

# 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, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Board of Education Finance Committee met at 6:15 p.m. on Monday, January 26, 2026, at Coultrap Educational Services Center, 227 North Fourth Street, Geneva, Illinois.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:17 p.m. by Jackie Forbes.

Committee members present: Jackie Forbes, Paul Radlinski. Absent: Dan Choi.

Staff present: Brandi Lanzarotta, Assistant Director of Transportation; Matt Johnson, Director of Transportation; Todd Latham, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

### 2. **PUBLIC COMMENT (Policy 2:230)**

None.

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

1. December 15, 2025

Motion by Forbes, second by Radlinski, to approve item 3.1, as presented. Ayes, two (2), Forbes, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Choi. Abstained, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

### 4. **DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION**

1. Longitudinal Transportation Planning

Matt Johnson shared longitudinal planning for the transportation department. We currently transport 3,235 students, at 1,194 bus stops, driving over 2,170 miles daily to ensure students arrive at school and return home safely. We have safety and training in place that includes safety measures, structured training, incident management, accident mitigation, and proactive maintenance. We plan for proactive transportation with fleet replacement, maintenance, planning, safety, and training. The Propane Education and Research Council (PERC) found that propane buses emit virtually no particle pollution, they reduce nitrogen oxide emissions and have engines that are 90% cleaner than mandated EPA standards. Per Blue Bird, propane also wins on cost per mile with the cost per gallon at \$1.20 and costing \$1.01 per mile. Our current bus fleet breakdown from July 2025 to December 2025 was highest with our diesel buses that range from 6-10 years old. Our new fleet of propane buses only had five breakdowns, and our gas buses had sixteen breakdowns. Bus survey findings show that propane is gaining popularity, fleet buses are getting younger, diversified fleets are on the rise, the driver shortage is lessening, and parts and equipment prices have showed no relief in cost. It also showed challenges with school bus maintenance, transporting special needs students, fuel types maintained, fleet age, and transportation averages that includes fleet composition, bus retirement age, annual miles, number of maintenance bays, buses per technician, and fleets

employing at least one female. Geneva's averages are better than the national averages in all areas except buses per technician, which is forty-one buses per mechanic. Our replacement timeline for 2027-2031 includes purchasing 72-passenger, 30-passenger, 24-passenger with lift, and 15-passenger buses. Areas that we will be focusing on are the rising cost of buses, fuel, tires, batteries, electronics, and drivers committed to the profession. Other areas of concern are the new seat belt law, competitive market, and weather. We can get there by training the trainers, balancing the fleet, and being competitive and fair.

Comments, questions, concerns: How many drivers do we have? (We currently have 62 drivers.) What about bus replacement for 2026? (We had buses that were on delay from a previous year that arrived and ate up that budget for 2026.) With parts and service, you know what your critical parts are. Do you keep an inventory of the critical parts so that you do not have to wait in case they are not available? (Yes, it depends on the critical part. The more expensive critical parts we may only keep a couple on hand, but less expensive critical parts we have a bigger stock.) On the parts, is it like cars where you run the risk of buying non-OEM parts? Is it an issue for buses? (It is not as big of an issue. The market for non-OEM parts is significantly smaller for school buses. When there have been shortages we have had to reach out to the non-OEM distributors.) Have you heard from your peers in West Aurora how their electric buses have been running? (Last month, at our meeting with Kane County directors, this was a hot topic. West Aurora's first electric bill was quite high, but they do not have enough data to know if there are any cost savings. They can do their routes, and they are getting about 85 miles per bus. They have learned that as they use things like the heater, it does drain the battery faster. They do not heat quite as well as the other types of buses. I do not know how it has been in this deep freeze.) During the deep freeze, our propane buses were ready and heated up within 10 minutes.

**6. ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO FULL BOARD (Policy 2:150)**

None.

**7. INFORMATION**

1. Legislative Update

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:46 p.m., motion by Radlinski, second by Forbes, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_ CHAIRPERSON  
Jackie Forbes

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_