

**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, May 14, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at Coultrap, 1113 Peyton, 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 7:00 p.m. by President Grosso.

Board members present: President Mark Grosso, Matt Henry, Mike McCormick, Tim Moran, Vice President Kelly Nowak, Policy Committee Chair Mary Stith. Late: None. Absent: Finance Committee Chair Bill Wilson.

District administrators present: Tom Rogers, Principal Geneva Community High School; Terry Bleau, Principal, Geneva Middle School South; Dr. Julie Dye, Principal, Williamsburg Elementary School; George Petmezias, Principal, Mill Creek Elementary School; Shonette Sims, Principal, Harrison Street Elementary School; Ron Zeman, Principal Western Avenue Elementary School; Scott Ney, Interim Director Facility Operations; Dr. Andrew Barrett, Director of Curriculum; Craig Collins, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Dawn George, Assistant Superintendent Student Services; Donna Oberg, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Patty O'Neil, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction; and Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: Diane Dargis, Paul J. Cheek, Patrick J. Murphy, Colleen & Jim Haas, Sandra Ellis, Jessica Parker (Geneva Public Library), Bill & Teri Koehn, Ron & Susan Stevenson, Kim & Matthew Abern, Jim & Kath VanSpankeren, Tom Kohorst, John Rice, Dick Graff, Judy Wehrmeister, Andrew Thomas, Jay Trapp, Cookie Olson, Ashley Dudman, Terri Brems, Chris Bourdage, Mary Massoth, Liz Hoselton, Barbara Freeman, Mary Lu O'Halloran, Allison Thomas, Jill Nippert, Dwight Swartwood, Ben & Jill Herrera, Rich Nagel (Patch), Karen Farley, Kate Bochte, Jerry Cass Jr., Nancy Rasmussen, Karen McQuillan, Gail Ryan, Brenda Schory (KC Chronicle), Patrick McCann, Mark Pennington, Susan Sarkaskus (Daily Herald).

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 2.1 Regular Session April 23, 2012
- 2.2 Executive Session April 23, 2012

Motion by Moran, second by Stith, to approve the above-listed minutes, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Henry, McCormick, Moran, Nowak, Stith, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS, BOARD REORGANIZATION

3.1 Recognition of District 304 Retirees

Retirees recognized for their service to Geneva's students included Paul Cheek, GHS Mathematics Instructor, 31 years; Bert Erickson, GMSS Head Custodian, 13 years; Dawn George, Assistant Superintendent Student Services, 14 years; Colleen Haas, GMSS, Special Education Instructor and Instructional Coordinator, 33 years; William Koehn, GHS, Industrial Technology Instructor and Fine & Applied Arts Department Chair, 29 years; Jennifer Leman, WAS, Fourth Grade Instructor, 23 years; Elizabeth Malette, Student Services Department Secretary, 15 years.

3.2 Tradition of Excellence Awards:

a. Kane County Educator-of-the-Year Nominees

The Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services presented Diane Dargis and Terry Bleau to the Board. Diane Dargis, Western Avenue School Special Education Assistant, was recognized for having been nominated to represent the District in the support staff category and Terry Bleau was recognized for having been nominated to represent the District in the administrator category at the

Kane County Educator-of-the-Year Award Banquet on May 11, 2012. At the awards program Terry Bleau was named the Kane County Administrator of the Year. The staff members were congratulated and presented the Tradition of Excellence Award.

b. Geneva High School Students: DECA, ICTM Math Competition, SkillsUSA
The high school principal thanked the Board for the opportunity to present these students in recognition of their achievements. Students were presented the Tradition of Excellence Award by the Board and congratulated on their achievements.

Students recognized included:

Illinois Council Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) State Math Competition

Shayla Carey, Tilon Kirby Hood, Madison Olesen, Veronica Ramming, Ryan Rasmussen, Tyler Rasmussen, Brittany Reynolds, Rachael Valiunas, Marissa Wilkins
T.K. Hood placed 3rd and Rachael Valiunas placed 11th in the Algebra I Competition.

SkillsUSA Statewide Competition

Matt Abern, 13th Place Commercial Baking
Ashley Dudman, 5th Place Culinary Arts
Ben Herrera, 9th Place Culinary Arts
Colin Narug, 36th Place Technical Drafting
Alex Puff, 7th Place Culinary Arts
Eric Slade, 6th Place Culinary Arts

International DECA Competition

Andrew Thomas, Principals of Finance
Andrew finished in the Top 18 in the World, and was the first student in Geneva to ever compete in the international competition.

3.3 School Improvement Plan Update: Western Avenue Elementary School

The principal gave a presentation which focused on Western's school improvement plans and goals for social/emotional awareness. Character development programs include Character Counts, Safety Patrol, and a program titled *Get Up & Grow*. He reported that in 2010 a Western Avenue parent, Jen Kelley, approached him about planting a garden at the school that would be cross-curriculum and sustainable. The principal introduced Jen Kelley and Lisa Goewey who reported that the mission of the program was to create and sustain an organic garden and landscape that enhances existing curriculum through hands-on learning and promotes nutrition and physical well-being, while reinforcing family and community connections. During the 2010/2011 academic year, the committee was formed, an After School Enrichment Garden Club was started, plans were drafted by a landscape architect, pavers were donated, a \$4,000 grant was received from Kane County Fit Kids, the first quadrant was cleared, and students planted pumpkins and vegetables. During the summer of 2011, scout troops watered the garden and volunteers planted fruit trees and berry bushes. In the fall, 170+ pumpkins and squash were harvested and the First Annual Great Pumpkin Festival was held. During the winter/spring of 2012, the Committee co-hosted a Wine, Cheese and Trees Fund-raiser.

The Western principal thanked all the volunteers that have helped with this community-wide, intergenerational service project.

3.4 Elementary Reading Program Update

The Director of Curriculum provided an overview of the District's reading program which provides a variety of intervention models and approaches matched to student need focusing on intervention and skill acquisition. Students in kindergarten through middle school receive support through one-to-one instruction, small group work, technology-based tools, reading classes, and reading tutors. The Kindergarten Foundations program uses one certified teacher and one instructional assistant and serves all of Geneva's attendance areas. Reading intervention for first grade students (Reading Intervention - Title I) includes one certified teacher and two instructional assistants. Elementary reading support is provided by three certified reading specialists and twenty-three reading tutors (instructional assistants). Reading support at the middle school is provided by one certified reading specialist and four reading tutors.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent reported on end-of-year activities including concerts at all levels, the high

school's Senior Awards program scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16th in the GHS auditorium; and the high school commencement scheduled for May 27th and the middle school promotion ceremonies scheduled for June 1st. The last day of student attendance is June 4th.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The President reminded audience members that comments or discussion of individual students or personnel matters were not permitted.

Comments included: I plan to speak longer than five minutes and hope the Board will be flexible about its time limit, saddened the Board denied a third opportunity for public comment at their last Board meeting about what I felt was an important discussion, the Board took an oath to protect taxpayer's assets, the enrollment numbers used in 2007 were inflated and the ROE does not provide enrollment projections, want to know why the enrollment numbers, which were paid for in the 2005, 2006, and again in 2011 Kasarda reports were not made available to the public until March 27th this year, why were B or C projections not used, those responsible who are still on the Board or in the administration should resign (you have gone over your time by 2 minutes) I'm sure there are audience members who will give me their minutes (no, each individual can speak for themselves for five minutes); I would like to give the first speaker my five minutes (you may not) may I read her presentation (you can read what you like during your five minutes) according to 2007 referendum literature the tax rate was not supposed to rise, if your tax bill increased, it would be because your property value increased - will first speaker have opportunity to continue speaking at the second public comment time (yes) okay then I'm done; at the last Board meeting the presentation mentioned character building and it is best taught by example, it appears there has been a serious deception and enrollment numbers were inflated in order pass a referendum in order to build two new schools, don't want to blame board members but do expect the Board to hold those who deceived the taxpayers responsible and accountable, we need to trust the decisions and choices of the school Board, there will be many important issues in the future and the Board will need the support of the taxpayers, so come forward and give the community the answers in order to repair that trust.

6. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

None.

7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Coultrap Facility Options Discussion

The Superintendent noted that tonight is the first time the Board is seeing any information on this topic. He thanked the Facilities Task Force for their work. Coultrap facility use has been a topic under consideration since the Master Facility Plan was developed and approved by the Board in 2006. The Task Force has looked at the facility and has identified possible options for the Board's consideration. This is the first step in the process.

The Interim Director of the Facility Operations reviewed options and projected costs associated with each option.

Option 1: (86,557 total SF with 25,262 SF of renovated area and 61,295 SF of unoccupied area) Majority of District administrative departments located on first and second floors of the original 1920's building. Facilities storage areas located in north addition. Third floor not used. Major repairs to exterior walls, electrical and plumbing. Estimated costs range between \$2,317,000 and \$3,437,000.

Option 2: (86,557 total SF with 32,217 SF of renovated area and 54,340 SF of unoccupied area) All District administrative departments located on first floor. Second and third floors not used. Major repairs to exterior walls of 1920's building required. Mechanical and electrical runs spread throughout the building. Upgrades to plumbing required throughout building. Estimated costs range between \$3,017,000 to \$4,277,000.

Option 3: (85,557 total SF with 27,311 SF of renovated area and 59,246 SF of unoccupied area) All District administrative departments located on first floor in north addition only. Second and third floors not used. Major repairs to the exterior walls of 1920's building required. Mechanical and electrical runs spread throughout north addition but not extended into the 1920's building. Upgrades to plumbing throughout north addition required. Estimated costs range between \$2,877,000 to \$3,997,000.

Option 4: (86,557 total SF)

Demolish existing building entirely. Infill basement area. Use of existing site to be determined. Estimated cost of demolition \$861,813.

Operational and Maintenance Costs:

Coultrap minimal average yearly utility cost \$69,000. Within next three-to-five years, major repairs must be done to bring the building into proper working order. Repairs estimated between \$1,200,000 to \$1,600,000.

Fourth Street annual yearly utility cost \$35,000. Within next three-to-five years, this building will need minor repairs to maintain it. Repairs estimated at \$565,000.

Board discussion, comment, questions: tonight is the first time the Board is seeing this information and would like the Board members to have time to look at the options and discuss them, the Facilities Task Force has toured Coultrap several times, the newest section of the building is probably the best, when it rains, water is wicking through the brick in many exterior walls, and plaster is coming down, a lot of the electrical service is cloth and not conducive to current needs, it was the unanimous decision of the Task Force that they would recommend demolishing the building because the cost to rehab it is significant, the Fourth Street facility meets the needs for administrative departments, while there was past discussion of saving and using the 1920's portion of the facility, it is the worst part of the whole facility, this is not a decision of the full board at this time, there were be a public forum at a future date to receive community input, there are a lot of sentimental issues associated with the facility but it has an annual cost of about \$70,000 just to keep it open in its current condition and it is not ADA accessible, don't believe it should be kept, encourage other Board members to tour the facility and community members to send their input to the Board; agree with previous comments, have come full circle in my thinking, had thought it would be best to make it the administrative office due to its proximity to the high school, it is just not cost effective to keep this facility open, all the renovation option cost estimates are only for 1/4 to 1/3 of the building while the other 3/4 of the building must still be heated, and maintained, the sentiment associated with the building are not to be minimized but the fact remains that the building is in poor shape and I don't believe it is prudent to renovate the building; thanks to the Task Force for their many months of work, I would like to have additional information prior to a final decision, would like to see an appraisal and would like to know if it is of value to any other entity in the community, it is important to conduct a forum but just as important that the families living in this neighborhood get a letter about the forum; how were the cost estimates developed (team of professional engineers put together the scenarios/options) they also developed the cost estimates (correct), utilities are \$70,000 per year not per month (correct and it is a very conservative estimate), agree that those living near this facility should be accorded opportunities for input and to have as much advance notice of time if we move forward with demolition; the options are to vacate Fourth Street and move administrative departments to Coultrap (yes, the first three options), what would happen to Fourth Street facility (sell or dispose of it in some manner); I would also like to have updated appraisal information on Fourth Street to verify cost; wanted to get this topic on the agenda and after three years on the Board, personally feel demolition is the way to go and there will be a forum to get input and feedback from the community on this topic; if Board members want additional information who should they contact (the Superintendent or Director of Facilities - also encourage all Board members to tour the entire Coultrap facility); feel that there should be photographs or visuals of all areas of the facility available at the forum (agree, and there will be floor plans, options, and information to review at the forum).

8. INFORMATION

8.1 FOIA Requests/Responses

8.2 Suspension Report

No discussion.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

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

9.2 Amend 2011-2012 School Calendar to Remove Unused Emergency Days

9.3 FY2013 One-year Bus Lease, Four, 24-Passenger Buses: \$35,928, Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc.

9.4 Acceptance of Gifts, Grants & Bequests: Mill Creek Elementary School PTO Purchases, \$8,568.93

9.5 Bid Summary/Award: Guaranteed Energy Savings Project, Geneva High School, 4 DX Units,

\$262,382, Johnson Controls, Inc.

The President summarized the Consent Agenda items being considered.

Board discussion, comments, questions: Regarding 9.3, since this is the sell-back, buy-back year, when will we decide on the length of the contract (that was done in December and was for another 2-year buy-back, we purchased fifty-four, 71-passenger buses) thanks for reminding me (we intended to keep our two twenty-four and thirty-five passenger buses but when we inquired about keeping them for an additional year, the company had already sold them to other school districts, we need them to start the school year, so, we are recommending leasing these for one year and then going out to bid in the fall); what is the primary use of the smaller buses and didn't we get some for our special education students (these are not the buses we purchased with ARRA funds that we used for our special education preschool students, we use these buses for some runs to special placement schools, for mid-day kindergarten runs, and other small bus runs instead of running the large buses).

Motion by Stith, second by Henry, to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 through 9.5, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), McCormick, Moran, Nowak, Stith, Henry, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

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

Comments included: (first speaker is continuing her comments from the first public comment opportunity) in 2007 the referendum stated that if property taxes increased it was because your property value increased, the Kasarda recommended numbers for student enrollment were less than the information provided to voters, there is no evidence that Kasarda verified the numbers that were used, enrollment only increased 121 students since 2006, at the April Board retreat the superintendent said we always follow the B projections and a board member said we didn't use the fastest growth projections, there are four individuals still in the district so there is opportunity to find out what happened, there is a cloud of distrust over the Board and the administration, we have capacity in our buildings, until we know how the enrollment figures were inflated, how can we trust any decisions of the Board, was it fraud or incompetency, if there was fraud, we need to see if the District has errors and omissions insurance to cover it (did not reference the 2006 Kasarda report, it was the 2011 report); was very impressed with Western's *Get Up & Grow* garden and inter-curriculum development, it would be good to post the 40 developmental assets, thanks for taking a risk and letting parents develop this garden; will the Board respond to the audience members about the 2007 enrollment numbers (I gave a response at the April 13th Board meeting) feel that is disrespectful (there were no comments on this topic at the April 28th forum) believed that no answers would be given at the forum and we would like an answer; there were many who spoke at the forum but the Board would not have responded to them, the 2012-2013 budget must be posted for public view by July 30 and have yet to see anything discussed in public about the budget, since 2006, the tax rate has increased from \$4.74 to \$5.73 per \$1000 of assessed value, the debt increased from 34 cents and operating cost increased 63 cents, need to address the debt in the next budget, need to reduce the operating costs to offset the cost of the debt and make repayments with reductions in the budget; want to affirm that I do trust our School Board members, and want to point out that I don't speak for the community, and no one here speaks for the community either, only the voters do, at the past several elections, the voters spoke and these Board members were elected, so please keep in mind that those who speak here at meetings are not the majority of the community, and continue to listen to all of the community and keep up the good work; the Board needs to take the 2007 enrollment figure issue seriously, if it isn't cleared up, it could go to the State's Attorney, got my tax bill and the increase is unsustainable, all over the city, the taxing bodies are not paying attention to what is happening, we'll end up with a school district with no residents, there needs to be drastic operating cost reductions, while not pleasant or popular, they are needed; I am here because I just got my tax bill and my taxes went up, I am trying to keep my house and stay in Geneva, I work in construction and my hours have been cut, my property value went down, what the lady said concerns me, the Board needs to be fiscally responsible, I have to be and it is the Board's responsibility.

11. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

Policy Committee, Finance Committee, Facilities Task Force, Communication Task Force, Joint PTO, Geneva All-Sports Boosters, Geneva Music Boosters, Geneva High School Theater Boosters, Academic Foundation, GEARS, K-12 Discipline Committee, Geneva Coalition for Youth, PRIDE, REMS Grant

Board members commented on the following: assessing blame doesn't solve problems, don't have answers for the enrollment numbers used in 2007 referendum, but we looked into, members of this Board and previous Boards have been of high character and have been well respected members of the community, I, too, am looking at higher taxes for my house, many are assuming impropriety or

fraud, those who are making these assumptions need to reassess what they are saying because I don't know anyone on this Board or past Boards who would knowingly fraud themselves or the community, I do trust this Board to make the right decisions; PRIDE membership is up to about 45 individuals who come in to assist students and teachers in our schools and classrooms, I want to thank them for their service to our students, if anyone is interested in being PRIDE volunteer, contact Kelly Nowak; after the PRIDE dinner I attended the Geneva Academic Foundation meeting, GAF is already planning projects for next year, I applaud them for their service; speaking only for myself, in December 2006, the Board unanimously approved going to referendum, we did and have followed Kasarda B and we have a new 2011 Kasarda report and continue to follow it, it needs to be made clear that when the Board decided to build two schools, it was because one, Williamsburg, was a replacement for Coultrap Elementary School which was being closed, and all of those students were already here and Williamsburg continues to have one of the highest student enrollments still, and the other school, Fabyan Elementary, was to house students who were already in the District at the time, as well as to lay the ground work for the future to house students who would be coming from the developments to the west, the Board knew Fabyan Elementary would open with only about 250 students, I don't know where the enrollment numbers came from and once the decision is made to go to referendum, the Board can no longer discuss it at meetings, I have asked the administration to make a presentation about program capacity vs. number of classrooms, capacity is not just empty seats, if we have to close a school, it will be done, but this isn't the time to do that, when we looked at this last year, there were only about 11 empty classroom throughout the District and we use some of those classrooms for students in Mid-Valley Special Education programs which is a value for our parents and our students because they remain in their own school district, people need to remember that the 2007 referendum was to build two schools that were already needed for students already enrolled in Geneva; last week the Facility Task Force went to the GHS auditorium to see its condition, after reviewing it, they will recommend that the carpeting not be replaced at this time, the Board will need to make a decision about the replacement of the seating and would like some feedback from those who attend functions in the GHS auditorium, the disposition of the 27 acres at Brundige and Keslinger owned by the District will be placed on an upcoming agenda for discussion.

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO PENDING LITIGATION [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)]; THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC BODY [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1); AND COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC BODY AND ITS EMPLOYEES OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)]

At 9:21 p.m., motion by Henry, second by Moran, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to pending litigation, the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, and collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Moran, Nowak, Stith, Henry, McCormick, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

At 9:28 p.m., following a break for Board members to speak to members of the press and the audience, and for the room to clear, the Board moved into executive session.

At 10:43 p.m., motion by Stith, second by Moran, and with unanimous consent, the Board returned to open session.

14. ACTION POSSIBLE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

None taken.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:43 p.m., motion by Moran, second by McCormick, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____

RECORDING

SECRETARY