



**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, February 11, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Coultrap Educational Services Center, 227 North Fourth Street, Geneva, Illinois

**1. CALL TO ORDER (Bylaws 0163 & 0164)**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by President Grosso.

Board members present: Taylor Egan, Policy Committee Chair Leslie Juby, Finance Committee Chair Dave Lamb, Mike McCormick, Vice President Kelly Nowak, Mary Stith, President Mark Grosso. Late: None. Absent: None.

The President welcomed everyone, reminded them to sign the attendance record, and the Vice-President lead them in the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Tom Rogers, Principal Geneva High School; Laura Sprague, Communications Coordinator; Dr. Dean Romano, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Assistant Superintendent of Learning & Teaching; Dr. Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others: Jessica Breugelmans, Brigid Buchman, Jill Johnson, Jason Davis, Dave Blatchley, Karina Villa, Susanna Watson, Kim Wilson, Andrea Preston, Bryan & Amy Fuller, Ken & Chris Japlon, Jennifer Mesmer, Lisa Harkins, Michelle Langworthy, Emily Erickson, Rick Herwaldt, Claire Nowak, Veronica Ayars, Katie Ellis, Evan Fenne, Mary Kassel, Teodoro (JJ) Santiago, Annika Templin, Jessica Palmisano, Neil Shipton, Charlotte Davis, Alyssa Del Giudice, Emma Fuller, Lauren Gies, Katherine Japlon, Lily Karlson, Kelli Kaufman, Fiona McManus, Emily Mundry, Kasey Murphy, Madeline ORourke, Ashley Pender, Victoria Preston, Ella Schamberger, Samantha Scolaro, Kyla Sheridan, Sydney Sheridan, Jillian Twitty, Jeanine Wagner, Amanda Werner.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Bylaw 0168.1)**

- 2.1 Regular Session, January 28, 2019
- 2.2 Executive Session, January 28, 2019

Motion by Nowak, second by McCormick, to approve the above-listed minutes, items 2.1-2.2. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Egan, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

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

- 3.1 Tradition of Excellence Award: Geneva Students (Policy 5451)  
Varsity Dance Team

ILMEA All-State Music Festival

Veronica Ayars  
Chloe Clausen  
Annika Templin

Katie Ellis  
Evan Feene

Mary Kassel  
Teodoro (JJ) Santiago

Dance Team State Qualifiers

Charlotte Davis  
Alyssa Del Giudice  
Emma Fuller  
Lauren Gies  
Katherine Japlon  
Lily Karlson  
Kelli Kaufman

Fiona McManus  
Emily Mundry  
Kasey Murphy  
Madeline ORourke  
Ashley Pender  
Victoria Preston  
Ella Schamberger

Samantha Scolaro  
Kyla Sheridan  
Sydney Sheridan  
Jillian Twitty  
Jeanine Wagner  
Amanda Werner

3.2 FY 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report/Audit (CAFR), Scott Duenser (Klein, Hall & Associates, LLC)

Scott Duenser from Klein, Hall & Associates presented information on the 2018 CAFR. He shared that all data collection forms have been submitted to a Federal clearing house and all compliance documents should be up-to-date now. There was one big change this year, which is one of the reasons why this presentation is later this year. There was a governmental accounting standard that was in effect for the year end June 30, 2018 related to post-employment benefits. The biggest one was the Teachers Health Insurance Security (THIS). In the past, there was only a liability related to this fund. The effect of this reduced that asset in 2018 by just over \$41 million. This is not a new liability, it just was not calculated or allocated by districts. The correct, up-to-date numbers have been recorded in the CAFR. This liability does not affect your fund balances. The good news is that there are no new liabilities hanging out there.

Board comments, questions, concerns: We typically get this report in the same year, but it was late because of the new standard? (Correct.) We've taken a hit with TRS and THIS, do you see anything else on the horizon? (I can't imagine another financial liability any time soon.)

3.3 Sodexo Food Service Elementary Snack Presentation – Rick Herwaldt

Rick Herwaldt shared that his job is to enhance the food program, so when parents and students asked, he responded. He made sure that when they looked at the healthy snacks program that they met the State guidelines. There were conversations with building administrators to get their approval for this program before kicking it off at Heartland Elementary. The program is now in all six elementary buildings. An email was sent out to parents at each school prior to the program beginning. There were some snack items that needed to be re-evaluated, but over all, they felt they met the needs of both the students and parents.

Board comments, questions, concerns: Was the intended purpose of this program to be a supplement for lunch or to provide snacks, because I've heard rumblings that it presents an obstacle for students who bring their lunch? Wondering if it might be better to be a snack rather than presented at lunchtime? (Parents gave feedback indicating that they liked that their children could purchase a snack for an after-school program or supplement their lunch.) How many students are buying snacks? (Out of 2,700 students, about one third participate. Our best days are at the end of the week.) Is this like lunch, where they use their thumb to purchase? (Yes, however we did have to put a limit on how much they could purchase. During spring break, we will be upgrading our system so that we can tag a student if they are not allowed to purchase specific items at the middle school and high school levels. We hope this will run smoothly, however we know that's not always the case.) Has the feedback from the building leadership been positive? (There's been no negative feedback.)

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Policy 1210)**

The Superintendent shared that kindergarten enrollment is taking place, and we are encourage parents to sign up. The weather is a constant concern, so we are monitoring it carefully. There is no

school on February 18<sup>th</sup> for President's Day. February 28<sup>th</sup> is a half day for Parent/Teacher Conferences, and March 1<sup>st</sup> if the County Wide Institute Day.

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

### **5.1 2019-2020 School Calendar**

Board comments, questions, concerns: About 70% of those who completed the survey were in favor of the old calendar. We would like to see a hybrid of the two calendars at some point. I liked that conferences were earlier with the new calendar but did not like that students would have the entire week of Thanksgiving off followed by two weeks at Christmas. I like the idea of starting school after Labor Day. We might need to get creative and collaborate to find ways to add days. There are concerns academically, because the request to look at a new calendar was based on the significantly shorter first semester. By accepting the administrations recommendation, we will have time to further discuss this topic in future years. Don't really see the difference of when finals are for first semester. The traditional calendar does create inequity in respect to the semesters. I also like the idea of starting after Labor Day. The biggest issue is that we need to provide parents with enough time to plan. We need to have a healthy work/life balance for the students as we do ourselves. Would like to see the Calendar Committee look for some efficiencies within our current calendar instead of shortening the summer.

Motion by McCormick, second by Nowak, to approve the above-listed 2019-2020 school calendar, item 5.1. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Egan, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

### **5.2 FY 2018 Annual Financial Report (AFR)**

Motion by Lamb, second by Nowak, to approve the above-listed FY 2018 AFR, item 5.3. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Egan, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

### **5.3 FY 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report/Audit (CAFR), Scott Duenser (Klein, Hall & Associates, LLC)**

Motion by Juby, second by Egan, to approve the above-listed FY 2018 CAFR, item 5.4. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Egan, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

## **6. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION**

## **7. INFORMATION**

7.1 Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule

7.2 FOIA Requests

7.3 Out-of-State Trip Requests

## **8. CONSENT AGENDA (Bylaw 0166.1)**

8.1 Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE, New Hires (Policies 1520, 3120, 4120)

### Family and Medical Leave Certified Staff

Morrison, Mark, HSS, Grade 2, 1.0 FTE, effective 1/29/19-intermittent

### New Hires Support Staff

Ramos, Maria "Suzy", CO, Administrative Assistant Human Resources, 12-month, effective 2/7/19

### Family and Medical Leave

Arnold, Michelle, GMSS, Special Ed Assistant, 9-month, effective 3/18/19-4/1/19

### Resignations Support Staff

Vazzano, Sam, CO, Grounds, 12-month, effective 1/30/19

Byas, Jody, MCS, Special Education Assistant, 9-month, effective 2/26/19

8.2 2018-2019 School Calendar Updated

8.3 Title I 1003(a) School Improvement Grant

8.4 2019-2020 Sodexo Food Service Contract

8.5 Approval of Prospective Real Estate Development Tax Rebate Incentive Offer

Motion by Lamb, second by Stith, to approve the above-listed items 8.1-8.4. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Egan, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

## 9. 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.*

A parent shared her concerns regarding the school calendar, saying she is in favor of the calendar we call "old faithful". Children today have so many concessions against their childhood in school, starting with all day kindergarten and pushing aside a time that should be meant for social, emotional and creative development. Never mind the rising concern of childhood obesity, anxiety and depression. Never mind that none of these concessions justify the cost. Ending summer mid-August is another concession. Instead, in mid-August children should still be swimming, playing with family and friends, at the beach or riding bikes. Changing the calendar also harms the environment. The hotter the weather, the more harmful the pollution. Running our buildings with the air conditioner on in August is far more damaging than in June. Also, the emission from the cars and buses is much higher during the hot summer months. Please consider the "old faithful" calendar and stop chipping away at the small bits of childhood.

Another parent shared her concerns regarding the school calendar, saying she is also in favor of "old faithful". The main issue would be what to do with this summer, since it would be shorter than the typical summer. AP exams run until May 15<sup>th</sup> and final exams end on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, so there is a small window for seniors who must take finals to get everything in to be able to graduate. It's not good to put this much pressure on students. Also, there is the concern of how graduation would be affected if there are snow days. Many students have plans immediately following graduation, so please consider keeping with tradition.

An elementary parent shared her concerns regarding the snack program. She has had a lot of frustration with the snack program. Lunchtime is not a time for snacking, and she is concerned with what kind of message we are sending to the students. Her son likes to purchase the Capri Sun and fruit snacks, but then does not eat all his lunch. There have been complaints from the art teacher about her son, which was strange, because there was never a problem before. It occurred to her that with his choices at lunch he is hopped up on sugar with not much else in his stomach. There could be better choices such as bananas or low sugar yogurt. One problem with this program is that parent cannot see what their child is purchasing, only what it costs. With Push Coin, you must add \$35 to the account and that can buy a lot of fruit snacks. It would be nice if we could shut down the program completely, but if not, then better choices would be nice.

State Representative Karina Villa shared that she spoke with the Superintendent earlier in the day to address issues from the community about the protestor at the high school who has been addressing and videotaping students. This is inflicting unnecessary stress on the students during the school day. She is here to help in any way she can and will work with local village officials, law enforcement and school administration to make sure that this situation is handled appropriately and that the gentleman takes his political thoughts somewhere else.

Principal Rogers shared that the high school has been frustrated with this protestor as well. In a letter that went out to parents, we wanted everyone to know that the safety of the students is our first priority. It was decided that if the protestor was going to be a frequent visitor, that we needed to put some things in place. After speaking with the Police Department, we found that we didn't have a lot of options and were going to need to be more creative. This plan included students entering through the gymnasium, parents dropping off on Logan and administrators ushering students away from the protestor. We would like to tell him to leave, however, he is exercising his first amendment rights. He has also been wearing a Go Pro on his vest to video tape. We have had two students confront him, but if we do our best to ignore him, then maybe he will get frustrated and go elsewhere. Parents felt that they should counter protest, however, we were not in agreement with this. Parents have every

right to exercise their rights as well, and we cannot stop them, but we have voiced our concerns if they should decide to do so.

**10. 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, Geneva Coalition for Youth, PRIDE, Fox Valley Career Center, IASB/Legislative, IASB Kishwaukee Governing Board*

The Communications Task Force met, and the new Goals Booklet has been released. They also went over initiatives that they had finished. Other topics discussed were about people they had reached out to and the relationships that have come out of that, the data dashboard, social media and safe schools tip line. A Board member attended the O&M Committee meeting for the first time. A shout out to our aldermen, mayor and city officials on e-cigarettes ordinances and how intergovernmental bodies come together. The upcoming IASB Kishwaukee dinner meeting will be an opportunity for professional development and networking. It's unfortunate that the Board Candidate forum is the same evening, and that the candidates will not have an opportunity to network. Candidates are encouraged to speak with current Board members to gain a better understanding of what's happening in the district. The Coalition for Youth, who offered a program called Chic Chat, has for the first time included a program for boys. There were 35 boys who participated, and we hope this program will continue to grow. There is a middle school program that will be coming up soon. Thank you to Laura, Andy and team for listening to the Board's concerns about the proposed calendars. They got the survey out quickly to help us come to the best conclusion for the district. The Facilities Task Force had their 7-year Capital Improvement Plan presented at the Finance Committee this evening. Many projects have been postponed, but we are now to the point that we will need to address these projects. Quality control was not at its best when some buildings were built, and that is concerning. Board members are working to put together some information sessions for new candidates running for the Board. These sessions will give candidates the opportunity to talk to current Board members and district administrators.

**11. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC BODY AND ITS EMPLOYEES OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES [5 ILCS 120/(c)(2)]; THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)]. (Bylaw 0167.2)**

At 8:27 p.m., motion by McCormick second by Juby, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives; the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Egan, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, and Grosso. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

At 9:44 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:45 p.m., motion by McCormick, second by Egan, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED February 25, 2019  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_ PRESIDENT

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_

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