



## 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, January 11, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at Williamsburg Elementary School, 1812 Williamsburg Avenue, 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 7:00 p.m. by President Grosso.

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

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

District staff present: Tom Rogers, GHS Principal; Kristy Poteete-Kriegermeier, Communications Coordinator; Dr. Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Donna Oberg, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: Dawn Lutz, Kaitlin Kanthak, Katelyn McBride, Scott Duenser.

#### 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.*

GHS student Kaitlin Kanthak presented to the Board on the high schools possible plan to add a second semester final for seniors. Students currently take five courses per semester and a minimum of 35 finals and projects by the end of their first semester. She is uncertain how another exam will help to prepare them for college. It would be in the best interest of students to focus more on the quality of the exams rather than the quantity. It would be better if seniors could be done with exams after the first semester and focus more on something that the student feels is important to preparing for college or life in general, like balancing a checkbook. As seniors, what we get wrong on the final exam, you can't reteach us because we will be in college, and we can't learn from what we get wrong, because we will have graduated. In college, you are promised that your requirements to get a degree will not change. In the agenda, that you give us every year, it states that seniors don't take final exams in the second semester. This should be honored, and if you choose to reinstate finals in the second semester for seniors that it begin with the incoming freshman for the 2016-2017 school year.

Board comments, questions, discussion: You are going to find that as you go through life, you are going to take more exams, and as you move into the workforce your boss is always going to have one more thing for you to do. You won't get to take it easy, and you're not going to get to sleep in.

This is coming from 40 plus years of experience. You might want to look at it through the lens that it's preparing you to go out into the world. You definitely made some good points, and we will take your comments into consideration.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Bylaw 0168.1)**

#### **3.1 Regular Session, December 7, 2015**

Motion by McCormick, second by Nowak, to approve the above-listed minutes, item 3.1 as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, one (1), Wilson.

### **4. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **4.1 GHS Semester Planning**

GHS Principal Tom Rogers presented to the Board information on a recommendation from the GHS Final Exam Study Committee. During the 2014-2015 school year, this committee formed to evaluate questions relating to final exams at GHS. The committee sought input and feedback from a variety of stakeholders and sources. Recommendations that the committee has are: 1) Continue to embrace multiple ways of assessing students at the end of each semester, and refer to these assessments not as "final exams" but rather as "final assessments"; 2) That all students take final assessments at the conclusion of each semester with seniors beginning to take spring semester final assessments at the conclusion of the spring 2017 semester; 3) That GHS conclude the first semester, including final assessments, prior to winter break beginning with the 2016-2017 school year; 4) That we maintain the current 20% weighting of final assessments; 5) That we maintain our existing three day final assessment schedule at the conclusion of each semester. As we continue to look for different avenues to help our students become more complex, creative, and adaptive thinkers, the committee feels that the recommendations will be very positive for our students. The committee is seeking support as they continue to seek feedback and evaluate this shift over the course of the next year.

Board comments, questions, discussion: This is something that we saw coming. In regards to 1<sup>st</sup> semester being shorter, it will be a more intensive 1<sup>st</sup> semester to get exams in before winter break. In regards to seniors not taking 2<sup>nd</sup> semester finals, there is no feedback from colleges. College's number one concern is that students are not prepared for college. We need to get rid of "final exam" and instead use "end of year assessment". This should be addressed with students. Kaitlyn did make some great points, and maybe we should not have a final exam but more of a final service project. Congratulations to Kaitlyn for standing up and speaking out. Don't agree with everything that she presented, but do agree with some important issues. It needs to be known that we do not make snap decisions. A lot of time and research goes into making sure that our decisions are what is best for our students.

### **5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Policy 1210)**

The Superintendent reported that semester exams will be Wednesday through Friday of this week. We also have a half day of school on Friday to work on our School Improvement Plan and professional development. Monday there is no school due to Martin Luther King Day recognition.

Dr. Andy Barrett reported information on SAT vs. ACT and ACCESS testing for ELL students. These are examples of many of the challenges we are facing with the uncertainty coming from the State level. A point was made that we put a lot of effort into decisions that we make. We may not have a State budget until next year, and this makes it hard for us to make decisions as proactively as we would like. There are a lot of unfunded mandates as well. They continue to be requirements, but there is no funding from the State level. ISBE has chosen SAT over ACT for the college entrance exam. This has been appealed by the company behind ACT. We had to make the decision to give the ACT and to fund it. We know that ACT is supported, because most universities and colleges in the Midwest accept the ACT over SAT. The SAT is going to drastically change next spring and will be more of a Common Core based test. This throws us off on our longitudinal data. The ACCESS test is an assessment that we are required to give to our ELL students. The change is this assessment has required more work on the part of our staff in giving the assessment. Teachers must go through 6-8 hours of training and are now required to grade part of the assessment. There is also

KIDS (Kindergarten Individual Developmental Survey) that is to be given to kindergartners to determine if they are ready for kindergarten. The State Superintendent made this his top priority. Again, this has created more work for our staff with no additional state funding.

Board comments, questions, discussion: If kindergartners don't pass KIDS, then what happens? (They remain in kindergarten where we are meeting their needs.) When all day kindergarten was adopted, we took on the MAP testing. This new exam really feels unnecessary. An issue that is coming up in education is assessment fatigue, because we are giving so many assessments. This sounds like it's more of an issue with ISBE? (It is. Staffing at ISBE is very slim.) What happens if we don't give the exam? (Not sure. Maybe it could affect funding?) We talked about local control and how we know what's best for our students. We need to be able to pick and choose what assessments our students receive. The best way to be heard is to contact our local legislators.

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

- 6.1 FY 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), Donna Oberg & Klein, Hall & Associates, LLC

The Superintendent thanked Mr. Duenser and Donna Oberg for their hard work on the CAFR. This audit provides the District with useful data that we can track over time in a comprehensive fashion. Mr. Duenser reported to the Board the results of the audit and that the District will be applying for the Certificate of Excellence again this year. The results of this audit can be found on BoardBook.

Board comments, questions, discussion: The GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) 68 is just a change in recording and doesn't change the finances of the district correct? (Correct.)

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

### **8. INFORMATION**

- 8.1 Suspension Report (Policy 5610)  
8.2 FOIA Requests  
8.3 Out-of-State Field Trip Requests (Policy 2340)

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

- 9.1 Monthly Financial Reports & Interfund Transfers  
9.2 Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE, New Hires (Policies 1520, 3120, 4120)

#### Family and Medical Leave Certified Staff

Flaks, Chrissa, GMSS, Music, 1.0 FTE, effective 3/24/16-8/22/16

Vargas-Herbst, Michelle, GHS, Psychologist, 1.0 FTE, effective 1/12/16-2/24/16

#### New Hires Support Staff

Kern, Donna, Garage, Bus Driver, 9 month, effective 12/11/15

Kastor, Heather, CO, Payroll Specialist, 12 month, effective 1/11/16

#### Resignations Support Staff

Burke, Danielle, HES, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 12/18/15

Moore, Randy, CO, Web Application Specialist, 10 month, effective 1/15/16

LeBlanc, Stephanie, FS, Special Education Assistant, 9 month, effective 1/29/16

#### Family and Medical Leave Support Staff

Anthony, Donald, GHS, 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift Custodian, 12 month, effective 11/20/15-2/29/16

#### Added Position Support Staff

Full-time Special Education Instructional Assistant at GMSN to support 8<sup>th</sup> grade student

- 9.3 Resolution for Reduction in Force of Sub Caller  
9.4 Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$338,000, Fabyan Foundation, \$200,000 for Fabyan Foundation Scholarships and \$138,000 for Technology (Policy 7230)  
9.5 Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$250, HES Parent Donation, for purchase of a camera

Motion by McCormick, second by Stith, to approve the above-listed items 9.1 – 9.3 as presented. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Nowak, Stith, Wilson, Grosso. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

**10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION**  
None.

**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 GAF Karaoke Night is Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at Evenflo Music & Spirits at 7 p.m. At their last meeting, the GAF created a strategic plan to pull together. It would be good for them to meet with the Superintendent to discuss their new plan. The Facility Task Force met last Monday. The capital plan that Scott Ney presented at the Finance meeting is still preliminary. Task force members have made visits to schools to determine their needs. We are close to moving Board meetings to the Coultrap Educational Services Center. The targeted date to move is February 8<sup>th</sup> which is the first Board meeting of the month.

**12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC BODY AND ITS EMPLOYEES OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)]. (Bylaw 0167.2)**

There was no need for executive session.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:20 p.m., motion by Wilson, second by Nowak, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED January 25, 2016  
(Date)

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PRESIDENT

SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_

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RECORDING  
SECRETARY