

**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, October 24, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at Coultrap, 1113 Peyton, 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 7:00 p.m. by President Moran.

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

The President led everyone 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; Jerel Waide, Student Services Coordinator; 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: Mike Foote, Donn Dears, Russell Lefevre, Kim & Ron Lee, Terry Lulek, Judith Wehrmeister, Craig Rasmussen, Dick Graff, Pat Murphy, Tom Finnberg, Bill, Dean & Pasie Gregory, Frank Vaisvilas (Republican), Ashley Rhodebeck (Chronicle), George Jackowiec, Candan Spellman, Patrick McCann, Dana Hanson, Peter Stucki, Gail Ryan, Dave Weedie, Kirby Einck.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 2.1 Regular Session October 11, 2011

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

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 3.1 Tradition of Excellence Awards: Geneva High School
Girls' Tennis, Boys' & Girls' Golf

The Board presented Tradition of Excellence Awards and congratulated the students on their achievements.

The Geneva High School Principal thanked the Board for the opportunity to present students to the Board for recognition and also for the programs in which our students are able to participate, both in and out of the classroom.

The following students were recognized for their accomplishments:

Kirby Einck, State Qualifier, Girls' Tennis Singles

Bill Gregory, State Qualifier, Boys' Golf

Abby Luchtenburg, State Qualifier, Girls' Golf (Abby was unable to attend this meeting and will be presented to the Board at a future meeting.)

3.2 GHS School Improvement Update

The Superintendent indicated that over the course of this academic year, all of the principals will be providing an update on their school improvement plans and goals to the Board.

The GHS Principal presented an overview of the ACT, SAT and AP (advanced placement) assessment data which is used to track student progress and identify areas that may need additional focus. He reported that most GHS students achieve at high levels, but other students are not succeeding academically or socially/emotionally. The high school staff has developed activities to expose all students to social/emotional issues and student well-being. The school improvement plans and goals at the high school are long-term and continuous and focused on success for all students in preparation for college and the workforce. Last year, GHS attained its highest ACT composite score.

The Principal added that the staff has begun to develop consistent/common department assessments and they are also working to implement professional learning communities (PLCs) to provide additional opportunities for teachers to regularly meet, work and plan with other teachers in their department and grade level.

He commented that Geneva's students are achieving great things with the support of their teachers, parents, booster groups and Board of Education. He recognized the following booster groups and the individuals who represent these groups: Candan Spellmann (Music Boosters), Terry Lulek and Val Axen (GHS PTO Co-Presidents), Tom Finnberg, Dave Weede, Kim & Ron Lee (All Sports Boosters); Margie Grischow (GHS Theater Boosters), and Julie Pouilly (Geneva Coalition for Youth).

The Board President thanked the principal and all the booster groups and individuals who provide support to help make our programs sustainable.

3.3 Student Services Update

The Assistant Superintendent Student Services and the Student Services Coordinator provided an overview of the district's Student Services Department which provided programs and services to students in the areas of special education, English Language Learners (ELL), home/hospital, Section 504, and homeless. There are currently 895 students, 14%, who qualify for special education services. Based on the outcome of pending case study evaluations, 11 more students could qualify and be added to the preschool program this year. Special education services are provided in district, are contracted through Northwestern Illinois Association, provided through the Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative, or through private placements. Services provided include academic, psychological, social work, speech, vision, hearing, occupational/physical therapy, and consultation/RtI planning. Currently, Geneva provides services for 30 students who qualify as homeless, 83 students who qualify for ELL (22 new ELL students this year), 77 students who qualify for 504 (approximately 50% of 504 students are ADHD).

Geneva's special education staff full-time equivalent is 74.35. Federal and State funding are available; however, the State continues to be late with payments. The district just received last year's fourth quarter State payment. Using consistent criteria and better staff utilization in the Extended School Year K-12 program resulted in saving \$30,000. Bringing the GATE program back under Geneva 304 management resulted in saving \$47,926.00.

Future plans include; program evaluation of kindergarten booster, ELL, and IAA/ISAT performance of students placed outside our district; fiscal management; legal compliance; professional development regarding behavior interventions, collaborative teaching, writing measurable IEP goals, and district-wide 504 training; implementing interventions with fidelity; and continued collaborations on social/emotional learning.

3.4 District Financing Update: Elizabeth Hennessey, William Blair

The Superintendent thanked Board members Nowak and Wilson for serving on the Superintendent's Financial Task Force. He reported that the Task Force has been working with Hennessey and

William & Blair for over six years. At the request of the Superintendent's advisory Financial Task Force, Hennessey will provide an update on the district's finances, as well as define and clarify a number of financial terms.

Hennessey provided both an update and overview of the district's finances which covered data and projections related to municipal market data, municipal yield curve comparison, outstanding debt service, tax rate levy, and debt limit. The district's outstanding debt extends to 2025 with EAVs going down due to the recession. She reported that the market is currently at or near an historic low for municipal bonds, and compared to the last six years, municipal yield curve is at about the lowest level. William Blair is currently watching the market to determine the best time to act on refunding the district's 2004 general obligation school bonds. Due to the market, they were unable to complete the refunding of these during previously. They hope to be ready to move forward in the second or third week of November. Additional savings may be realized if the sale is made in two phases.

Several refunding and restructuring options that could level the district's debt were presented for the Board's consideration. The possible advantages, disadvantages, and costs associated with each option were also reviewed. The options included refunding/restructuring of bonds, refunding bonds with abatements, using fund balances for abatement/defeasance, using fund balances for abatement, and combined options designed to level payments plus net savings. The goal is to try to reduce the district's debt in this economy.

The Superintendent thanked the Assistant Superintendent Business Services, the Financial Task Force members and Hennessey. He reported that the Financial Task Force has looked at many options and will continue to explore options for managing the long-term debt of the district in this unpredictable economic time. Tonight's presentation was an opportunity for the full Board to see the possible options, the advantages and disadvantages of the options, as well as costs associated with the options. He noted that the William & Blair report will be posted on the district's web site. He requested that Board members review all the options and get back to him and the other Financial Task Force members with their questions or suggestions for other options they would like to consider. The Superintendent stressed that any decision made will impact future Boards.

Discussion, comments, questions: the Task Force tried to look at how our reserves could be used most effectively to provide some relief to Geneva's tax payers; the Task Force is open to looking at all options to provide some relief for our tax payers while doing what is best for the whole district; the Task Force encourages and will consider feedback; will the William Blair report be posted on the district's web site (yes); whether using a combination of options could prohibit us if we get to a positive arbitrage (abatement won't take place for a while, so the Board could look at other options); if we go with defeasance, we're locked in; what source for the assumptions (EAV can use any assumption you want); the growth assumptions were based on the County Assessor's projections (correct, new growth is up about \$2 million, EAV is negative 5% - 20%, we used the negative 5% for next year).

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent reported on the following: have received the district's test scores and annual report, while currently embargoed, they will be released soon; the Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative hosted a superintendents' retreat last week which focused on student services; the high school football team will face Lake Zurich in the playoffs on Saturday, October 29th; the Fox Valley Career Center will host an open house for parents and students on November 9th; the Geneva Coalition for Youth's Red Ribbon Week kick-off was held Sunday evening, October 23rd, there were more attendees this year, and the Coalition and the high school's student SADD representatives have planned many activities for the week at all building levels. The Superintendent thanked the Coalition and the SADD group for their support and planning.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The President read the following statement:

The meeting agenda includes an opportunity for comments from the audience. It is the prerogative of the Presiding Officer to

recognize members of the audience who wish to address the Board during the time reserved for public comment. No discussion of individual students or personnel matters is permitted, as those items are appropriate for closed session pursuant to Section 2 (c) of the Open Meetings Act. If you have a concern regarding an individual student or a personnel issue, you are asked to bring it to the attention of the administration. In the interest of providing all visitors an equal opportunity to address the Board, comments will be limited to five (5) minutes. Those individuals needing more time should submit their thoughts in writing to the Board's recording secretary. Visitors addressing the Board need to come to the podium, use the microphone, and state their full name and address because the proceedings are video recorded for later broadcasting to the community. The Board reserves the right to edit the video recordings for the purpose of excluding any public comment regarding an individual student or a personnel issue. Per Board of Education Bylaw 0167.3, "No interviews should be conducted in the meeting room while the Board is in session." If members of the press/audience want to conduct an interview, they should wait until the conclusion of the meeting, or go out in the hallway or to another room.

Public comments included:

Very good presentation which shows lots of work and was very well done but it was hard to see on the screen because the print was very small. Want to clarify that the Board and Financial Task Force is open to feedback from the public (correct). There were no handouts and the financial presentation wasn't available in BoardBook prior to the meeting (the Board did not have a copy of the William Blair report either until they arrived at the meeting tonight -- the William Blair presentation will be posted on the district's web site this week). The Board asks the audience to be respectful, so if you want comments/feedback from the public, they need to have the material in order to provide intelligent comments or feedback.

Appreciated the presentation, it was very thorough but agree that it was hard to read the slides on the screen. Am looking forward to viewing the presentation on the web site. Also, thanks, feel that the administration responded responsibly to the questions I asked at the public forum.

Very good presentation - question to Hennessey (The Board President responded that questions are to be directed to the Board and can be submitted in writing. He added that this is not a question and answer session, it is a business meeting of the Board of Education.) We have questions for Hennessey. (If you have questions for Ms. Hennessey, submit them in writing to the Board and they will be forwarded and responded to.)

Will Ms. Hennessey be present at the next Board meeting. (Need to come to the podium and identify yourself.) Hennessey is here now, will she be at the next meeting? (Don't know but if you have questions for her, submit them in writing to the Board or administration for a response.)

Everyone needs to take a breath. The Board didn't get us here, the voters who approved the referendums for new schools did. The Board is trying to address the problem and are trying to do something. I believe the William Blair projections are off. When the referendums were proposed and passed, the Board went to the public with information and they need to do that again in order to explain the options in order to get feedback from the community. It is sad that there are only about 25 people in the audience this evening. The Board needs to develop a plan and find a solution to address this financial problem. William Blair can only make projections. The Board has the final vote.

6. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

None.

7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Geneva High School Program of Study Proposals

The GHS Associate Principal provided an overview of the proposed program of study course proposals for the 2012-2013 academic year. He noted that the high school examines and adapts the course selections regularly. Most colleges are looking for more math and science. All the proposed changes/additions have been reviewed at the high school and by the Staff and Curriculum Development Council. Of the thirty-six proposed changes, only four are new courses. Many of the other changes are simple changes in course titles, prerequisites, or the grade levels at which students may take the course. Feedback received from students indicates they want opportunities to take more courses so these changes provide for more flexibility for students. The TV Production

course will be refocused on communication skills. Early-bird PE is currently just for juniors and seniors and the change would open it to freshmen and sophomores.

The four proposed new courses are Physics Honors (Science - full year course); Learning Readiness PE (Physical Education - semester or full year course); Outdoor Adventure PE (Physical Education - one-semester course for seniors); and Design & Technology of Animation (Industrial Arts).

The high school administration anticipates that all changes can be made with minimal, or no changes in staffing level. Any FTE increases would need to be approved prior to implementation. In cases where equipment and or supplies are required for a course, this would need to be covered through existing budget funds, grants, and/or course fees for consumable materials. Some of the proposed changes will allow for more efficient use of classes. Would like to bring this back at the November 14, 2011 meeting. If approved on November 14th, they could begin student registration.

Discussion, comments, questions: if the proposed changes are to be cost neutral, how would you offset the cost of moving the TV Studio to the English Department (the physical location the class remains the same - it won't move); very positive about this proposal, has some new creative ideas for programs, even renaming some courses provides a better understanding of the course offering, this was a great team effort (will share your comments and feedback with the teachers who took the lead on this); the proposals show that the high school staff are thinking outside the box.

8. INFORMATION

8.1 FOIA Requests / Responses

8.2 Suspension Report

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

Resignations Support

Holst, Sandra, MCS, Sp Ed Assistant, 9 Month, Effective 10/14/2011

Retirement Support

Erickson, Bert, GMSS Head Custodian, 12 Month, Effective 12/29/2011

Motion by Wilson, second by Nowak, to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 and 9.2, as presented.

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

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION

None.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Policy Committee, Financial Task Force, Facilities 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

Comments included: GHS College night; the Geneva Academic Foundation's Auction November 3rd; the new Theater Boosters group is selling advertising for the high school's fall play; appreciation of the support and contributions of the Sports Boosters athletic field renewal activities; the wonderful student role models and speakers at the Red Ribbon kick off event on Sunday, October 23rd; and the GEARS meeting scheduled on Thursday, October 27th. The Geneva Coalition for Youth was thanked organizing and sponsoring the week's Red Ribbon activities.

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 9:43 p.m., motion by Nowak, second by Wilson, 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), McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso, Henry, Moran. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

At 9:47 p.m., following a break for the room to clear, the Board moved into executive session.

At 10:24 p.m., motion by Henry, second by Wilson, and with unanimous consent, the Board returned to open session.

14. ACTION POSSIBLE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:24 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Grosso, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____ PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____ RECORDING SECRETARY