



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

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District Number 304 met in a Board Retreat on Friday, October 20, 2017, at 5:00 p.m. at the Coultrap Educational Services Center, 227 North Fourth Street, Geneva, Illinois

Board Retreat Friday 10/20/2017

1. CALL TO ORDER (Bylaws 0163 & 0164)

- 1.1 Roll Call
- 1.2 Welcome
- 1.3 Pledge
- 1.4 Reminder to Sign Attendance Record

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by President Grosso.

Board members present: Taylor Egan, Policy Committee Chair Leslie Juby, Finance Committee Chair Dave Lamb, Mike McCormick, Vice President Kelly Nowak, President Mark Grosso. Late: None. Absent: Mary Stith.

District staff present: Laura Sprague, Communications Coordinator; Mike Wilkes, Director of Technology; Anne Giarrante, Director Student Services; Shonette Sims, Director Teaching & Learning; Dr. Andy Barrett, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning; Dr. Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

3. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS

3.1 Geneva 304 Vision and History Presentation & Discussion

Discussion started with how the District's mission has evolved over the last few years. The district values innovation and excellence. Discussion also included raising the level of consciousness as we move to the future. It was pointed out that innovation does not mean just technology but also includes innovative pedagogy. The cell indicating "Innovation for Excellence" will be added on the far right.

3.2 Learning & Teaching Presentation & Discussion (Direction, Renewal, Innovation, Process)

3.2.1 Learning & Teaching

Learning & Teaching presented the renewal cycle, Innovation and direction plans as a recommendation for pursuing continuous improvement in our curriculum for students. Board members discussed the importance of this process and the contrast that we are experiencing with electronic information and resources and the widespread availability of these resources through the internet. As based on the Board discussion, the Learning & Teaching department will continue to pursue and investigate resources that are available in Learning & Teaching as we move towards a more responsive curriculum renewal cycle for educational resources.

3.2.2 Technology

District administration provided information about the infrastructure and possible capital planning for technology beginning with the completion of goals during the current school year and looking ahead starting with 2018-2019. The Board reaffirmed the

approach to technology and how to work steadily to implement innovation and supportive technological infrastructure in an effort to realize best practices not only in the use of technology, as part of an educational tool in the classroom, but also in providing modern technology in the most usable fashion to our staff and students.

3.2.3 Personnel

The District shared the changing landscape with our educational and experienced backgrounds of our certified staff, innovative practices for advertising and hiring for positions, and trends that we need to be aware of to move forward in securing and retaining personnel. The current employee induction program was highlighted for the Board, and feedback was provided on how this has continued to improve over the last several years. Board members discussed strengths and ideas.

3.3 Visioning for Success for All Students Presentation & Discussion

This involved discussion of shared resources and intentional collaboration in regard to serving all students successfully in education. Board members reaffirmed the importance of institutional collaboration and consistency throughout the district. All students should be well versed in standards no matter which learning center they attend or in which classroom they participate.

3.4 Supportive Services Presentation & Discussion

3.4.1 Student Services

Trends from Student Services were shared with the Board, and Board members discussed feedback that they have heard regarding Student Services. Geneva 304 is very strong in the area of student services, and it takes a team approach when working with individual students and their needs, as well as, larger groups of students. Board members indicated support to continue to find ways to communicate innovative practices that are going on in Student Services in an effort to help parents and the community understand the work that we are doing with our students in order to help everyone be successful. Board members also affirmed the importance of teaming and collaboration in Student Services and provided comments on how to make this already strong teaming possibly even increase over time.

3.4.2 Communications

The Board was directed to a possible board information page in order to enhance two-way communication with the public. The theme for this year is "Increasing Our Community Engagement through Communication", and the Communications Taskforce is exploring ideas to meet that goal in the future. Board members offered comments regarding possible social media presence of the Board and ideas on reaching out to those that may not typically be engaged in two-way information with the school district. The Communications Taskforce will continue to identify and explore innovative possibilities to enhance community engagement and two-way communication between our school district and our community.

Board comments, questions, concerns: The Board commented how well the administrative team works together at the current time. The Board also shared interests by questioning and hoping for an expansion of blended learning, particularly at the high school level; discussed the length of the school day, particularly at the elementary level; discussed the possibility of adjusting the high school day; discussed possible technology implications and how we might use them, discussed seeking even greater ways of providing two-way dialogue with parents in the district; explored the possibilities for a spring forum; and discussed the possible use of video on the internet to enhance two-way communication. Several Board members expressed a desire to be even more present in the schools in an effort to gain an understanding of educational practices and helping students in the learning place.

4. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:33 p.m., motion by McCormick, second by Nowak, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____

PRESIDENT

(Date)

SECRETARY _____

RECORDING
SECRETARY