

**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 25, 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 7:02 p.m. by President Grosso.

Board members present: President Mark Grosso, Matt Henry, Tim Moran, Vice President Kelly Nowak, Policy Committee Chair Mary Stith, Finance Committee Chair Bill Wilson. Late: None. Absent: Mike McCormick.

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

District administrators present: Tom Rogers, Principal Geneva High School; Doug Drexler, Associate Principal Geneva High School; Craig Collins, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Donna Oberg, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Patty O'Neil, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction; and Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: Angela Palazzetti, Lori Dowd, Karen Hayes, Fred Dresser, Elizabeth Hoselton, Sandra Ellis, Chris Bourdage, Leslie Juby, Tom Anderson, Dan Garrett, Alexa Aguilar (Tribune), Martha Scatterday, Lindi Petersen, Krissi Evert, Dawn, James & Ashley Puff, Robert L. Cabeen, Rick Nagel (Patch), Wynn Church, Brenda Schory (KC Chronicle), Carol Young, Debbie Rabe, Dominique Brognia, Grace & Jenna Ginsberg, McKenna Merges, Brad Martens, Anika Nims.

**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.*

The President reminded those wishing to speak that they needed to conform to the policy dealing with public participation, that comments or discussion regarding individual students or personnel matters were not permitted, that individuals wishing to address the Board should complete the form in the brochure and present it to the Presiding Officer or Recording Secretary before the start of the meeting, should come to the podium, use the microphone, and state their name and address as the meetings are video recorded. He added that if an audience member wished to speak during the second public comment portion on the agenda, but had not completed the required form, they should raise their hand to be recognized.

Comments:

Regarding the proposed appointment to the Finance Committee, since last year, at least two individuals have requested that community members be added to this committee. In August, a community member requested a status report and was told that changes weren't necessary at this time. While I'm happy to see a recommendation for an addition to the committee, I am concerned that the person is an employee of the district. He doesn't seem a proper choice and I question the urgency of this appointment when an

election that could change two to four seats on the Board of Education will take place in April. The Board should wait to make this decision. What is this person's qualifications and why is this person recommended for appointment to the finance committee when volunteers have requested that community members with the financial background and expertise be appointed? When will another person be added?

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

3.1 Regular Session February 11, 2013

3.2 Executive Session February 11, 2013

The President noted that a Board member had requested a correction to the regular session minutes of February 11th and the minutes presented for approval reflected the change.

Motion by Henry, second by Moran, to approve Item 3.1 as amended and Item 3.2 as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Henry, Moran, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

### **4. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS**

4.1 Tradition of Excellence Awards

Geneva High School: Gymnastics, Wrestling, IMEA All-State Chorus

The high school principal thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the students in recognition of their achievements. The principal also recognized and thanked the coaches, assistant coaches, sponsors and parents for their efforts and support through the years. Students recognized included:

Gymnastics Team: Megan Beitzel, Dominique Brognia, Grace Ginsberg, Jenna Ginsberg, McKenna Merges, Ashley Puff, Claire Scatterday. The gymnastics team placed 5th overall at the IHSA State Gymnastics Meet. Ashley Puff and Dominique Brognia qualified for the all around and Ashley placed 9th in Floor Exercise.

Wrestling: For the second year in a row, Brad Martens qualified to compete at the IHSA State Wrestling Meet. Brad's record was 78 wins / 17 losses over the past two years.

IMEA All-state Chorus: Alexander Howe, Tenor II, and Anika Nims, Alto I, were selected to represent Geneva High School at the All-state Music Festival on January 24th and 25th.

### **5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Thursday, February 28th is a half day for students throughout the District. It is also Partner Day at Geneva Middle School North and Science Day at Geneva Middle School South. School is not in session on Friday, March 1st, as teachers will be participating in professional development activities related to common core math at the elementary level, teaching frameworks, CTEI programs through VALEES, and a variety of other professional development programs. The Boundary Study Task Force held the last of four public forums last week and thanked everyone who attended the forums. The Task Force will review enrollment numbers and the feedback received at the forums as they develop their recommendations to present to the full Board later in the spring. Students are practicing for musical performances at the high school and middle schools.

### **6. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATIONS**

6.1 Appointment of Tom Anderson, GHS Science Teacher, to Board Finance Committee

At the February 11, 2013 Board meeting, the President recommended that Tom Anderson, a Geneva resident, small business owner, taxpayer, parent, and Geneva High School Science teacher, be appointed to the Board's Finance Committee. He explained that as President, he is able to appoint/recommend committee members. He noted that as a Board member he'd worked to create the Finance Committee. He recommended that Mr. Anderson be added to the Finance Committee because he felt that he had been a valuable member of the Geneva Education Association's negotiating team who had suggested good, "out-of-the-box" ideas during the negotiation process and who would gain a better understanding of the district's finances and financial processes, would be able to partner in finding solutions, and would be able to provide feedback to the district's largest employee group, as well as

provide the Committee with feedback from the teachers.

Board discussion, comments, questions: I'm glad that it was pointed out that Mr. Anderson is a Geneva parent and taxpayer. It is important to make it clear that the Finance Committee is an advisory committee and action is not taken at the committee level, only by the full Board as elected officials. Concur that Mr. Anderson will be a good addition to this advisory committee. It will be good to have a teacher on the committee who will be able to gain a better understanding of the district's financial processes, as well as the Board's values and goals, and who will partner with the Board to try to find solutions. I don't know Mr. Anderson personally, but I believe he has the qualifications to be a good Finance Committee member and I encourage the new Board to add another person to this committee. I echo the other Board members' comments. As a member of the Board's negotiating team, I agree it is important for both groups to fully understand what is important and valued by the Board for the long-term sustainability of the school district. It will be good if Mr. Anderson is able to share the Board's views with the GEA and share the teachers' views with the Board. I hope the Board is able to add one or even two more members to the Finance Committee as we move forward.

Motion by Wilson, second by Nowak, to approve the appointment of Tom Anderson to the Board's Finance Committee. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Moran, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Henry, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

**6.2 Geneva High School Professional Learning Communities Implementation, Fall 2013**  
The Superintendent noted that at the February 11, 2013 Board meeting, the high school principal and associate principal provided an overview of the proposal to implement Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) at Geneva Community High School beginning in the fall of 2013. The Superintendent thanked the high school's administrators and staff for their work developing the proposal. He recommended the implementation of PLCs beginning in the fall of 2013.

The President asked if the Board had comments, questions, or required further discussion of this item. They did not.

Motion by Nowak, second by Stith, to approve the implementation of Professional Learning Communities at Geneva High School starting in the fall of 2013, as proposed. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Henry, Moran, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

## **7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATIONS**

### **7.1 5 Essentials Survey**

The Assistant Superintendents for Curriculum & Instruction and Personnel Services provided an overview of the Illinois 5Essentials Survey. The UChicago Impact, on behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education, will administer the survey electronically. The survey was developed at the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research. Research indicates that schools strong on the 5Essentials are ten times more likely to improve student learning. The five essentials are effective leaders, collaborative teachers, involved families, supportive environment, and ambitious instruction. SB7 mandates that at least two essential indicators be included in the State's school report card. The survey is designed to generate a picture of the inner workings of our schools. The survey will be available online from February 1 through March 31, 2013. Teachers, parents and students in grades 6-12 can participate in the survey. School-level reports will be generated if at least 50% of a district's teachers respond. Students will respond to a different survey and a 50% response rate is required for those results to be included in the overall school report. Parent participation, while encouraged, is not required in the first administration of the survey. We are encouraging a high level of participation. Once the survey closes, data will be compiled. Individual school and district reports will be available in June and also included in each school report card released by the Illinois State Board of Education at the end of October. Information about the survey is available at <https://illinois.5-essentials.org>. The original legislation required data collection on a biannual basis and funding was secured for at least two years before another funding source would need to be found.

Board discussion, comments, questions: Will comparative data between schools be available? (That is

what we've been led to believe and also district data. UChicago is supposed to have data available on their web site in the fall. We believe there will be opportunities to compare districts similar in size, enrollment, etc. to Geneva. The school report card will include more data and have a changed format.) I hope we'll be able to compare data to our peers. I was skeptical of this at first, but feel a little better now. I hope this is the start of being able to track our district's data and success.

## **8. INFORMATION**

8.1 GHS Robotics Club Out-of-State Trip  
No discussion.

## **9. CONSENT AGENDA**

9.1 Monthly Financial Reports & Interfund Transfers

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

### New Hires Support

Campana, Gary, GHS, In-school Suspension Supervisor, 3 days week/7 hrs a day, 9 Month, Start date 2/19/2013

### Long-term Substitutes Support

Highmark, Meredith, HES, Special Education Assistant, 9 Month, Effective 2/11/2013 - 3/22/2013

9.3 Disposition of Executive Session Minutes, July 2012 through December 2012

9.4 Amend 2012-2013 School Board Meeting Schedule to Change Date of Spring Board Retreat

A Board member requested that Item 9.4 be voted on separately.

The Assistant Superintendent Business Services noted an error on the January 31, 2013 Cash-flow Summary sheet. The correct amount in the Education Fund Cash & Investments as of January 2013 is \$23,434,254 not \$34,322,402. The error will be corrected in the online BoardBook packet available on the District's web site.

Motion by Wilson, second by Moran, to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 through 9.3, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Stith, Wilson, Henry, Moran, Nowak, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Stith, second by Nowak, to approve Consent Agenda Item 9.4, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Wilson, Henry, Nowak, Stith, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Abstained, one (1), Moran. Motion carried unanimously.

## **10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION**

Comments:

I'm upset with the Board's decision tonight regarding the Finance Committee appointment. When will the qualifications for membership on this committee be discussed? I didn't hear any information that the person appointed is a "number person." We need that expertise. He is a teacher with many layers of access to the district's financials. Why not ask community members to serve? How will the criteria for membership on this committee be established? This vote didn't include taxpayers' input or representation. (The Board President responded that the Board members are the elected officials of the taxpayers and they take their job very seriously.) I feel there needs to be more expertise on the Finance Committee. I was a small business owner and I knew my numbers and my customers.

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

*Policy Committee, Finance Committee, Facilities Task Force, Communication Task Force, Joint PTO, Geneva All-Sports Boosters, Geneva Music Boosters, Geneva High School Theater Boosters, Academic Foundation, GEARS, K-12 Discipline Committee, Geneva Coalition for Youth, PRIDE, REMS Grant*

The band and orchestra students are on their way to Florida where they will participate in clinics at the University of Florida and will march in a parade in Orlando. Two Board members attended Illinois Association of School Board workshops last weekend related to data training. The Geneva High School Environmental Committee was thanked for their volunteer work last weekend. Parents were thanked for attending and providing feedback at the four Boundary Study Task Force forums. Their comments and

feedback are valuable and listened to by the Board members.

**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); AND PENDING LITIGATION [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)]**

At 7:56 p.m., motion by Henry, 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 pending litigation. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Henry, Moran, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

At 8:09 p.m., following a break to respond to questions from the press/audience and for the room to clear, the Board moved into executive session.

At 8:22 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Moran, and with unanimous consent, the Board returned to open session.

**14. ACTION POSSIBLE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None taken.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:22 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Henry, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

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

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