

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

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District Number 304 met in a Board Retreat session on Saturday, May 17, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. at Coultrap Educational Services Center, 227 North Fourth Street, Geneva, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by President Grosso.

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

District administrators present: Anne Giarrante, Director Student Services; Dr. Andrew Barrett, Director Learning & Teaching; Craig Collins, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Donna Oberg, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Patty O'Neil, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent

Others present: None

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS

3.1 Goals Update Discussion

The goals were introduced by Superintendent Mutchler using the format to take a look at each goal area and highlight some of the main accomplishments throughout the school year, discuss work that's currently being done, aspects as related to the Tradition of Excellence in each area, and then determine goals for the next school year by balancing the needs and resources in working to provide for continuous improvement in educating students.

The first goal area discussed was Learning & Teaching with highlights of accomplishments being the movement to full day kindergarten, the Collaborative Teacher Project, the common core related Eureka math, the instructional coaching model and strides in professional development for staff. The challenges and opportunities discussed include the areas of organizational development, curriculum growth and enhancement, and assessment. In the area of organizational development the discussion focused on professional development and particularly through sustained efforts including Professional Learning Communities and the Collaborative Teacher Project. In the area of curriculum growth and enhancement, the discussion focused on common core math and English (language arts), technology integration and blended learning, and full day kindergarten implementation. In the area of assessment, discussion included different methods to measure academic progress in a meaningful way, the establishment of common assessments and student learning objectives, and the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness and College Careers (PARCC Testing).

The second goal area presented and discussed include high quality staff. Some of the

highlights included advanced degrees earned by staff, awards and recognitions of staff, audits in this particular area, the recent hiring's of excellent staff, and implementation of the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) of 2010. The challenges and opportunities identified for 2014-2015 included continued negotiations with staff groups, the further implementation of PERA, the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and implementation of Public Act 98-0599 regarding pension reform.

The third goal area discussed was operational services. Highlights of accomplishments of 2013-2014 included the completion of Coultrap demolition, completion of capital projects, dedication of the Coultrap Educational Services Center, and ongoing renovations. Challenges and opportunities for 2014 include control of utility usage for greater efficiency, capital planned projects, security and safety plans, the exploration of classroom usage and scheduling particularly at GHS and Friendship Station, the assessment of our school lunch program, and the beginning of the Ten Year Health Life Safety Plan.

The fourth goal area was financial resources. Accomplishments for 2013-2014 included receiving the Meritorious Budget Award, receiving the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Recognition, developing a Debt Reduction Plan, and approval of all-day kindergarten. The challenges and opportunities for 2014-2015 include dealing with legislative changes that impact school funding, implementation of the "push coin" payment system, implementation of all-day kindergarten, transportation changes, and working toward the debt reduction plan. In the area of parents, community and communication, it was recognized that in 2013-2014 the district launched a twitter account that has gathered hundreds of followers, redesigned the web pages of the District and of school buildings, highlighted accomplishments of students and staff, and submitted many messages through press releases, 304Connects, and other varied media. The challenges for 2014-2015 include the possibility of expanding the district through a Facebook page, further recognition of staff and students, providing more information by expanding the data dashboard and publications both by electronic and by paper reaching the community, and scheduling forums that are determined by topic throughout the school year. The discussion indicated that forums could be set up to determine topics during the summer and then follow through on topics throughout the 2014-2015 school year.

The fifth goal area discussed was student health and well-being. The accomplishments for 2013-2014 included enhanced work on the Continuum of Special Education Services, determination of teacher work load for special education, increasing programming to meet the social and emotional needs of our students, refining home bound services, and expanding on nurses training for all staff. The challenges and opportunities for 2014-2015 include professional development in differentiating instruction, expanding social and emotional programming to meet student's needs, enhancing the relationship with Mid Valley, enhancing case management for students, and expanding the social and emotional curriculum for our students.

The last area discussed was technology integration. The accomplishments for 2013-2014 included a great deal of professional development for staff through the Collaborative Teacher Project and through in-services throughout the year, the expansion of one-to-one devices for students, the expansion of E-School at the elementary level for parent communication, expanded wireless access capabilities, and upgrading Windows access to a more current configuration. Opportunities and challenges for 2014-2015 include providing training for staff and inspiration for staff in the use of technology to transform teaching, more effectively meeting the support for technology and professional development for staff effectively and efficiently, expanding the Collaborative Teacher Project, preparing for computer based testing using MAP and PARCC and enhancing the wireless accessibility throughout the district.

3.2 2014-2015 Board Meeting Schedule DRAFT
No discussion.

4. ADJOURNMENT

At 12:06 p.m., motion by Juby, second by Wilson, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____ PRESIDENT
(Date)

SECRETARY _____ RECORDING
Kent Mutchler SECRETARY