

**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 28, 2011, 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 Moran.

Board members present: President Tim Moran, Vice President Mark Grosso, Matt Henry, Michael McCormick, Kelly Nowak, Policy Committee Chair Mary Stith. Late: Bill Wilson (7:14 p.m.). Absent: None.

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

District administrators present: Larry Bidlack, Principal Geneva Middle School North; Terry Bleau, Principal Geneva Middle School South; 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: Ed Butts, Shawn Maxwell, Judith Wehrmeister (GEA), George Jackowiec, R. L. Cabeen, Pat Murphy.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 2.1 Regular Session November 14, 2011
- 2.2 Executive Session November 14, 2011

Motion by Nowak, second by McCormick, to approve the above-listed minutes, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Henry, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Moran. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Wilson. Abstained, one (1), Grosso. Motion carried unanimously.

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1 Geneva Middle School Reading/Math Interventions

The Geneva Middle School Principals reported on the reading and math intervention programs which are in their fourth year. The middle school interventions, part of the District's Response to Intervention (RtI), were developed through the assessment of student needs. In the Reading Lab, students receive support every other day during their study hall, performing music class periods, or before or after school. The Reading Lab focuses on fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary acquisition and provides students with opportunities to practice these skills. The Reading Class meets daily and, typically, replaces students' exploratory class during the school day. The Summer Reading Camp, in its third year, meets on the middle school campus and was expanded this year from two to three days a week. Student assessment data reflects positive results for students in the reading labs. The focus and goal of the interventions is to improve students' reading skills.

The Math Lab was implemented to help students with basic math facts and computation skills. Seventh and eighth-grade students meet in small groups with administrators, guidance staff, or teachers during their study hall or performing music periods once a week. In the 2010-2011 school

year, Math Lab was expanded to include sixth graders. This year, the Math Lab was reformatted and now focuses on math concepts and applications that relate to the current math curriculum at each middle-school grade level. During the 2011-2012 school year, Geneva Middle School North formalized a class called Math Booster. Students in the Math Booster class are enrolled in two different, forty-four minute math classes. Students' needs determine the interventions at the middle school level.

Board discussion, comments, questions: thanks for the update, it's good to see the evolution of the interventions and the feedback; reading interventions were expanded to serve more students (correct, try to limit the number of students to 8-9 per class, haven't substantially changed the identification assessment but have sharpened the identification for students transitioning from fifth to sixth grade); is there any follow-through for students transitioning from eighth to ninth grade (impressed with the teachers in the SSR program, they have more data to assess middle school students, we have not focused on students transitioning to the high school because the high school is following up).

The Superintendent thanked the middle school principals and staff for implementing these programs and initiatives that help our students succeed.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent thanked those Board members who gave up personal time with their families to attend professional development workshops at the Illinois Association of School Boards annual conference last weekend. He reported that while Geneva's board members regularly participate in professional development activities, recent legislation mandates that Illinois Board of Education members must participate in professional development activities annually. The Superintendent also thanked parents and staff members who participated in last week's parent-teacher conferences.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The President reminded those wishing to speak that no discussion of individual students or personnel matters is permitted, as those items are appropriate for closed session pursuant to Section 2 (c) of the Open Meetings Act, that Visitors addressing the Board need to come to the podium, use the microphone, and state their full name and address because the proceedings are video recorded for later broadcasting to the community.

Public comments included:

My children attended Geneva's schools and got a good education. However, I am opposed to the tax levy increase for next year. It's the responsibility of the Board of Education to provide a quality education at a reasonable cost and with the District's current surplus, the increase isn't needed next year.

Relative to Item 6.1, Section A, what is a partisan political group? (Believe it refers to a group or organization such as the Republican or Democratic Party, the Board of Education is elected nonpartisan.) So what about Board members contributing to a committee or PAC that supports school referendums? (The key wording in Section A states that a Board member will not "surrender" responsibilities to special interest or partisan political groups.) Does the District have a vendor code of ethics and should vendors be allowed to make contributions in support of school referendums? (Individuals need to reconcile their own views.) Believe vendors have a conflict of interest when they make contributions to a committee or PAC in support of referendums that will benefit their company. Will the Board consider and support a vendor ethics policy? Nice presentation from the middle school principals. Relative to reading scores which is better, higher or lower? (The higher the number the better.)

6. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Bylaw 0144.2, Board Member Ethics, Revised, 2nd Reading

The Superintendent thanked the Policy Committee for their work. The Policy Committee Chair reported that this policy is being revised to reflect the recent updates in the Illinois Association of School Boards ethics policy.

Motion by Henry, second by Wilson, to revise Bylaw 0144.2, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Henry, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso, Moran. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

6.2 2012-2013 School Calendar

The Superintendent thanked staff members for their work in the development of the calendar. He added that we have tried to coordinate this calendar with the other school districts in our special education and career cooperatives and that minor changes might still be necessary.

Motion by McCormick, second by Wilson, to approve the 2012-2013 calendar, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso, Henry, Moran. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

None.

8. INFORMATION

8.1 FOIA Requests / Responses

8.2 Notification of Sale of General Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2011

8.3 Suspension Report

A Board member requested that the Board receive year-to-year, comparative suspension report data.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

9.1 Monthly Financial Reports & Interfund Transfers

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

Reclassifications Certified

Lloyd, Renee, FS & Elementary, from .50 FTE Special Education at FS to 1.0 FTE Special Education at FS/English Language Learner at elementary buildings

Long-term Substitutes

Blauser, Becky, MCS, Grade 1, 1.0 FTE, 11/15/2011 to 1/2/2012

Stanfa, Karen, MCS, Grade 4, 1.0 FTE, 1/23/2012 to 4/18/2012

Resignations Support

Potts, Michelle, GHS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, Effective 11/18/2011

Bolin, Christine, GHS, Hallway Supervisor, 9 month, Effective 12/2/2011

White, Jessica, GHS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, Effective 12/16/2011

Reappointments/Reclassifications Support

Diaz, Rigoberto, Custodian 2nd Shift GHS to Head Custodian 1st Shift GMSS, 12 month, Effective 12/12/2011

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

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION

Comments included: relative to the action tonight on Item 8.2, approved sale of bonds, what is the reason for the difference in the dollar amounts (this was not an action item, action was taken previously regarding the bond sale; don't have the documents you are inquiring about here so will get back to you); according to the schedule, it appears that the District is paying 22% interest (no we are not, but I don't have the documents present, and want to provide accurate information, when I have the documents I can respond to your questions).

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Policy Committee, Financial Task Force, Facilities 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 they had attended the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) annual conference which provided opportunities to attend professional-development workshops and meet and converse with Board members from other school districts throughout Illinois; attended the Geneva High School PTO meeting and the Geneva High School Theater Boosters meeting which provided an opportunity to meet with the parents working to support our students and their activities. A Board member thanked the other Board members for providing feedback regarding legislative positions for her to present at the IASB conference. And a Board member reported that during the IASB conference, he'd sat on a panel for a client from a northwestern Illinois school district and that it was interesting to see that there are essentially no real differences between a school district the size of Geneva and a large school district; all school districts are facing the same issues and challenges.

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)]

At 7:44 p.m., motion by Nowak, second by Henry, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Stith, Wilson, Grosso, Henry, McCormick, Nowak, Moran. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

The President noted that action was not anticipated following executive session.

At 7:47 p.m., following a break for the room to clear, the Board moved into executive session.

At 8:15 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 8:16 p.m., motion by Grosso, second by Wilson, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____ PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____ RECORDING SECRETARY