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GENEVA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 304 227 NORTH FOURTH STREET, GENEVA, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 6:15 p.m. on Monday, November 10, 2025, at Coultrap Educational Services Center, 227 North Fourth Street, Geneva, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:21 p.m. by Committee Chair Bellino.

Committee members present: Molly Ansari, Stephanie Bellino. Absent: Willard C. Hooks Jr.

District staff present: Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

Others present: Larry Cabeen, Paul Radlinski.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT (Policy 2:230)

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. October 14, 2025

Motion by Ansari, second by Bellino, to approve the minutes as presented. Ayes, two (2), Ansari, Bellino. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Hooks. Abstained, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION / POSSIBLE FUTURE CONSIDERATION

1. Policy 7:200, Suspension Procedures

2. Policy 7:210, Expulsion Procedures

Dr. Barrett shared that at the last meeting the direction was for him to come back with some more explicit language changes for both of these policies. One thing to note is that in an ideal world we would substantively agree and take something forward to the board. If not, it can come back to the committee in December. Each of these policies already has language included regarding using a hearing officer, but we wanted to be more explicit with the language, so additional language has been added for you to review. The suspension policy does include language about having a suspension reviewed, which is different than an appeal or formal hearing. The expulsion policy includes language about a required formal hearing. The language for policy 7:200 includes the potential for a suspension of three days or less to not have board review and for a suspension of four days or more for the board to rely on the superintendent to determine if a hearing officer is needed. If a hearing officer is used, parents will have the opportunity to provide a written statement to the board along with the hearing officer's recommendation. For policy 7:210, which is expulsions, the board had expressed feelings about the parents having the opportunity to come before the board if they chose to. The new language would allow the superintendent to determine if a hearing officer is needed and if so, parents would have the option to provide a written statement to the board along with the hearing officer's recommendation. The difference from current practice is the hearing officer would have legal, bureaucratic, and institutional knowledge to conduct the hearing and provide the board with a conclusion. The parents could still provide a written statement or request to come before the board.

Comments, questions, concerns: Where we landed on this shows what having conversations can accomplish, so I do like the differentiation of a suspension is a review and an expulsion is a formal hearing. This allows us to have a process that works for everyone. Having a difference between the length of a suspension is good because there is a difference in severity. The reason a hearing officer is important to me is sustainability and legality. We do need an impartial person to conduct the hearings. With the expulsion language is there a potential that a hearing officer would not be used in a board review? (Yes, and there would be even with just the language in yellow.) I am still hung up on the hearing officer as you talk about how the board may change, because so could the hearing officer. Having a different hearing officer could influence the end results based on how each one addresses a hearing. (It is possible that the hearing officer could change. Theoretically, we would line up a hearing officer, but it is good to note that the hearing officer might not be able to be there. If we hire only one, then it would fall back on the superintendent.) Is there anything else you would like to talk through or are we ready to move forward with this? (We are ready to move this forward to the full board.)

Motion by Ansari, second by Bellino, to approve moving these policies forward to the full board as presented, items 6.1-6.2. Ayes, two (2), Ansari, Bellino. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Hooks. Abstained, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

5. INFORMATION

IASB just released new policy updates that will be reviewed at the next policy meeting.

6. OUTSTANDING POLICY CLEANUP & REVIEW *

7. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:46 p.m., on a motion by Ansari, a second by Bellino, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____
Date

_____ CHAIRPERSON
Stephanie Bellino

SECRETARY _____
Bonnie J. Johnson