



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

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2016, at Williamsburg Elementary School, 1812 Williamsburg Avenue, Geneva, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Committee Chair Juby.

Committee members present: Leslie Juby, Mike McCormick, Mary Stith.

District staff present: Shonette Sims, Director Learning & Teaching; Donna Oberg, Assistant Superintendent Business Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: Elise Hoffsuemmer.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Elise Hoffsuemmer provided comments regarding the entrance age policy for kindergartners and that it should be less exclusive than simply by the date that the child turns five and that the policy should not be changed as there should be allowances for students to start younger.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 October 26, 2015

Motion by Stith, second by Juby, the minutes were approved as presented. McCormick abstained.

4. DISCUSSION / POSSIBLE FUTURE CONSIDERATION

4.1 Policy 5112, Entrance Age, **Revised**

Dr. Barrett explained that the striking of the early admittance age is due to the specification of the law for the State of Illinois, although the law allows the districts to have flexibility on this, and the transitions to the new Common Core Standards making kindergarten more demanding, meaning younger students are less likely to be prepared to deal with the academic rigors of kindergarten. All-day kindergarten is more demanding on kids from a length of school day perspective, and older kids tend to do better. Because of that, the guideline provides a standard for kindergarten entry that seems consistent across the state and certainly is used by other school districts in our area. Dr. Barrett went on to explain that one child in the last four years had entered kindergarten younger than the standard date provided and that we know that we may have kids that need this, but we think students are better served once we know them. Allowing them into kindergarten at an earlier age does not seem to help either us or the students in this process. As far as other school districts in the area, those that have half-day programs may allow early entry to kindergarten but those that have full-day kindergarten do not.

Questions, comments, concerns: If we believe in individual student's educational needs and have accelerated them, then do you think area preschools are serving students well? (Yes, they seem to be serving them well, but we really don't know what students are capable of until they are in our school district. Also, in this regard, we have students entering kindergarten with a whole range of skills so we work with them. We also communicate with local preschools about expectations for students entering kindergarten.) So, by striking this language, we are removing child by child testing and are working with kids individually once they are in the system? (Yes.) So, are we asking why this change would be a problem for

parents? (Parent: We feel that some kids, who miss the deadline by a couple of weeks, might not get to go with their peers to school. Also, the rich can afford private kindergarten, so these kids have an advantage due to money.) (That being said we are always aware that some may miss a deadline. We look to our staff as experts. Unfortunately, there will always be people wanting an exception. Please have a good dialogue with Dr. Barrett, and we hope you can continue to talk with him. You are certainly invited to bring your concerns to the full Board at the next meeting and any meeting where this issue comes up.) (Parent: It seems unfair to change the rules now, and limit this for kids.) We had asked Dr. Barrett to find out about preschools, and how all-day kindergarten made more demands along with a common core curriculum. Suggest that you go to the preschool to voice concerns also. One student in four years is a very small exception. (Parent: Parents with gifted children should have this opportunity as well.)

Motion by McCormick, second by Stith, and with unanimous consent, Policy 5112 will be moved to the full Board for approval.

4.2 Policy 5463, Credits From Non-District Schools, **Revised**

It was suggested to change one word and strike a few words so that this policy reflects accurately current practice. We don't want the policy to limit us to non-district or non-public.

Can we link the reference to Illinois State Standards? (Yes.) What evidence is accepted? (A transcript.) Does this have anything to do with homeschooling? (No.)

Motion by Stith, second by McCormick, and with unanimous consent, Policy 5830 will be moved to the full Board for approval.

4.3 Policy 5830, Student Fund-Raising, **Revised**

This policy brings consistency to our practices and to the link with 9700.

Can you provide this link in the policy? (Yes. And a reminder that this impacts during school hours.)

Motion by McCormick, second by Stith, and with unanimous consent, Policy 5830 will be moved to the full Board for approval.

4.4 Policy 8431, Preparedness for Toxic Hazard and Asbestos, **Revised**

This reflects the MSDS sheets and protocol with the updates.

This seems to refer only to labs. Do you want it less open ended? Does this make for more of a liability for the district? Is the hygiene and toxic officer the same person? (No. One is Scott Ney and the other is Tim Jones.) Is "will attempt" strong enough? (We should make sure this complies with the law.) Should we add "community members" to the language? Can an employee opt out of applying pesticides? (No. Especially if they agreed to and received the training for pesticide application.)

This policy was sent back to the policy for more responses to questions.

4.5 Policy 8500, Food Services, **Revised**

This item was tabled due to a lack of time and will be brought back at the next Policy meeting.

4.6 Policy 8540, Vending Machines, **New**

This item was tabled due to a lack of time and will be brought back at the next Policy meeting.

5. INFORMATION

6. OUTSTANDING POLICY CLEANUP & REVIEW

6.1 Series 3000 Professional Staff – Policies 3430 through 3430.08
<http://www.neola.com/genevacusd-il/search/policies/po3000.htm>

7. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:04 p.m., on a motion by McCormick, a second by Stith, and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED February 22, 2016
(Date)

(Leslie Juby) CHAIRPERSON

RECORDING
SECRETARY _____
(Dr. Kent Mutchler)