

## 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, November 10, 2025, 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, Willard Hooks Jr., Vice President/Finance Committee Chair Jackie Forbes, Paul Radlinski. Late: None. Absent: None.

The President welcomed everyone and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Matt Hahn, Athletic Director Geneva High School; Doug Drexler, Associate Principal Geneva High School; Todd Latham, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services; Shonette Sims, Assistant Superintendent for Learning & Teaching; Dr. Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

Others present: Annie Schumacher, Samantha Conklin, Amy Seykora, Jessica Lehan, Brian Kothe, Emily Erickson, Chris & Dana Hout, Cathy Fuller, Peg Simon, Brad Bilut, Sofia Borter, Elizabeth Hennessy, Ken & Stacey Fanale, Landon Fanale, Kirill Lunin, Tatiana Lunina, Jenna Bilut, Claire Conklin, Makena Kothe, Emery Larsen, Ryann Lehan, Claire Schumacher, Maddie Sykora.

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

1. Regular Session, November 10, 2025
2. Executive Session, November 10, 2025

Motion by Forbes second by Choi, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 2.1-2.2. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, one (1), Hooks.

3. Board Retreat, November 17, 2025

Motion by Choi second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed minutes, item 2.3. 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)  
Girls Swimming, Art, ACT, Girls Cross Country

Outstanding Achievement – 36 ACT Scores

Alexa Cosky

Landon Fanale

Kirill Lunin

Chicagoland 4X5 Art Show

Amber Mejia

Miles Sheppard

Sage Wilson

IHSA Girls State Cross Country

Sofia Borter

IHSA Girls State Swimming

Jenna Bilut

Kayla Kowal

Claire Schumacher

Claire Conklin

Emery Larsen

Maddie Seykora

Makena Kothe

Ryann Lehan

Claire Simon

2. FY2025 Annual Financial Report & Annual Comprehensive Financial Report - Scott Duenser of Wipfli, LLC (Policy 2:20, 4:80)

Scott Duenser gave an update on the annual audit. Wipfli has completed the ACFR and it was uploaded to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) today. As part of the ACFR they calculate out a financial profile score on a 4.0 scale. The district scored 3.9 this year. There are various ratios that go into this report and the only one that the district scored below a 4.0 on was the long-term debt. The district received a 3.9, but still a recognition category. We are still working on one part of the audit and that is the unified guidance, which is related to the expenditures from your federal funds. The AFR is the gold standard of reporting and for the 2024 report the district did submit to the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) for the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting and did receive the award for June 30, 2024. We believe you will submit an application for 2025, and we believe this report has all the applicable standards and you should receive the award again in 2025. The overall economic health of the district is stable and improving.

3. Implementing Specially Designed Instruction in a Co-Taught Setting

Anne Scalia and several teachers reported on co-teaching in the district. We want to meet the needs of our students and currently about 63% of our special education students spend most of their day in the general education setting, which is the least restrictive environment. We have around 3% in private placement, which would be the most restrictive environment. When this program started there were only eight co-taught classes and now there are several more. When we look at courses we want to expand to the co-taught setting, we are really looking at graduation requirements. As we have expanded, we have been able to add additional sections. To have effective co-teaching you need to look at co-teaching approaches, quality instruction, classroom logistics, and professional roles. Some of the benefits of co-teaching are tiered levels of instruction within one classroom, differentiated instruction, increased student engagement, a variety of instructional strategies, increased opportunities for response and participation, and formative assessments. Instruction is tailored to student progress and is carefully planned and monitored. This requires collaboration in order to reach the goal of curriculum access. Specialized instruction can be taught by different models, such as team teaching or station teaching. Coaching and professional development have contributed to our success because we do not have high staff turnover, teachers feel connected, and articulation between the middle schools and the high school. This program has had an impact on our students by meeting their special education requirements, allowing for differentiated instructions, promoting student outcomes, and having higher levels of student engagement.

Board comments, questions, concerns: How many pairs of co-teachers do you have? (There are 2-3 per subject area.) Is co-teaching done in the elementary schools? (Yes, but it is not as developed. The elementary schools have not received coaching and professional development.) In the co-teaching pairs, do special education teachers focus solely on the students with IEPs? (Yes and no. We try to keep the

classroom as a whole.) In the schedule, do they have both teachers listed? (Our eSchool program only allows us to list the content teacher.)

4. 2025 Tax Levy Year Final Presentation – Todd Latham (Policy 4:10)

Todd Latham shared an update on the final 2025 tax levy and there have been no changes since the tentative levy. We followed the Truth in Taxation hearing requirement and published the notice, and the levy has been on our website for the required amount of time. Tonight, we will have the hearing where the board and community can give input and then we will ask the board to approve the Truth in Taxation resolution. The final levy will be filed with the County tomorrow.

5. 2025-26 Levy Year Hearing (Policy 4:10)

1. Public Hearing Agenda

At 8:20 p.m., the Board President opened the hearing.

2. 2025 Tax Levy Proposed Increase

The proposed levy is \$109,012,230 or 4.19%.

3. Levy Testimony

None.

4. President Closes Hearing

At 8:21 p.m., the Board President closed the hearing.

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 and parent of students in the district asked the board to please look at other ways to make the school calendar work for everyone other than starting school a week earlier. They understand that there are many moving parts to the calendar but maybe having finals after Christmas in lieu of starting school earlier.

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 Illinois Association of School Boards had their Delegate Assembly during the annual conference in November. The resolution that had to do with seat belts on buses passed with no discussion. For the constitutional amendments there were a few that were pulled from the consent agenda for discussion. All constitutional amendments did pass. During the board elections there was a nomination from the floor for the Vice President. She voted for the person who was recommended and on the ballot.

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

The Superintendent thanked all the local philanthropic organizations for all they do for our district. These organizations provide fundraising support, student events and activities, and financial support. He also shared that this is an exciting time of year with all the events happening around the district, but it is also a busy and challenging time of year. Remember to care for each other because we are all in it together.

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

1. Board Action on the Adoption of the Resolution Authorizing the Certificate of Tax Levy for 2025 (Policy 2:20, 4:10)

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

2. Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$22,900,000 General Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2026A, for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds of the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax

sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the proposed sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof (Policy 4:10)  
Elizabeth Hennessy presented on refunding our 2016 bonds, which were originally refunded in 2007 as part of the referendum bonds. The call date for these bonds is January 1, 2026. She shared data on the municipal market and the record highs and lows since 1993. Since January 1, 2025, the tax-exempt benchmark rates have increased steepening the yield curve. The district currently has \$75,295,000 in outstanding bonds with a net debt limit of \$196,154,037. The call date for the 2017 bonds is January 1, 2027. The savings for refunding both issues is over \$1.4 million to the taxpayers. The current debt payments are ending in five years by levy year 2029. For the 2016 bonds, we are recommending paying the debt off as quickly as possible within that \$14.5 million constraint. The current savings is estimated at \$600,831, so for a homeowner of a \$500,000 home you would be looking at \$49 less in property taxes. The 2017 bond refund will result in approximately another \$26 savings on a home worth \$500,000. During the week of January 12, 2026, we will sell bonds within parameters, which is subject to approval of board delegates. On January 28, 2026, we will close the bond issue, and the 2016 bonds will be paid off.

Board comments, questions, concerns: The bonds that are callable in 2026, is there a window of time or just any time after January 2026? (It is any time after January 2026.) Is there any cost savings to do both bonds at the same time? (No.) So, in October 2026 there will be a new rate for the 2017 bonds? (Yes.)

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

3. Board Action on the Proposed 2026-27 School Calendar (Policy 6:20)  
Shonette Sims shared that we are rolling over the current calendar for next school year. The first day for staff will be August 17 and the first day for students will be August 20. The last day of school will be May 28, 2027. For students who participate in the Fox Valley Career Center, they will start the second full week of August. This will also affect the first semester of driver's education, so our teachers will have to be creative in getting students behind the wheel time. This will continue to have an impact on semester long courses. We will probably bring this calendar back to you later this year or early next fall for some adjustments to accommodate the Homecoming Parade.

Board comments, questions, concerns: These problems do not go away, even if that means starting sooner or having some other solution. We need to continue these conversations throughout this next year. (These conversations are ongoing, so we might want to come back here to share what the examples might look like.) Maybe the committee needs to include more people. The Facilities Task Force discussed today that we have talked about the funding for major capital projects going forward. There may be years when there are significantly more projects and we may need to start later.

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

4. Board Action on FY2025 Annual Financial Report & Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (Policy 2:20, 4:80)

Motion by Choi second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed, item 7.4. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Hooks, Forbes, 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 7:200, Suspension Procedures
  2. Policy 7:210, Expulsion Procedures

These policies have been reviewed by the Policy Committee and have come to the board for a first reading. They will come back to the next meeting for a second reading and adoption.

#### **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 Trips

#### **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 Financial Report – November (Policy 4:50)
  3. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$950, Chaidez Family, for MCS music program (Policy 8:80)
  4. Intergovernmental Agreement with Geneva Public Library
  5. Request to Purchase: \$733,487.50, CDW Government, for student devices
- Motion by Radlinski second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.5. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Hooks, Forbes, 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, 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 were part of the GTV anchorage and had a great experience. The Yuletide event was great. There are so many talented students that participate. The Technology Task Force met recently. Mike Wilkes and his team will be joining us in January to present the preliminary tech plan. One of the things that Mike does is monitor when to purchase devices, getting the district the best deal possible. There was also discussion on the Intergovernmental Agreement between Geneva 304 and the Geneva Public Library. Board members attended the Harrison Street School PTO meeting on November 18. There was a great turnout, and it was great to see so many people active in their school. Students made a banner for the PTO to thank them for everything they have done for their school. Thank you to Anne Scalia and her team that presented on co-teaching. A reminder to take care of yourselves and check in with one another during this time of year. Board members attended the Parent Teacher Advisory Committee meeting where suspension history was reviewed and there was conversation on the new Pandora system. The Facilities Task Force met today where they discussed the different options for funding for the upcoming capital projects. Bids have already been presented and accepted for this next summer's work. Thank you to Todd Latham for his work on the budget. Board members attended the Geneva Middle School South PTO meeting where they talked about the programs they have planned for students. Congratulations to all the students that were recognized tonight. Thank you to all of tonight's presenters. The Policy Committee met today to review policies and those will be coming forward to the full board for review. Board members attended the IASB Annual Conference in Chicago last month. There were many great workshops to attend.

#### **12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE PLACEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10); 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 BINDS 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)(11); STUDENT DISCIPLINARY CASES [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9). [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)**

At 9:17 p.m., motion by Ansari, second by Hooks, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; 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 binds that an action is probably or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting; student disciplinary cases.

At 10:46 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:46 p.m., motion by Ansari second by Forbes and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

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

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_