

**GENEVA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 304
227 NORTH FOURTH STREET, GENEVA, ILLINOIS
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District Number 304 met in a special session on Wednesday, October 17, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at Coultrap, 1113 Peyton, Geneva, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Roll Call
- 1.2 Welcome
- 1.3 Reminder to sign attendance sheet

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Grosso.

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

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

District administrators present: Craig Collins, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Donna Oberg, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; and Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: Dwight & Joyce Swartwood, Steve Todd, Chuck Miles, Tom Livingston, Kim & Arron Lee, Jackie Biener, Vicky Tusken, Bob Mann, Ed Bianchina, Fred Dresser, Chris Barber, Ken Shuman, Mary Limberis, Heather Peters, Liz Hoselton, Nancy Jenco, Barb Huffman, Chuck & Sheri Miles, Cathy Campana, Debbie Hanson, Ron & Susan Stevenson, Teresa Keenan, Katy Bullok, Catherine Lewis, Brenda Bevans, Kevin Gannon, Julie Cesaroni, Therese Davison, Jamie Maher, Marc Rooks, Kent Bickford, Joe Fraz, Lisa Gratz, Su Kenny, Alexa Gill, Tom Grubaugh, Karen Leone, Michelle Dewald, Cookie Olson, Carol Sanders, Edward Butts, Lisa Schwer, Tom & Char Potkonowiz, Amy Sneed, Karen Farley, Lynda Johnson, Chris Bourdage, Robert Cabeen, Scott Meyer, Carol Young, Laura Ross, Krissi Evert, Paul Thill, Lynn Moravick, Bonnie Bain, Tom & Renata Pate, Gina Tustin, David Blatchly, Lora Poucher, Jennifer Bianchina, Laurie Reattoir, Catherine Grummer, Erin Julseth, David Larson, Lucy Cave, Kathy Spencer, Mark Obermeyer, Ann Edwards, Elizabeth Grubaugh, Rene Swidenbank, Emma Williams, Jenny Benjamin, Brian Barkowicz, Eric Olson, Donna Roman, Al Ochsner, Ann Cardile, Tom Maloney, Mark Pennington, Carol Sanders, and other individuals who did not sign the attendance register.

The Board President clarified that the purpose of this special meeting was for the Board to finalize its last/best offer to the Geneva Education Association following the GEA's declaration of impasse on Friday, October 12, 2012. He added that he had seen comments in the media and on the Internet about the role of the administration in the negotiations and he wanted to inform the community that the administration's role was only advisory. All decisions are made only by the seven elected members of the Board. The final offer will be submitted to the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board by Friday, October 19, 2012 and posted on the District's web site on October 26, 2012, if a settlement is not reached with the Geneva Education Association before October 26th.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The President informed audience members that per Board Policy 0167.3, and posted at the entrance to the meeting site, anyone wishing to address the Board needed to complete the form found in the "Welcome to Our Meeting" brochure indicating their desire to speak at the Board meeting. He added that due to the number wishing to speak the total time for any comments would be limited to 20 minutes, and individual comments would be limited to 2-3 minutes.

Public comments included:

Everyone wants better pay for our work. We respect our teachers. While Geneva's base salary may be less than Batavia and St. Charles, Geneva has serious debt to repay. Geneva needs to flatten the tax rates and the school budget. Property taxes may double in ten years and any

reserves should only be used to pay down debt. We all need to help address the district's debt issue, even the teachers.

The President reminded audience members that they needed to respect the time limit and keep their comments to 2-3 minutes.

This is the first Board meeting I've attended. I've been following the media and Internet blogs since last spring when my property taxes went up 39%. I'm a fifteen-year resident and my children went through Geneva schools. Know and like some of the teachers. The Board needs to take a stand and to look at the whole budget and stay within it. I've been asked by the City to take a \$300 cut in pay.

Thanks to the teachers, staff and Board for their work. Want to address the vilification of teachers, administrators, and anyone who speaks up. We all expect a competitive wage and the teachers' is based on surrounding school districts. We pay taxes to receive services and I'm not willing to give that up. We have a special needs child and our family moved here for the schools. Schools have an impact our property values. Let's settle this agreement and show our children that they can work hard and still make a living by being a teacher.

I have two children. One in a private school and one that just transferred to Geneva Middle School North. I was surprised and amazed at the move to public school. People may know the price of things but not the value. What is the price of excellent teachers and the value of a good education? What is the cost of not investing in the teachers? What is the benefit of a pay freeze? Will people want to move here without good schools?

For the record, wanted to say that tonight I attended the Harrison Street School book fair and spaghetti dinner and many parents asked me to come to the Board meeting to express their support for the teachers.

I'm a math teacher at Geneva High School and a member of the GEA's negotiating team. I want to clear up some misinformation contained in an email to staff and sent out on 304Connects. The GEA plans to attend the mediation session scheduled for October 23rd and every other session that may be scheduled. On Friday, October 19th, both sides are required to submit and post their final offers. For the past twenty years, both sides have used the same cost-out sheet, the same sheet used to determine surplus to give back to taxpayers. Now a different cost-out sheet is being used by the Board and that is unacceptable to the GEA. The GEA's negotiating team looks forward to working with the Board on October 23rd.

Want to address the issue of a pay freeze. While Geneva has good teachers, there have not been teacher layoffs or pay cuts and Geneva's teachers have good benefits. In the private sector, many have experienced pay cuts and have lost their jobs. Some jobs have been outsourced out of the country. We all need to do more for less. Many families have had to move in order to keep a job. Geneva teachers have had raises for the past three years and have not had job or pay cuts. What's the problem with taking a freeze?

Our family moved to Geneva in 2011 mainly for the schools. Initially, we worried that the District wouldn't live up to our expectations, but it has. Heartland's principal knows all of the children by name. I teach in Carol Stream. Many outside forces have an impact and place additional burdens on teachers. We moved here for the schools and we hope the District comes together to resolve the negotiations. We respect the work that the teachers and the administrators do.

3. 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 7:28 p.m., motion by McCormick, second by Moran, 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), Henry, McCormick, Moran, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously

The Board President reported that action could be possible following executive session.

At 7:36 p.m., the Board moved into executive session.

At 9:22 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Moran, and with unanimous consent, the Board returned to open session.

A Board member checked to determine whether any members of the public had waited for the Board to return to open session.

At 9:24 p.m., Jay Moffat joined the Board in open session. He commented that he wanted to convey his respect for the Board members and added that a 100% pay increase would not be enough for the work they do. He stated that it is a thankless job and many in the community appreciate the work the Board does.

4. ACTION POSSIBLE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Moran, second by Stith, that the Board of Education approve the final offer to be submitted to the Geneva Education Association and the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board on October 19, 2012, as provided by law. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), McCormick, Moran, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Henry, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

5. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:26 p.m., motion by Nowak, second by Wilson, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____

RECORDING
SECRETARY