

## Achieve Excellence and Empower Students to Succeed

Educate and prepare students with the **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS,** and **PERSONAL QUALITIES** to be productive citizens.



### 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, December 16, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Coultrap Educational Services Center, 227 North Fourth Street, Geneva, Illinois.

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER (Policy 2:220)

1. Roll Call
2. Welcome
3. Pledge
4. Reminder to sign attendance sheet

Board members present: Molly Ansari, Policy Committee Chair Stephanie Bellino, President Larry Cabeen, Dan Choi, Vice President/Finance Committee Chair Jackie Forbes, Willard Hooks. Late: None. Absent: Paul Radlinski.

The President welcomed everyone and Shonette Sims led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Tom Rogers, Principal Geneva High School; Todd Latham Assistant Superintendent for Business Services; Shonette Sims, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

Others present: Boone Thorgesen, Jim & Jessica Lehan, Steve & Amy Seykora, Brad Bilut, Claire Conklin, John & Samantha Conklin, Debbie Hanson, Dana Huot, Nancy Chahino, Justin & Annie Schumacher, Cathy Fuller, Sofia Borter, Heidi Borter, Venus Taylor, Jenna Bilut, Emery Larsen, Ryann Lehan, Claire Schumacher, Maddie Seykora, James Ducholz, Tony Chahino, Sean Lane, Joe Pettit, Talyn Taylor.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, November 11, 2024

Motion by Forbes second by Bellino, to approve the above-listed minutes, item 2.1. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Radlinski. Abstained, none (0).

#### 3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Tradition of Excellence: GHS Students (Policy 6:330)  
Girls Swimming, Art Students, Girls Cross Country, Varsity Football

##### IHSA Girls Swimming

Jenna Bilut  
Ryann Lehan  
Claire Simon

Claire Conklin  
Claire Schumacher

Emery Larsen  
Maddie Seykora

##### 2024 Chicagoland 4X5 Art Show

Cecilia DeAngelis

Willow Houck

Miles Sheppard

IHSA Girls Cross Country

Sofia Barter

IHSA Football

James Bucholz

Joe Pettit

Tony Chahino

Tayln Taylor

Sean Lane

2. Recognition of Retiree

Tom Rogers, Principal Geneva High School, presented Debbie Hanson for recognition. She is retiring after dedicating 29 years of service to Geneva CUSD 304.

3. 2024 Tax Levy Year Final Presentation – Todd Latham (Policy 4:10)

Todd Latham, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, presented the 2024 tax levy. The tentative 2024 tax levy was presented at the November board meeting. The 2024 tax year levy assumptions include the Consumer Price Index, PTELL cap, estimated assessed value (EAV), EAV increase over prior year, new construction, capped levy, bond and interest, estimated tax receipts, and tax receipts over prior year. The total levy we will file for is \$104,872,193 or 3.5%. If approved this evening the levy will be filed with the county tomorrow.

4. 2024-25 Levy Year Hearing (Policy 4:10)

1. Public Hearing Agenda

The Board President opened the hearing at 7:30 p.m.

2. 2024 Tax Levy Proposed Increase

3. Levy Testimony

Thank you to Todd Latham for his work on the levy.

4. President Closes Hearing

The Board President closed the hearing at 7:31 p.m.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*(PRESS Policy 2:230) Per Board Policy 2:230, attendees wishing to formally address the Board must register their intention to participate in the public portion(s) of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting. Complete the form 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.*

None.

**5. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

*Board Member Code of Conduct #8 - "I will be sufficiently informed about and prepared to act on the specific issues before the Board, and remain reasonable knowledgeable about the local, State, national, and global education issues."*

Jackie Forbes shared an update on how the delegate assembly voted on the resolutions. How we voted is how it turned out. There were three that were "do not adopt" and they had an opportunity to plead their case. None of them received the two thirds vote needed to pass. There were two veto sessions in November and there was some new legislation that was brought forward regarding the Tier 1 and Tier 2 retirement programs. This legislation is trying to address some of the issues received with Tier 2.

**6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Policy 3:40)**

The Superintendent shared an update on the Vision 2030. Stakeholders have collaborated twice to create an advocacy framework for public schools. The first initiative, Vision 2020, included the Evidence-Based Funding Formula, the Illinois Balanced Accountability Model, and the Postsecondary Workforce Readiness Act. Vision 2030 centers around keeping students safe, keeping high-quality educators in front of students, enhancing post-secondary success, and improving measurement of what is working. The priorities for Vision 2030 are future focused learning, shared accountability, and predictable funding. The goal is to gain support for Vision 2030 through local board resolutions across Illinois. We are being asked to show support for Vision 2030 by passing a resolution at a public meeting. We will talk more about this in January.

There will be a Community Connects event on Wednesday, January 22 at the Geneva Public Library located at 227 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street with a session at 10 am and 7 pm.

Lastly, wishing everyone a happy holidays!

## **7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION**

### **1. GHS Proposal for New & Modified Courses for 2025-2026 (Policy 6:40)**

For clarification, this is for the AP History text that was delayed in production.

Motion by Hooks second by Choi, to approve the above-listed, item 7.1. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Radlinski. Abstained, none (0).

### **2. Board Action on the Adoption of the Resolution Authorizing the Certificate of Tax Levy for 2024 (Policy 2:20, 4:10)**

Motion by Bellino second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed resolution, item 7.2. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Radlinski. Abstained, none (0).

### **3. Board Action on the Proposed 2025-26 School Calendar (Policy 6:20)**

Shonette Sims shared that staff would start on August 18<sup>th</sup> and students on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Staff will have three days for professional development and time to get prepared for when students return. Our school year, without the use of emergency days, would end on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The fall teacher's institute day, instead of falling on the Labor Day holiday, will be at the beginning of the year in those first three days. Most districts around us start the week before us. Starting later does make our semesters a little more imbalanced, but the high school is prepared to work through this again this upcoming year.

Board questions, comments, concerns: I know that the high school was aware of it, but are they the only building impacted by the later start? (Yes.) Could we decide to change to the earlier date the following year? (Yes.) In the future, do we think a two-year calendar is a potential option? (Probably not, because we do not know what could come up.) At some point and with our expansion of dual credit, we may not have an option but to start earlier.

Motion by Bellino second by Hooks, to approve the above-listed calendar, item 7.3. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Radlinski. Abstained, none (0).

### **4. Transportation - School Bus Supplemental Bid & Recommended Bus Purchase (Policy 4:60)**

Todd Latham shared that on November 7<sup>th</sup> a notice was placed in the newspaper for bus bids. There were two bids submitted on November 19<sup>th</sup> from Central State and Midwest Transit Equipment. The recommendation tonight is that the board approve the purchase of eight 30-passenger buses and two 24+1 passenger buses from Midwest Transit Equipment.

Motion by Cabeen second by Bellino, to approve the bus bids of Nov. 19, 2024, and authorize the Asst. Superintendent of Business Services to purchase Eight (8) 30-Passenger Gasoline Buses at a Price per Unit of \$118,868 at an All-Units Extended Price of \$950,944 and the purchase of Two (2) 24+1 Passenger Bus with Lift at a Price per Unit of \$124,769 at an All-Units Extended Price \$249,538 from Midwest Transit Equipment, Kankakee, IL at a total cost of all buses at \$1,200,482. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Radlinski. Abstained, none (0).

### **5. Transportation - Recommended Bus Sale (Policy 4:60)**

Todd Latham shared that these buses were in reserve to make sure that we were ready for the beginning of the school year. Matt Johnson, our Director of Transportation, has determined we could make these buses surplus. We did have a school district, when we were going out to bid a year ago, asking if we would sell directly to them. We recommend we do this, as the price is in line with what we sold buses back to Central States for.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Are these buses being sold as is or are there

conditions? (They are being sold as is.) So, there is nothing that could come back on us? (No, they are being sold as, but we did inspect them and had our mechanic look them over.)

Motion by Cabeen second by Choi, to authorize the sale of two 72-Passenger Diesel buses to CUSD 430 that are considered surplus to reduce the fleet. The sale price of each bus is \$34,500. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Radlinski. Abstained, none (0).

## **8. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION**

1. Policy Updates: First Reading – **Updated, Reviewed & New** (Policy 2:240)
  1. Policy 2:105, Ethics and Gift Ban – **Updated**
  2. Policy 2:120, Board Member Development – **Updated**
  3. Policy 4:30, Revenue and Investments – **Updated**
  4. Policy 4:60, Purchases and Contracts – **Updated**
  5. Policy 4:170, Safety – **Updated**
  6. Policy 5:10, Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment – **Updated**
  7. Policy 5:20, Workplace Harassment Prohibited – **Updated**
  8. Policy 5:90, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting – **Updated**
  9. Policy 5:120, Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest – **Updated**
  10. Policy 5:125, Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct – **Updated**
  11. Policy 5:230, Maintaining Student Discipline – **Updated**
  12. Policy 6:270, School Counseling Program – **Updated**
  13. Policy 7:10, Equal Educational Opportunities – **Updated**
  14. Policy 7:100, Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students – **Updated**
  15. Policy 7:160, Student Appearance – **Updated**
  16. Policy 7:180, Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment – **Updated**
  17. Policy 7:200, Suspension Procedures – **Updated**
  18. Policy 8:10, Connection with the Community – **Updated**

These policies have been reviewed by the Policy Committee and will be brought back for a second reading in January.

## **9. INFORMATION**

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule (Policy 2:220)
2. Suspension Report (Policy 7:200)
3. FOIA Requests & Board Correspondence (Policy 2:250)
4. Out of State Trip Request

## **10. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE, New Hires (Policies 3:50, 5:200, 5:280)
2. Monthly Financial Report – November (Policy 4:50)
3. Proposed Construction Management Master Contract
4. 2025 District-Wide Capital Improvement Projects
5. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$500, Hogan Design & Construction Corp., for GHS Special Olympics program

Motion by Bellino second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.5. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Radlinski. Abstained, none (0).

## **11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

*Policy Committee, Finance Committee, Boundary Task Force, Communications Task Force, Facilities Task Force, Technology Task Force, Joint PTO, Geneva Academic Foundation, Geneva All-Sports Boosters, Geneva Music Boosters, Geneva High School Theater Boosters, GEARS, K-12 Discipline Committee, PRIDE, Fox Valley Career*

*Center, IASB/Legislative, IASB Kishwaukee Governing Board*

Board members attended the IASB Annual Conference in Chicago where they were able to participate in different workshops and connect with board members from other districts. Congratulations to our football team and others that were recognized tonight. Board members attended the Yuletide Festival at Geneva High School, and it was great to see all our music students perform in one night. Thank you to Todd for his continued work with the district's finances. Board members attended a GEA gathering, which is a terrific opportunity to keep the doors of communication open. The Geneva Early Learning Program will have their holiday program on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Best of luck to student's on their finals this week and we hope you enjoy the winter break. The Communications Task Force met recently and reviewed the results of the communications survey that was sent out. There was a lot of positive feedback from this survey, and we now have an idea of what direction we are heading. The next step will be collaborating with our schools to make sure we are all communicating effectively. The task force is still working on community involvement. The Class Size Committee met to make sure we are in line with our teacher's, and it sounds like everything is going very well. The theater program put on the production "A Christmas Carol," which was perfect for the holidays. The Viking Voices did a holiday performance at the middle school. At the Christmas Walk our choir and theater students performed and at breakfast with Santa we had our choir, band and orchestra perform. It is great to see our students out in the community. A board member attended the DuPage County division meeting, where they were recognizing their schools that received the Blue-Ribbon award. They recognized our school district as well for receiving the Blue-Ribbon award. The presentation they had was on generative AI. The Harrison Street School PTO met recently, and we heard updates on the work they have been doing. The Technology Task Force met and were updated on several projects that are happening. Next month we will hear about the preliminary technology capital plan. Board members attended the football championship game in Champaign to cheer on our football team. Thank you to Hogan Design for their generous donation.

## **12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, OR DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVE AS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS IN A PARK, RECREATIONAL, OR EDUCATIONAL SETTING, OR SPECIFIC VOLUNTEERS OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY, INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE, A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL WHO SERVES AS AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR IN A PARK, RECREATIONAL, OR EDUCATIONAL SETTING, OR A VOLUNTEER OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR AGAINST LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY TO DETERMINE ITS VALIDITY. HOWEVER, A MEETING TO CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN COMPENSATION TO A SPECIFIC EMPLOYEE THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAGE INCREASE TRANSPARENCY ACT MAY NOT BE CLOSED AND MUST BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)]. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)**

At 8:22 p.m., motion by Bellino, second by Forbes, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to appointment, employment, compensation, or discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee that is subject to the local government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and must be open to the public body.

At 8:50 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:50 p.m., motion by Forbes second by Bellino and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ PRESIDENT  
(Date)

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_ RECORDING  
SECRETARY