

**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, February 10, 2014, 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 7:08 p.m. by President Grosso.

Board members present: President, Mark Grosso, Leslie Juby, David Lamb, Michael McCormick, 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: Tom Rogers, Principal, Geneva High School; Darcy Thompson, Principal, Fabyan Elementary School; Shonette Sims, Principal, Harrison Street Elementary School; Dr. Andrew Barrett, Director Learning & Teaching; Elizabeth Janowiak, Director Technology; 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: Bob McQuillan, Mike Abts, Ron Stevenson, Elizabeth Hoselton, Katie Sorenson, Susan Farley, Jenny Justis, Julie Gates, Donna Borse, Kris Mather, Cathy Meives, Tina Zubel, Jen Cox, Pat Fordonski, Cathy Fuller, Chris, Krissi & Brandon Evert, Angie Kosar, Carol Young, Kathy Durrenberger, Jenna Wright, Cynthia & Sophia Spiegel, Kevin & Alexander Howe, Abby Young, Janie, Don & Danielle Friedel, Jerry, Patty, & Mindy Lietza; Michael, Liz & Hailey Wishne; Claudia Barry; Tara Burghart, Sherri Wyllie, Kristina Stevens.

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 included:

Since the beginning of discussions about all-day kindergarten, three Board members have supported it. Is it okay that seniors and taxpayers should pay for it? There is no groundswell of support for it. In 2008, it was not implemented due to a lack of funds. The Board complains about unfunded state mandates but is now planning to implement a program that is not state mandated. The Board supported the Foundations and Booster programs for at-risk children and they are getting the help they need. It appears Common Core is driving the implementation of all-day kindergarten and Common Core could be gone in a few years. Research suggests that third grade is when students are ready for more rigor and that all-day kindergarten doesn't have long-term benefits for students. I recommend that the Board delay a decision on all-day kindergarten until next month in order to survey parents registering children for kindergarten to determine interest. Maybe Geneva should be charging tuition for all-day kindergarten because how long will it be before parents want programs for their four-year olds?

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 3.1 Regular Session February 3, 2013

3.2 Executive Session February 3, 2013

The President reported that a Board member had requested a correction to the regular session minutes of February 3rd and the minutes presented for approval reflected the correction.

Motion by McCormick, second by Wilson, to approve the above-listed minutes as presented. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

4. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

4.1 Tradition of Excellence Award: GHS Students

IMEA All-State Music Festival - Chorus, Band, Orchestra; IHSA Bowling; Dance Team

The Geneva High School Principal presented students to the Board of Education in recognition of their accomplishments and thanked the Board for this opportunity. He also thanked the coaches.

Students recognized were:

Illinois Music Educators Association – All-State Music Festival

Alexander Howe, All-State Honors Chorus, **Brandon Evert** and **Kevin Farley**, All-State Honors Band, **Sophia Spiegel**, All-State Honors Orchestra

IHSA State Bowling Meet – State Qualifier

Jason Soto

IHSA State Dance Finals State Championship – GHS Varsity Dance Team

Diana Brognia, **Elena Cramer**, **Aimee Dappas**, **Maddie Emma**, **Natalie Erickson**, **Danielle Friedel**, **Gianna Hansen**, **Kennedy Hughes**, **Mary Kafer**, **Michelle Lapetina**, **Mindy Lietza**, **Kelsey Paeth**, **Nicole Rinne**, **Emily Schmid**, **Nikki Serra**, **Jenna Soldati**, **Hailey Wishne**, **Molly Zacher**

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

The President reported that Mill Creek Elementary School fifth grade teacher **Donna Román** was chosen to receive a 2014 Microsoft Innovative Education Expert award.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent reported that on Friday, February 28th, staff members would be participating in professional development opportunities provided through the District, Kane and DuPage county Regional Offices of Education, and VALEES, and that staff members have been removing snow from District facilities in order to be ready for any additional snow we may get.

The Assistant Superintendent Business Services reported that the District has received a School Maintenance Grant for \$50,000. The matching grant will be used toward flooring and carpet replacement projects. Director of Facilities, Scott Ney, applied for the grant and is in the process of applying for another maintenance grant to help offset the cost of additional projects. The District's Safety/Security Supervisor is completing an application for a safety grant.

6. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 All-day Kindergarten

The Administration's and Committee's recommendation was for the implementation of a district-funded, all-day kindergarten program beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year; that the District maintain a half-day morning kindergarten program for parents who prefer a half-day program; and that the half-day program be incorporated into the all-day kindergarten program with half-day students dismissed at a mid-day break. Additionally, it was recommended that the current amount of kindergarten instructional assistant FTE hours be maintained and that instructional assistants be shared between classrooms to meet the needs of students and help contain the costs of the all-day kindergarten program. All-day kindergarten will be the "default" or standard for every student with the goal of every kindergarten student achieving the benchmarks for transitioning to first grade. The structure of all-day kindergarten will be similar to first grade. As with all of the District's programs, efforts will be made to contain the costs of the all-day kindergarten program and to explore opportunities to offset the added expenses and find additional funding resources.

Board discussion, comments, questions:

Common Core mandates are here and we need to help our kindergarten students meet those requirements. Additionally, there is no data from Common Core to support the statement that all-day kindergarten doesn't have long-term benefits. I believe that all-day kindergarten is good for Geneva's students and will allow for additional rigor at that grade level. I'm glad that the recommendation allows a ½ day program for parents who want it. Will the students in the half-day program receive the same curriculum as we offer now? Will they miss out on anything? (We don't know yet what the schedule will be, but we will do our best to balance it. All-day kindergarten would be the standard and the children in the ½ day program may miss out on some things. We will try to keep the core areas but we can't promise the students attending ½ day will get the same curriculum as they do now.) If we can't promise the same curriculum for ½ day students as we have now, that is a concern for me. Without all-day kindergarten being mandated, it will be a tough choice for parents. And, if the all-day program is adopted, I want to see data and evaluation, as well as costs for the program tracked for two-to-three years. The costs are an investment in our students and a real return for our community. I'd like to hear from teachers at all grade levels about the lasting benefits. I believe all-day kindergarten will deliver a return in the long-term and I have to rely on the findings and the recommendations of the professionals. I can support it if our professionals are saying we will see the benefits. (The learning curve is steep when you are first learning something. I've attended data meetings at our elementary buildings and regardless of the assessment, some students don't progress. Our teachers monitor the data and implement the necessary interventions for the students who need help to continue to move forward.) Costs also need to be controlled as much as possible and we need to continue to look for efficiencies to offset the costs long-term. I don't support picking up students mid-day and I agree that students attending ½ day kindergarten shouldn't have to accept anything less than what we are offering now. I, too, look at all-day kindergarten as an investment in our students and agree that we need to find cost savings. Have we discussed this with the teachers? Kindergarten has changed significantly since my children attended. There are more academics and less social/emotional activities. We need to ensure that we include time in the schedule for social/emotional activities. I've never tried to hide that I was in favor of all-day kindergarten. As long as we focus on curriculum and integrate it fully with the other grade levels, it gives us more opportunities to observe and offer interventions for our students. While the standard is all-day kindergarten for all students, there is a ½ day option for parents, and we will see savings from the elimination of mid-day transportation routes. I also agree that all-day kindergarten is an investment in our students and want us to make a commitment to the community that we will find savings and not burden the taxpayers. Whether we support an idea or not, Board members always need to look at both sides of the issue. I believed that all day kindergarten was a good idea in 2008, as did the entire board at that time. However, it was not just the cost of the program at that time that prevented it from happening. We also did not have the space in our buildings. We now have the space. I've expressed concern about the number of instructional assistants and share the concerns that the ½ day kindergarten program may not be the same as we currently offer. Curriculum is changing and while Common Core may drive this to some extent, I believe that all-day kindergarten is good for our students and is the right thing to do. I believe that if this is approved, the Board will receive reports from the administration and our parents will provide feedback on both the all-day and ½ day programs.

Motion by Wilson, second by Juby, to approve the "default," all-day kindergarten with a half-day option for those parents who want it, as recommended. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Juby, Grosso. Nays, one (1), Lamb. Motion carried.

6.2 GHS Out-of-Country Trip, Spain Summer 2015

The Superintendent reported that this trip proposal is consistent with previous trips and the costs are paid by participating students and their families.

Board discussion, comments, questions: What hotels are the students staying in? What are the other excursions? Who will be chaperoning the other excursions and where will the students be sleeping? Without a high school administrator or teacher present to answer my questions, I can't vote on this.

Motion by Wilson, second by Lamb, to table Item 6.2 until additional information is provided by the high school administration. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), McCormick, Nowak, Wilson, Juby, Lamb.

Nays, two (2), Stith, Grosso. Motion carried.

7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Policy Updates - First Reading

- 7.1.1 1422 **New**, 3122 & 4122 **Revised**, *Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity*
- 7.1.2 1522, **Delete**, *Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity*
- 7.1.3 1422.02 **New**, 3122.02 & 4122.02 **Revised**, *Nondiscrimination Based on Genetic Information of the Employee*
- 7.1.4 8462, **Revised**, *Child Abuse and Neglect*
- 7.1.5 9130, **Revised**, *Public Complaints and Grievances*
- 7.1.6 2413, **New**, *Health Education*
- 7.1.7 2414, **New**, *Sex and Family Life Education*
- 7.1.8 5517.03, **New**, *Teen Dating Violence*

The Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services reported that the majority of the revisions and new policies result from changes in federal law. Relative to Policy 8462, it is too soon to determine whether District trainers will meet the legal requirements. Additionally, if an allegation of child abuse is raised to a school board member during open or closed session, this policy requires that the Board of Education member(s) direct the superintendent or equivalent administrator to report the matter in compliance with the requirements of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

Board discussion, comments, questions: All of these policies were discussed at the Committee level, and I feel it is important that all Board members also complete the mandated reporter training required in Policy 8462.

These policies will be brought back to the Board for second reading and adoption on February 24, 2014.

8. INFORMATION

8.1 FOIA Requests

Received = 2. Total Costs = \$44.97. Total Employee Hours = 2 hours, 5 minutes.

No discussion.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Long-term Substitutes Certified

Bergren, Jessica, GMSN, Social Studies, 1.0 FTE, Effective 2/17/14 – 3/25/14

New Hires Support

McKiness, Robin, GHS, Security, 12 hrs/wk, 9 Month, Start Date 2/1/14

Retirements Support

Lindenmuth, Nancy, GHS, Administrative Assistant, 12 Month, Effective 3/31/14

Sikora, Linda, GMSN, Administrative Assistant, 12 Month, Effective 6/6/14

Wollert, Kathy, CO, Payroll Specialist, 12 Month, Effective 6/6/14

9.2 Pay Request #2, FINAL, \$23,291.85, FGM Architects, Coultrap Demolition Project

9.3 Pay Request #5, FINAL, \$140,753.07, Performance Services, GHS Unit Ventilator Replacement/Lighting Upgrade & GMSS VAV Boxes/Heating Hot Water Re-piping

9.4 2014-2017 School Bus Driver Working Conditions Agreement

9.5 Gifts, Grants & Bequests: GHS PTO \$16,047.33; WAS PTO \$3,618.18

9.6 Technology Purchase Capital Outlay Plan, \$43,650.00, Heartland Business Systems, IL State Contract Pricing, Computer Replacement GMSN, GMSS, HES, HSS, WAS

Board discussion, comments, questions:

Regarding Item 9.5, I want to acknowledge and thank our parents who help and support us and provide funding for items like smartboards, technology devices, and classroom books/maps/posters. Their efforts and support are very much appreciated.

Regarding Item 9.3, I would like to see the energy savings translated into dollars.

Motion by Nowak, second by McCormick, to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 through 9.6 as presented. On roll call, Ayes, (7), Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION

Comments included the following:

As the parent of a child currently in kindergarten and one who will be starting kindergarten in 2014, thanks for studying this issue and for approving all-day kindergarten.

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 reported that they had attended a GEARS meeting, a Western Avenue Elementary School PTO Meeting, and visited a Western Avenue Elementary School classroom where they observed the use of technology in the classroom.

Additionally, a Board member attended a benefit for Fox Valley Food for Health, which is supported by Geneva High School staff and students. At the benefit, Geneva High School's Family and Consumer Science instructor, Kathy Jankovic, received an award.

Board members also reported that Sports Boosters' **Trivia Night** is March 1st; there is a GEARS meeting on March 18th at the First Baptist Church; the Geneva Academic Foundation's **Bowl Us Over** fundraiser is on Saturday, March 8th at Bowling Green in West Chicago; and the Geneva Academic Foundation is looking for new board members.

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC BODY AND ITS EMPLOYEES OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)]

At 8:16 p.m., motion by McCormick, second by Stith, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Stith, Wilson, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

At 8:26 p.m., following a break to respond to questions from the media and to relocate to the Williamsburg conference room, the Board moved into executive session.

At 8:37 p.m., motion by Stith, second by Wilson, and with unanimous consent, the Board returned to open session and returned to the Williamsburg auditorium.

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:40 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Juby, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____

RECORDING
SECRETARY