

**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, September 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Coultrap Educational Services, 227 North Fourth Street, Geneva, Illinois.

**1. CALL TO ORDER (Policy 2:220)**

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 Cabeen.

Board members present: Molly Ansari, Policy Committee Chair Stephanie Bellino, President Larry Cabeen, Dan Choi, Vice President/Finance Committee Chair Jackie Forbes, Willard Hooks, Paul Radlinski. Late: None. Absent: None.

The President welcomed everyone, and Stephanie Bellino led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Tim Baker, Safety Security Supervisor; Todd Latham, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Shonette Sims, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Dr. Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

Others present: Stephanie Dawkins, Brenda Schory.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)**

1. Regular Session, August 28, 2023
2. Executive Session, August 28, 2023

Motion by Forbes second by Bellino, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 2.1-2.2. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, one (1), Choi.

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

**4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

*Board Member Code of Conduct #8 - "I will be sufficiently informed about and prepared to act on the specific issues before the Board, and remain reasonable knowledgeable about the local, State, national, and global education issues."*

None.

**5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Policy 3:40)**

The Superintendent shared that his listening tour went well with each session growing with participants. He thanked community members that attended and shared that the conversations were positive and productive. There are many considerations for the future from both community and parents. From these sessions, the following themes were shared: great schools and community, strong programming, complicated world for children, hardworking educators, increasing need for student supports, enrollment transitions, importance of ongoing and open communication, safety and security, and educational and career pathways.

Board comments, questions, concerns: When you talk about mental health needs, what does that mean? (We shared previously about this and will have a presentation later in the year, but we have more support staff now than we have ever had. There are many more students with needs than before.) What was the mix up of participants? (It was a good mix of both parents and community

members. There were also representatives from the city and library in attendance.)

Friday was a teacher institute day with important and tiring work for our staff. During this time, new tools and resources were introduced, there was enhanced professional practice, and collaboration with team members.

The district is trying to find ways to have more recognition for students. Administrators met with me to talk about this, and we came up with "The Viking Leaders Award." This would be a partner to the "Tradition of Excellence" that would acknowledge students across all grade levels. This would replace the Leadership Breakfast that has been a tradition for many years in Geneva 304, but also created challenges such as parking and transportation for students. We would use this as ongoing recognition throughout the year, instead of just once a year.

Board comments, questions, concerns: What would be the cadence? (We thought it would be like the "Tradition of Excellence" and be more regular instead of perfunctory.) The Leadership Breakfast did bring out the community and business members. It would be nice to include them in this new recognition program. We need to recognize the team concept and not only the leadership as a whole. West Aurora has a program that recognizes community members, and it would be nice to incorporate something like that into our new program.

The Superintendent recently toured the Fox Valley Career Center (FVCC), which is a great opportunity for our students. They offer courses like Fire Science, Nursing, Electronics, and Automotive. The staff at the FVCC are passionate about what they are teaching.

## **6. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION**

### **1. District Goals Discussion (Policy 3:10)**

The Superintendent shared that he updated the district goals based on conversation from the last meeting. Once these goals are approved, he and Sandy Manisco will work to get this information out to get started.

Motion by Bellino second by Hooks, to approve the above-listed goals, item 6.1. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

## **7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION**

### **1. Superintendent's Goals Discussion**

The Superintendent used feedback from the last meeting and incorporated it into his goals, which are (1) Geneva CUSD 304 will engage in a process to develop, initiate, and implement a multi-year district-wide strategic plan, and (2) Geneva CUSD 304 will implement practices that contribute to a positive culture and climate across our school community. Under each goal he has incorporated subgoals, which are the action steps. Once the goals are completed, we will need to do some work on how we will evaluate the progress. The next steps would be determining indicators that could be used as evidence, establishing the process for evidence gathering and dissemination, establishing a continuum and rating scale, considering other performance indicators, and then establishing the timeline for completion. There is a session at the Triple I Conference in November on "Developing the Superintendent Tool" that might be something you would want to attend.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Last February, there was a webinar on evaluations provided by the Illinois Association of School Boards that you might want to look at. I am sure we could get someone to come in and talk to us.

### **2. City of Geneva TIF Resolution**

The Superintendent shared the city's responses to their questions from the last meeting to help them to decide on their position of TIF 3.

Board comments, questions, concerns: How was this managed during the pandemic? If we have a national emergency will this affect the TIF? (I do not think this changed how the funds were used.) The city estimates the TIF will cost the district \$190,000 a year. When you add this over the next

twelve years it would be \$2.2-\$2.3 million assuming no increase in EAV or cost of inflation. This district is going through a significant capital budget plan where we are seeing a significant rise in costs. This is concerning, because if they could not get it done in the initial twenty-three years, how do we know they will complete it in the next twelve years. We are required to have a seven-year capital project plan for the public to see. When you look at the twelve-year request, there is nothing that is clear about what will be done and how the money will be spent. Not only are we supporting TIF 2, but there is a TIF 3. There is not as much information on TIF 3 as there is on TIF 2, so we have no idea if this is already funded. This needs to be confirmed by the city. The answers to the questions that we received, does the public have access to these? (Yes.) There does need to be more transparency on where the money is going. What happens if the work is not completed in twelve years? What happens next? (If TIF 2 is extended, then that increment would be used for IDOT roadwork enhancements and streetscape projects.) Ms. Dawkins shared that our analogy is good and the reason they want this extension is to complete this road project, but she does not know if they will do more after this project. The district will benefit from this project. If the project does not get completed, there is a mechanism for those funds to be returned to the taxing districts. Is that off the 2000 numbers? (No, the 2000 number is the number that sets the amounts that are distributed to the taxing bodies.) Five to six years ago there was a significant repair from the river to East Side Drive. So, why did we do that then instead of waiting until we started the current project? (I do not recall that project. We did ask the state not to resurface because we knew this project was in the works.) So, you are saying the money would go back to the taxpayers so there would be no chance of anyone using the funds for a pet project? (There are requirements for what TIF dollars can be used for.) The whole purpose of TIF is to reinvest in that built environment. It is about bringing businesses and investments to that area that will raise the EAV. It is not just things the city that can do, but it could be private developers that come in with a great plan that they might need help with that would be a benefit to the community. We have the same thing with our capital plan, and we may change it, but the city should be required to do the same. (The primary focus is the capital improvement project, which is the East State Street Reconstruction Project.) In twenty-three years, the city was unable to accomplish this goal, so now we are looking at twelve more years. The cost to the district is \$5-\$6 million dollars over the life of the TIF. Would you be willing to refund the money of the TIF if the project is not complete? (I am not able to make that decision. We have done everything in our power to get this project done. It is a state highway and they wanted to partner with us, and this is where we are now.) I would like to hear some solid commitment from the city if you want us to support this project. (We are in the last step before we put it out to bid.) Is there a backup plan if this does not get completed? (It is not about getting the approval and it is not our road so we cannot do anything about that.) In preparation, we will talk about this at the next meeting and state our position. I am not sure we are ready to draft a resolution until we have further discussion. At the next meeting if we decide, we can take a vote. The city is looking for a formal letter of support. Have any of the other bodies come forward? (We have received letter from one. Most boards will vote at the end of the month.) Is it appropriate to talk to our council members about this? (Yes.) There are no formal rules for TIF extensions, but it does require legislative support and letters of support from the taxing bodies. If it comes down to a letter of support or not, I will not turn it away because you are the largest taxing body effected.)

## **8. INFORMATION**

## **9. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE, New Hires (Policies 3:50, 5:200, 5:280)
2. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$4,025, Harrison Street PTO, to purchase & install water bottle filler (Policy 8:80)
3. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$10,000, The Buchanan Fund, for books, Hello Decodables, Cricut machines and other needed items (Policy 8:80)
4. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$1,500, Foxfire LLC, for GHS Athletics to purchase team supplies, uniforms, purchases, and other various needs (policy 8:80)
5. Approval of James R. Dougherty, Esq. and Brian R. Bare, Esq. of Petrarca, Gleason, Boyle & Izzo, LLC as additional legal counsel under Policy 2:160

6. Pay Request #2: \$538,429.50, Malcor Roofing of Illinois, Inc., for 2023 roof renovations
7. Pay Request \$2: \$61,277.40, Basic Brothers, Inc., for 2023 GHS masonry renovations
8. Pay Request #4: \$366,110.75, C. Acetelli Heating & Piping Contractors, Inc., for 2023-24 MCS boiler replacement
9. Pay Request #4: \$362,837.76, C. Acetelli Heating & Piping Contractors, Inc., for 2023-24 WAS boiler replacement
10. Pay Request #3: \$3,231, Eagle Concrete, Inc., for 2023-24 district-wide concrete renovations
11. Pay Request using Capital Improvement Funds: \$24,900, MBB Enterprises of Chicago, Inc., for masonry repairs at WAS

Motion by Hooks second by Choi, to approve the above-listed, items 9.1-9.11. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

#### 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(PRESS Policy 2:230) *Per Board Policy 2:230, attendees wishing to formally address the Board must register their intention to participate in the public portion(s) of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting. Complete the form in the Welcome to Our Meeting brochure (print legibly) and give it to the Presiding Officer or the Recording Secretary before the meeting is called to order.*

None.

#### 11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

*Policy Committee, Finance Committee, Boundary Task Force, Communications Task Force, Facilities Task Force, Technology Task Force, Joint PTO, Geneva Academic Foundation, Geneva All-Sports Boosters, Geneva Music Boosters, Geneva High School Theater Boosters, GEARS, K-12 Discipline Committee, PRIDE, Fox Valley Career Center, IASB/Legislative, IASB Kishwaukee Governing Board*

This is a busy time in the schools with homecoming week happening at all levels. Thursday is Blue & White Night where elementary schools are included. There are several cross country meets happening at the middle schools and high school. Great job to all performers at the football game Friday night. It was impressive to hear the high school band share with the community about a trip they are planning to New Orleans. A shout out to the Music Boosters as their mum sale is happening right now and ends this Thursday. You can place your order at GenevaMusicBoosters.org. Board members were able to walk around downtown Geneva on Sunday to see the murals in the windows. It is amazing to see how much is donated to our schools. Friday's football game was one of the strongest we have seen. Hope everyone has a safe homecoming!

#### 12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC BODY AND ITS EMPLOYEES OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, OR DELIBERATIONS CONCERNING THE SALARY SCHEDULES FOR ONE OR MORE CLASSES OF EMPLOYEES [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)]. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)

At 8:06 p.m., motion by Forbes, second by Hooks, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning the salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

At 8:29 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

#### 14. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:29 p.m., motion by Forbes second by Ansari and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_

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