1. CALL TO ORDER
   1.1 Roll Call
   1.2 Welcome
   1.3 Pledge
   1.4 Reminder to sign attendance sheet
At 7:02 p.m., the Board President called the meeting to order. Roll was called. The following members were present: President Mary Stith, Vice President Tim Moran, Mark Grosso, Matt Henry, Leslie Juby, Kelly Nowak, Bill Wilson. Absent: None. Late: None.

District Administrators present: Kelley Munch, Communication Coordinator; Kathy Pease, Director Curriculum; Craig Collins, Asst. Superintendent Personnel Services; Dawn George, Asst. Superintendent Student Services; Donna Oberg, Asst. Superintendent Business Services; Patty O'Neil, Asst. Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction; and Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: Dr. Ann Ramsey (A&E Coordinator), Emilio Marcos, Rich Hayhurst, Kevin Maher, Fred Cregier, Madeleine Nowak, Hal Conick (Republican), Nancy McQueeny, Doug Drays, Jean Pierce, Chris Propheter, Barbara Freeman, Deb Jongeblod, Patrick Murphy, Suzy Shogren, Kim Griffin, Susan Fintzen, Cathy Mozden, Laurie Winkler, Anne Barrett, The Haiduks, Susan Farley, Renee Lotz, Cathy Kaphauser, Ron Rogalla, Sandy Dixon, Laura Lemke, Susan Caton, Kerry Doanen, Kim Ericson, Dick Graff, Elizabeth Heinz, Fred Dresser, Sharmi Jayachandran, Archana Patel, Angela Oleson, Julie Kiniger, Kim Wilson, Susanna Watson, Gretchen Weber, Dean Kilburg, Isabelle Townsend, Rob Kelley, Bill Kelley, Linda Mulifire, Christine Rose, Karna Chrusciel, Marilyn Donati, Nicole & Steve Weron, Gib Thostenson, Charlotte Norgaard (Beacon), Bob McQuillan, Brenda Schory (Chronicle), Susan Sarkauskas (Daily Herald), Anita Hazel, and others who did not sign the attendance record.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   2.1 Regular Session July 20, 2009
   2.2 Executive Session July 20, 2009
   2.3 Special Session August 3, 2009
It was requested that Item 2.3 be voted on separately.
Motion by Nowak, second by Henry, to approve the minutes of Item 2.1 and 2.2, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Grosso, Henry, Juby, Nowak, Stith. Nays, none (0). Abstained, two (2), Moran, Wilson. Motion carried. Motion by Wilson, second by Moran, to approve the minutes of Item 2.3, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Henry, Juby, Moran, Nowak, Wilson, Stith. Nays, none (0). Abstained, one (1), Grosso. Motion carried.

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS
   3.1 Acceleration & Enrichment Presentation
The A&E Coordinator provided an overview of the Acceleration/Enrichment Study which was conducted from the fall of 2007 to the spring of 2009 in order to examine the current A&E programming/delivery model and determine areas of success and areas for growth. The Committee was comprised of teachers and principals from each grade level, the A&E Coordinator and the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. The Committee’s focus was on researching the best identification process and educational programming for high-ability and gifted students in the areas of reading/language arts, mathematics, and social-emotional, and how best to support teachers in meeting the needs of these students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The study included reviewing literature regarding best practices for meeting the needs of the accelerated and gifted learners, definition of giftedness, identification, academic and social effects of ability grouping, a survey of staff, parents and students, and a survey of twenty-six suburban school districts. The Committee’s recommendations included: changes in the identification procedures; revising testing schedules; implementing an appeals process; implementing an improved teacher recommendation form; identifying overlooked student
populations; streamlining the exit process; monitoring student progress over time; when economically feasible, having a full-time A&E teacher at each elementary building, adding a full-time A&E specialist at the middle school level and continued support of the high school program; create math and language arts extensions for K-8; provide teacher training in problem solving; continue to revise and align A&E reading curriculum; provide staff development opportunities.

Board member comments, questions, discussion: fascinating report; thanks to the committee for their work; thanks for beginning the presentation with the District’s Purpose Statement.

4. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT
The superintendent reported/commented on the following: orientation and beginning of the year activities; faculty members return August 24 and students return August 26.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS
Comments from the public included: impact of the current economy and increase in property taxes on Geneva’s senior citizens, support for lower spending and budget surplus vs. deficit spending, request that the Board not approve an increased budget and instead reduce it in order to lower property taxes; how is the A&E program success measured, there are no specific standardized tests for these students, encourage development of a matrix designed to determine success of the program at each school and every grade level, concern about curriculum and the inability to determine whether the curriculum is being taught, have a student in the A&E program and support the program but without data, it’s hard to justify the budget; concern about increased property taxes and that his property taxes could exceed his mortgage, support no increase in the district’s budget, believe the suggestion to hire business people to determine if the district is spending well or not is a good one and hope that the Board will vote to reduce the budget and not increase it; while not a Geneva resident, have many rental properties in Geneva and property taxes are up 33% in one year, has no children in the rentals, asked the Board to show fiscal responsibility and cut the budget and not give raises; business man with five stores and thirty-three years of private enterprise, belongs to a family of educators, concern about how casually the Board monitors operations and raises taxes, there is no good budget development, student enrollment is flat, the Board should request less in the amount of the tax levy, money is not the primary factor in student success, the Board needs to mandate a socially responsible budget that is 5% less than last year’s, and needs to hold public meetings every eight weeks in order to respond to public questions; eighty-two years old, born and lived in Geneva most of his life, graduated from Geneva High School, worked hard and paid property taxes for fifty-five years, built dream house in 1996 but property taxes have increased, mostly due to sales, property taxes are higher and according to a Wall Street Journal article, government, five years, built dream house in 1996 but property taxes have increased, mostly due to sales, property taxes have increased, mostly due to sales, property taxes are crushing for a family with five children, has a full-time job at Procter and Gamble, and a part-time job at a business owned by family, makes $50,000 per year, has not lived in Geneva for over eleven years and has mostly large areas of overspending in the budget, while none disagree with the goals of a quality and safe education, do disagree with the millions spent that do not contribute to those goals including at least 500 non-teaching jobs and four assistant superintendents, the Board needs to reduce the number of non-teaching jobs, the Board needs to trim this year’s budget before it is approved, agree with the idea of a citizen financial group to aid in future district planning and budgeting and it should be a priority; have children at the high school and just paid $930 in supplemental fees for his students, agree with the sentiments expressed regarding out of control spending and believe there is a disconnect about managing finances, property taxes are higher and according to a Wall Street Journal article, government, education and health services are the only sectors of the economy unaffected, Board needs a spending reality check, moderation in the budget, and expenditures should be reduced without impacting education; have five children enrolled in the district and have organized an A&E support group, we are a constituency in the school district and believe that the recommended improvements in the A&E program can be made without cost and hope for the recommendations to be implemented; have lived in Geneva for over eleven years and have mostly excellent experiences with the school district, have one special needs child who, despite her challenges and with support that they had to advocate hard for, has risen to levels which no one would have thought possible, they have always supported referendums and have adjusted the family budget in order to pay for quality programs, instruction, and buildings, with program cuts at the state and federal level, her special needs child will have to rely on her education to become independent, her hours and income have been cut by ten percent and in reviewing the proposed budget, it appears that the only line item decrease was in special services, we need to work together to maintain our excellent programs while living within our means as we move through this economy - so reduce the budget without impacting special services’ funds and special needs students; Geneva resident and electronic company owner, also served on a Board of Directors in the past, challenge the Board members to remember that their first responsibility is to those who elected them and that they need to be responsible to the taxpayers, has seen an 83% increase in taxes in one year, appealed it was only cut back to 65%, understands that the Board of Education does not set property assessments, but they do set the limits for
those who do, so please be responsible when approving the budget; do not advocate reducing the teachers’ salaries in Geneva but does oppose wasteful spending in Geneva’s schools, operating fund is in deficit, total revenue for 09/10 will increase due to the 4.7% tax levy and enrollment is only up by two students, object to administrator salary and raises which have increased $300,000 in two years, and which would pay for six additional teachers, percentage of school taxes on an average home is 4.699%, in 2010 all property taxes will be down in assessed value, encourage all taxing bodies to reduced their budgets, recommend the immediate formation of a community committee to go over the school district’s budget line-by-line to reduce all expenses as the responsible thing to do, know and trust that the Board members will do the right thing; nineteen-year Geneva resident, thank the Board for the work they do and believe they do take all citizen comments and budget decisions seriously, chose to locate in Geneva because the schools are so strong and thankful for the school district in Geneva and know that the Board members will be thoughtful, reasonable, and respectful, as they always have been; do not agree that the Board should hire community members to serve on a financial committee, there are many in the community who would volunteer to serve, the formation of a community financial committee may help with credibility and would like to see everyone work together so that Geneva doesn’t lose what we’ve worked so hard over the years to achieve in Geneva’s schools; commended all in attendance for coming to the meeting tonight because there are usually only four or five community members in attendance and those who do attend usually only come when they have specific concerns, in a democratic process, the community should be involved all of the time, the school board members are not compensated for what they do, they are volunteers dedicated to doing what is in the best interest of Geneva’s students as well as the taxpayers, they are capable and if given the opportunity to do their job, we will all be proud of their work.

6. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATIONS
6.1 2009/2010 Staffing Recommendations
The Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services reviewed the additional elementary staffing recommendations. He reported that since June, the administration has been closely monitoring student enrollment at the elementary level. As reported at June and July board meetings, the administration would bring forward staffing recommendations and seek Board approval should enrollment at any one grade create the need for an additional section. At this time, it is recommended that one section (from three to four) be added at the second-grade level at Harrison Street Elementary School due to the high number of special need students enrolled in this grade. There are currently 73 registered students in second grade at Harrison and it is probable that additional enrollment growth could occur by the start of the school year. It is also recommended that one section of fifth grade (from three to four) be added at Heartland due to high class sizes. There are 84 registered fifth-grade students resulting in 28 students per class. Typically, fifth-grade class size is 24-26 students. In addition, it is recommended that a special education assistant be hired at Heartland Elementary School to comply with the Individualized Education Plan (IEP), which calls for a special education assistant during the school day to assist with a variety of educational tasks, for a recently enrolled student. If approved, the selection/hiring process for the two additional elementary positions would be completed by Monday, August 17, candidate recommendations would be included in the August 24th Personnel Report, and both new teachers would be in place by the start of the 2009/2010 academic year. Funding for the three additional positions would come from the 09/10 staff contingency line item which begins this fiscal year with a balance of $150,000. The staff contingency is used each year to respond to unexpected enrollment fluctuations and to students moving into the district who require a special education assistant. Cost for adding these three positions is projected at $115,000, leaving $35,000 in the contingency fund for the remainder of 2009/2010.

Board member comments, questions, discussion: when the contingency funds are gone, would new students be placed in other buildings (unlikely, generally, the administration waits until just prior to the start of the school year to bring additional staffing recommendations, and the District is mandated by law to meet the needs of special education students); we must comply with special education law to meet the needs of special ed students (correct, and it is most cost effective to meet their needs in a mainstream program); want to say that the Board does think about spending and budget and tries to spend thoughtfully; approximately 66% of the second grade students at Harrison have special needs (correct, there were four, first-grade sections at Harrison last year and the numbers have held steady); the staffing contingency amount was already cut in the 2009/2010 budget and it is not unusual to see more special education students move in during the year, so maybe this line item needs to be looked at; is it customary for teacher assistants to be assigned to these classrooms (more often than not but only for special education requirements); has the contingency fund always been $150,000 (for the past six to seven years, it has been $200,000 but we have never had to expend all the funds from this account, it was reduced in the 2009/2010 budget and the administration believes that $150,000 is an adequate amount for this academic year); with the reduction in the staff contingency fund in this budget, we are left with only $35,000 for the remainder of the year, if we need more money, are there other funds we’d be able to use (yes, but it would show as a deficit in this fund and we would need to repay the other fund account or accounts).
Motion by Wilson, second by Nowak, to approve the additional staffing positions for 2009/2010, as presented.
On roll call, Ayes, 5 (five), Juby, Moran, Nowak, Wilson, Stith.  Nays, two (2), Grosso, Henry.  Motion carried.

7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 2009/2010 Board PTO Presentation Schedule

Board members reviewed the 2009/2010 P.T.O. meeting schedules and determined which members would attend which P.T.O. building meetings. The information will be incorporated into a final document for the Board’s review. When the final document is completed, the information will be provided to the P.T.O. presidents and building principals.

8. INFORMATION

8.1 FOIA Requests & Responses

No discussion.

9. CONSENT AGENDA


New Hires Certified

Heinz, Korin, GHS, Spanish, .40 FTE, Start Date 8/24/09
Oxler, Amanda, GHS, Math, .40 FTE, Start Date 8/24/09

Reappointments Certified

Korus, Amy, FES/MCS, Kindergarten Booster/Resource Teacher, 1.0 FTE (.50/.50)

Reclassifications

Perry, Tina, MCS Kindergarten Booster/Resource Teacher to MCS Resource Teacher, 1.0 FTE

Resignations Support Staff

Humbert, Jaimie, WAS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, Effective 6/3/09

Reappointments/Reclassifications Support Staff

Snook, Mary Ann, Elementary Vision/Hearing Screening (Registered Nurse), 200 hours, 9 Month

9.2 Amend 2009/2010 Calendar of School Board Meetings

9.3 Disposition of Executive Session Minutes January through June 2009

Discussion, comments, questions: clarification regarding the new certified staff hires (math is a replacement position, Spanish is an increase but resulted in no change to the total FTE at the high school, this information was presented in June); clarification regarding disposition of executive session minutes/recorded executive session minutes.

Motion by Nowak, second by Wilson, to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 through 9.3, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Moran, Nowak, Wilson, Grosso, Henry, Juby, Stith.  Nays, none (0).  Motion carried unanimously.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Board members commented on the success of the Geneva Academic Foundation’s Viva Geneva event which exceeded their goal, was a great idea for a fund raiser which included Geneva’s merchants, and were impressed and proud of those who volunteered to work at the event and of those who gave financially in these economic times; the Policy Committee met for the second time and Board members were asked to contact the Policy Committee Chair if they are aware of any outstanding policies that still need to be cleaned up; a new member expressed disappointment that the Brundige Road project was shelved at the July meeting and did not appear on this agenda and frustration at not yet receiving the information he requested regarding this project (it was suggested that he meet with the Assistant Superintendent Business Services to get the information he wants); kudos to the Director of Facilities & Operations and his secretary for all their work organizing the Operation & Maintenance welcome back/appreciation event which was very well attended and for inviting the Board President to speak; attendance by the President and a new board member last weekend at an Illinois Association of School Boards’ new board member workshop regarding school district finance and budgets, they will share information and documents from the workshop with the other board members.
11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION
Comments from the public included: appreciate the Board members’ efforts and work and do understand that they are not paid for the work they do and have adhered to not addressing specific board members during public comments.

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS
None.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC BODY AND DELIBERATIONS CONCERNING SALARY SCHEDULES FOR ONE OR MORE CLASSES OF EMPLOYEES
At 9:01 p.m., motion by Nowak, second by Juby, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body and deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Nowak, Wilson, Grosso, Henry, Juby, Moran, Stith. Nays, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

At 9:08 p.m., the Recording Secretary was excused from the meeting.

At 9:08 p.m., following a break for the room to clear, the Board moved into executive session.

At 9:23 p.m., the Assistant Superintendent Business Services left executive session and the meeting.

At 9:35 p.m., the Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services left executive session and the meeting.

At 9:40 p.m., the Superintendent was excused from executive session. At 10:13 p.m., the Superintendent was asked to return to executive session.

At 10:25 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Henry, and with unanimous consent, the Board returned to open session.

14. ACTION POSSIBLE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION
No action was taken.

15. ADJOURNMENT
At 10:26 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Juby, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED August 24, 2009____________________________________________________________PRESIDENT

____________________________________________________________RECORDINGSECRETARY

____________________________________________________________RECORDINGSECRETARY

Mary Stith

SECRETARY