

**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, February 9, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at Williamsburg Elementary School, 1812 Williamsburg Avenue, 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 7:07 p.m. by President Grosso.

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

The President welcomed everyone, reminded them to sign the attendance record, and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Tom Rogers, GHS Principal; Kristy Poteete-Kriegermeier, Communications Coordinator; Anne Giarrante, Director of Student Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Director of Learning & Teaching; Craig Collins, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Donna Oberg, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Patty O'Neil, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; and Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: Christina Kovarik, Kara Fenne, Amy Ebert, Jenny Benjamin, Barbara Freeman, Patrick & Keilan McCann, Ann Murtaugh, Kelley Nelson, Carrie Sheridan, Tory, Anne Marie & Danielle Ruggeri, Greg & Jason Hansen, Taylor Egan.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Per Board Policy 0167.3, Section C, Attendees wishing to speak at the Board meeting must register their intention to participate in the public portion(s) of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting. Complete the form found 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.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 3.1 Regular Session, January 26, 2015
- 3.2 Executive Session, January 26, 2015

Motion by McCormick, second by Nowak, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 3.1 & 3.2 as presented. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

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

- 4.1 Tradition of Excellence: GHS Students  
IMEA All-State Conferences, Dance Team State Qualifiers, 2014 Literary Magazine, *The Skaldic: Ergo*

Geneva High School Principal Tom Rogers presented students in recognition of their accomplishments. Students recognized included:

IMEA All-State Conference

Bradley Geneser - All-State Band-Tuba, Marc Hornig – Participated in the “Future Music Educators Seminar”, Jacob Kochniarczyk – All-State Chorus-Tenor II, Zane Shaw – All-State Chorus-Tenor II, Elizabeth Zarley – All-State Honors Chorus-Alto II

#### Dance Team State Qualifiers

Olivia Balsley Saltus, Diana Brognia, Elena Cramer, Madeline Emma, Natalie Erickson, Gianna Hansen, Mary Kafer, Michelle Lapetina, Alexis Pender, Nicole Rinne, Carly Ruggeri, Nicole Serra, Julianna Severino, Mackinzie Sheridan, Jenna Soldati, Gabrielle Weron

#### 2014 Literary Magazine, *The Skaldic: Ergo*

Paula Amat Norman, Kate Cramer, David Franz, Thomas Miller, Kristian Moravec, Bethany Nelson, Madison Tolley

#### 4.2 PARCC Update

Dr. Andy Barrett presented a PARCC update that gave a glimpse of recent changes.

- Shifting Landscapes
  - Need to be adaptable
  - Focus on the content embedded in the standards
  - Want to put students and teachers in the best position for success
- Big Ideas – Intent of Common Core
  - Critical Thinking
  - Deep conceptual understanding
  - Problem solving
  - Communication
  - Evidence
- ELA Shifts
  - Reading & writing connection
  - Focus on evidence
  - Challenging students to go back into the text
  - Integration across content
  - Higher level thinking
- Math Shifts
  - Focus
  - Coherence
  - Rigor
- Performance Based Assessment
  - Begins March 9
  - 3 ELA sessions & 2 Math sessions
- End of Year
  - Begins April 27
  - 1 or 2 ELA sessions & 2 Math sessions

Dr. Barrett presented the “Then & Now” (ISAT to PARCC) for 5<sup>th</sup> graders. This is a big shift from what students are used to, and it will require them to do more critical thinking.

Board comments, questions, discussion: You clearly demonstrated the rigor. Do we care about the raw score? (We will need to determine this when we see the test and results. We will learn from this the first time around. Raw score will be significantly less in the beginning.) The PARCC questions definitely support the need for full-day kindergarten. This, combined with implementation, is a lot to absorb. Hopefully we are letting the students know that this test will not be easy. The whole design change, will this hurt or help? (We are not sure yet. We made this decision because we want students to be in the best position. We do not want to negatively impact instruction in the classroom. Students are familiar with pencil/paper test taking, and when you look at the technology tools to work through the questions, there are more ways for students to get lost.)

**5. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

The Superintendent reported that there is also another dimension to this testing involving adaptations or special accommodations for special needs students. Thank you to Anne Giarrante, Lynn Reilly and our special programs and data staff for their work on that aspect. To get back to the paper/pencil versus online, our students have more experience with paper and pencil testing, and we’re just getting into the online realm. Thank you to Elizabeth Janowiak, our technology staff, and our teaching staff for their work this year in preparing for the computer based test. This work will not go to waste because we’ll use it, not only in the future, but in MAP testing right now. We are nearing the end of our data meetings, which have revolved around the MAP tests. We have teams of teachers working together taking a look at whole grade levels of students and their scores as well as individual student scores. They are formulating strategies to help equip students with the skills to be as successful as possible. If you ever walk into a data meeting, the discussion is as professional as that of educators can be. We are working on evaluations for teachers and principals, as the deadlines are fast approaching. We also have curriculum and staffing planning going on for next year and interviews for staff for next year. A special thank you to Donna Oberg on Item 8.2, as we are at the 3 year review point with our Standard & Poor’s financial rating for the district. She prepared a lot of information for them as we worked with Elizabeth Hennessey on this review. Donna and I, along with Elizabeth, did an online interview with folks from Standard & Poor’s. It was very detailed and pointed, but the District is once again being awarded the Double A+ Standard & Poor’s Financial Rating. This speaks very highly of the financial planning in this school district.

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

**6.1 Band Uniform Bids**

Donna Oberg reported that we let bids for band uniforms for next year. Bids were sent out to five companies. Only three responded. One was a “no bid” from DeMoulin Bros. & Co., one was from Midwest Band at \$120,613 and one from Bandsmans Co. at \$112,993. You have a copy of a letter that the Band Boosters would like to send out. It is a letter for raising funds, as well as a strategic plan with a rubric as to how they are going to raise these funds over this next school year.

The leaders from the Friends of Geneva Bands, Amy Ebert and Kara Fenne reported the following: We are here to support the fundraising. We’ve gotten the support of the Music Boosters in our fundraising efforts. We have raised \$34,692 to date. There are more fundraising events set up, and the letter that Donna put together for you shows how we can reach our goal over the next year.

Motion by Lamb, second by Nowak, to approve moving forward with bids listed in Item 6.1. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

**6.2 Resolution Authorizing Intervention in Proceedings Before State of Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board**

Donna Oberg reported that this is an Intergovernmental Agreement that we have with the City of Geneva and the Park District for Delnor Community Healthcare Foundation for its fitness center. They are looking for an assessment reduction of \$1.7 million, which results in a \$112,000 reduction in taxes to us. We would like to move forward to fight this request.

Board comments, questions, discussion: How do they come up with the number of \$1.7 million? (There is a formula. We only appeal if it is over a specific dollar amount because of the cost to appeal.) Any reduction given is absorbed by the homeowners. If we grant this request to allow Whitt Law to intervene, do they have a game plan? (He’s been very successful with the appeals that he has done. They have managed to get the appeals eliminated or reduced.) Do we feel confident? (Yes.) We used to get a list of appeals that we have done. Can we get this information? (We can get an update to you.)

Motion by Wilson, second by Nowak, to approve the resolution, Item 6.2. On roll call, Ayes, seven

(7), Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

**7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATIONS**

**7.1 Policy 5335, Care of Students with Chronic Health Conditions, New**

Anne Giarrante reported that when the Policy Committee met, Leslie Juby asked what code this policy aligns with. It does not align directly to an Illinois School Code, but it does align with policies that we already have in place. It is up to us whether we adopt this policy.

Board comments, questions, discussion: I feel more confident in nurses as opposed to legislators on this policy. We did take this policy to our District nurses, and they agreed that the language in this policy is in other policies we have in place. This policy will move forward for a second reading at the next Board meeting.

**8. INFORMATION**

8.1 FOIA Requests

8.2 Standard and Poor's Rating

**9. CONSENT AGENDA**

9.1 Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE, New Hires

Certified Staff Long-Term Substitutes

Jass, Kerry (Ellen Landau), GMSN, Language Arts, 1.0 FTE, effective 1/26/15 – 2/13/15

Serra, Tracy (Suanne Davidson), GMSS, Language Arts, 1.0 FTE, effective 2/3/15 – 3/2/15

Krause, Sandra (Sarah Consdorf), GHS, F&CS, 1.0 FTE, effective 2/11/15 – 4/13/15

Spellman, Candan (Christina Gaetani), FS, Special Education, 1.0 FTE, effective 3/23/15 – 5/4/15

Support Staff New Hires

Morris, Jacqueline, Garage, Bus Driver, 9 month, effective 1/23/15

Grund, Heather, MCS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 1/28/15

Support Staff Resignations

Bui, Jennifer, FS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 2/6/15

Martinez, Omar, WES/HSS, 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift Custodian, 12 month, effective 2/6/15

9.2 Pay Request #3: \$32,658.30, Mid-Atlantic Service & Supply Corp. dba Commercial Window Shield, final payment for installation of security film on all main entrance windows throughout the district

9.3 Pay Request #3: \$68,843.36, Geneva Construction Company, final payment for completion of the summer 2014 paving project

9.4 Request to Purchase: \$45,238 funded by the Fabyan Foundation, Sweetwater Inc., Music Recording Studio

Motion by Nowak, second by McCormick, to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 – 9.4. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

**10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION**

None.

**11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

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

Mike reported that he and Mark attended the Facilities Task Force meeting today, and that all of the security film has been installed throughout the district. As a parent, he feels we made the right decision to add additional security at our buildings. He would also like to thank the custodial staff at the high school for cleaning up after the Daddy/Daughter Dance last night. Mark reported that he attended three basketball games, and the Vikings basketball teams look great.

**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)]; THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)].**

The Board decided that there was not a need to go into executive session this evening.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:08 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Nowak, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

RECORDING  
SECRETARY