

# 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 Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 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 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Dan Jones, Assistant Principal Geneva Middle School South; Terry Bleau, Principal Geneva Middle School South; Tom Rogers, Principal Geneva High School; Todd Latham, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services; Shonette Sims, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

Others present: Lisa Meister, Jason Oxler, Kristina Sorenok, Jen Thill, Sarah Sudhahar, Sandy & Lin Winterowd, Tara Flaherty, Patrick Flaherty, Tracy, Ben & Dan Watson, Heather Peters, Elizabeth Winsininski, Dominic Ross, Luke Gaston, James Lusk, Rosalind & Michael Lusk, Stacey Nasra, Marcus & Wendy Rothaar, Claire Totman, Pat Sweeney, Cathy Fuller, Ernesto Bebe, Anna Keller, Annaliese Rothaar, Danielle Nasra, Cameron Winsininski, Heather Peters.

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

1. Regular Session, September 23, 2024
2. Executive Session, September 23, 2024

Motion by Forbes second by Bellino, 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. Tradition of Excellence: GHS Students (Policy 6:330)  
National Merit Scholars, Skaldic Literary Magazine

#### National Merit Commended Students

Ernesto Bebe  
Anna Keller  
Benjamin Watson

Jack Danosky  
James Lusk

Torin Holda  
Annaliese Rothaar

2. **What Makes Your School Special? - Middle School South**  
Administrators and students from Geneva Middle School South shared with the board information about the Viking Pals Program. This program consists of students that have taken an interest in supporting students in the special needs programs to make positive connections. This program started with a group of sixth graders who are now eighth graders. Eighth graders meet once a month and during this time there is always an activity or exercise to engage in. They have played Thanksgiving bingo, made trail mix, simulated a donut stand, and colored popcorn for spirit day. Some of the activities are focused on communication to learn their friends likes and dislikes. At the end of the school year there is a picnic. Seventh graders have participated in PE classes with Mid-Valley students. During this time, the students would model activities, walk and talk with the Mid-Valley students, play chase, kickball, baseball, and encourage them to do things they did not want to do. This year, during study hall, we read with students, help them get ready for lunch, and even invite them to sit with us at lunch. A new group of sixth graders will be chosen to work with students during PE. We do this because we have fun at school and want others to also have fun, it feels good to help others, and it just seems like the right thing to do.
3. **GHS Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD Club) – Luke Gaston, Dominic Ross & GHS Sponsors Lisa Meister & Ashley Andreuccetti**  
Teachers and students from Geneva High School’s SADD Club shared about Red Ribbon Week and what it means. We try to instill life skills into our program. Our students have been presenting at school board, City Hall, and Park District meetings in Geneva. Red Ribbon Week is an opportunity to send a message to the community about taking responsibility for their health and making thoughtful decisions about substance abuse. In the past, the main message was more of a “just say no” strategy and other fear tactics. This was not effective. To help students, we must recognize that each person is different and has diverse needs. We need to meet teens where they are and talk about things relevant to their lives using evidence-based strategies, otherwise they will not feel heard or talk to adults in their life. The theme this year is, “Life is a Movie, Film Drug Free.” What this theme means to me is there are plenty of memories that we will have and have had in our lives that are positive experiences. Teens who are more involved in their community are less likely to engage in risky behavior. To have a successful campaign we need to highlight six goals that will facilitate a healthy lifestyle. They are finding a natural high as your passion, surrounding yourself with positive peer influences, finding a positive mentor to encourage you, having a firm belief in your abilities, setting goals for your future, and building resilience to help you get through challenges in life. At the high school we are helping students build assets to give back to their community with services like the SADD Club annual food drive and we are working with GTV to promote healthy decision making. Everyone needs a safe and healthy place to grow. Parents should have open dialogue with their children. There are many ways that teens and adults can work together.
4. **SAT to ACT**  
Shonette Sims shared why there has been a move from the SAT back to ACT. The contract with SAT ended after eight years, so an RFP went out and the Illinois State Board of Education selected ACT. The contract with ACT will be from 2025-2030 with a cost of \$53 million. When we had ACT before there was the Explorer assessment that our 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders took while 11<sup>th</sup> graders took the ACT. The initial assessments are now being called the Pre-ACT for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders. These exams will be given on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, and will consist of English, math, reading, and science. This will help to familiarize students with the new format. There will still be days that students can come on a Saturday and take the ACT. The 11<sup>th</sup> graders will take the ACT Plus Writing on Thursday, April 17, 2025, and will consist of English, math, reading, and science. The NMSQT students will continue to take the assessment for merit-based

scholarships. This exam was administered last week to 11<sup>th</sup> graders. The only reason a 12<sup>th</sup> grader will need to take the ACT is if they have no previously approved state assessment, no RNVTA, or no enrollment code for the 2023-24 school year. We will be administering the ACT April 8-18, 2025. The PreACT will be administered March 17 through April 25, 2025.

Board comments, questions, concerns: The 11<sup>th</sup> graders will be thrown into this without prep time, so have we thought about this? (There will be no prep for the 11<sup>th</sup> graders unless they took the NMSQT assessment.) Is this a much different test from the SAT? (Yes, it is structured differently.) So, when we see the scores, we may see that they had no prep. Can they still take the SAT? (Yes, they can take it on their own.) Do colleges take one assessment more over the other or is it still pretty equal? (It used to be an east coast, west coast thing. ACT was more commonly requested, but I think they will take either of them.) What was the reason the State went back to ACT? (There was no stated reason, but if I had to guess, it was the cost.) Was the unintended cost ever considered for the schools, because now they must go back and change the way they were doing things? (This is not the only change in assessments that the State is making.) The concordance table is just an estimate, so it makes it more difficult to see how our students are doing when they go on to college. Is this something that we as a board have a say in? (Part of ISBE's roll is advocacy.)

5. FY2025 Budget Fund Balance Transfers Hearing (Policy 4:10)

1. President Convenes Public Hearing

The Board President opened the hearing at 7:49 p.m.

2. Public Hearing Agenda

3. Comments/Questions from the Board of Education

None.

4. Comments/Questions from the Public

None.

5. President Closes Hearing

The Board President closed the hearing at 7:51 p.m.

**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 went through the IASB 2024 resolutions and asked that the board members review them before the next meeting so that they can give her a thumbs up or down on how she should vote during the Delegate Assembly in November.

Board comments, questions, concerns: There are districts that sponsor the language for a resolution, so how do we do that if we want to submit a resolution? (Earlier in the year, IASB will put a call out to all districts. If we wanted to submit something we would have to have a retreat to discuss.) When we contact a state representative, do we speak as a resident or a Board member? (You can speak as either.)

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

Dr. Barrett shared that we are in the first year of our five-year Strategic Plan. The development of facilitation groups and year one goals are underway. For enrollment and staffing we have completed a demographic study review and done a facilities capacity assessment exploration. For career and college pathways we will collaborate with Valley

Education for Employment System and do a review and analysis of dual credits. For cultural competencies we will look at professional development opportunities for staff. And lastly, for community engagement there will be a parent series, and we will review current tools and practices.

He also shared about recent and upcoming events, like homecoming week, parent teacher conferences, and election day, which is a non-attendance day for staff and students.

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

### **1. Board Action on Red Ribbon Week Resolution**

Motion by Choi second by Radlinski, to approve the above-listed resolution, item 7.1. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

### **2. Board Action on FY2024-25 Resolution to Transfer \$104,684 from the Education Fund to the Debt Service Fund (Policy 4:10)**

Motion by Radlinski second by Bellino, to approve the above-listed resolution, 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).

### **3. Board Action on FY2024-25 Resolution to Transfer \$5,000,000 from the Education Fund to the O&M Fund for Capital Projects (Policy 4:10)**

Motion by Forbes second by Hooks, to approve the above-listed resolution, item 7.3. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

### **4. Board Action on FY2024-25 Resolution to Transfer \$965,000 from the Transportation Fund to the O&M Fund for Capital Projects (Policy 4:10)**

Motion by Choi second by Hooks, to approve the above-listed resolution, item 7.4. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

### **5. Board Action on FY2024-25 Resolution to Transfer \$11,618,000 from the O&M Fund to the Capital Projects Fund (Policy 4:10)**

Motion by Radlinski second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed resolution, item 7.5. 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. 2024-25 Textbook and Resource Review (Policy 6:40)**

Shonette Sims shared that these are new textbooks for a class that is already running. The textbooks were late to production.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Is it a sub committee that chooses these textbooks? (Yes.) Has the decision already been made to use this textbook? (This is an AP class, so they tell us what textbooks they need.) Does this mean that we will switch books for second semester? (Yes.)

## **9. INFORMATION**

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule (Policy 2:220)
2. FOIA Requests & Board Correspondence (Policy 2:250)

## **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: \$1,500, Maid Brigade of Central DuPage & Kane Counties, for GHS athletic supplies, uniforms & other needs (Policy 8:80)
3. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$500, Geneva Feeder Program, for the Special Olympics basketball uniforms (Policy 8:80)
4. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$2,670, Vicki Kloehn, to purchase trees to memorialize Larry Okerblad,

Coach Bob Schick & Coach Cal McPeak (Policy 8:80)

Motion by Hooks second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.4. 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**

*Policy Committee, Finance Committee, Boundary Task Force, Communications Task Force, Facilities Task Force, Technology Task Force, Joint PTO, Geneva Academic Foundation, Geneva All-Sports Boosters, Geneva Music Boosters, Geneva High School Theater Boosters, GEARS, K-12 Discipline Committee, PRIDE, Fox Valley Career Center, IASB/Legislative, IASB Kishwaukee Governing Board*

Board members attended the Williamsburg PTO meeting, which has a continually active group of parents. Their Trunk or Treat event is coming up later this week. The Theater Boosters met today. They just wrapped up their underclassmen play and are beginning work on the next play, "A Christmas Carol" that will be December 5-7 that will align with the Geneva Christmas Walk. The Music Boosters have started their greenery sale. and you can order through their website. The Technology Task Force met recently where board members learned about a new student information system that we are targeting to launch July 1, 2026. The district will also upgrade to a web-based finance and human resources platform. It is great to see some of our Geneva sports teams doing so well. The Facilities Task Force met this afternoon, and we learned that all buildings have been reviewed and found to be in excellent condition. We are looking further ahead at a facility assessment plan. Congratulations to the students that were here tonight to present to the board. It is great to hear them talk about things that are important to them. Thank you to Mike Wilkes and his task force team. There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes.

**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 [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)]; LITIGATION, WHEN AN ACTION AGAINST, AFFECTING OR ON BEHALF OF THE PARTICULAR PUBLIC BODY HAS BEEN FILED AND IS PENDING BEFORE A COURT OR ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL, OR WHEN THE PUBLIC BODY FINDS THAT AN ACTION IS PROBABLE OR IMMINENT, IN WHICH CASE THE BASIS FOR THE FINDING SHALL BE RECORDED AND ENTERED INTO THE MINUTES OF THE CLOSED MEETING [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)]. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)**

At 8:27 p.m., motion by Hooks, second by Forbes, 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 body; litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case

the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.

At 8:58 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:59 p.m., motion by Forbes second by Choi and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ PRESIDENT

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_

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