



## 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 Monday, March 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Coultrap Educational Services Center, 227 North Fourth Street, Geneva, Illinois.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll Call
2. Welcome
3. Pledge
4. Reminder to sign attendance sheet

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

Board members present: President Taylor Egan, Vice President Mike McCormick, Larry Cabeen, Dan Choi, Policy Committee Chair Leslie Juby, Finance Committee Chair Dave Lamb, Alicia Saxton.

Late: None. Absent: None.

The President welcomed everyone and led them in the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Tom Rogers, Principal Geneva High School; Terry Bleau, Principal Geneva Middle School South; George Petmezas, Principal Mill Creek Elementary School; Anne Scalia, Director Student Services; Shonette Sims, Director Learning & Teaching; Dr. Andy Barrett, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Dr. Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: Martha Paschke, Kendra Bickham, Eli Paschke, Monica Noonan, Zerrick Smith, Emily Erickson, Jean Smith.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Policy 2:220)

(PRESS Policy 2:230) *Per Board Policy 2:230, attendees wishing to formally address the Board during Public Comments must register their intention to participate in person by completing a **Public Comments Form** [at this link](#). Copies will also be made available and collected at the entrance.*

Parents shared concern about a hate crime that took place within one of our middle schools. They said that this was not the first incident, should not be taken lightly, and that the district needs to be proactive, not reactive. Students and staff need to be educated on this topic so that they understand what should be done if they witness a hate crime. This kind of behavior is not acceptable and appropriate disciplinary action should be taken. It needs to be addressed as a community.

Others spoke on the proposal to go back to 5-day in-person learning. A high school student expressed that students' voices need to be heard, as many of them would like to stay with the hybrid model that they signed up for. Adding more change at this time will add additional stress to the students. A parent shared concern about families that will be traveling over spring break and the possibility of bringing the virus back with them. Is this being taken into consideration and could we go remote for one week following spring break? The CDC recommends cohorting, which provides less movement for students. Is this being considered? Is there going to be any option for parents who are

hybrid that do not want to send their students back five days a week? Hopefully, these questions will be addressed during the presentation tonight.

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

#### **1. Second Semester Learning & Teaching Plan Adjustments**

District administrators presented to the Board an updated Learning & Teaching Plan for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. They shared that the IDPH issued updated guidance that now allows for 3' distancing in schools while wearing masks. The 50-person limit has also been modified. Students and staff will still need to wear masks, cleaning practices will remain critical, and we must maintain the symptom screening process and contact tracing protocols. A survey was sent to parents with key questions regarding returning to 5-day in-person learning. While evaluating our in-person model, we asked ourselves three questions: Can we increase in-person learning safely by maintaining new distancing guidelines? Can we increase in-person learning safely while maintaining current building, course, and teacher assignments? Can we increase in-person learning safely and maintain distancing guidelines while providing students with lunch at school? The answer was yes to all three questions except for providing lunches at the high school, as space for that is an issue. The recommended approach is to transition our In-Person Learning Model to an In-Person 5-Day schedule. Current in-person families may submit a request for Online-Only Learning and at the high school Online-Concurrent Learning for the remainder of the year. The current Online-Only students will remain in their current learning model. In-Person learning will maintain 3' distancing with masks with 6' distancing when eating. We will differentiate our approach by level. There will be minimal disruption to current Online-Only learners. Online-Only learners will not have the option to full in-person. The Hybrid Model will not be an option, so if parents have a concern with transitioning to the 5-Day In-Person Model, they may submit a request for fully offsite learning. The updated distancing guidelines do NOT change quarantine protocols. Daily work/assignments will be made available to students who are quarantined. The remote learning Fridays will no longer be part of the schedule. Our bus capacity remains at 50 people per bus. We anticipate busses to be at full capacity, and seating charts must continue for contact tracing purposes. We are encouraging families that are able to provide their own transportation and to notify us of their plans. If families plan to travel over spring break, we ask that they are responsible travelers and follow safety protocols. As we move forward, the next steps are to begin 5-Day In-Person Learning following spring break and provide families with additional information. We are confident that we can provide a safe and productive educational environment for our in-person students following this new guidance.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Do we know how many families responded to the survey regarding 5-day in-person learning? (It was about 60-75% of families depending on the grade level.) At the high school, you talked about additional instructional support time. Is this for all students? (Yes.) How long will this support last? (We are still working out the details.) How will snack time be worked out with the 6' distancing? (Teachers are being creative with how they will do snack time. Also, as weather permits, teachers can take students outside.) At the high school, you said those not comfortable with returning to 5-day in-person learning can do remote with live streaming, so why can't the middle and elementary schools do the same? (At the middle school level, students who are in-person that opt for remote will be able to stay with their same teachers and classmates, so we feel like we are already set up for that. At the elementary level, it would necessitate students to sit and listen without interaction, which is why this was not considered for them.) So, those that do not want the 5-day in-person, may transition over to remote only that is like what the other remote only students are doing, or are we adding them to the remote only classes that already exist? (Correct, we would add them to the classes that already exist.) Before they make their choice, will they be notified if there will be any changes to their child's schedule? (At the high school level, there would need to be changes. At the elementary and middle school levels, we would not be able to tell them exactly what the changes would be, but they would be in line with what we shared.) When will parents begin making their choices? (Communications would begin to go out following this meeting, if the plan is approved.) Do we know how many parents will be driving their children to school to eliminate any bussing issues? (We will get information out to parents right away regarding this. We want to make sure that every student can get to and from school.) Is there enough time to clean the busses between the high school and elementary routes? (Yes, as we have purchased additional supplies to

accommodate this.) Can you speak to what we will do regarding contact tracing since students will only be 3' apart? (We are hoping students will not come to school with symptoms, but we will have to quarantine students that are within 6' distance.) Will we have monitors at the high school to make sure that students are distancing during passing time? (Yes, and we have also asked staff to watch during passing times.) If there is a change in guidance, or the numbers increase, would we go to fully remote? (If we need to, we will do an adaptive pause, but it will depend on the situation.)

**4. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION**

1. Board Action on Second Semester Learning & Teaching Plan Adjustments

Motion by McCormick, second by Cabeen, to approve the above-listed Learning & Teaching Plan, item 4.1. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Cabeen, Choi, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:28 p.m., motion by Juby, second by Cabeen and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

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

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