

# Achieve Excellence and Empower Students to Succeed

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 9, 2026, 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, Dan Choi, Vice President/Finance Committee Chair Jackie Forbes, Willard Hooks, Paul Radlinski. Late: None. Absent: None.

The President welcomed everyone, and Dr. Hooks led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Michelle Hirsch, Principal Harrison Street Elementary; Tom Rogers, Principal Geneva High School; Todd Latham Assistant Superintendent for Business Services; Shonette Sims, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

Others present: Whitney Pentz, Shannon Bruce, Jamie Carrholda, Heidi Mocchi, Tatum Mocchi, Sheila & Melanie Goodfellow, Davie Frick, Sarah Thomas, Christi Graham, Brian Pruis, Scott Costello, Mila Costello, Elise Frick, Sara Fuerst, Mayah Gleason, Brookelyn Graham, Stella Henley, Yaslin Loperz, Avery Pruis, Annalise Policastro.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, January 26, 2026
2. Executive Session, January 26, 2026

Motion by Forbes second by Ansari, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 2.1-2.2. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, two (2), Choi, Hooks.

### 3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Tradition of Excellence: GHS Students (Policy 6:330)  
Dance Team, ILMEA

#### IHSA Girls Dance Team

Madi Altman  
Alessandra Centimano  
Mila Costello  
Reese Doll  
Elise Frick

Mayah Gleason  
Melanie Goodfellow  
Brookelyn Graham  
Stella Henley  
Emily Johnson

Yaslin Lopez  
Miranda Meyer  
Tatum Mocchi  
Avery Pruis  
Juliana Statkus

Sara Fuerst

ILMEA Conference Participants

Cami Juriga

Annalise Heinrich

2. What Makes My School Special – Michelle Hirsch & HSS Students

Principal Hirsch shared that what truly makes Harrison Street a special school is our people, values, and community. Everyone follows the core values, which are “Be Kind, Be Responsible, Be Safe.” These values begin with our students. The Student Safety Paw ‘trollers were on hiatus until a couple of years ago when we started it back up. These are some of our most important students because they help during arrival and dismissal time by opening car doors and assisting kindergartners to class. Students shared that being a part of the Safety Paw ‘trollers help to keep students safe, help teachers in the building, and helps them and their fellow classmates learn about responsibility. They enjoy getting to school early, building relationships with students in other grades, and helping other students to learn the rules of Harrison. Other important student groups and events are Student Council, classroom buddies, science fair, and the talent show. Parents are also an important part of Harrison who support us through community events, family dinner nights, staff appreciation, field trip expenses, classroom materials, and much more. Staff and parents also shared the many things they love about Harrison. The Harrison community extends beyond our school by also supporting outside their community.

**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.*

A community member shared with the board that they were notified about the horrible comments that were being made about the middle school cafeterias. As a parent and a cafeteria manager they take their job seriously. It started with a post regarding the cost of a sandwich. There are several first-choice entrees served at the school board adopted price of \$3.60. There are sides that are also included in that \$3.60 price. Not all items are healthy, and not all items are offered daily. Another complaint stated that we do not post the nutritional value in ice cream, however nutritional facts belong with the allergy information and are posted at the ice cream cooler and at the point of sale. To encourage students to eat healthier, students come through the line once to get their lunch and a second time if they want ice cream. As a cafeteria manager they care about what the students eat and want parents to understand that taxpayer dollars are not applied to the food service program. Please reach out to the cafeteria managers if you have questions or concerns. Also, please encourage your children to make healthy food choices when at school.

**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.”*

The superintendent shared that it is the start of the session and this is the time when everyone is firing the bills that will be hashed out during this session. He received an email from an organization that he belongs to, and they informed him that over 10,000 bills have been submitted.

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

The superintendent shared that he recently had a couple of Community Connects sessions at the Geneva Public Library that allowed him to connect with the community. During these sessions he gave an update on the Strategic Plan, which created great questions and dialogue. Other topics that were discussed were capital

needs and future thoughts for community engagement. Thank you to the library for letting us use their facility and to those who came out to the sessions. There has been discussion on the district's cultural competency goal and Mr. Petmezas was able to give an update. A committee was created to identify activities that fall under this category and that are designed to help our students have a better understanding of cultural competency. There is also professional development going on throughout the district for our staff. We are also looking to have community partnerships and events and will be partnering with the library to have a Cultural Fair. Thank you to our community supporters for your generous donations.

## **7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION**

1. Policy Updates: First Reading – **Updated, Reviewed & New** (Policy 2:240)
  1. Policy 4:80, Accounting and Audits – Updated
  2. Policy 6:60, Curriculum Content – Updated
  3. Policy 6:130, Program for Acceleration and Enrichment – Updated
  4. Policy 6:160, English Learners – Updated
  5. Policy 6:210, Instructional Materials – Updated
  6. Policy 6:220, Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices – Updated
  7. Policy 6:260, Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Program – Updated
  8. Policy 6:280, Grading and Promotion – Review & Monitoring
  9. Policy 6:300, Graduation Requirements – Updated
  10. Policy 6:310, High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students – Updated
  11. Policy 6:315, High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8 – Updated
  12. Policy 6:320, High School Credit for Proficiency – Updated
  13. Policy 7:10, Equal Educational Opportunities – Updated
  14. Policy 7:70, Attendance and Truancy – Updated
  15. Policy 7:150, Agency and Law Enforcement Requests – Rewritten
  16. Policy 7:180, Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment – Updated
  17. Policy 7:190, Student Behavior - Updated
  18. Policy 7:290, Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention – Updated
  19. Policy 7:310, Restrictions on Publications; K-8 Schools – Updated
  20. Policy 7:315, Restrictions on Publications; High Schools – Updated
  21. Policy 7:340, Student Records – Updated
  22. Policy 8:30, Visitors to and Conduct on School Property – Updated

These policies have been reviewed by the Policy Committee and administration. They were brought forward to the board at their last meeting for their first reading.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Could you talk about policy 6:210 that had to do with review of instructional materials and the difference between the two choices? (This would be where we have the option for the board not to approve any new instructional materials if we choose. As a committee we chose to continue with the process we currently have.)

Motion by Forbes second by Choi, to approve the above-listed policies, items 7.1.1-7.1.22. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

### **2. Proposal for Hearing Officer Services**

Motion by Choi second by Bellino, to approve the above-listed, item 7.2. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

## **8. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION**

**9. INFORMATION**

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule (Policy 2:220)
2. Out-of-State Trip Request

**10. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE, New Hires (Policies 3:50, 5:200, 5:280)  
Motion by Forbes second by Choi, to approve the above-listed, item 10.1. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, one (1), Radlinski.
2. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$6,766.78, Geneva Music Boosters, for teacher wish list items at all buildings (Policy 8:80)
3. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$1,600, Ball Horticulture, for GHS horticulture activities  
Motion by Radlinski second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed, items 10.2-10.3. 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**

Thank you to Harrison Street Elementary for their presentation tonight. It is always great to have students, staff, and parents present with such enthusiasm. They really touched on the community aspect of their school. Thank you to our community member who came to talk about our food service. A shout out to our Safety Paw 'trollers. Learning and growth cannot happen unless there is a sense of safety. Thank you to the Business Office for their donation of pop tabs to Heartland Elementary. It is not too late to donate to help Ronald McDonald House. Thank you to all our students that came out for tonight's meeting. Congrats to our dance team and ILMEA participants. Thank you to the Music Boosters for their generous donation. A board member attended the soup fundraiser at GHS last week. This year they added board games to the event. At the last Finance Committee meeting we had a great presentation from our Transportation Department. The presentation can be found on the district website. Harrison Street School had a musical last year that showed the dedication they have for their school. Board members attended the Mill Creek Elementary meeting last week. They are always prepared with questions.

**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 AND POSTED AND HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACT [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)]. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)**

At 8:02 p.m., motion by Forbes, 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 and posted and held in accordance with this Act. One board member was able to secure tickets to Friday's play and wanted to let folks know that there were issues with purchasing tickets online.

At 8:12 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:12 p.m., motion by Forbes second by Radlinski and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ PRESIDENT  
(Date)

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_