

**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 9, 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 7:05 p.m. by President Grosso.

The President announced that per Board of Education Bylaw 0162.1, Attendance at Meetings, Member McCormick had notified the Board President that he wanted to participate in this meeting via telephone. The President telephoned McCormick at the number he had provided. McCormick announced his presence via telephone and stated the reason he could not attend in person was that he was out of town on business.

Motion by Juby, second by Stith, to allow Member McCormick to attend the Board meeting via telephone. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Juby, Lamb, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Not voting, McCormick. Motion carried unanimously.

Board members present: President, Mark Grosso, Leslie Juby, David Lamb, Michael McCormick (via telephone), Vice President, Kelly Nowak; Policy Committee Chair, Mary Stith; Finance Committee Chair, Bill Wilson. Late: None. Absent: None.

The President welcomed everyone, reminded them to sign the attendance record, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District administrators present: Lawrence Bidlack, Geneva Middle School North Principal; Terry Bleau, Geneva Middle School South Principal; Maura Burns, Geneva Middle School North Assistant Principal; Jane Schwartz, Geneva Middle School South Assistant Principal; Jim Kafer, GHS Athletic Director; Kelley Munch, Communication Coordinator; Craig Collins, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Donna Oberg, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Patty O'Neil, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; and Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: Avery Moore, Claire Cabery, Emily Shabowski, Leah Thompson, Sandy Ellis, Dan Garrett, Liz Hoselton, Jim & Cathie Thompson, Terri Brems, Brenda Schory (KC Chronicle).

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.

Prior to comments from the audience, the President explained that the Board had received some questions and comments about the Common Core Standards and requested that Patty O'Neil, Assistant Superintendent Teaching & Learning, provide additional information and clarification regarding this topic. O'Neil explained that the school district does have control of our curriculum and our programs. Eureka Math was not the only resource looked at for Geneva. Textbook companies take time to develop and publish textbooks and new materials. Geneva reviewed both printed and online resources and has provided and continues to provide inservice and training for our staff. While Eureka Math is Geneva's primary resource, and supports the conceptual component, our teachers are able to use other resources and tools to meet the needs of a student or students. She stressed that it was important to remember that Eureka Math will be evaluated in the Spring, that our

staff members are working hard to provide the best instruction for our students, and that we do have control over our curriculum, programs, and staff.

Public comments included:

Congratulations to the students receiving the Tradition of Excellence Awards tonight and to their parents. I will not address the tax levy because I feel that all of the Board members have individually already made a decision on how they will vote. I do want to address the issue of controlling costs. With tax increases every year, it's hard to believe the Board and administrators are doing everything they can to control costs. While student numbers are decreasing, costs are increasing. Assessed values are declining but property taxes are increasing.

I want to make it clear that my comments are not a reflection on the students being recognized tonight but if an award was given for ten years of increased taxes, the Board of Education would get an award. The Board needs to better scrutinize costs, stop increasing the tax levy, direct the administration to spend less, make more cuts, and vote no to the 1% tax levy. The difference between a 0% and 1% levy is very slight. In all the meetings I've attended, I have never heard the Board direct the administration to make cuts or maintain at the same level as the previous year. I don't trust that everything has been or is being done to lighten the burden on Geneva's taxpayers.

I agree with the previous speaker and encourage the Board to vote for a 0% tax levy this year. While I appreciated the comments made at tonight's Finance Committee meeting, I'd like to see taxes go to specific categories like Transportation, Education, and debt reduction. I think it makes sense to extend the debt repayment and use surplus funds to pay down debt. Additionally, I want to thank those Board members who met with me about my debt repayment proposal.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 Regular Session November 25, 2013

3.2 Executive Session November 25, 2013

Motion by Stith, second by Juby, to approve the above-listed minutes, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Lamb, McCormick, Stith, Juby, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Abstained, two (2), Nowak, Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.

4. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

4.1 Tradition of Excellence Awards - Geneva High School Student Recognition
Girls' Cross Country, Girls' Tennis, Diving, and Literary Magazine

The Geneva High School Athletic Director presented students to the Board of Education in recognition of their accomplishments and thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the students. He also thanked the coaches. Students recognized included:

IHSA Class 3A Girls Cross Country State Qualifiers & Team 8th Place Finish in State

Kathryn Adelman, McKenzie Altmayer, Kathleen Anderson, Allison Dudman, Emma Claire Ehrhardt, Sydney Gelis, Marin Leone, Emma McSpadden, Mary Grace Neville, Brooke Nusser, Analise Samples, and Gabrielle Thomson. The team is coached by Bob Thomson.

IHSA Class 2A Girls Tennis State Qualifiers

Emma Hazel & Margo Hess (Doubles); Kirby Einck and Grace Krueger (Singles). The team is coached by Maureen Weiler.

IHSA Swimming & Diving Finals - Diving State Qualifier

Natalie Williams. Coached by Mary Keyzer.

The National Scholastic Press Association -- 2013 "The Skaldic" Literary Magazine Top Honor Award of All-American with Four Marks of Distinction

Micah Andersen (Editor in Chief), Kate Creamer, Michelle Geiser, Madeline Happold, Sarah Lewis, and Haley Persin. Sponsor Heather Peters.

The students were congratulated on their achievements and presented with the Tradition of Excellence Award.

4.2 Geneva Middle School North Rising Star School Improvement Update

The Geneva Middle School North Principal presented a summary of the Building Leadership Team's year-long process to create a school improvement plan for GMS North using the Rising Star E-Plan process. There are 105 indicators of successful schools in Rising Star and the Leadership Team

assessed the performance of the school relative to the first two groups of Rising Star indicators; Smart Start and Smart Plan. Four areas on which to focus were chosen based on their connection to the District Vision Statement, Common Core State Standards, Professional Learning Communities, curriculum development, and student achievement. A list of tasks to accomplish the goals and a timeline for accomplishing each task was developed. The school improvement goals including yearly learning goals for the school will be set by the Leadership Team utilizing student learning data; instructional Teams will develop standards/aligned units of instruction for each subject and grade level; units of instruction will include specific learning activities aligned to objectives; and a team structure will be officially incorporated into the school improvement plan and governance policy. The approval of the Geneva Middle School North School Improvement Plan by the Board of Education is required before the plan can be submitted to the Illinois State Board of Education.

4.3 Geneva Middle School North & South Administrative PLCs Update

The principals and assistant principals from Geneva Middle School North and South provided an overview of the Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) implemented this year aligned with the District's vision. While all PLCs share the same essential ideas focused on student learning, the design and structure will vary based on building needs. Focusing on student learning, all PLCs will embrace the initiatives that support student learning; Common Core State Standards, common assessments, RtI, Rising Star, teacher evaluation process, and social emotional learning standards. Middle school PLCs will align with teacher planning periods; will not alter the students' school day; will meet in their buildings once a week by content and meet once a month in cross-campus content area groups to collaborate collectively on student learning. Curriculum development will be a continuous process as teachers seek to improve student learning and address changing standards.

The middle school administrators thanked the Board for supporting the PLC process.

Board discussion, comments, questions: Thanks for the time and effort the administrators and staff have devoted to this process. The vision is that eventually PLCs will become real communities working with other school districts.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent noted Parent Teacher Conferences were held during Thanksgiving week and feedback received would be shared with the Board; and that Winter Break will be from December 22nd through January 5th.

The Assistant Superintendent for Learning & Teaching reported that District's Kindergarten Study Committee, which is investigating the feasibility of all-day kindergarten, will present a report at the first January 2014 Board of Education meeting. The report will include the timeline for committee work, reasons the District may want to consider an all-day kindergarten option, potential implementation models / approaches, pros and cons, and fiscal implications related to staffing, programming, transportation and start-up costs. At the second January 2014 Board meeting, the Committee will provide responses to questions the Board members may have. In February, it is hoped the Board will be ready to make a decision. She stressed that any recommendations made by the Committee will be about what they feel is best for our students.

A Board member requested that a copy of the District's last Kindergarten Study would be put on the web site and that any new information be provided to all of the Board members.

6. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Tax Levy 2013

At its November 11, 2013 meeting, the Board approved a Resolution Regarding Estimated Amounts Necessary to be Levied for Tax Year 2013. The levy amount was 1%. The next step in the levy process is to approve the 2013 Tax levy and submit it to the County Clerk before the last Tuesday in December, as required by State statute. Approval of the 2013 tax levy is an important step in the budget process because the 2013 levy receipts cover half of the budget. The aggregate amount of taxes estimated to be levied for the year 2013 is \$79,876,000.00.

The tax levy sets forth the maximum receipts that can be received from property taxation in a given year. The Levy is filed by fund but is limited in aggregate by the Property Tax Extension Limitation

Act (PTELL). The Tax Cap Formula limits the actual amount that the school district will receive. Because the 2013 levy will increase less than 5%, a Truth in Taxation hearing was not required.

Board discussion, comments, questions: It was noted that the Board passed a resolution regarding the estimated amounts necessary to be levied for 2013 at its November 11, 2013 meeting. While there will be a surplus with a 1% levy, so far this year, the District hasn't received two payments from the State which could result in a shortfall and a need to use reserves. Last year, the District could have levied at 3% but decided to levy at 1.5%. This year, the Board could have levied at 1.7% but went with 1% which reduced the amount the District could receive. While the difference between a 1% and 0% levy isn't great, the Board doesn't know how long the State will continue to decrease funding levels. It is correct that both a 0% and 1% levy will result in a surplus. What matters is the CPI and new property. CPI assumptions do matter and a 30 year average resulted in 2.8%. The last five years CPI average was 2.7%. The question is are PMA's assumptions reasonable and to me they are. I believe that with a 1% levy we are levying for what we need. We will look at our reserves and the amounts are going down. We are spending down our fund balances and by not levying CPI, we will have less funds available. We are doing what I hoped to do when I ran for the Board. I voiced my concerns at the meeting two weeks ago. We have received feedback from the community and that is important. The concerns the Board expressed previously about pension reform and the Affordable Care Act are real and we know they will happen, we just don't know when. Perhaps the Board doesn't talk enough about what has been done to move from deficit fund balances. We have been aggressive about keeping our costs down without impacting our programs. Our costs continue to increase and many of them are due to things we don't have local control of, like unfunded state and federal mandates. We need to convey more to our community about the reductions that have been made. We have not gone with the full CPI for the past couple of years and a 1% levy is what we need. The levy process is housekeeping. The true impact is during the budget. I will support the 1% levy but will ask questions during the budget process. During my tenure on the Board, there have been reductions and all of our employee groups have taken salary freezes. I believe we have taken a balanced approach to the levy and I'm satisfied with a 1% levy. This is only for our operating funds. The debt calculations are made by the County.

Motion by Wilson, second by Nowak, to adopt the 2013 levy extension in the amount of 1%, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Juby, Lamb, Grosso. Nays, one (1), McCormick. Motion carried.

6.2 Geneva Middle School North School Improvement Plan

Motion by Wilson, second by Stith, to approve the Geneva Middle School North School Improvement Plan, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, (7), Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

None

8. INFORMATION

8.1 FOIA Requests

8.2 Suspension Report

No discussion.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Long-term Substitutes Certified

Sweet, Debra, GMSS, Language Arts, 1.0 FTE, 12/9/2013 to 1/17/2014

Griffith, Patty, WAS, Grade 4, 1.0 FTE, 12/17/2013 to 1/27/2014

Pannier, Lesley, FES, Librarian, 1.0 FTE, 1/6/2014 to 2/3/2014

Leavitt, Marv, GHS, Counselor, 1.0 FTE, 2/3/2014 to 3/14/2014

New Hires Support

Milbrant, Lisa, GMSS, Special Education Assistant, 9 Month, Start Date 12/9/2013

Prater, Lisa, GMSN, Special Education Assistant, 9 Month, Start Date 12/9/2013

Regan, Wendy, GMSS, Special Education Assistant, 9 Month, Start Date 12/9/2013

Resignations Support

Gurney, Sean, GHS, Security, 9 Month, Effective 12/3/2013

Page, Lisa, FES, Technology Assistant, 9 Month, Effective 12/5/2013

Irwin, Chris, MCS, Technology Assistant, 9 Month, 12/6/2013

Gajsiewicz, Gary, GHS, Custodian, 12 Month, Effective 12/13/2013

9.2 Bid Summary/Award: 2014/2015 & 2015/2016 School Bus Purchase, Two-year Purchase/Buy Back, \$4,000,850 (Net with buy-back funding \$560,119)

9.3 Pay Request #4, \$45,494.68, Performance Services, GHS Unit Ventilator Replacement/Lighting Upgrade & GMS South Replacement of VAV Boxes & Heating/Hot Water Re-piping

Motion by Stith, second by Nowak, to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 through 9.3, as presented.

On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Stith, Wilson, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION

Comments included:

Appreciate the levy discussion and Board member comments. We have \$36 million fund balance, so I'm disappointed that the Board went with a 1% levy when it could have gone with 0%.

Interesting discussion. I contend that the Board has not reduced the tax levy, only the amount of levy they could have taken. Last year, the Board President said the time to change the budget was in the levy process. The Board needs to decide when to discuss levy vs. budget. If we restructure bonds, we can have control of our bonds. I believe the only years cuts were made was in FY 2012 by \$2 million but that was only because you didn't buy new buses. I don't see any cuts in operating expenses.

At tonight's Finance Committee was the only time I've heard any discussion about anything. I attended the December 2nd forum and appreciate the Assistant Superintendent's comments but why are there no costs yet on all-day kindergarten. If you didn't have anything to report about, why have the forum. (The forum was an opportunity to get feedback from the community.) I don't think there should have been a forum about all-day kindergarten without having the costs.

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

Board members comments included: We continue to hear about what's been done before. We all need to acknowledge mistakes were made and move forward - that would be the most productive. Many of the comments are about debt but we can't go back to 2007; we need to move forward and manage the debt. The Board is serious about reducing debt. What was structured in 2007 can't be redone. The Board is looking for ways to reduce the debt and the Finance Committee has been charged with considering and recommending options.

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)

At 8:44 p.m., motion by Juby, 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 and collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Wilson, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

At 8:45 p.m., McCormick left the meeting via telephone.

At 8:53 p.m., following a break to relocate to the Williamsburg conference room, the Board moved into executive session.

At 9:20 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.

14. ACTION POSSIBLE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

None taken.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:24 p.m. motion by Wilson, second by Juby, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____ PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____ RECORDING SECRETARY