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Educate and prepare students with the **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS,** and **PERSONAL QUALITIES** to be productive citizens.



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 22, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Coultrap Educational Services Center, 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

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

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

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

Others present: Giselle Koerner, Kathy Krella, Katie Rusk, Cathy Fuller, Ben Bond, Sabastian Manning, Rob Showalter.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, September 8, 2025
2. Executive Session, September 8, 2025

Motion by Bellino second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 2.1-2.2. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Ansari. Abstained, one (1), Choi.

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. What Makes Your School Special – GHS Staff & Students

Staff and students from the Geneva High School woodworking class shared that the changes that have been made in this class are due to the support of the district. This class includes real world skills and collaborative projects. The real-world skills are entrepreneurship and manufacturing, furniture fixing and custom builds, and community engagement. The class is also expanding with CNC (Computer Numerical Control) technology. This allows us to broaden the woodworking program by integrating manufacturing, engineering, and cabinet making. With CNC technology students can engage in projects at increasing complexity and to prepare for woodworking careers. The program plans to evolve over the next several years by adopting new technology, enhancing community engagement, and fostering creativity.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Do parents know where they can order the signs? (Yes, emails were sent out. Orders are closed right now but will reopen soon.) Do you have any overlap with the theater department, or have you thought about an

expansion into the technical side of theater? (There are students in the class that are part of theater tech, and they do ask us questions.) It is great to see that this class is still being offered, as it has been around for many years.

2. Literacy K-5 Pilot Update – Shonette Sims

Shonette Sims shared that this is almost the mid-point of the pilot and the the first one is Benchmark Advance. Teachers have been engaged in instruction and professional development. We started with a partial introduction unit because that is the language of instruction for that curriculum. We will then do three of the thirty-three units of instruction during this pilot. Every other week there is a check-in with the classroom representatives. We have model lessons, where their educational professionals have come in and instructed our students. The curriculum in the first unit is knowledge building and spiraling. The content and concepts are the same, but they grow in complexity and sophistication. The second unit covers character, which is like the first unit where the character is the same, but grows in complexity and sophistication. Unit three is government and citizenship, which consists of real text of local, state, and federal government. They will learn about this in fiction and non-fiction text with set skills that they will work on. Writing is different in how it is structured. There are still three types of writing, but it is how it is structured in their output. We have not yet unpacked the assessments that come with the curriculum. We rely mostly on our benchmark and state assessments, but this will give us some curriculum-based assessments. This pilot should wrap up by the end of November.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Is this all program prescribed reading? (Yes.) How does this program integrate with the libraries in schools? (During the literacy block it would be what is within the curriculum, but when they go to the library they can check out other books. The programs do have suggested reading, but it is not worked into the curriculum.) Is what you were saying about opinion and argument still in the same genre as persuasive writing? (Yes.) You have not really spoken to what you think about this program or is it too early? (Is it clunky, yes, because it is new. This is more boxed than we are used to. No one has stated they do not like it, but they have said it is a lot.) Do we think there will be a time that the committee comes and shares with the board what they think of the program? (Once the program is chosen then they would come and share why they chose that specific curriculum.) Other than the teacher feedback do we think we are going to have any quantitative data that we can look at? (We can look at this once we have data from the assessments.)

4. 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.

5. 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."

Jackie Forbes shared that at the next meeting in October, she will introduce the one IASB resolution with a full discussion at the second meeting in October. The Illinois General Assembly updated their website, so if there is time at an upcoming meeting she will review with board members how they can look up how to contact their local officials.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Policy 3:40)

The Superintendent shared that there is valuable information that will be built into each of the board meetings throughout the year. He is going to continue sharing some quick facts in his report. In addition, there are four big things that we will see come back throughout the year. They are annual presentations, strategic plan updates, "What Makes Our School Special?" presentations, and content curious

presentations. He shared fun facts about the district's instructional support staff. There are 164 instructional support staff team members that work with Pre-K-12th grade. They assist with student interventions, instructional support, classroom support, English learners, and students with special and unique needs.

The new student information system transition is under way. This will go live next year, but much work is going on behind the scenes to get us ready. We are planning for training and professional development as this is a new system for all. This transition will impact historical practices and timelines associated with scheduling and registration.

He shared information on enrollment and staffing, which is part of our strategic plan. Right-sizing staffing continues through attrition. This year we moved no "teams" designation at the middle schools for 6th grade. Parents and students are not feeling much difference however, the teachers are. In 2026-27 we will continue with no "teams" designation for all grades at the middle schools, which should have limited impact on students. In 2026-27, there will be a formal transition to semesters at the middle schools.

This is homecoming week at the high school with many events taking place this week. The theme is "Rio."

7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

8. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. Hearing Officer Proposal

Dr. Barrett shared that after much research he found a hearing officer he felt met the district's qualifications. He proposed that the district consider using Robert Rammer Consulting. This is not something to be voted on tonight, but the board does need to review and consider this proposal. This is a last chance for discussion before it comes back for a vote.

Board comments, questions, concerns: I do think we should review the policy before voting on this. Does this individual only do student hearings, or would he help with other things? (He only does student hearings.) This needs to come before the policy committee to make sure that parents have that final opportunity to come before the board. We could vote on it tonight or we could not vote on it if you prefer. We can take it to the Policy Committee and make the necessary changes before voting on it. Would we need to vote on it for you to call him or would you make the decision? (It would depend on how the Policy Committee wanted to change the policy.) Maybe we just need to take it to the Policy Committee and then we could vote on both at the same time. What is the time frame for this? (It could possibly be a couple of months.) So, there is no need for stop-gap insurance in case something comes up.? (We currently have a process in place that we would use.)

9. INFORMATION

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule (Policy 2:220)
2. FOIA Requests & Board Correspondence (Policy 2:250)

10. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE, New Hires (Policies 3:50, 5:200, 5:280)
2. Monthly Financials – July & August (Policy 4:40, 4:55)
3. EIS Teacher & Administrator Annual Report
4. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$\$1,500, Borter Heating & Air Conditioning, for GHS athletic supplies, uniforms, and other needs
5. Paper Records Disposal

Motion by Forbes second by Radlinski, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.5. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Ansari. Abstained, none (0).

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Policy Committee, Finance Committee, Boundary Task Force, Communications Task Force, Facilities Task Force, Technology Task Force, 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

The Music Boosters met, and they have a lot going on. They not only support our music programs at the high school and middles schools, but also at the elementary level. They just finished their mum sales and are gearing up for the greenery sale. They also have their spirit wear sale coming up. Theater boosters met recently, and they will have spirit wear for the first time. They also have a fundraiser for checkbooks (certificates), which is a great deal. The one act plays will be on October 2nd and 5th for the under classmen. The two performances this year are “Romeo and Juliet” in the winter and “Chicago” for the spring. Thank you for the wonderful meeting with the great presentations. Thank you to all our instructional assistants, as they truly do valuable work in our schools. Thank you to the tech department for their work with the changes coming next year with the new student system. It was great to hear from the students and staff from our woodworking class and to see how things have changed over the years. Thank you for the gifts you gave us. Thank you to Shonette Sims for her presentation. Board members attended the football games and the 8th graders got to come out at half time and perform with the high school band. Board members attended the 150th year celebration at GHS. We learned that there was no orchestra from 1944 to 2006. There were only two graduates in the first graduating class. Some classes you could take in the early 1900’s were English, plain geometry, zoology, and Caesars and pros. Thank you to the History Museum for putting this information together. Looking forward to homecoming and hope all have a safe weekend. Congrats to the artists that decorated the windows downtown.

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)]. (Policy 2:220)

At 8:12 p.m., motion by Radlinski, second by Choi, 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 8:27 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:27 p.m., motion by Cabeen second by Bellino and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____ PRESIDENT
(Date)

SECRETARY _____