

PICKETING, PUBLIC PROTESTS, AND FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS

The Board is charged by law with the management and control of district grounds and other property; preservation of the health, safety, and education of students within this district; the maintenance and preservation of educational opportunities and facilities; and the continuing devotion of district property to the educational uses for which its properties are intended.

The Board is charged by law with eliminating or minimizing disruptions and distractions of students before, during, and after the school day, as well as ensuring unobstructed access to school facilities.

Each person and parent having custody of any student attending this district has the right to send such student and maintain such student in regular attendance at a public full-time school during the school year, unless exempt by law. Therefore, unobstructed vehicular and other access to school property must be provided for school patrons, students, school buses, law enforcement, fire protection, deliveries and others.

The Board, having viewed the school property and considered all factors involved, has balanced the requirements of discharging its lawful duties and responsibilities against the First Amendment rights of picketers and protesters for reasonable communication to members of the public who may be situated near school property. The Board finds that picketing and public protests upon district property could materially disrupt classrooms, educational activities, and district operations in the schools of this district if it occurs on school grounds.

In the interests of balancing the need to maintain safe access to school property for the continued operation of its educational and administrative services with the importance of the exercise of constitutional rights guaranteed by the First Amendment, no picketing and/or public protests shall occur upon the property of Geneva School District 304. All picketing and public protests shall be limited to the public streets or non-school district property, such as the public sidewalks along the street frontage of school property, which serve as public passageways or thoroughfares.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
GENEVA COMMUNITY UNIT
SCHOOL DISTRICT #304**

PROPERTY
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All picketing and public protests lawfully occurring on the public sidewalks shall refrain from blocking or obstructing vehicle or pedestrian access to district property, including students, parents, staff, buses, district vehicles, service vehicles, police and fire protection, or other authorized vehicles.

Violation for the foregoing regulation and order may be cause for disciplinary proceedings.

Any person entering upon district property for purposes of picketing and public protests may be charged with criminal trespassing.

November 5, 2012