

**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, November 12, 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.

The President welcomed everyone, led them in the Pledge and reminded them to sign the attendance record.

District administrators present: Craig Collins, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Donna Oberg, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Patty O'Neil, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction; and Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: Sandra Ellis, Lynn Egeland, Alexa Aguilar, T. Malon, Kathy & Jeff Hammend, Marie Durkin, Cam Damore, Tina Gaetani, Cathy Carrino, Fred Dresser, David Lamb, Laurie Grant, Ron & Susan Stevenson, Jennifer Fisher, Arthur Paganessi, Bruce & Kristie Dienst, John Kott, Rick Nagel (Patch), Brenda Schory (K.C. Chronicle), Laura Ugo-Rosi, Linda Biesecker, Lucy Cave, Brenda May, Sue Sarkauskas (Daily Herald), Tom Anderson, Patrick J. Murphy, Leila Fakhoury, Lori Dowd, Robert Daner, Garin Bergman, Ann Edwards, Gail Ryan, Melissa Verdecinic, Karen Gerbec, Patrick McCann, Leila Fakhoury, Julieanne Zenz.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The President reminded those wishing to speak that the Board will continue to conform to its policy dealing with public participation at board meetings, Board of Education Policy 0167.3, Section C, requiring that "Attendees must register their intention to participate in the public portion of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting." He added that comments or discussion regarding individual students or personnel matters were not permitted and that individuals wishing to address the Board should come to the podium, use the microphone, and state their name and address as the meetings are video recorded.

Public comments included:

I've been a member of this community for forty years. My children attended Geneva schools K-12 and now my grandchildren attend Geneva schools. I appreciate the Board's efforts to hold the line but I'd like to see cuts so the community can continue to function. If all of Geneva's governing agencies continue to raise taxes people won't be able to live here. Living on a fixed income is not fun when your taxes are higher than your monthly mortgage. There are many in Geneva living on a fixed income and some may have to choose between medication and food. Please keep this in mind when making financial decisions going forward.

I'm a Geneva resident and a Geneva school teacher. I want to thank the Board of Education and the Geneva Education Association teams. I know this has been hard and I want to thank the teams.

I'm nervous about the proposed tax increase. Geneva's median income is \$99,000. Starting in January, households will be paying more than \$4,000 - \$5,000 in taxes. Spending per household is down and will probably impact Geneva's commercial businesses. I can't stop Washington from raiding my pocket but I'm asking the local government not to do the same.

Thanks for avoiding a strike with the teachers. We all want Geneva to prosper. I moved to Geneva in my 20's because of the quality of the schools knowing that the taxes were higher. I feel there is no longer a community when people are saying teachers are greedy. Through these negotiations, I never heard the teachers be negative. We give our children a whole lot in this town. Teachers' pay should be comparable and the teachers should be apologized to for the disrespect they've been shown. The value of my house is tied directly to the school and to education.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 3.1 Regular Session October 22, 2012
- 3.2 Executive Session October 22, 2012
- 3.3 Special Session November 5, 2012
- 3.4 Executive Session November 5, 2012

Motion by Henry, second by McCormick, to approve Item 3.1 and 3.2, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Henry, McCormick, Moran, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Wilson, second by McCormick, to approve Item 3.3 and 3.4, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), McCormick, Moran, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Abstained, one (1), Henry. Motion carried.

4. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 4.1 School Board Member Appreciation Day, November 15, 2012

The Superintendent reported that November 15, 2012, has been designated as School Board Members Day in Illinois - a day to show appreciation and to begin to better understand how school board members work together to provide leadership for schools. According to the Illinois Association of School Boards, there are about 6,000 school board members in the state. He thanked the Board members for their service and all that they do for education.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

According to the State's Fall Housing Report, Geneva's 2012 enrollment is holding relatively steady at 5,924 students. The 2011 enrollment was 5,956. American Education Week will be celebrated throughout the District the week of November 12 - 16. Several Board members will be attending board governance workshops and meetings this Friday and Saturday, November 16-17, at the Illinois Association of School Boards joint annual conference in Chicago. Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for November 19th and 20th.

6. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Resolution in Support of American Education Week

Motion by Moran, second by McCormick, to approve Item 6.1, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Moran, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Henry, McCormick, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

- 6.2 Tax Levy 2012

The Assistant Superintendent for Business Services presented preliminary tax levy information and reviewed the following: components of the tax levy; ten-year EAV history (growth until 2008, then negative amount in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012); new property growth; the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law - PTELL, enacted in 1991; designed to limit the increases in property tax extensions - total taxes billed - for taxing districts; PTELL is commonly referred to as the "Tax Cap" but PTELL does not cap an individual's property tax bill or property assessment; PTELL allows taxing districts to receive a limited, inflationary increase in tax extensions on property - Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 5%, whichever is less; the limitation does not apply to new property (construction), which allows taxing bodies to recoup their fair share of tax revenue for that property; there has not been a CPI of 5% since PTELL was enacted; originally PTELL applied to only collar counties; currently 37 of the 102, or about 1/3, of all Illinois school districts are impacted by PTELL; current CPI is 2% trending toward 2.5%; debt service is levied by the County and not the school district; the Limiting Rate Calculation, which is PTELL - when EAV goes down, tax rate goes up, when EAV goes up, tax rate goes down, and all is based on the PTELL formula [prior year extension x (1 + Lesser of 5% or CPI-U)]; limiting rate decreased from 2002 through 2009, and increased in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The 2012 limiting rate without any adjustments or abatements is \$4.95.

Data, Assumptions, and Calculations for Levy: CPI-U = 3% in December 2011; estimated EAV %

change from 2011 EAV = negative 2.11%; new property is estimated at \$19,404,027 due to the new retirement facility but will probably go down again next year; the needs of each fund are estimated; the District will balloon levy in order to protect the district from estimated differences; the District receives estimates from the Assessor in October but won't know the actual levy amounts until March or April of 2013 and is mandated by statute to file a tax levy by the last Tuesday of December; if the levy increases by more than 5%, school districts must hold a Truth in Taxation hearing to explain the increases and must notify the public of the hearing not less than 20 days prior to the adoption of the aggregate levy as to the estimated levy request; there will be no public hearing for the 2012 levy because the levy will increase by less than 5%.

Five options were presented for the Board's consideration relative to the levy request. All estimates were based on information provided by the Assessor in October 2012. It's important to remember that the options are for the Education Fund only. Operations & Maintenance will be levied at \$0.75. Transportation will be levied for the amount needed to cover the budget. Debt Service will remain at the same rate as last year and could be lowered in the spring when we know the amount we'll abate back. If we are under budget at the conclusion of the 2012/2013 fiscal year, the District may be in a position to abate more.

Option 1: Levy Full CPI-U 3.0%. Operating Rate 4.9497; Debt Service Rate 1.3306; Total Tax Rate 6.2776; Abatement 2011 (.15); Net Tax Rate 6.1276; Increase over prior year (5.74) = .54 / .39 per \$100 EAV; Average increase per \$315,000 = \$573 / \$415.

Option 2: Levy CPI-U 2.5%. Operating Rate 4.9257; Debt Service Rate 1.3306; Total Tax Rate 6.2563; Abatement 2011 (.15); Net Tax Rate 6.1063; Increase over prior year (5.74) = .52 / .37 per \$100 EAV; Average increase per \$315,000 = \$548 / \$390.

Option 3: Levy CPI-U 2.25%. Operating Rate 4.9131; Debt Service Rate 1.3306; Total Tax Rate 6.2438; Abatement 2011 (.15); Net Tax Rate 6.0938; Increase over prior year (5.74) = .50 / .35 per \$100 EAV; Average increase per \$315,000 = \$535 / \$378.

Option 4: Levy CPI-U 2%. Operating Rate 4.9017; Debt Service Rate 1.3306; Total Tax Rate 6.2323; Abatement 2011 (.15); Net Tax Rate 6.0823; Increase over prior year (5.74) = .49 / .34 per \$100 EAV; Average increase per \$315,000 = \$522 / \$365.

Option 5: Levy CPI-U 1.5%. Operating Rate 4.8777; Debt Service Rate 1.3306; Total Tax Rate 6.2083; Abatement 2011 (.15); Net Tax Rate 6.0583; Increase over prior year (5.74) = .47 / .31 per \$100 EAV; Average increase per \$315,000 = \$497 / \$340.

The Finance Committee recommended a 2% CPI-U levy, which is 1% less than we're able to levy, from \$61 million in 2011 to \$63.7 million in 2012.

Board discussion, comments, questions: the District has gone through a lot since February and I feel we should go for a 1.5% levy and ask the buildings to cut more from their budgets to make up the difference; while the Finance Committee did recommend a 2% levy, I concur with a 1.5% levy, even though it will be hard to cut \$900,000, everyone is suffering in this economy; we need to know the impact \$900,000 in cuts will have on our ability to keep the Debt Service rate level; are all of the amounts projected (yes); I commend the Finance Committee on their work and understand their recommendation to levy 2%, but the State's levy process requires us to guess what we think we will need, when we don't have actual figures and with the current economy, I support a 1.5% levy; the Finance Committee has been a benefit to the entire Board and I thank them as well as the Assistant Superintendent for Business Services for the presentation; it may be difficult to understand not being able to recoup future growth amounts back and was okay with a 2% levy, but I could support a 1.5% levy; the least costly amount for dealing with debt is abatement, refinancing is more costly; the Finance Committee seriously considered options before making the 2% levy recommendation and in the past, cuts to the budget were in the 2% range over multiple years, rather than a large amount in just one year; while the difference between \$600,000 and \$900,000 doesn't seem like much, it can have a big impact on a budget in one year; if we go with a levy of less than 2%, we need to be very aware of the impact it will have on the budget and the cuts that will be necessary; I, too, thank the Finance Committee and the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services for their work - these are tough decisions, the negotiations were trying and now the Board must deal with the levy, many of the emails the Board received were from families who have had to deal with the impact of the economy, so I agree with a 1.5% levy amount.

6.3 Resolution Regarding Estimated Amounts Necessary to be Levied for Tax Year 2012
The President read the resolution in support a 1.5% levy (Option 5). The estimated amount of taxes to be extended for the year 2012 is \$80,727,201.

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

7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

None

8. INFORMATION

8.1 FOIA Requests & Responses

8.2 Suspension Report

No discussion.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

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

New Hires Certified

Doll, Pamela, HSS/WAS, Social Worker, 1.0 FTE, Start Date 10/29/12

Long-term Substitutes

Fitzgerald, Tamara, GMSN, Guidance Counselor, 1.0 FTE, 11/6/12 - 12/21/12

Matousek, Julie, FES, Grade 4, 1.0 FTE, 11/12/12 - 5/30/13

Pattermann, Linda, GMSN, Mathematics, 1.0 FTE, 11/26/12 - 2/4/13

New Hires Support

Johnson, Bonnie, MCS, Building Secretary, 10 Month, Start Date 10/23/12

Osswald, Sean, GMSN, Special Education Assistant, 9 Month, Start Date 10/23/12

Baird, Ryan, GMSN, Custodian 2nd Shift, 12 Month, Start Date 11/1/12

Gajsiewicz, Gary, Custodian, 2nd Shift On-call, 12 Month, Start Date 11/1/12

Holmes, Steven, Custodian, 2nd Shift On-call, 12 Month, Start Date 11/1/12

Sauerbier, Lori, WES, Classroom Assistant, 5.75 hrs/day, Temporary, 9 Month, Start Date 11/5/12

Wagner, Lindsey, WES, Classroom Assistant, 5.75 hrs/day, Temporary, 9 Month, Start Date 11/6/12

O'Malley, Mary Kate, Central Office, District Technician, 12 Month, Start Date 11/19/12

Long-term Substitutes Support

Reed Jennifer, Garage, Bus Driver, 9 Month, 11/2/12 - 5/30/12

Retirement Support

Mercado, John, GMSS, Custodian, 2nd Shift, 12 Month, Effective 11/16/12

9.2 Technology Purchase: Five-year Capital Outlay Plan, Phase 2, \$43,650.00, Computer

Replacement, Geneva Middle School North & South and Offices throughout the District, Illinois State Contract Pricing, Victorin / Heartland Business Systems

Motion by Henry, second by Wilson, to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 and 9.2, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Stith, Wilson, Henry, McCormick, Moran, Nowak, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION

Comments included:

Thanks to the Board members for their work in the negotiation process but the honeymoon has ended. No divorce, just a difference of opinion. With the resolution for the 2012 1.5% levy, the Board is asking for more money and the community is telling you, no, it's too high. Based on September's State report, total enrollment has declined 2%. The debt service will increase. While this year's budget was balanced, in every levy option presented tonight, the Board is asking for an increase. There is no reason to ask for more than the 2011 amount. Please vote for a zero percent levy in December. It's time for taxpayers to win one for a change.

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

At the Geneva Middle School North PTO meeting, Board members reviewed 2012-2013 goals and responded to questions about the elementary boundary student. Members are scheduled to attend

PTO meetings this week at Western Avenue Elementary School and Geneva High School to review the goals. Board members attended the Geneva High School fall play (kudos to the students) and a meeting of the Geneva Coalition for Youth where the successful Red Ribbon Week activities and the new Chick-Chat program scheduled in February 2013 were discussed. Board members thanked the Board Negotiation Team for the time and effort they devoted to the process.

The Board President reported that the negotiation teams reached a tentative agreement early this morning and will honor the confidentiality of that agreement. The tentative agreement will not be made public until it has been ratified by the Geneva Education Association and approved by the Board of Education. He added that the process was long, tough and emotionally stressful on everyone, and on Sunday night either side could have walked away resulting in a strike this morning but they didn't. He hoped that a solution was reached that everyone could feel was fair and equitable, good for students, the teachers and the community, because that was the Board's intention when they entered this process.

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 [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1); AND PENDING LITIGATION [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)]

At 8:05 p.m., motion by Nowak, second by Moran, 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, and pending litigation. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Wilson, Henry, McCormick, Moran, Nowak, Stith, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

The President announced that no action was anticipated following executive session.

At 8:14 p.m., following a break for the room to clear, the Board moved into executive session.

At 8:54 p.m., motion by Stith, second by Wilson, and with unanimous consent, the Board returned to open session.

14. ACTION POSSIBLE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

None taken.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

APPROVED _____
(Date)

_____ PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____

_____ RECORDING SECRETARY