large sum of money.

The Board president encouraged all Board members to go and look at the auditorium space for themselves and to view the proposed seating that is on display.

Motion by Wilson, second by Nowak, to authorize the administration to let bids for seating and carpeting replacement in the GHS auditorium, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Stith, Wilson, Henry, McCormick, Moran, Nowak, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 2012-2013 School Board Meeting Calendar Draft

The Superintendent reported that the draft meeting calendar was being presented for review and feedback. Any changes recommended will be made and reflected in the document that will be brought back to the Board for approval at the May 14, 2012 meeting.

Board discussion, comments, questions: it would be prudent to move the March 2013 board retreat meetings to a date after the April election so new Board members would have an opportunity for input in the planning and goal-setting process; June 2012 retreat dates should be removed.

8. INFORMATION

8.1 FOIA Requests/Responses

No discussion.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

9.1 Monthly Financial Reports and Interfund Transfers

9.2 Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE, New Hires

Reclassifications Certified

Waide, Jerel, CO, Special Ed Coordinator to Director Student Services, 1.0 FTE, 12 Month, Effective 7/1/2012

New Hires Support

Reed, Jennifer, Transportation, Bus Driver, 9 Month, Start Date 4/20/12

Resignations Support

McKenna, Kimberly, WAS, Reading Tutor, 9 Month, Effective 4/5/2012

Trafals, Sara, GHS, Special Ed Assistant, 9 Month, Effective 4/17/2012

Honeyman, Robert, GMSN, Special Ed Assistant, 9 Month, Effective 6/4/2012

9.3 Acceptance of Gifts, Grants & Bequests, GHS Varsity Softball Field Windscreens, \$3,500, Geneva Foxes Softball Organization

9.4 Technology Purchase: Five-year Capital Outlay Plan, GHS Computer Replacement, \$31,990.00, IL State Contract Pricing, Heartland Business Systems

Board discussion, comments, questions: regarding 9.1, is bus driver overtime due to the bus driver resignation in 9.2 and will that be eliminated (the resignation is only partially responsible, there are currently two bus drivers on disability); working cash is used since the District hasn't received state payments (correct, this year, the District has not received two of its payments from the state).

Motion by Moran, second by Stith, to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 through 9.4, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Wilson, Henry, McCormick, Moran, Nowak, Stith, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION

Comments included: I have met with District technology people, they seem like great people but they are limited in experience and don't have the expertise to handle a network this size, the county has brought in citizen consultants and would hope that the school district will have citizen input before making technology purchases because the money being spent doesn't make sense, your people don't have the experience to run a network of this size, also, will public comments be allowed following any comments by the President on enrollment projections (no, the public have had their opportunity to speak), but I don't know what you are going to say (you have had your opportunity to speak).

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Policy Committee, Finance Committee, Facilities Task Force, Communication Task Force, Joint PTO, Geneva All-Sports Boosters, Geneva Music Boosters, Geneva High School Theater Boosters, Academic Foundation, GEARS, K-12 Discipline Committee, Geneva Coalition for Youth, PRIDE, REMS Grant

Board members reported/commented on the following: over the weekend, many in our community mourned and memorialized Mary Bencini, former Western Avenue Elementary School second grade teacher, and great community servant, she was known for being the first to raise her hand to volunteer to help and who got things done, she wasn't someone who tried to make herself important, she worked to make her students, her community and others better and we could all learn something from her example, even after her passing; attended GHS Theater Booster and Geneva Music Booster meetings - both groups are willing and excited to help raise funds for the GHS auditorium seats; thanks to GHS staff members for organizing the recent poetry slam; with budget discussions coming up, would like to see information on the our building's seating and program capacity - information would be helpful to the board and the community; many school districts have eliminated class rank and St. Charles school district is currently considering eliminating class rank - would like to have a discussion on this topic in the future; the state legislators are considering proposals that would end the mandate requiring school districts to provide free bus service for students who live more than a mile and a half from school or live on hazardous routes that prevent them from walking to school - or charging fees for students to ride a school bus - the state has already cut transportation reimbursement, which has a significant impact on the district's budget, Board and community members were encouraged to contact their state legislators about this issue; agree that eliminating busing would be a major concern for the district and parents - we all need to look at this issue and contact our state legislators; the Finance Committee met this evening and discussed ways that the district might make improvements in banking, investing, cash flow and interest rates, and options available to us, also amended the operating guidelines to allow for public comment, and reviewed the projected vs. the actual levy amounts.

The Board President provided a response to a question that was asked by an audience member at the April 9, 2012 meeting of the Board of Education regarding the enrollment projections used during the 2007 referendum campaign. He reported that he reviewed the five-year old, 2006 Kasarda report projections, and had spoken to both current and past members of the Board of Education in an attempt to determine how the projections were utilized. He was told that projections from the Kane County Regional Office of Education and local developers were used in addition to Kasarda's, and that it appeared to him that a multiplier had been used which resulted in a number higher than Kasarda's. He didn't know why but added there would not be an investigation because too much time had gone by and too many of the people were no longer available. He stated that we can't go back in history, but going forward the Board of Education is concerned about and committed to reducing the District's debt. During the past four years, the debt has been reduced by \$11 million

and, as evidenced by the discussion at tonight's Finance Committee meeting, the Board is committed to reviewing all of the District's bonds and paying them off as soon as they become callable, but not all of them are callable. In February, the Board approved an abatement to give some relief to taxpayers; while it isn't a lot, it is as much as could be done at the time. The Board is also concerned about legislation being proposed in Springfield, such as pension reform and transportation changes, which if passed, could easily deplete the District's reserves. In addition, the Board's two priority goals are the debt and reaching a new contract with the Geneva teachers' association. He added that the Board of Education has and will continue to work diligently on both of these issues.

Following the President's comments and as the President was attempting to move on to the next agenda item, a member of the audience interrupted the President and asked the Board to vote to add a third public comment item to the agenda. The President indicated there had already been public comment opportunities and they would not go back.

Again, as the President attempted to continue the meeting, a different member of the audience loudly spoke over the President and stated that two members of the Board of Education could vote to add a third opportunity for public comments. The audience member continued to state in a loud voice that the Board could vote to add a third public comment opportunity, and he was told repeatedly by the Board President that he was out of order, and the President said: "I kindly ask that you not speak now." Very loudly, this audience member said: "Get a backbone."

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

No discussion.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC BODY [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1); PENDING LITIGATION [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)]; AND COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC BODY AND ITS EMPLOYEES OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)]

At 8:04 p.m., motion by Henry, second by Moran, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; pending litigation; and collective negotiation matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Henry, McCormick, Moran, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

Following the vote, and again speaking over the President and in a loud voice, the same audience member stated that the Board usually said whether there would be action following the executive session and he wanted to know if there would be.

The President responded, no.

At 8:14 p.m., following a break for Board members to speak to members of the press and the audience, and for the room to clear, the Board moved into executive session.

At 9:15 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Stith, and with unanimous consent, the Board returned to open session.

14. ACTION POSSIBLE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:16 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Henry, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____

RECORDING
SECRETARY