

**GENEVA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 304
227 NORTH FOURTH STREET, GENEVA, KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The Board of Education Finance Committee met at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 8, 2014, at Williamsburg Elementary School, 1812 Williamsburg Avenue, Geneva, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Bill Wilson.

Committee members present: Dave Lamb, Kelly Nowak, Bill Wilson, Tom Anderson

Staff present: Scott Ney, Director Facility Operations; Amy Campbell, District Safety/Security Supervisor; Elizabeth Janowiak, Director of Technology; Donna Oberg, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent

Others present: Mary Stith, Leslie Juby, Mark Grosso, Arnie Silvestri

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 November 10, 2014

Motion by Nowak, second by Lamb, to approve the minutes as presented. Ayes, three (3) Lamb, Nowak, Wilson. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Motion carried unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION

4.1 Preliminary Technology Plan Update

Elizabeth Janowiak, Director of Technology, presented a preliminary Technology Plan update to the Board. As part of our ongoing comprehensive tech plan, we provided portable devices to four hundred and eighty 5th graders, continued support of CTP groups, changed out our middle school team centers, and purchased devices and accessories for testing. Other improvements that have been upgraded are the GHS and middle school music labs, the GHS auditorium sound system, additional security cameras, additional wireless coverage points, replaced switches where needed, and battery backups at the middle schools. We would not be successful with all of the technology devices in the hands of students if we did not have the additional staffing that you approved. Overall we are still under budget for the year. There have been needs identified for 2015-2016:

- 6th grade portable devices and/or 4th grade portable devices
- Expanded support of CTP groups
- Maintain/increase digital resources
- Mack Olson gym sound system
- Library e-reader support
- Equipment replacements
- Security camera expansion
- Increased wireless coverage
- PoE Switches
- Firewall enhancements/redundancy
- Web Filter fail over
- Virtual servers/storage upgrades

The budget for these items is broken into three different areas that could total up to \$1,498,800 for 2015-2016. Other future considerations are e-mail services, financial/HR software, fiber connectivity to athletic fields, video distribution upgrades, and phone system upgrades.

Discussion, comments, questions: The Superintendent thanked Mrs. Janowiak and her staff for their work on this preliminary tech plan. Will the laptops that we purchased for Study Sync also be used for PARCC testing? (Any device that we purchase, or will purchase will meet PARCC compliance, so they could be used for PARCC testing.) PARCC testing is for K-8 and juniors? (We have made a change and freshman will be tested instead of juniors with PARCC.) Do we know how many hours this exam will be? (We do not know the exact hours and won't know until we actually go through the exam.) (It's actually grades 3-8 for PARCC and testing time is estimated around 9.5 hours.) We still have not heard from the state on possible test modifications or adaptations. They are not giving many guidelines on what we can do with students who have special needs or need special testing accommodations. We are looking at more than 3,000 students to take the PARCC test, and the State has not offered or invested any funding? (That is correct.) Our existing technology won't work? (It can, but when you have to test so many students, then you need more technology.) Through your work, if you had to choose between implementing 4th grade or 6th grade which would you choose? (I would choose 4th grade from a teacher's standpoint because there are more teachers in 4th who are more prepared. However, if I am saying from a student's standpoint then I would choose 6th grade because all of the 5th grade students have devices, and have been using them on a daily basis.) Are we starting to see middle school students utilize their own devices? (We currently have 10-12 teachers who are doing "bring your own technology" with their students. However, not every student has a device to bring. Those who do are bringing an array of devices. It might be a laptop, a phone, or an iPad, which makes it difficult for teachers to teach when the students are on different devices.) Do 5th grade devices leave the building? (The devices stay in the buildings with the students.) Would devices for freshman have similar rules? (We would actually see those devices going home. We would like to have devices going home for 5th grade but there are logistics and policies that need to be put into place first.) What is the life expectancy of the 5th grade devices? (The devices have a 3 year warranty and should last 3-4 years. We currently have about 13 devices needing repairs.) So this is a perpetual plan? (Yes, especially if we allow devices to go home.) Appreciate that we are making changes, however \$1.5 million is a lot of money. (Remember that this is just a proposal.) You said that you are under budget this year, so do you plan to spend the remaining funds? (There is a proposal out there for more devices at the high school.) We are getting good feedback with the 5th graders, but this means we have to talk contingency planning and funding for next year. We need to be looking at the whole picture. We need to be looking at the absolute critical needs. You will have a successor next year, is there anything that we should be thinking about? (Having this long range plan will show that we have a strategic plan in place.) Have there been any conversations about 6th grade or freshman students buying their own devices? (There have been discussions but most students have their own devices already. We have been investigating other districts and what they are doing in relation to devices.) Have we considered leasing the devices? (We have bought and kept devices but leasing is an option.) If all of our students will have a device, then leasing may make more sense. Are we fully able to support PARCC at this time? (Yes, provided we schedule carefully.) As we are looking forward to providing devices for another grade level, it would be nice to see some of the cost shared with the student. Leasing the devices is not much less than purchasing them outright, so we would

have to allocate funds every year to keep up with the lease. We also need to keep in mind when purchasing that we are also responsible for disposing of the devices, which may be a cost to the district. (We currently get money for recycling.)

4.2 Policy 6144, Investment Policy, **Revised**

There was one change to this policy, and it will be presented to the Board at their next meeting but wanted to give the finance committee a chance to make any additional changes. This policy will move forward to the Board.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 January

- 2nd Quarter Review
- Audit Presentation/Discussion
- PushCoin Update
- Bond Abatement Update
- MB Financial Bank Update

6. ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO FULL BOARD

7. INFORMATION

7.1 Legislative Update

Senate Bill16 has not met its demise so it will be back. We need to keep letting the legislators know how this impacts our District. If they do make the reallocation there will not be adequacy amongst districts. We need to be prepared for any decision.

8. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:02 p.m., motion by Nowak, second by Lamb, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED January 12, 2015
(Date)

William R. Wilson CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY Dr. Kent Mutchler

Bonnie J. Johnson RECORDING SECRETARY