



**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, November 13, 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: 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 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Tom Rogers, Principal Geneva High School; Tim Baker, Safety Security Supervisor; Todd Latham, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Shonette Sims, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

Others present: Brenda Schory, Lilly Coats, Laura Coats, Vasalisa Pozdeyev, Dali Georgobiani, Zach Pohlman, Olivia Pohlman, Nick Pohlman, Thomas Pohlman, Melaine Pohlman, Mark Pool, Sofia Borter, Brett Borter, Charlie Winterholter, Elizabeth Winterhalter, Cathy Fuller.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, October 23, 2023

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

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Tradition of Excellence: GHS Students (Policy 6:330)
 National Merit Commended, Girls Cross Country

National Merit Commended

Lilly Coats
 Caroline Madden

Zachary Pohlman
 Vasilisa Pozdeyev

Charles Winterhalter

Girls Cross Country State Qualifier

Sophia Borter

2. National Board Members Day – November 15, 2023

Dr. Barrett thanked the Board members for their service to the district and presented them with

certificates in honor of National Board Members Day on November 15.

3. Enrollment Update – Dr. Andy Barrett

Dr. Barrett shared with the board some background and historical context regarding enrollment. The last demographic study was done in 2006 and at that time enrollment was at 5,723 students. If you look at Geneva's boundary map, you can see that we are land locked. The trend over the last several years shows a declining enrollment nationally, regionally, and locally. This decline is because of a variety of demographic factors. Dr. Barrett shared graphs based on enrollment by level and by building. With this decline in enrollment, we are seeing at the elementary level, fewer sections, and more imbalance. At the middle school level, we are seeing fewer students into the same number of sections on teams. The high school level has fewer FTE for core requirements and more distribution for diverse offerings and electives. We are seeing an increased need for student supports as well. We will continue to evaluate enrollment trends, adjust as appropriate, engage with newly developed class-size committee, and initiate a formal demographic study.

Board comments, questions, concerns: What is driving the decline in high school? (We will have to look at that.) It is not because of a dropout rate, is it? (No.) If students are attending classes at WCC or FVCC, are they still included? (Yes.) Do the demographics include ethnicity? (Yes.) This becomes a sensitive topic, so we need the most information to make the best-informed decision. We need to include this with the strategic plan. There is concern in the community and we have tools at our disposal, so we need to have good science-based information. Do we need to give you the okay to start the process? (I do not think so. Let us look into it and we can bring some information back to you.) How would you vet a demographer to determine what is best for this community? (We are not alone in this, so we could talk to some of our colleagues in other districts.) Will you get information from others before you decide? (Yes.) Are we ahead or behind other school districts with this? (There are some districts that have already started looking at it more aggressively, some are where we are, and some are further behind us.) We need to look at Batavia and St. Charles for comparison when we do our demographic study. This will be important in the long term for our capital plan.

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 she will be looking more closely at veto session from October and earlier this month, and report back next month.

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

Dr. Barrett share that the administrative team will be meeting with Dr. Harris tomorrow to discuss the organizational readiness phase of the strategic plan. The outcomes of phase one are that we want to finalize our timeline and talk about the community and faculty engagement plan. If the board approves the agreement tonight, then we can move forward tomorrow.

He also shared that communication has been sent to families regarding emergency days. Our priority is in-person learning, but we could possibly do a late start, have an e-learning day or if weather is really bad then we would call an emergency day.

Lastly, he reminded the board that the plan for next month's meeting is to meet at the Transportation Center, unless someone has additional thoughts. Jackie Forbes toured the facility and shared that it is worthy of a trial run. A freight train did go by while there and conversations were able to continue with no problem. The parking would be no different than if we met at the middle schools. The location, though not central, would be about the same distance from east Mill Creek as it would be for people who live on the east side of Geneva.

Board comments, questions, concerns: In the winter, the sidewalks and driveways at the schools will be plowed. I'm not sure that would be the case with this location. (Actually, the lot would be clear as we need to make sure that our buses can get in and out during the school day and for evening events.)

7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. GHS Proposal for New & Modified Courses for 2024-2025 (Policy 6:40)

The new and modified courses were presented at the last board meeting, so the administration is looking for approval tonight.

Board comments, questions, concerns: All the courses were limited to sophomores and sometimes upper classmen. Is there a reason for this? (They have less options and less time to allow for core classes.

Motion by Forbes second by Hooks, to approve the above-listed, item 7.1. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Ansari. Abstained, none (0).

8. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. 2024-25 School Calendar Draft (Policy 6:20)

Shonette Sims shared the draft school calendar for the 2024-25 school year. The Calendar Committee met several times during the fall and looked at several drafts. A couple of things to point out with this option is that staff would be starting on August 19 and students on August 22. The last day of school would be June 5. We will continue with the earlier conferences since it was well received this year. We received notice that November 5 will be a non-attendance day per statute due to elections. The high school is still discussing whether to have finals before or after winter break. Currently, we have exams prior to winter break. Typically, we have the Friday around the holiday in September as an institute day, but with this calendar we are proposing to front load that day before students start the school year. We are aware that other districts are starting on August 12, but we would work with students that would be attending the FVCC.

Board comments, questions, concern: So, the students start on a Thursday instead of a Wednesday? (Yes.) Do we know if our calendar aligns with the holidays of other districts? (Yes, they are aligned.) If we started on the 12th like other districts, by 2025 would we be starting school on August 4? (No, but the trend has been to start the second full week of August. If we play this out a few more years though, we would be starting on August 9.) It feels like we are starting earlier and earlier. With our capital plan, we need to allow time for our maintenance team to complete projects. So, if we start later, we would be getting out later. Do we feel it is realistic that the high school has the option of finals before break? (The committee shared that if the decision is to have them before break, then they will.) Does it ever affect dual classes or AP classes? (It could affect some of those, but most of them are yearlong courses.) If we did start the week prior, would we end before Memorial Day? (No, it would still be after.) Can we share this information somewhere where families can find it before it is approved? (This information will go out in "For the Record" and we can put it in "On the Table". Most parent feedback we receive is that we start too early.

9. INFORMATION

1. FOIA Requests (Policy 2:250)
2. Suspension Report (Policy 7:200)
3. Out-of-State Trip Request (Policy 6:190)
4. Levy Information
5. Return to Learn Plan

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 Financial Report – October (Policy 4:50)
3. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$1,000, Main Street Marketing, for GHS Robotic Club (Policy 8:80)
4. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$13,384, GHS Theatre Boosters, for lighting control console in the GHS auditorium (Policy 8:80)
5. Strategic Plan Letter of Agreement with HYA
6. Pay Request #3: \$237,112.47, Malcor Roofing of Illinois, for 2023 roof renovations
7. Pay Request: \$10,755.58, Cashman Stahler Group, for GHS segmental retaining walls
8. Pay Request #2: \$15,124.50, LawnBoyZ Landscaping, for architectural services for segmental retaining wall replacement at GHS
9. Pay Request #2: \$683,987.77, Northwest Contractors, for district-wide Health Life Safety repairs
10. Pay Request: \$16,956.67, Cashman Stahler Group, for WAS boiler replacement
11. Pay Request #2: \$19,810.58, Correct Electric, for 2022-23 fire alarm replacement at CESC
12. Pay Request #3: \$77,325.08, Correct Electric, for 2022-23 fire alarm replacement at CESC
13. Pay Request #4: \$63,454.50, Correct Electric, for 2022-23 fire alarm replacement at CESC
14. Pay Request: \$44,533.27, Cashman Stahler Group, for 2022-23 roof renovations at GHS
15. Pay Request: \$24,302.21, Cashman Stahler Group, for 2023-24 roof renovations at FES, HSS, GMSS & CESC
16. American Education Week Resolution

Motion by Choi second by Bellino, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.16. 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, 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 have attended different events, such as the orchestra concert and football game. Congratulations to Minzie Choi who will be recognized at the Geneva City Council meeting on November 20. Congratulations to our football team for a successful football season. This weekend is the Theatre Boosters fall play called Marvel Shorts, so we invite everyone to come out to watch. Board members are finishing up their IASB mandated training. If you have time, you should check out the news from the GHS GTV. The IASB Kishwaukee dinner meeting was last week. We were offered a tour of West Aurora High School by students and board members. Their enrollment is over 3,600 students and they have three cafeterias. It was quite overwhelming. Dr. Kelly Stewart from McHenry University was the speaker and spoke on the power of positive leadership. The Technology Task Force met and we got an update on the capital program, things from last year, where we are looking to go this upcoming year, and the pilot on one of our browsers that allows parents to monitor. Board members attended the support staff working agreement meeting. We have started discussions on topics brought to the table. We are proud of our swimmers that advanced during the season. I had a conversation with Todd Latham about changing the financial reports that are on the consent agenda, so look for changes on that. The Turkey Trot is coming up and I look forward to participating. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone! Board members will be attending the IASB Annual Conference in Chicago this week.

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, OR DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVE AS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS IN A PARK, RECREATIONAL, OR EDUCATIONAL SETTING, OR SPECIFIC VOLUNTEERS OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY, INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE, A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL WHO SERVES AS AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR IN A PARK, RECREATIONAL, OR EDUCATIONAL SETTING, OR A VOLUNTEER OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR AGAINST LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY TO DETERMINE ITS VALIDITY. HOWEVER, A MEETING TO CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN

COMPENSATION TO A SPECIFIC EMPLOYEE THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAGE INCREASE TRANSPARENCY ACT MAY NOT BE CLOSED AND MUST BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)]. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)]

At 8:23 p.m., motion by Radlinski, second by Bellino, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to appointment, employment, compensation, or discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee that is subject to the local government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and must be open to the public body.

At 8:49 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:49 p.m., motion by Bellino second by Forbes and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____
(Date)

_____ PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____

_____ RECORDING SECRETARY