

## 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, January 12, 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 Molly Ansari led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Brian Pedersen, Director Facility Operations; Mike Wilkes, Director of Technology; 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: Julie Forbes, Ame Kazmer, Jo Hogan, Cathy Fuller.

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

1. Regular Session, December 15, 2025
2. Executive Session, December 15, 2025

Motion by Bellino second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 2.1-2.2. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

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

1. 2026-27 Preliminary Technology Capital Plan (Policy 4:10) – Mike Wilkes  
Mike Wilkes shared an update on the new student information system conversion that is currently in progress. Behind the scenes there is a lot of work being done to convert data over to the new system. Rounds one and two are complete and as we head into spring rounds three and four will take place. We have completed the first rounds of training and will continue as the year progresses. Major milestones are the eSchool closeout, training for staff, data conversion refinements, going live for staff, and finally going live for parents and students.

Mr. Wilkes also presented the preliminary Technology Capital Plan. We were able to complete the wireless network upgrade in one year instead of two as was previously planned. This school year that we are planning for, 2027, is minimal for equipment implementation. In 2028 and 2029, we have additional upgrades that are planned for equipment. In 2027, we will do the phone system renewal, data center support

renewal, and the cyber security assessments. In 2028 and 2029, we still plan to complete our infrastructure switches. We will also be looking to replace our current phone system. Funding for the Technology Capital Plan comes from the Education Fund and the O&M Fund. The Education Fund covers staff and student devices, school identified needs, digitization of records, and copier fleet replacement. The O&M Fund covers the data center support renewal, phone system support renewal, and cyber security assessments. The total cost is \$1,493,500 with potential offsets of \$316,000 leaving an estimated budget of \$1,177,500. We are about \$300,000 lower than last year because we were able to complete the network upgrades in one year. The copier replacement could increase the final cost should we decide to purchase versus leasing.

Board comments, questions, concerns: With the data conversion, will the historic data transfer over for parents? (Yes.) Is registration going to look the same this year? (Yes, we will move over to the new system for registration next school year.) What determines replacement of computers? (The lifecycle, which is based on age.) Is it an issue of durability with student devices? (It is based on both the components in that model.) Are the copiers laser or inkjet? (They are laser copiers.) Are those monochromatic or do we just have special color copiers for certain circumstances? (We try to make sure that we have one color copier in each building.) Do our students turn in their devices at the end of the school year? (No, most of our students keep their devices over the summer. Fourth grade is the only grade that turns in their devices, because they get new devices in fifth grade.)

2. Facility Conditions Assessment High Level Overview – Brian Pedersen  
Brian Pedersen gave an update on the Facility Conditions Assessment that was started in June of 2025. He gave a general overview of the buildings in the district. What is important to note is the general age of some of our buildings. The reason for the assessment was for us to look at our facilities and systems to help us identify where we could focus more on preventative maintenance, when to plan for replacement of equipment, and how to prioritize capital projects. The typical scopes of items identified were electrical, interior, exterior, mechanical, and site. Deferred maintenance is something reaching the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced. Deferred maintenance looks at that aspect where you do not replace the item at the end of its life. The industry recommends budgeting 1% of replacement value for new buildings and 3-5% for older buildings. All items have an anticipated useful life, such as roofs should last 20-25 years. He shared interior and exterior needs for each building such as plumbing/bathroom upgrades, floor replacement, roofs, parking lots, and more. The minimum potential investment for the 10-year plan is \$92,000,000 and the maximum is \$190,000,000, which is in today's dollars. We will continue with engagement on basic facility and district needs, preventative maintenance and continued investment in our aging facilities, and ongoing planning and continued development of the 10-year plan.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Is playground equipment included as well? (Yes.) LED lighting varies with the volume of the room, so are you saying across the board there will be LED lights? (Right now, we are looking at every space in each building. We do use different types of fixtures depending on the room.)

3. EL Math Course Update-Year 2 – Shonette Sims  
Shonette Sims shared an update on the EL math course, saying that the primary goal was to offer equal educational opportunities for all students. The program began in 2024-2025 at Geneva High School for newcomer students who were struggling in mathematics for a myriad of reasons. The decisions were made for students to avoid being pulled out of the ESL classroom, but without the content expertise the teachers could not meet their needs. When placed in the regular classroom it was difficult to overcome the language barrier. They have just completed the first semester of their second year, and two of the students who have continued in Foundational Math have

each received an A-. In the second semester the teacher will add geometry and algebra. Two students for the first year transitioned to Algebra I with one earning a C and the other a C+. They will be recommended for geometry next year. Two students transitioned to Algebra 1A with both earning Bs. They will be recommended for Algebra 1B concurrent with geometry. While the class may be small, the benefit for our students to be taught by a content expert is great. Our newcomer students can demonstrate their knowledge growth opening opportunities in higher level math courses.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Were there only six students identified? (This is only for newcomers and there were only six.) Do you have newcomers that are coming to us speaking a language other than Spanish? (Yes.) How are they being supported? (They can use programs on the computer or visuals.)

#### **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 the Senate is coming back in session tomorrow and the House a week later on January 20. They are scheduled to be in session until May 31.

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

The superintendent shared that the students from Harrison Street School that presented to the Board about their Ronald McDonald House project want to come back in the spring to collect the houses they handed out. A resolution was passed at our last meeting to do some refunding of our 2016 bonds, and this week will be the sale. We have maintained our AA+ rating from Standard and Poor's. We will be refunding our 2017 bonds next year. Back when the Illinois Report Card came out it showed where Geneva falls in comparison with the State on per pupil expenditures and student proficiency, and a question that came up was regarding districts with less funds yet higher proficiency. These districts are more rural districts with a smaller tax base that may not be able to offer the same kinds of courses as us. We are back at it with a new semester starting. Course and staffing planning are already underway for the 2026-2027 school year. Information was shared tonight about the student information system and all the work that is going into that transition. Some of the processes we have in place like verification, registration, and course selection are accelerated this year because of this transition, so families may be seeing things sooner than they had in the past. There will be a couple of Community Connects events coming up where you can ask questions and we can connect.

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

1. Policy Updates: Second Reading – **Updated, Reviewed & New** (Policy 2:240)
  1. Policy 7:200, Suspension Procedures
  2. Policy 7:210, Expulsion Procedures

These policies have been reviewed by the Policy Committee, administration, and the Board of Education.

Motion by Hooks second by Bellino, to approve the above-listed policies, items 7.1.1-7.1.2. 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**

1. Policy Updates: First Reading – **Updated, Reviewed & New** (Policy 2:240)
  1. Policy 2:120, Board Member Development – Updated
  2. Policy 2:150, Committees - Updated
  3. Policy 2:270, Discrimination and Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, and National Origin Prohibited – Updated
  4. Policy 4:10, Fiscal and Business Management – Updated
  5. Policy 4:30, Revenue and Investments – Updated
  6. Policy 4:140, Waiver of Student Fees – Updated
  7. Policy 4:190, Targeted School Violence Prevention Program – Updated
  8. Policy 5:10, Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment – Updated
  9. Policy 5:90, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting – Updated
  10. Policy 5:100, Staff Development Program – Updated
  11. Policy 5:190, Teacher Qualifications – Updated
  12. Policy 5:200, Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal – Updated
  13. Policy 5:220, Substitute Teachers – Updated
  14. Policy 5:280, Duties and Qualifications – Updated
  15. Policy 5:300, Schedules and Employment Year – Updated
  16. Policy 6:20, School Year Calendar and Day – Updated

These policies have been reviewed by the Policy Committee and administration. They will be brought back to the next meeting for a second review and approval.

### **2. 2026-2027 Board Meeting Calendar**

The 2026-2027 board meeting calendar dates are in line with the current calendar with meetings on the second and fourth Monday's, except for the month's where there is only one meeting.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Could we make sure that the January retreat does not fall on the Friday before Martin Luther King Day? (Yes.)

## **9. INFORMATION**

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule (Policy 2:220)
2. FOIA Requests & Board Correspondence (Policy 2:250)
3. Demographic and Enrollment Projections 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. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$1,100, Uni-Ball Corporation, for GHS college signing days (Policy 8:80)
3. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$17,840, Mannon Family, for the GHS marching band (Policy 8:80)
4. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$500, Hogan Design & Construction, for the GHS Unified Vikings Program (Policy 8:80)
5. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$309,000, Fabyan Foundation, for scholarships and technology requests

Motion by Forbes second by Choi, 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**

The Policy Committee has been hard at work looking at policy updates, so thank you to the committee and board. Thank you to the presenters tonight. This was valuable information that was shared. It is great to hear updates on how new programs are

doing. In the New York Times this morning there was an article on fourth grade literacy scores in Mississippi and how they went from 49<sup>th</sup> in the country to the top ten. It is not always about how much money you have. A board member attended the Faculty Recital where Dr. Barrett performed. It was a fun night and there was audience participation. This Friday is the last home game for the Unified Vikings, and it is Pack the Place night. Board members attended the GHS PTO meeting and one of the things that they need is a new chairperson for the post-prom event. Thank you to our generous donors. One board member will be attending the upcoming HES PTO this week. Capital planning is not exciting, but once you take out salaries and benefits, facilities are the next expensive cost for the district. We need to keep our buildings up and running. A shout out to Stephanie Bellino for being so well organized at the policy meetings. A board member attended a bowling meet this week with the superintendent and it was an exciting time.

**12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO STUDENT DISCIPLINARY CASES [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9); SECURITY PROCEDURES, SCHOOL BUILDING SAFETY AND SECURITY, AND THE USE OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO RESPOND TO AN ACTUAL, A THREATENED, OR A REASONABLY POTENTIAL DANGER TO THE SAFETY OF EMPLOYEES, STUDENTS, STAFF, THE PUBLIC, OR PUBLIC PROPERTY [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10). [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)**

At 8:25 p.m., motion by Radlinski, second by Forbes, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to student disciplinary cases; security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property.

At 9:10 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

**14. POSSIBLE ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**1. Student Discipline – Student A**

Motion by Cabeen second by Forbes, to find Student A eligible for expulsion through the end of the 2025-2026 school year and to accept the Administration's recommendation that the student be placed in lieu of expulsion in an alternative placement program for the same period of time, pending successful completion of that program. Also, that the Board direct the Superintendent to draft a written expulsion decision documenting the Board's findings in closed session, item 14.1. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:11 p.m., motion by Ansari second by Choi and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

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

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_ RECORDING  
SECRETARY