

**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, August 25, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at Williamsburg Elementary School, 1812 Williamsburg Avenue, Geneva, Illinois

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- 1.1 Roll Call
- 1.2 Welcome
- 1.3 Pledge
- 1.4 Reminder to sign attendance sheet

Board members present: President Mark Grosso, Leslie Juby, David Lamb, Mike McCormick, Vice President Kelly Nowak, Policy Committee Chair Mary Stith, Finance Committee Chair Bill Wilson.

Late: None. Absent: None.

The President welcomed everyone, reminded them to sign the attendance record, and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District administrators present: Kelley Munch, Communication Coordinator; Todd Latham, Director Business Services; Craig Collins, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Donna Oberg, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Patty O'Neil, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; and Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: Patrick Murphy, Bob McQuillan.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Per Board Policy 0167.3, Section C, Attendees wishing to speak at the Board meeting must register their intention to participate in the public portion(s) of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting. Complete the form found 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.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 3.1 Regular Session, July 21, 2014
- 3.2 Executive Session, July 21, 2014

Motion by Nowak, second by Juby, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 3.1 & 3.2, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, four (4), Juby, Nowak, Stith, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Abstain, three (3), Lamb, McCormick, Wilson. Absent: None (0).

- 3.3 Regular Session, August 11, 2014
- 3.4 Executive Session, August 11, 2014

Motion by McCormick, second by Lamb, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 3.3 & 3.4, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Abstain, two (2), Juby, Wilson. Absent: None (0).

**4. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 4.1 2014-2015 Budget Hearing
  - 4.1.1 Public Hearing Agenda
  - 4.1.2 2014-2015 Budget
  - 4.1.3 Questions/Comments from Board Members
  - 4.1.4 Questions/Comments from Audience Members
  - 4.1.5 President Closes Hearing

Assistant Superintendent Oberg presented the preliminary education budget on June 9<sup>th</sup>, the O&M preliminary budget on April 14<sup>th</sup>, and the final tentative budget for all funds on July 21, 2014. The budget has been on display since July 21<sup>st</sup> and no one has come into the office to view the budget or asked questions addressing the budget. Currently, we have a deficit of \$4,857,000 in the final proposed budget due to funding the abatement, funding needed programs for students presented earlier to the Board, necessary spending from the reserves in the Municipal Retirement Fund balance, setting the levy at a lower amount than allowable, and funding needed for O&M capital improvement projects. The Superintendent read the certificate for 2014-2015 stating that Form 50-36 is the budget recommended for approval for July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015. This information was posted in the Kane County Chronicle on July 22, 2014.

Board comments, questions, discussion: Board member Lamb highlighted a couple of items regarding the budget. The budget is up \$6.6 million which is a 7% increase. A majority of this is in the education fund. We have \$1.9 million in transportation that is from special education, so our education fund is up about 10%. It's very important that we have a contingency plan moving forward in case actions of the State Legislature cause us funding issues. (At the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting we did talk about the need for a contingency plan to help offset anything that might come up with Senate Bill 16. That was a concern of the entire Board so we have a plan in place. The facilities group discussed this and it was decided that they would defer some facility projects.)

President Grosso closed the hearing and asked for motion to approve the 2014-2015 budget.

Motion by Lamb, second by Wilson, to approve the 2014-2015 Budget as presented. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

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

### **5.1 2014-2015 Budget Adoption**

## **6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

The Superintendent reported that new staff meetings have been taking place as highlighted by the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. Thank you to all of the Board members for attending the opening day workshop. Your presence was greatly appreciated. We are off to a positive start. The first few days went smoothly, and as always, it takes a few days to get into a routine.

## **7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATIONS**

### **7.1 Finance Committee Topic Discussions DRAFT**

At the last finance meeting we laid out what topics we needed to discuss, but wanted to give those who were absent a chance to weigh in.

Board comments, questions, discussion: We need to keep at the forefront of the finance committee our adopted plan regarding our debt reduction and make sure we are on track with it. We need to work with the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services to make sure that we are meeting deadlines for abatement and bonds. The bonds are a top priority. I would like to echo that we need to create a contingency plan. We have it in our schedule to start budget reviews in February, but prior to that we need to have discussions that may be brought back into a Board Retreat. We could start reviewing areas that could be worked into the budget discussions. Once the Finance Committee gets priorities from the Board, then they can begin planning. We would probably start looking at O&M first, and seek input from other committees involved. Long term maintenance needs to be adequately funded. Have there been any updates from SB 16? (There is nothing new at this time.) The Finance Committee did talk about the need for a contingency plan, as well as a pre-preliminary budget. I think what happens is that we look at a small piece of the budget and approve

spending without seeing the big picture so that when it all comes together we are a bit surprised. Another thing that we need to look at is our investments. We get monthly reports from PMA, but maybe we need to see if there are other alternatives for higher return. One thing the Finance Committee did decide was that PMA would present to the entire Board and not just the Finance Committee. We will make sure to get documents to the Finance Committee so that they can review and discuss them prior to the presentation. Our first priority in making reductions should be to keep the integrity of our educational program for students. Getting an early snapshot will give us an idea of where we are in a preliminary budget. The Assistant Superintendent of Business Services can take this year's budget and project for next year as an estimate. There would be some pieces missing, but it would give us an idea of what to anticipate. We can look at the Capital Plan and Tech Plan, and add those pieces in earlier if possible. It's hard with the levy and CPI not being known until later, and if we can just project it going forward, then we can at least see part of the big picture. We need to articulate what those assumptions are as early as possible. It's a starting point on paper for finance.

## **8. INFORMATION**

8.1 FOIA Requests

8.2 IASB Kishwaukee Division Fall Meeting

8.3 Summer School 2014 Report

It was mentioned that parents and students thought summer school was good, but were parents surveyed on pre-algebra and the bridge? We need to follow the 16 students that participated in algebra to see how they did during the year. We did the bridge 2 years ago so should have data. Are these enough seats for summer school? (These seem to have been for the last couple of years.) Who markets the programs, because I believe only 15 students attended the ACT Boot Camp? (I think that the high school markets or advertises them through the advising/counseling office. I know they have a rigorous announcement system that they use throughout the year.)

## **9. CONSENT AGENDA**

9.1 Monthly Financial Reports and Interfund Transfers

9.2 Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE, New Hires

Certified New Hires

Anderson, Kristin, GMSN, Language Arts, 1.0 FTE, effective 8/18/14

Strizu, Katherine, HSS, Kindergarten, 1.0 FTE, effective 8/18/14

Certified Resignations

Mueller, Julie, GHS, Guidance Counselor, 1.0 FTE, effective 6/5/14

Certified FTE Adjustment

Evangelista, Logan, GHS, Spanish, 1.0 FTE to 1.20 FTE, effective 8/18/14

Certified Long Term Subs

Leavitt, Marv (Julie Mueller), GHS, Guidance Counselor, 1.0 FTE, effective 8/18/14 – 9/26/14

Kettell, Maryann (Anne Hallahan), HES, Grade 2, 1.0 FTE, effective 8/25/14 – 9/29/14

Eberle, Bonnie (Diane Chapman), GMSS, Social Studies, 1.0 FTE, effective 9/2/14 – 10/7/14

Madden, Shannon (Mary Glinke), GHS, Math, 1.0 FTE, effective 9/17/14 – 10/29/14

Support Staff New Hires

Anderson, Dean, Garage, Bus Driver, 9 month, effective 8/4/14

Mittman, Gregory, Garage, Bus Driver, 9 month, effective 8/4/14

Galley, Susan, Garage, Bus Driver, 9 month, effective 8/8/14

Viereckl, Rudy, Garage, Bus Driver, 9 month, effective 8/8/14

Lunacek, Steve, Garage, Bus Driver, 9 month, effective 8/12/14

Saltus, Nate, Garage, Bus Driver, 9 month, effective 8/13/14

Arnold, Michelle, GMSS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 8/18/14

Baumann, Erin, HSS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 8/18/14

Blumond, Christine, GMSS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 8/18/14

Browne, Anna, HSS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 8/18/14

Brown, Deborah, HSS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 8/18/14  
Cerrone, Gina, FES, Library Assistant, 9 month, effective 8/18/14  
Duever, Alice, WES, Library Assistant, 9 month, effective 8/18/14  
Falduto, Deborah, GMSS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 8/18/14  
Grady, Sean, GHS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 8/18/14  
Hermann, Dana, GMSN, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 8/18/14  
Kirsch, Shelby, GMSN, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 8/18/14  
Malone, Caitlin, HSS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 8/18/14  
Martin, Jennifer, GMSN, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 8/18/14  
Schwartz, Jill, GHS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 8/18/14  
Sullivan, Chad, WAS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 8/18/14  
Weber, Nicole, GHS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 8/18/14

Support Staff Resignations

Barabasz, Ryan, GMSS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 6/5/14  
Phillips, Maria, HSS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 6/5/14

Support Staff Reappointments/Reclassifications

Dibble, Robin, HSS, From Kind Asst at HSS 3 hrs to Kind Asst at HSS 5.75 hrs, 9 month  
Campana, Gary, GHS, From In School Suspension Supv GHS 21 hrs week to same position, 9 mth

Support Staff Retirement

Diehl, Jeff, GHS, Campus Manager, 12 month, effective 9/12/14  
Fitzenreider, Ray, GHS, Maintenance, 12 month, effective 9/16/14

9.3 Pay Request #2 FINAL, \$10,975.50, Midwest Track Builders, Track Resurfacing at GMSS & GMSN

Motion by Wilson, second by Nowak, to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 – 9.3. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Absent, None (0). Motion carried unanimously.

**10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION**

Only two people in the audience who were not Board members. This is a bit different from a couple of years ago. Don't know if the Board knows if the taxpayers are in agreement with the budget that was just approved. Consider that the reason no one has shown up is because taxpayers are disgusted because you have just passed a \$100.3 million budget. Maybe they feel like the Board is in disconnect with the rest of us here. You don't answer questions at your Board meeting which is your business meeting. You invite the public to attend but you ignore them. Looked on the website today at frequently asked questions and the last time a question was posted was on March 19, 2004. Maybe no one has come to the office to look at the budget because it is a done deal. Anything that they said in the last 30 days or tonight was not going to make a difference. Just played around with some numbers. Compared revenue and expenses for your 2014-2015 that you just approved against your 2009-2010 budget. Here's an idea of what the gain is on a percentage basis over a five year period. The revenue increased 8.4%, O&M revenue increased about 7%, the revenue for transportation declined about 19%, your retirement revenue increased 53%, and the debt increased 24.2%. Overall your revenue from FY10 to FY15 has increased 7.19%. Expenses for education increased 13.35 %, O&M expenses increased 13.59%, transportation expenses decreased 18%, retirement expenses increased 15.05%, and the debt increased 31.69%. Overall expenses increased 13.35% over a 5 year period. This is a recessionary period. Total enrollment in FY14 was 5874 and in FY10 it was 5963 which is a decline of 1.5%. My 2013 taxes were \$8938 and in 2010 they were \$8373 which is a 9.4% increase. My assessment for 2013 was \$299,354 and in 2010 it was \$352,450 which is a 15% decrease. There is a disconnect here. You vowed that you were going to balance the needs of the students versus the tax payers. People are being taxed out of their homes. There are many retired residents who will not be able to continue to live here because we are in this debt now until 2029. Something has to be done. You have done the best you can but it's not enough. The first question potential buyers in our community have is, are the schools good and the second

question is what are the taxes. It doesn't matter how good our schools are if you can't afford the taxes. Not asking to lower the educational programs we offer. Saying you need to go line by line through the budget making cuts where they need to be made.

**11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS**

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

The Communication Committee met today and you will be getting a list of what we use for communication. Let us know if there are any changes. Please check your 304 subscriptions and make sure you are getting updates. The IASB Kishwaukee Division Fall meeting is on October 1<sup>st</sup> and all of you are encouraged to attend. There will be a great presenter speaking this year. We will also have someone coming out in the spring to talk to us about planning and "What we can do to push back on criticisms of public education." (We talk a lot about the impact on students and taxpayers, in newsletters that go out.) Board member Stith attended the IASB quarterly meeting and they talked about being proactive and not reactive. We need to speak up for education. The motto for the conference will be "Stand Up for Public Education." It's about promoting local control. Not that they tell you how to vote on things, but keeping public education where it should be, at the local level. IASB does a great job of tracking unfunded mandates. I met with two individuals about our current budget that we adopted this evening. I gave one of them information from the spring legislation showing what we are faced with concerning unfunded mandates that we are required to comply with and absorb the costs locally. Senator McConaughay had a great article in the Chronicle talking about SB 16 and its possible impacts on local schools and taxes.

**12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR THE USE OF THE PUBLIC BODY, INCLUDING MEETINGS HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING WHETHER A PARTICULAR PARCEL SHOULD BE ACQUIRED [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)];**

At 7:40 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by McCormick, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

At 7:47 p.m., following a break to relocate to the Williamsburg conference room, the Board moved into executive session.

At 8:40 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Nowak, and with unanimous consent the Board returned to open session and relocated to the Williamsburg cafeteria.

At 8:43 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

**14. ACTION POSSIBLE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 14.1 Possible action on land purchase
- 14.2 Possible action on land lease
- 14.3 Possible action on sale of 28 acres

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:43 p.m., motion by Juby, second by Wilson, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_

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