

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

The President welcomed everyone, and Paul Radlinski the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: 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: Patrick Montague, Brigid Buchman, Bailey Hassell, The Totman's, Rebecca Sikorski, Sophia Stewart, Maureen Prange, Cam Winsininski, Sage Wilson, Van Lautenschlager, Kathryn Davison, Morgan Kennedy, Leah Kamm, Cathy Fuller, Ame Kazmer, Jo Hogan, Dave Howle, Heather Peters, Miles Sheppard, Danielle Nasra.

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

1. Regular Session, January 12, 2026
2. Executive Session, January 12, 2026

Motion by Radlinski second by Forbes, 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, two (2), Choi, Hooks. Abstained, none (0).

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

1. Tradition of Excellence: GHS Students (Policy 6:330)  
Skaldic Literary Magazine, Scholastic Art

##### Scholastic Art Competition – Gold, Silver, and Honorable Mention Recipients

Morgan Kennedy	Miles Sheppard
Von Lautenschlager	Sage Wilson

##### 2025 Skaldic Literary Magazine – All-American Award Winner

Addison Brinks	Bo Moritz	Finn South
Jay Heckman	Danielle Nasra	Claire Totman

Hunter Knopke  
Hope Montague

Maddie Nelson

Cameron Winsininski

2. Fox Valley Career Center (FVCC) Student Experiences – Shonette Sims  
Shonette Sims shared that the goal of the FVCC is to deliver high-quality career and technical training programs in collaboration with local businesses and industries. They aim to equip our students with the essential technical and academic skills required for success in the workforce and in post-secondary education. FVCC offers eleven programs and within those programs there are thirty-one course pathways. This year, Geneva has students participating in ten programs and seventeen of the course pathways. We have been consistent with around fifty students participating in FVCC each year.

Students shared what program they are in, their future plans, and advice that they have for others. Advice that was shared was to take a chance on the programs, what you put into it is what you will get out of it, look at what is out there besides college, take advantage of all resources that are offered, and these programs strengthen your abilities.

Board comments, questions, concerns: What we have heard in the past is that the reason we do not have more students attending FVCC is because of scheduling. Are we looking at how we can address this? (Scheduling is a two-part thing. They must get their core subjects in for graduation and there are limited seats at FVCC.) Something we are looking at short-term are adding additional seats at FVCC and longer term looking at other locations. Do we provide transportation for these students? (For some we do, but others we do not. Cosmetology is out in Dekalb and there is no transportation provided.)

3. Student Discipline Data – Anne Scalia

Anne Scalia shared discipline data for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years. In Geneva, the number of in-school suspensions (ISS) and incidents from 2023-2024 to 2024-2025 decreased and out-of-school suspensions (OSS) stayed the same. For 2023-2024, the number of incidents was highest in fighting/assault/battery-violence without physical injury for both ISS and OSS. When you compare ISS by year and grade level you can see that the elementary and middle schools decreased, while the high school increased. For OSS, elementary and high school decreased, while the middle schools remained the same. In 2023-2024, the percentage of students that received an OSS was 0.6% or twenty-eight students. In 2024-2025, the percentage of students that received an OSS was 0.3% or thirteen students. She also provided student demographic data for both school years. Out of 576 school districts across Illinois, Geneva maintains one of the lowest OSS rates. When you look at the 386 unit districts in Illinois, Geneva ranks in the top six for lowest OSS. We feel that the overall improvement in suspensions is because of improved consistency in incident reporting, strong partnerships with parents, successful interventions and SEL programs, and cohesive programming.

Board comments, questions, concerns: What would classify as ISS versus OSS? (State regulations state that they must be a significant safety risk to themselves or others to be considered OSS or they must be a significant disruption to the overall educational setting. We must look at the whole situation before we decide. Fighting at the elementary level can be vastly different from fighting at the high school level.) It would be nice to know what the data looks like pre and post COVID. (I did look at that, but coding was different than it is now.)

#### 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 there was one bill introduced this month and that was Senate Bill 2788, regarding the school resource officer grant. It is early in the session, so there is nothing more to report.

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

The Superintendent shared that at this time last year he shared the district's inclement weather plan, so he thought it was appropriate to share again. Our number one goal is to have in-person learning, which is best for students. These are tough decisions to make, and we must focus on safety, capacity, and the impact on families. We also look at our historical practices, what our thresholds are, and the precedents that were set in the past. There is internal and external collaboration that takes place with our transportation and O&M departments, as well as neighboring districts. We have tried to improve on how quickly we release information and will continue to reflect on this. He also shared an update on the La Fox of Campton Hills development with two main concerns. First, Campton Hills has initiated a study of the feasibility of establishing a TIF for the developments area. Second, we need to look at the attendance area implications for our district. We will continue to keep you updated. The partnership we have with the community and the use of our facilities has been something we have discussed over several meetings. Our community partners, in a wide variety of ways, use our facilities formally and informally. Formal programming includes Park District and Mid-Valley programs. We also have community-programs like scouts, clubs, PTOs, community groups, and more. These partnerships are what make a community great.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Has the developer released what kind of homes will be built? (Not that we are aware of. We have only been told single family homes and townhomes.)

## 7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. Policy Updates: Second 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

- Motion by Radlinski second by Ansari, to approve the above-listed policies, items 7.1.1-7.1.16. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, two (2), Choi, Hooks. Abstained, none (0).
2. 2026-2027 Board Meeting Calendar  
 Motion by Bellino second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed calendar, item 7.2. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, two (2), Choi, Hooks. Abstained, none (0).
3. Board Action on Preliminary 2026-27 Technology Capital Plan (Policy 4:10)  
 Motion by Ansari second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed Technology Capital Plan, item 7.3. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, two (2), Choi, Hooks. Abstained, none (0).

## 8. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE 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. There are three policies to look more closely at, and they are 4:80, 6:60, and 6:210. They will be brought back at the next meeting for a second reading and approval.

### 2. Proposal for Hearing Officer Services

Dr. Barrett shared that there has been conversation about the use of a hearing officer. We had a similar proposal that came forward to the board at one point, and we all agreed that we should agree on what our policy should say. The Policy Committee spent a lot of time working on that and you finally approved the policies. This will come back at the next meeting for a vote. If approved, then this individual would be used should we need a hearing officer.

## 9. INFORMATION

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule (Policy 2:220)
2. FOIA Requests & Board Correspondence (Policy 2:250)
3. Suspension Report (Policy 7:200)
4. 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)
2. Monthly Financials - December (Policy 4:40, 4:55)
3. 2026-2027 Policy Committee Meeting Calendar Draft

Motion by Ansari second by Bellino, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.3. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, two (2), Choi, Hooks. Abstained, none (0).

**11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

Board members congratulated the students that were honored at tonight's meeting, saying it is great to see where students are excelling. Thank you to the FVCC students for sharing their experiences. The Communications Task Force met recently, and we talked through several different topics, including the new system roll out. Communications will be coming out regarding this new system and registration will remain the same for this year. Community Connects is coming up on February 2 at the Geneva Public Library from 9-10 am and February 3 at the Geneva Public Library from 7-8 pm. Board members attended the Theater Boosters meeting, and they are working on their winter showcase, "The Complete History of America On a Bridge," that will be February 13-14 followed by the spring musical, Chicago, on April 23-25. On February 24 there will be auditions for the spring musical. Board members attended the Western Avenue PTO meeting. There was a large crowd that attended. They have incentives to get people to attend, but there was one person that was there to see what happens at a PTO meeting. There were questions about the cafeteria survey, demographic trends, and the school calendar. The Unified Vikings had their last home game, and it was "Pack the Place" night. Mr. Rogers said this was one of the best nights in GHS history. Heartland Elementary had their PTO meeting recently and the principal gave a presentation on reading and testing. Friday was an e-learning day, so thank you to our staff for their hard work preparing for this. Thank you to Mike Wilkes and his department for providing the devices that students use. The GEA has started negotiation conversations, and we look forward to more meetings.

**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)]; DISCUSSION OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS LAWFULLY CLOSED UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, WHETHER FOR PURPOSES OF APPROVAL BY THE BODY OF THE MINUTES OR SEMI-ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE MINUTES AS MANDATED BY SECTION 2.06 [5ILCS 120/2(c)(21)]. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)**

At 8:18 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 and posted and held in accordance with this Act; the discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by section 2.06.

At 8:28 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

**14. POSSIBLE ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Disposition of Executive Session Minutes July 2025 through December 2025  
Motion by Forbes second by Radlinski, to approve the above-listed, item 14.1. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, two (2), Choi, Hooks. Abstained, none (0).

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:29 p.m., motion by Forbes second by Bellino and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

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

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