



**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, March 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Coultrap Educational Services Center, 227 North Fourth Street, Geneva, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER (Policy 2:220)

1. Roll Call
2. Welcome
3. Pledge
4. Reminder to sign attendance sheet

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Egan.

Board members present: President Taylor Egan, Vice President Mike McCormick, Larry Cabeen, Dan Choi, Policy Committee Chair Leslie Juby, Finance Committee Chair Dave Lamb, Alicia Saxton.
Late: None. Absent: None.

The President welcomed everyone and led them in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Others present: Heidi DeMarco, Martha Paschke, Tiffany Douglas, Emily Erickson, Ivette Bolender, Paula Merrington, Jeremy Paschke, Kim Martiny, Ashlee White, Tammy Prentiss, Gary VanBredon, Jean Smith, Lesley Vernald, Mike Majewski, Peggy Franz, Chiara Muscari, Aimee Spring, Kate Coxworth, Julieanne Zenz, Kristy Hemshrodt, Susan Evans, Stephanie Bellino, Alyssa Chudzick, Ingo Weigold, Josh Tate, Tyler Zenz, Alino Brigham, Bos Beicham, Hadley Woodhouse.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, February 22, 2021
2. Executive Session, February 22, 2021

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

The Board President shared that this Board has always been, and continues to be, appreciative of community input. Whether you are a parent, community member, board member, administration, or staff, we are all on the same team working toward the same goal. That goal is increasing in-person learning. Certain strategies and communication tactics that have been used in recent weeks, although well intentioned, become a hinderance to productivity in our district. There is a lot of time and energy that goes into responding to our community. When we are responding to form emails or to groups of people who repeatedly send the same messages, it takes valuable time away from Board members and administrators. Based on conversations Board members have had with community members, the plan is to get the kids back into the classroom. Today, we started that process by sending out a data

collection survey. We planned this early on, and we delivered today. The community needs to help us to have the time and energy that we need to get the job done.

The Superintendent shared that the goal from the beginning has always been to get students back to as much in-person learning as safely as possible. This means, not only, that we work with other agencies, but also that we advocate for our students. Following those procedures, and asking for a plan at the beginning of the year, has allowed us to have mostly in-person learning throughout this school year. We had a public view of our task force activities last week, and the pure intent was to demonstrate the ongoing planning that is happening within this district. We all hope the guidance is lessened, so that we can continue to move toward more students with in-person time. We never know what kind of guidance we will be given, so we must come up with a variety of plans and then meet the needs of all students and parents. We are trying to be responsive, and part of that is offering parental choices, which we have now done twice. We are doing a lot of work in planning for the rest of this year, and we have already started planning for this fall with the full intent of bringing all students back every day.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(PRESS Policy 2:230) *Per Board Policy 2:230, attendees wishing to formally address the Board during Public Comments must register their intention to participate in person by completing a **Public Comments Form** [at this link](#). Copies will also be made available and collected at the entrance.*

Several parents shared their concerns regarding bringing students back to in-person learning five days a week versus the hybrid/remote programs currently in place.

4. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Board Member Code of Conduct #8 - "I will be sufficiently informed about and prepared to act on the specific issues before the Board, and remain reasonable knowledgeable about the local, State, national, and global education issues."

Leslie Juby shared that House Bill 7 about mandatory school consolidation will not be removed from committee. It has also popped up in the senate as Senate Bill 635. Please fill out your witness form for SB 635. Several bills have moved out of committee and onto the chamber floor. There are several bills sitting in committee that have unfunded mandates for districts. The bills look like they will pass committee and will be costly to districts.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Policy 3:40)

The Superintendent shared that the Dance Team competed virtually at State and won the 2A Championship. History was also made, as a school district, because our competitive cheer squad competed in sectionals last weekend and earned their spot in the State competition the following weekend. There will be great news to share about our DECA students who placed at the State level and now will move on to the national and international levels. We look forward to recognizing these students at a future meeting.

7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. Annual Resolution for Dismissal: Certified Part-time Teachers (Policy 5:200)

Dr. Adam Law shared that it has been our practice in past years to release part-time teachers and part-time support staff unrelated to job performance. This is the time of year when we start to analyze student enrollment for the fall, and we want to make sure that we are not overstaffed going into the new year. As we monitor enrollment, we will know better what staff are needed.

Motion by Cabeen, second by Juby, to approve the above-listed resolution, item 7.1. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Cabeen, Choi, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

2. Annual Resolution for Dismissal: Part-time Educational Support Staff (Policy 5:290)

Motion by McCormick, second by Choi, to approve the above-listed resolution, item 7.2. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Cabeen, Choi, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

3. Annual Resolution for Joint Agreement as Part of the FVCC (Policy 6:185)

The Superintendent shared that we offer our students career and technical education, and we are fortunate to be part of the Fox Valley Career Center. This resolution allows us to continue to be part of this joint agreement.

Motion by Juby, second by Cabeen, to approve the above-listed resolution, item 7.3. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Cabeen, Choi, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

4. 2021-2022 Food Service Agreement (Policy 4:10)

Dr. Dean Romano presented information on this agreement during the Finance Committee meeting.

Board comments, questions, concerns: When we talk about the guaranteed \$12,000 a year, what are our actual yearly costs? (The new plan would bring in approximately \$870,000 under a hybrid model. We also have a mixed model that would be around \$1.8 million.) We will not lose money, will we? (No.)

Motion by Cabeen, second by Juby, to approve the above-listed agreement, item 7.4. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Cabeen, Choi, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

8. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION

9. INFORMATION

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule
2. FOIA Requests (Policy 2:250)

10. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE, New Hires (Policies 3:50, 5:200, 5:280)

New Hires Certified Staff

Fieser, Taylor, GMSN/GMSS, Physical Education, 1.0 FTE, effective 8/16/21

Long-Term Substitutes Certified Staff

Longo, Michael, GMSS, Technology, 1.0 FTE, effective 3/12/21-6/4/21

Packenhams, Heather, WAS, Grade 4, 1.0 FTE, effective 3/9/21-6/4/21

Family and Medical Leave Certified Staff

Jedlicka, Reece, HES, Physical Education, effective 4/12/21-5/7/21

Full Leave of Absence Certified Staff

Stach, Kelly, GMSN, Orchestra Teacher, 1.0 FTE, effective 2021-2022

Full Year Leave of Absence Certified Staff – Returning 2021-2022

Christensen, Kim, WES, Kindergarten, 1.0 FTE

Resignations Certified Staff

Sutcliff, Noel, GMSN, Learning Behavior Specialist, 1.0 FTE, effective 6/4/21

New Hires Support Staff

Miller, Jeanne, GMSN, Special Education Assistant, effective 3/8/21

Resignations Support Staff

Holstein, Chris, GMSS, Custodian, effective 3/12/21

Reclassification Support Staff

Ahuatl, Fermin, All Buildings, On-call Custodian to FT Custodian Floater, effective 2/24/21

Retirement Support Staff

Esser, Greg, TRANS, Bus Driver, effective 2/25/21

Hampton, Nancy, FES, Reading Tutor, effective 6/4/21

Mitchell, Margie, HSS, Reading Tutor, effective 6/4/21

New Hires Administrators

Austin, Jacob, GMSN, Dean, effective 7/1/21

Resignations Administration

Romano, Dean, CO, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, effective 6/30/21

2. Accounts Payable (Policy 4:50)

3. Monthly Financials – February (Policy 4:40, 4:55)
 4. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$1,500, Geneva Middle School South PTO, for new girls' basketball uniforms
 5. Request for Purchase: \$89,789, CDWG, for Microsoft Licensing Renewal
- Motion by Juby, second by Cabeen, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.5. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Cabeen, Choi, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

11. 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

Board members attended the finance meeting this evening, and some questions raised tonight were clearly answered for the community. We appreciate public comments, and it takes courage to stand up there and share their comments. We have heard the trend of disrespect between all. Hopefully, as we continue, and more people come out to speak, they will have grace and respect. One Board member received the survey as a parent, and thought it was well put together and well thought out. Thanks to Taylor Egan for reaching out to other school board presidents and to Dr. Mutchler for reaching out to other area superintendents. Board members recently attended a Joint PTO meeting. It was informative. The Facilities Task Force met today to discuss many topics. They are investigating solar panels, which is exciting. Thank you to all who have been working five days a week since the beginning of the year. We completely understand the passion and anger of parents who are fighting for what they believe in. We do hear you. It has always been our focus to educate our students. A shout out to parents who come and speak to us, regardless of whether they support us. It has been a tough year, but when we hear that some parents think they only heard the things we cannot do, we disagree, and we hear what we can do. If you do not see our perspective, please try to understand it as we have tried to understand yours. Guidelines may not be plans, but they affect the plan. We are advocating through the proper channels to see what we can do. Our plan is to be back in school in the fall, but we cannot guarantee that. We are doing the research to see how other districts are getting it done, and we have reached out to districts who are shifting their models. Thank you to other board presidents who have been gracious with their time. Other districts work with their local health departments, and all of them are following the proper channels. The subject of the \$1.8 million from the government came up and needs to be corrected. It is estimated to be \$1.2 million, when and if we receive it. We are always open to conversations with the community and listening to board comments. Please know that all of us are working toward getting our students back in school full time. How much were the mobiles we had at the high school? (Around \$700,000-\$1,000,000.) How many would each one hold? (About 120.) So, we do not have the funds in our budget or the property to put them on? (Correct.)

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC BODY AND ITS EMPLOYEES OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, OR DELIBERATIONS CONCERNING THE SALARY FOR ONE OR MORE CLASSES OF EMPLOYEES [5 ILCS 120/(c)(2)]; THE PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR THE USE OF THE PUBLIC BODY, INCLUDING MEETINGS HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING WHETHER A PARTICULAR PARCEL SHOULD BE ACQUIRED [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)]. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)

At 9:12 p.m., motion by Cabeen, second by Saxton, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to collective negotiating between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning the salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that such an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding must be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.

At 9:45 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:46 p.m., motion by Cabeen, second by Choi and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED April 12, 2021 _____ PRESIDENT
(Date)

SECRETARY _____ RECORDING
SECRETARY