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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, February 24, 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: Molly Ansari, Policy Committee Chair Stephanie Bellino, President Larry Cabeen, Vice President/Finance Committee Chair Jackie Forbes, Willard Hooks, Paul Radlinski. Late: Dan Choi. Absent: None.

The President welcomed everyone, and Molly Ansari led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Casey O'Connell, Principal Western Avenue School, Terry Bleau, Principal Geneva Middle School South; Tom Rogers, Principal Geneva High School; 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: Heidi Gibbons, Pamela Doll, Todd Johnson, Brian Poustinchian, Christina Kovarik, Natalie Wagner, Andrew & Amy Spring, Kristin Anderson, Justin Schumacher, Eric & Rhonda Hibbeler, Branden Adkins, Kristy Adkins, Cathy Fuller, Emma Schumacher, Zachery Adkins, Sloane Kopp, Kennedy Johnson, Camden Johnson, Eden Bernard, Natalia Poustinchian, Scott Strickler, Quimby Papp, Keegan Martin, Abel Long, Sean Kotecki, Travis Strickler, Clark Strickler, Gregs Strickler.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, February 10, 2025
2. Executive Session, February 10, 2025

Motion by Forbes second by Ansari, 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, one (1), Dan Choi. Abstained, none (0).

Motion by Ansari second by Radlinski, to approve Dan Choi joining the meeting via phone. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Choi. Abstained, none (0).

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Tradition of Excellence: GHS Students (Policy 6:330)
National Merit Scholarship, Skaldic Literacy Magazine, Scholastic Art Competition

This item has been tabled until the March meeting.

2. Tradition of Excellence: GMSS Students (Policy 6:330)
ILMEA All-State Junior Choir

IMEA All-State Qualifiers

Zachary Adkins

Emma Schumacher

3. What Makes Your School Special – Western Avenue School (WAS)
Principal Casey O’Connell and students from Western Avenue Elementary School shared about what makes their school special. Principal O’Connell shared how wonderful the PTO at WAS is and how they recently held their annual clothing sale that started back in the 1980’s. They put countless hours into preparing for this fundraiser. The students shared how they became representatives for third, fourth, and fifth grades and that they meet once a month after school. They have a buddy program with the first and second graders. The representatives planned spirit week and brainstormed ideas. There will be two more spirit weeks. The first one will be before spring break and the other at the end of the year. They also run a school store from 7:50-8:00 am each day. Each week two different grade levels go shopping. The representatives also work with Radical Love, which is a non for profit that helps people new to our country. They collect new or gently used waterproof gloves in January and hope to do another collection in the spring. Cross age coaches, which include cross age tutors, have been at WAS for ten years. This group is fifth graders who volunteer to work with younger students to learn basic math facts and sight words. SEL coaches are fourth and fifth graders who help younger students to grow their social emotional skills in different ways.

4. Seal of Biliteracy – Shonette Sims & GHS Staff

Gina Thomas shared that this program is for students who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and one or more other foreign, or world languages. The Seal of Biliteracy benefits students with recognition on their diploma as well as transcript, recognizes students as proficient in at least two languages, college credit is offered from many institutions, recognized at Senior Awards Night, and helps when applying for jobs or internships.

At 7:24 p.m., Dan Choi joined the meeting by phone.

Students can get AP credit hours by earning the Seal of Biliteracy. Some institutions also offer credit hours for students who achieve commendation, which is a step below the seal for those students that did not quite reach proficiency in both languages. Students must be tested for proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. This test is taken the second week of March during class. To take the test, students must be a junior or senior, have a 480 ELA score for SAT or a 21 composite score on the ACT, and pay a \$30 fee. To earn the seal, students must show intermediate high levels of language proficiency and for commendation they need to show intermediate low. Geneva High School students shared their experiences in the program and what their second language was.

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 there have been thousands of bills introduced in the 104th General Assembly. When the Illinois Association of School Boards sends out their legislative updates, they do have the bills broken down by different categories. The governor did have his budget address and people have been reacting to that. This is just a proposed budget and there is still time between now and May when the budget should be finalized.

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

The Superintendent shared about advanced placement courses, which are part of the Strategic Plan. There has been consistent and strong growth in offerings and participation. This year was the highest pass rate yet. He also shared about collaborating with the Geneva Public Library to make sure that all Geneva students have a library card. This is still in the development stage and would require an Intergovernmental Agreement. He gave an update on institutional modernizations happening across the district. One that you have heard about is our student information system. Others include Enterprise Resource Planning, records digitization, and updating the board meeting live and recorded experience.

7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

8. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. 2025-26 Finance Committee Calendar Draft
This item will be brought back at the next meeting.

9. INFORMATION

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule (Policy 2:220)
2. FOIA Requests & Board Correspondence (Policy 2:250)
3. Suspension Report (Policy 7:200)
4. Out-of-State Trip Requests
5. Five-Year Financial Forecast (Policy 4:10)
6. 2025-26 Preliminary Resource Adoption (Policy 6:40)
7. Miller Act Annual Report

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 - January (Policy 4:40, 4:55)
3. Addendum to Support Staff Working Agreement (Policy 5:270)
4. Request to Purchase: \$145,898.60, Data Center Warehouse, for wireless access points
5. Request to Purchase: \$90,482.80, Data Center Warehouse, for network switch equipment

Motion by Ansari second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.5. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). 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, 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

Board members attended the GMSN PTO meeting and the all district orchestra night. The Technology Task Force met, and they talked about the Student Information System and Enterprise Resource Planning. There was a presentation from Learning & Teaching on the use of instructional technology and internet-based resources. A board member attended the HES PTO meeting where they got an update on

activities the PTO is involved in, like the Candy Land Carnival and Trivia Night. There are other events planned for the remainder of the year. Thank you to those that attended the HES PTO meeting. Principal Kimberly Hornberg showed the PTO what the MAP testing is like for students. Last Tuesday, the Theater Boosters met, and they are planning the spring musical called "Seussical." There will be a total of four shows. One on Thursday April 24, one on Friday April 25 and two on Saturday April 26th. They also have two scholarships that they are waiting for students who plan to major or minor in music to apply for. It is the Phillip G. Walker Theater Booster Scholarship and submissions are due by April 21. The Facilities Task Force met today and looked at ongoing projects. After the summer events there were several parents that asked us to look into the air flow in the gymnasiums at the high school. Sometime in April fans will be installed in the two gyms at the high school and the training room. We are making great progress at GMSN switching out the lights and it should be completed by the end of the school year. Next year, FES and MCS will get new lights. It was great to see students taking action to affirm each other at WAS. Children are our greatest gift. Thank you to everyone that came out tonight for our presentations. Mike Wilkes and his team have really been looking at the cost for those items on the Technology Plan.

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:04 p.m., motion by Forbes second by Ansari and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____ PRESIDENT
 (Date)

SECRETARY _____ RECORDING
 SECRETARY