



# Geneva Community Unit School District 304

227 North Fourth Street  
Geneva, IL 60134

## Board of Education Report

**To:** Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent  
Board of Education – Finance Committee

**From:** Dean Romano, Assistant Superintendent – Business Services

**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020

**Meeting:** Monday, January 13, 2020

### Agenda Item:

#### *School Construction Grant Update*

<b>Item Type:</b>	Consent	Action	Information	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>Recommended Motion:</b>	N/A			
<b>Vision Connection:</b>	Effective Communicators			
<b>Policy Reference (if applicable):</b>	4:10 Fiscal and Business Management			

### Background Information:

In 2007, the District submitted an application for the Illinois School Construction Grant for financial support for the new Geneva Middle School and Fabyan Elementary School. This application places the District on the FY08 SCP Application Cycle as a pending application. Should this grant be awarded, it could lead to the reimbursement of millions of construction dollars.

At the close of 2019, a School Construction Task Force was convened to look review major components of the program including the list of unreimbursed districts dating back to 2003, the structure for a possible reimplementation of the program, and next steps to be considered by the legislature.

Three of the five scheduled meetings of the task force have been completed with the next two occurring on February 4<sup>th</sup> and February 26<sup>th</sup>. I have participated in the last two meetings as an observer to gather insights related to the work of the committee and the potential impact on the District of their final recommendations. The topic has been a difficult one to find solutions to for the members of the task force. Below are a few of the key issues which have surfaced during their discussions:

- Other states have not awarded grant funding to applications in the past, or after construction has been completed
- Illinois has reimbursed districts for applications through 2003 with the last reimbursements being issued in 2013

- Several districts were on the 2003 “list” but could not raise the matching funds to gain access to the 2013 release of funds and were rolled to the 2004 list
- Committee members have stated that the funds from the program should be prioritized to serve districts in financial need
- Committee members have stated that the funds from the program should be used to generate new construction/renovation work to stimulate the State’s economy
- A more defined structure with clear timelines and deadlines must be established prior to finalizing a recommendation

The general remaining focus that observed of the participants surround how to support the districts who are on the current 2004 “List” and how to structure the program including eligibility, timelines, and structure moving forward.

Public comment is an option at each of these meetings and it is anticipated that Geneva CUSD 304 will be represented in Springfield on February 4<sup>th</sup> to share the District’s unique story including the abatement of the bonded debt obligations of our community and the expectation that the State would honor their program commitments. There will be a strong urging to the members of the task force that as they move forward in determining the impact on the districts currently on the “list”, that they be provided some level of additional priority within the new School Construction Grant Program.

*ATTACHMENT(S): N/A*

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