

**GENEVA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 304  
227 NORTH FOURTH STREET, GENEVA, ILLINOIS  
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF A BOARD RETREAT SESSION  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District Number 304 met in a Board Retreat session on Saturday, October 25, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. at Coultrap Educational Services Center, 227 North Fourth Street, Geneva, Illinois.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- 1.1 Roll Call
- 1.2 Welcome
- 1.3 Pledge
- 1.4 Reminder to Sign Attendance Record

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Grosso.

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.

District administrators present: Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent

Others present: None

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**3. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS**

The meeting began with a discussion of some common themes and of the rapid changes in Illinois public education in recent years due largely to the political climate of the State and Federal levels. Common themes discussed in our district recently included the role of the Board in educational leadership, recent unfunded State and Federal mandates, the work of staff balancing those mandates and to best impact students in a productive way, helping students learn and develop skills preparing them for the future, Board leadership through committees and task forces, and some examples of rapid changes in our world. One such example of rapid change was that in 2007 our district had 10 wireless access points, and now we have 402 wireless access points. Other change areas of note included the Common Core Curriculum Standards, the newly implemented evaluation framework, testing changed totally through the state moving to PARCC, and possible legislation that could impact Geneva 304.

**3.1 Goals Update Discussion**

**3.1.1 Learning & Teaching**

New to our district this year were full-day kindergarten, the new level of Collaborative Teaching Project, 5<sup>th</sup> grade technology with 1-to-1 computer to student ratio, Eureka Math in its second year, the expansion of PLC's, the expansion of Project Lead the Way, the Virtual Enterprise class at the high school, and K-8 MAP testing. In the area of assessments, we are taking a look at other items including continuing to have students take the ACT, compliance with PERA, defining three different types of assessments within the State standards, common assessments at the secondary level and the study of AP expansion and effectiveness. Also in the near future, we will be working to incorporate the new science standards across our curriculum. Board comments and discussion affirmed work in these areas for the future and involved topics including the purpose of homework, the possibility of virtual classes, meeting the

needs of all of our students, the importance of transitions, and continual course and curriculum adjustments.

3.1.2 High Quality Staff

The Board was presented with the information regarding the PERA Act, the Teaching Instructional Framework, the role of the evaluation committee, the role of the student growth committee, and the necessity of forming a joint committee to prepare for evaluation during the 2016/2017 school year. The major goals emphasized during this discussion included the recruitment and retention of quality staff, professional development to support quality staff, the process in updating contracts and work agreements with employees, and some possible impacts of the Affordable Care Act. The emphasis of this discussion was on setting goals that would allow the district to recruit and retain high quality staff and operate in a sustainable manner. The Board affirmed what the District has been doing, and emphasized the importance of our staff in their work with parents and students for the success of all students.

3.1.3 Operations, Maintenance, Safety and Transportation

The Board was presented with the goals of the district in working in these areas toward efficiency, effectiveness and preventative maintenance. The facility task force has worked with staff in an effort to formulate and update the O&M Capital Improvement Plan with prioritizing items and with keeping the Safety Plan on track for the future. Transportation was discussed with the goals of continuing to work toward efficiency in routes and buses and to continue to explore providing special education transportation for our students. These items will be discussed on a continual basis with periodic presentations provided to the Board to demonstrate progress in these areas.

3.2 Policies

No specific polices were discussed, however, the policy committee was commended on the work they have done and charged with continuing to update policies in the future.

3.3 December 1<sup>st</sup> Forum

Members discussed planning this forum with a similar format to the last one and providing two hours for discussions. There will be information put out to the public about this forum in the future. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear concerns from the public and to provide information about the district and will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Williamsburg Elementary School.

4. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:04p.m., motion by Wilson, second by McCormick, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED November 24, 2014  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY Kent Mutchler

\_\_\_\_\_

RECORDING  
SECRETARY