



**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, April 26, 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 7:02 p.m. by President Egan.

Board members present: President Taylor Egan, Vice President Mike McCormick (via Teams), Larry Cabeen, Dan Choi, Jackie Forbes, Policy Committee Chair Leslie Juby, Finance Committee Chair Dave Lamb, Tammie Meek, 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; Anne Scalia, Director Student Services; 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: Nathan Weinberger, Ella Weinberger, Matthew Weinberger, Kelly Nowak, Michael Forbes, Jordan Forbes, Kendall Forbes, Lani Mergen, Colette Matejcak, Ilena Ogden, Megan Morris, Annabelle Karch, Makayla Flanigan, Payton Hunter, Reese Clark, Brooke Baurer, Charlotte Davis, Avery Evans, Emma Fuller, Meena Gosain, AnnMarie Japlon, Emily Mundry, Carolyn Silverman, Isabella Reed, Evan Horvath.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, April 12, 2021
2. Executive Session, April 12, 2021

Motion by Juby, second by Lamb, 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).

3. BOARD OF EDUCATION REORGANIZATION (PRESS Policy 2:210) – Vice President Mike McCormick

1. Accept Kane County Clerk’s Canvass of Votes for the April 6, 2021, Election of Members for the Board of Education

Motion by Cabeen, second by Lamb, to accept the Canvass of Votes, item 3.1. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Cabeen, Choi, Juby, Lamb, McCormick, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

2. Oath of Office and Seating of New Board Members
 3. Election of Officers

Motion by Choi, second by Cabeen, to nominate Taylor Egan as President, item 3.3. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, McCormick, Meek, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

Motion by Choi, second by Saxton, to nominate Mike McCormick as Vice President, item 3.3. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, McCormick, Meek, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

Motion by Saxton, second by Forbes, to nominate Todd Latham as Treasurer, item 3.3. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, McCormick, Meek, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

Motion by Saxton, second by Choi, to approve Dr. Kent Mutchler as Secretary, item 3.3. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, McCormick, Meek, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

4. 2021-2022 Board Meeting Calendar

Motion by Cabeen, second by Saxton, to approve the above-listed calendar, item 3.4. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, McCormick, Meek, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

5. Review Committee & Liaison Assignments

The Board President will work with the members on the assignments and bring this back at a future meeting.

4. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Tradition of Excellence Award: Geneva Students & Staff (Policy 6:330)
Girls Badminton, Boys & Girls Golf, Dance Team, Cheer Team, Music, National Merit Scholarship Commended, National Merit Scholarship Finalist

Girls Badminton State Qualifiers

Lisa Colin	Payton Hunter	Megan Morris
Makayla Flanigan	Annabelle Karch	

Boys Golf State Qualifiers

Joseph Adams	Calvin McKittrick	Thomas Sewczwicz
Jess Balc	Zachary Padgett	Carter Williams
Austin Frick	Samuel Pospisil	

Girls Golf State Qualifiers

Reese Clark

Dance Team State Qualifiers

Brooke Baurer	Madeline Hughes	Emily Mundry
Allison Chaffee	AnnMarie Japlon	Victoria Preston
Charlotte Davis	Katherine Japlon	Samantha Scolaro
Avery Evans	Kelli Kaufman	Kyla Sheridan
Emma Fuller	Lillian Kott	Sydney Sheridan
Meena Gosain	Allison McCall	Carolyn Silverman
Brenna Heth	Mackenzie Miller	Jillian Twitty

Cheer Team State Qualifiers

Kallie Dougherty	Morgan Hoover	Grace Renda
Grace Evans	Bryanna Knott	Sara Stedronsky
Rachel Fassbinder	Rachel Koerner	Maria Trimble
Eleanor Fesmire	Kendra Legieja	Angelina Zimmer
Kaeley Filas	Mia McFadden	Aniella Zimny
Sabrina Filas	Elena McManus	

Alexa Hardin

Maddux Pairitz

ILMEA All-State Music Festival

Hannah Bolender
Nico Gonnella

John Henderson
Steven Meyer

Matthew Styrna
Hannah Thill

National Merit Scholarship Commended

Sean Chalmers
Darrian Holda
Caleb Humphrey

Zachary Lew
May Phan
Isabella Reed

Noah Rieber

National Merit Scholarship Finalist

Evan Horvath

Nathaniel Marcelo

2. Student Services Programming at Geneva High School – Anne Scalia

Director of Student Services Anne Scalia shared information about the student services programming at Geneva High School. The district currently has 702 students that qualify for special education services. Of those 702, 560 receive specialized instruction, such as social work, speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, hearing itinerant services, and vision services. The majority of our special education students receive services within the regular classroom. In the fall of 2021, 200 students will qualify for special education services at Geneva High School with 70% receiving specialized instruction within the general education classroom and 30% receiving specialized instruction in a self-contained program. The programs and services provided require staff to co-teach in many subject areas. The benefits to co-teaching are tiered levels of instruction, differentiated instruction, increase in student engagement, variety of instructional strategies, increased opportunities for response and participation, and formative assessments. Most special educators are coming to understand that specially designed instruction (SDI) is imperative in co-teaching. It is being proposed that the district provide professional development (PD) for co-teaching using IDEA grant funds. Marilyn Friend is a well-known public speaker that provides PD in co-teaching. This PD will allow improved student outcomes and teacher retention.

Board comments, questions, concerns: The 200 students for the fall of 2021, is that an increase from 2020? (It is about the same.) Are there any metrics in terms of success or how it could be measured? (Some success will be by teachers giving their self-assessment, reflection, and rating scales on some of the things they have been doing. We always want to see our overall test scores go up and, of course, see our student's IEP goals met.) The budget that is being proposed tonight for this professional development, is that coming from grant funds? (Yes, it will come from our IDEA grant funds, which requires us to use 5% of the funds for PD.) When you used the example of a chemistry teacher in the gen ed group, is it going to be gen ed teachers in the same department or are you pulling from everywhere? (It will be the co-teacher and their pair.)

5. **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.*

Parents shared their concerns regarding racial bullying within the district. One parent has three students in the district who are bi-racial and have been bullied during their years in Geneva. To say that these things do not happen in Geneva is beyond ridiculous. The last two years have been extremely hard for her two elementary children who have been told to “go wash their dirty brown skin”, “I’m not allowed to play with black people”, had their hair pulled, been pushed into walls, and excluded from groups. She had to pull her children from the bus for their safety while the bully continued to get free rides with no consequences. Her daughter loves online learning, because no one can bully her. It is easy as a privileged white person for you to deny and sweep things under the rug. What are the districts plans to address these issues in the future to ensure that all our children feel safe in school?

Another parent shared that bullying continues to be a concern. Students that come forward have done so with much consideration, which is why it is imperative to take these allegations seriously. Not doing so puts the complainant in a precarious position. It is our responsibility to ensure our children are taught social emotional skills making them good citizens. If we fail them on this front, then we are missing a key component in their development. What plans does the district have to teach our children non-bias, and how can we take control of a completely lucid space for students?

As we enter the last few weeks of the school year, one parent shared her concerns about the critical time we are in with the pandemic. Vaccines are readily available, but only to those over the age of 16. New, more contagious variants are circulating, particularly with those under the age of 20. Hospitalizations are also on the rise with this younger group. The more active the virus is within our community, the more possibility it has to mutate into new variants. We need to maximize our mitigation strategies, particularly at the high school and middle school levels. The additions to the COVID dashboard are appreciated but updating more frequently would further improve transparency. Another mitigation strategy to consider is saliva testing. Other districts are using this form of testing and the Cares Act can be used to fund this.

The Board President shared that there will be a presentation on May 10th to review the diversity, inclusion and anti-bullying practices in the district. There will also be discussion on where we are and where we are going. There has been communication with the City of Geneva, and they have a task force they are forming, which we have asked to have a liaison on. It is important that we work with the city as a team on this topic.

6. 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."

The legislation has many ideas coming out this year, however nothing is finalized. We are worried about the unfunded mandates and how those ideas might impact students.

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

The Superintendent thanked Dave Lamb and Leslie Juby for their many years of service on the Board, and he congratulated the re-elected Board members, as well as the newly elected Board members.

8. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. Board Action on the 2021-2022 Student Fees (Policy 4:140)

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Dr. Dean Romano shared that student fees were discussed at the most recent finance committee meeting. The most notable change to next year's fees is the technology fees for K-5. There will also be unique fees at individual buildings, such as roller skating and assignment notebooks.

Motion by Saxton, second by Cabeen, to approve the above student fees, item 8.1. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, McCormick, Meek, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

2. Board Action on Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of \$160,000 from the Operations & Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund (Policy 4:10)

Dr. Romano gave a brief overview for the new Board members on how the Capital Projects Fund came to be. There may be a need to do another transfer of funds in June.

Motion by Cabeen, second by Saxton, to approve the above resolution, item 8.2. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, McCormick, Meek, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

3. Board Action on Used Transportation Equipment Purchase (Policy 4:60)

Dr. Romano shared that there have been conversations with both the finance committee and the Board about the preliminary budget for transportation. It was identified that there was an opportunity to bring all transportation back in-house, which the district has been working toward for many years.

To do this, we will need to purchase additional vehicles for the specialized needs of students. The total cost for this purchase would be \$584,875.

Motion by Forbes, second by Cabeen, to approve the above purchase, item 8.3. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, McCormick, Meek, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

9. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION

10. INFORMATION

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

11. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Rehires Certified Staff

Burns, Jo Renner, GMSN, Language Arts, 1.0 FTE, effective 8/16/21

Revised Resignation Date Certified Staff

Richard, Kelsey, GMSN, Language Arts, 1.0 FTE, effective 4/30/21

Resignation Certified Staff

Nolan, Gina, GHS, Spanish, 1.0 FTE, effective 6/4/21

New Hires Support Staff

Vomacka, Jennifer, GHS, Classroom Assistant, effective 4/12/21

Kelly, Peggy, FES, Library Assistant, effective 4/12/21

Tochimani-Montes, Orlando, GMSS, Custodian, effective 4/26/21

Resignation Support Staff

Maeck, Claudia, Reading Tutor, effective 6/4/21

Reclassification Support Staff

Johnson, Matt, TRAN, BUS Spec Ed Transportation Supervisor/Dispatcher to BUS Safety and Operations Manager, effective 5/3/21

Leave of Absence Support Staff

Stoner, Michael, TRAN, Bus Monitor, effective 3/26/21-TBD

Retirement Support Staff

Warner, Lynn, WES, Special Education Assistant, effective 6/4/21

2. Accounts Payable (Policy 4:50)
3. Monthly Financial Report – March (Policy 4:50)
4. IHSA Membership Renewal
5. Contract for Co-Teaching, Coaching and Professional Development for 2021-2022

Motion by Cabeen, second by Saxton, to approve the above-listed, items 11.1-11.5. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, McCormick, Meek, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, none (0). Abstained, none (0).

12. 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 shared that they are excited to have been re-elected to the Board. Members also welcomed the newly elected Board members. A member shared that there are two chairs at Graham's Ice Cream that were painted by fine arts students from the high school. ICEC is a division from the City of Geneva, and in order to facilitate international awareness and communication, the ICEC sponsored a contest among the honors art students to decorate some chairs. The winners received certificates for ice cream and an award. It was shared that this past couple of weeks have been tumultuous in terms of things that have come up, and this Board wants Geneva to be a place of inclusion and welcoming. As a school district, we are taking this seriously by continuing discussions,

and we know the importance of a healthy community.

13. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO 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)]; APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, OR DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVE AS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS IN A PARK, RECREATIONAL, OR EDUCATIONAL SETTING, OR SPECIFIC VOLUNTEERS OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY, INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE, A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL WHO SERVES AS AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR IN A PARK, RECREATIONAL, OR EDUCATIONAL SETTING, OR A VOLUNTEER OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR AGAINST LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY TO DETERMINE ITS VALIDITY. HOWEVER, A MEETING TO CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN COMPENSATION TO A SPECIFIC EMPLOYEE THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAGE INCREASE TRANSPARENCY ACT MAY NOT BE CLOSED AND MUST BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)

At 8:36 p.m., motion by Cabeen, second by Choi, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to 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; appointment, employment, compensation, or discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee that is subject to the local government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and must be open to the public body; 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.

At 9:53 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:54 p.m., motion by Cabeen, second by Saxton and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED May 10, 2021
(Date)

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____

RECORDING
SECRETARY