

**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, October 15, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at Williamsburg Elementary School, 1812 Williamsburg Avenue, 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, Leslie Juby, David Lamb, Vice President Kelly Nowak, Policy Committee Chair Mary Stith, Finance Committee Chair Bill Wilson. Late: None. Absent: Michael McCormick.

The President welcomed everyone, reminded them to sign the attendance record, and asked Mrs. Stith to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

District administrators present: Tom Rogers, Geneva High School Principal, Doug Drexler, Geneva High School Associate Principal, Kelley Munch, Communication Coordinator; 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: Bob McQuillan, Susan Sarkauskas (Daily Herald), Rick Nagel (Patch), Kathy Spencer, Kim Lee, Dan Garrett, Donna Borse, Cathy Campana, Heather Kontos, Alli Brinker, Maria Ernst, Paula Amat, Lisa Meister, Juli Beyer.

The President noted that prior to the Board meeting, the Finance Committee met. During that meeting, the Committee reviewed possible levy scenarios which included discussion relative to abatement. He commented that he looked at abatement as returning money that was budgeted but not spent back to taxpayers. He added that the Board will be developing action plans to address the District's debt which will be available to the community.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Per Board Policy 0167.3, Section C, Attendees wishing to speak at the Board meeting must register their intention to participate in the public portion(s) of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting. Complete the form found 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.

Comments:

Concerned that PMA Financial and William Blair & Company are over estimating the possible revenue the District will receive over the next several years. EAV is down 3.47% this year. Their projections over the next 4-5 years are not consistent. PMA projects EAV will go down next year, be flat the following year and then increase into the future. Blair projects it will increase next year and continue to increase. While the percentage amount projections are not significantly different between the two, it is \$1.2 billion. I suggest that the Board err on the conservative side. I think it's impossible for the EAV to increase until 2016 based on the fact that they use a 3-year rolling average. I don't believe their projections are right and I don't believe we're going to get as much revenue as they predict. Relative to the levy that was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting, what is the tax levy and the reason for it? Is it to get what you need or to get as much as you possibly can? This year the District had over a million dollar surplus. The tax levy was put into place to project what you need and not always take the maximum you can get. Regarding abatement, the Board President thinks it is giving the money back to the taxpayers but that isn't what the District is doing. It's using it to pay down the debt. They are abating money that future residents should have been paying, not current residents. So if they are paying down debt before it needs to be paid down and

abating the money, they are charging me and my neighbors more today than future neighbors should have paid. Relative to a possible transportation review in December, I hope that it includes keeping the buses for 8-10 years because I believe that would smooth out our cash flow. Buses today are made to last 10-15 years and we have a bus barn that cost \$3 million. If service on buses is needed, we'd probably just have to increase the number of people to service the buses. I believe keeping the buses for at least 10 years will save us a lot of money in the long term.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 Regular Session September 23, 2013

3.2 Executive Session September 23, 2013

A Board member requested that these minutes be voted on separately.

Motion by Stith, second by Wilson, to approve Item 3.1, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Juby, Lamb, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Wilson, second by Stith, to approve Item 3.2, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Lamb, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Abstained, one (1), Juby. Motion carried unanimously.

4. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

4.1 Red Ribbon Week Activities:

GHS Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), Paula Amat, Maria Ernst, Alli Brinker

GHS Advisor Lisa Meister

The Superintendent introduced Lisa Meister, GHS sponsor for Students Against Destructive Decisions. Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated October 23-31. She explained that things are being done differently this year and Red Ribbon Week activities will be focused in the schools. There will not be a candle-light vigil and the town will not be decorated with red ribbons this year because no one came forward to chair those activities.

This year's theme is "A Healthy Me is Drug Free." The students from SADD spoke about the high school's building-level activities and the importance of making mature decisions regarding substance abuse. SADD Club helps teens by providing facts about substance abuse, national norms for high school students, and leading a healthy life-style. The influence of family and friends helps students continue to overcome the pressure to make destructive decisions. Red Ribbon Week allows time to reflect on the effects of our life choices. The choice not to give in to peer pressure and be happy with ourselves makes us the healthiest individuals possible. Board and community members were encouraged to make time during Red Ribbon Week to talk to their family and community members about the importance of making healthy decisions.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent reported that the GHS Homecoming was very successful, Partners Day at the middle schools was well-attended, and last Friday's professional development activities focused on Professional Learning Communities, standards, and the Eureka math program. He thanked the staff for maximizing use of their time and he thanked the Board for supporting the professional development activities.

6. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Resolution in Support of Red Ribbon Week

The resolution in support of Red Ribbon Week was read by the Superintendent.

Motion by Nowak, second by Lamb, to approve the resolution, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Juby, Lamb, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

6.2 Geneva High School Program of Study Proposal 2014-2015

The proposal for the 2014-2015 Program of Study included one new course (Virtual Enterprises International - Business), modifications to five existing courses (Creative Writing II - English; Discrete Math - Math; Health & Safety - PE/Health; Engineering course sequence - Technology Education; Teacher Assistant - Other), and the purchase of a supplementary novel (*A Child Called It* - Family & Consumer Science).

Motion by Nowak, second by Wilson, to approve the high school's Program of Study proposal for 2014-2015, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Stith, Wilson, Juby, Lamb, Nowak, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

None.

8. INFORMATION

8.1 FOIA Requests

Total Requests = 1; Total Cost = \$27.04; Total Employee Time = 1 hour 15 minutes.

Sandra Ellis requested: “. . . . electronic copy (DVD) of the video of the September 23, 2013 Board of Education meeting.

8.2 OPEB (Other Post Employee Benefits) Update

8.3 Regional Office of Education Annual Report

No discussion.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Long-term Substitutes Certified

Peters, Michael, GHS, Family & Consumer Science, 1.0 FTE, 10/11/13 to 11/11/13

New Hires Support

Kunzelman, Jacob, CO, On Call Substitute Custodian, 12 Month, Start Date 9/30/13

Williams, Ryan, CO, On Call Substitute Custodian, 12 Month, Start Date 9/30/13

McQueeny, Nancy, MCS, Classroom Assistant, 9 Month, Start Date 10/7/13

Walker-Adkins, Jacqueline, MCS Classroom Assistant, 9 Month, Start Date 10/7/13

McCool, Robert, CO, On Call Substitute Custodian, 12 Month, Start Date 10/8/13

Resignations Support

Thompson, Colin, GHS, Special Education Assistant, 9 Month, Effective 10/25/13

Retirement Support

Klewin, Barry, CO, Custodian Supervisor, 12 Month, Effective 1/10/14

Pounds, Don, GMSS, Custodian, 12 Month, Effective 3/14/14

9.2 Resolutions Authorizing Intervention in Proceedings Before State of Illinois Property

Tax Appeal Board: Invesco Realty Advisors, 602 &1102 Commons Drive, Geneva, IL, 2012

PTAB Appeal (seeking \$8.5 million reduction - refund exposure to District approximately

\$523,000 is appeal successful); and Best Buy Corporation, 1876 S. Randall Road, Geneva, IL,

2012 PTAB Appeal (seeking \$413,425 reduction - refund exposure to District approximately

\$25,233 is appeal successful).

9.3 Acceptance of Gifts, Grants & Bequests - \$2,500: \$1,500 - Six MAC Book Laptops, WAS

Parent; \$1,000 - Microsoft Software Licensing, GMS Parent & Microsoft Corp.

The Board’s Finance Committee Chair noted that the resolutions authorizing intervention in proceedings before the State of Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board are for 2012 appeals for two companies and the combined dollar amount they are seeking in their appeals would result in a substantial loss of funding for the District, which would also create a “trickle down” impact for what our home owners/taxpayers would have to pay. It is important that the District intervene in these appeal processes so our home owners do not incur any increased costs.

Motion by Wilson, second by Nowak, to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 through 9.3, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Wilson, Juby, Lamb, Nowak, Stith, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION

None.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Policy Committee, Finance Committee, Boundary Task Force, Communications Task Force, Facilities Task Force, Joint PTO, Geneva Academic Foundation, Geneva All-Sports Boosters, Geneva Music Boosters, Geneva High School Theater Boosters, GEARS, K-12 Discipline Committee, Geneva Coalition for Youth, PRIDE, Fox Valley Career Center, IASB/Legislative, IASB Kishwaukee Governing Board, REMS Grant Advisory Board

A Board member will be attending the Senate Panel on Education Reform and will bring back information from this meeting. Members attended the Williamsburg Elementary School PTO meeting, one of the K-2 Eureka Math parent meetings (additional Eureka Math parent meetings for primary and intermediate students will be held in the coming weeks), a GEARS meeting, a PRIDE Volunteer orientation meeting, and the Illinois Association of School Boards’ Kishwaukee Division meeting. At the Kishwaukee Division meeting on October 3rd, the Board received the IASB’s 2013

School Board Governance Recognition award and Member Stith was thanked for compiling the data for the application. Also at the October 3rd Kishwaukee meeting, Members Lamb and Nowak were recognized for their participation in Leadership Academy Board member professional development activities and Nowak was elected to serve as an officer on the Kishwaukee Division Board.

Community members were encouraged to attend Board meetings or watch them on the local access network or the District web site, and to contact Board members with any questions or concerns regarding the District's finances, abatement, levy or any other topics.

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

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); COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC BODY AND ITS EMPLOYEES OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); AND PENDING LITIGATION [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)]

At 7:30 p.m., motion by Stith, second by Wilson, 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, collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, and pending litigation. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Juby, Lamb, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

At 7:40 p.m., following a break to relocate to the Williamsburg conference room, the Board moved into executive session.

At 8:05 p.m., Juby recused herself from the executive session.

At 8:14 p.m., Juby returned to the executive session.

At 8:14 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Stith, and with unanimous consent, the Board returned to open session and moved back to the Williamsburg auditorium.

Others present: Rick Nagel (PATCH).

14. ACTION POSSIBLE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

14.1 Action possible following executive session including, pursuant to the direction of the Attorney General, the vote to confirm the Board's June 24, 2013 dismissal of Terri Harrington due to performance concerns

Motion by Wilson, second by Juby, to confirm the Board's June 24, 2013 dismissal of Terri Harrington due to performance concerns. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Juby, Lamb, Nowak, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Abstained, one (1), Stith. Motion carried unanimously.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:19 p.m. motion by Wilson, second by Stith, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____ PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____ RECORDING SECRETARY