



**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, September 13, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Geneva Middle School South, 1415 Viking Drive, 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 7:06 p.m. by Vice President McCormick.

Board members present: Dan Choi, Jackie Forbes, Tammie Meek, Vice President/Finance Committee Chair Mike McCormick, Policy Committee Chair Alicia Saxton. Late: President Taylor Egan. Absent: Larry Cabeen.

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

District staff present: Laura Sprague, Communications Coordinator; Josie Morrisroe, Coordinator for Business Services; Todd Latham, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Dr. Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services; Dr. Kent Mutchler, Superintendent.

Others present: Jean Smith, Linnea Mason, Matt Mason, Jane S., Greg Cox, Stephanie Bellino, Lisa Paul, Stephen Paul, Kathryn Gelder, Brad Raschke, Kevin Drendall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, August 23, 2021

Motion by Saxton, second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed minutes, item 2.1. On roll call, Ayes, four (4), Forbes, McCormick, Meek, Saxton. Nays, none (0). Absent, two (2), Cabeen, Egan. Abstained, one (1), Choi.

2. Executive Session, August 23, 2021

Motion by Forbes, second by Meek, to approve the above-listed minutes, item 2.2. On roll call, Ayes, four (4), Forbes, McCormick, Meek, Saxton. Nays, none (0). Absent, two (2), Cabeen, Egan. Abstained, one (1), Choi.

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. 2021-2022 Budget Hearing (Policy 4:10)

1. Public Hearing Agenda

The Board President called the hearing to order at 7:09 p.m.

2. 2021-2022 Budget

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Todd Latham shared with the Board the final 2021-22 proposed budget. The changes from the tentative budget were in Personal Property Replacement Tax, debt service transfer, food service, State and federal grants, transportation, and capital projects. The tentative budget showed revenue of \$111,676,984 and the proposed now shows revenue at

\$113,592,038. The tentative budget showed expenditures of \$112,296,619 and the proposed now shows expenditures at \$113,173,822. This gives us a balanced budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year, with a surplus of \$418,216. If approved, the next step is to file the budget with the Kane County Clerk's office, upload the approved budget to the Illinois State Board of Education, adopt the 2021-22 budget in Skyward, update the September Treasurer's Report, and begin preparing assumptions, forecasting for FY23 and Meritorious Budget. We are recommending that the Board approve this budget.

3. Questions/Comments from Board Members

This budget was well done. When we have a balance, is it typical that we keep a balance? (Some years we will have an exact balanced budget. Other years, we count on some deficit spending. We use the surplus dollars toward future needs.) With the bus buy-back program, is that going to change one way or the other? (We did a quick search to see how many new buses are out there, and with the economy, there are supply and demand issues. It is hard to get the buses that we need, which is why we started the process of the bus buy-back program.)

4. Questions/Comments from Audience Members

Is a surplus of \$418,000 average or high? (It is a lower number. It is not typical. We have also had negative numbers in the past.) Do we use this surplus to maintain the 30% balance or is there an extra 30% elsewhere? (The Treasurer's Report online has the operating funds with a line item that represents the 30% fund balance that we try to maintain.) The ESSR funds was about \$2 million, but where are those funds in the budget? (The ESSR II funds were required to help students who had learning challenges. The ESSR III grant was just written in July and has not been approved yet.) How can we approve a \$113 million budget if we do not know what the ESSR funds are yet? (We allocate a portion of those funds that we plan to spend this year. Those funds will be allocated over multiple years, and we can amend the budget if necessary.) It was brought up about the new pay schedule for substitute teachers, which some substitutes feel is not fair.

At 7:32 p.m., Taylor Egan joined the meeting.

5. President Closes Hearing

The Board President closed the hearing 7:34 p.m.

2. Bright Bytes & Learning Management System Updates

Dr. Andy Barrett and Mike Wilkes gave an update on Bright Bytes and the learning management system that the district uses. We have been focused on innovation, and one of the things that we talk about a lot is our district vision and how important it is to achieve our goals embedded in our vision. Some components of our vision are difficult to measure, so we have come up with some creative ideas and have worked with the system to come up with some ways to do this. The work we do aligns with some of our Board goals. We have looked for tools to help us evaluate our capacity to achieve those forces. We found a tool five years ago called Bright Bytes, which is a survey-based tool. We do a survey annually in the spring with our students and teachers. The responses from this survey make up the CASE framework, which is classroom, access, skills, and environment. There is also an overall score. Over the last few years, we have seen progress in all areas. In 2017-18, the districts overall CASE score was 1085 and by 2020-21, the score was 1114. We asked critical questions that gave us critical learning for reflections. As we review our progress, we see that we have achieved consistent and sustained growth, are well positioned for the technology skills required of us by the pandemic, saw tremendous gains in skills during the pandemic, and that we need to refine our use of tools and streamline the learning experience for our students. We will consider a focus on consistent learning at all levels, a future recommendation for a Learning Management System at the high school, and whether to continue using Bright Bytes.

Board comments, questions, concerns: You mentioned that you are looking for a new platform for the high school. Would the longer-term expectation be that you would pull down and consider that platform at the lower levels? (We certainly had conversations about that. We are open to that if we hear from our teachers and students at the elementary and middle school levels that we need a tool with more features than Microsoft Teams. We have heard from the high school that they believe we need a tool that has some more advanced capacities like advanced assessment features and student self-pacing features. So far, we have had success with this being an organic process, so if we get to

that place where we think we are growing and ready for that, we can look at that as an option.)

4. 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."

Jackie Forbes shared that House Bill 0004 is now Public Act 1020584. This provides that doula services shall be covered under the medical assistance program. Senate Bill 2108 is now Public Act 1020638. Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, school board members must complete training on trauma-informed school standards for students and staff. This is in addition to other training that is required of board members.

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

The Superintendent shared that there has been a lot of professional development over the past two Fridays for various groups of our staff. This included a co-teaching facilitator working with staff and meeting the needs of all students. Today, we had a presentation on reading materials and talked about the Boost program on math skills particularly. We received good news on Friday that Laura Sprague was presented with three awards from INSPRA for our district in communications from last year, and we thank her for her excellent work.

6. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. Board Action on Resolution to Adopt Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022
Motion by McCormick, second by Choi, to approve the above-listed resolution, item 6.1, as presented. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Choi, Forbes, Meek, McCormick, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Cabeen. Abstained, none (0).

7. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION

8. INFORMATION

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule

9. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Long-Term Substitutes Certified Staff

Kennedy, Kathleen, GMSN, Language Arts, 1.0 FTE, effective 8/27/21-10/8/21

Gulke, Lisa, GHS, Social Worker, 1.0 FTE, effective 10/4/21-1/18/22

Hartnett, Thomas, FES, Music, 1.0 FTE, effective 10/28/21-1/14/22

FMLA Certified Staff

Chronopoulos, Christina, GMSN, Science, effective 11/10/21-1/28/22

Croy, Mandy, WAS, Art, effective 9/1/21-9/24/21

Schramer, Natalie, WES, Grade 3, effective 12/1/21-3/14/22

New Hires Support Staff

Aucunas, Amanda, WES, Building Technician, effective 9/1/21

Cosentino, Meral, WAS, Building Technician, effective 9/7/21

Godlewski, Joann, MCS, Building Technician, effective 9/7/21

Hutchison, Theresa, All Buildings, Custodian, effective 8/30/21

Lewis, Octavia, TRAN, Bus Monitor, effective 8/16/21

Manion, Kent, GHS, Security, effective 9/8/21

Richert, Jonathan, GHS, Security, effective 9/11/21

Schade, Robert, TRAN, Bus Monitor, effective 9/10/21

Weilandt, Lisa, HES, Special Education Assistant, effective 9/9/21

Youman, James, GHS, Special Education Assistant, effective 9/7/21

Resignations Support Staff

Duever, Alice, WES, Library Assistant, effective TBD

King, James, All Buildings, Custodian Floater, effective 9/10/21

Roxworthy, Adam, GHS, Custodian, effective 9/1/21

Schaper, Wendy, Reading Tutor, effective 8/31/21

Termination Support Staff

Ventresca, Tom, WAS, Custodian, effective 9/13/21

Reclassification Support Staff

McKee, Cathy, CO, 10-month Building Technician to Information Systems Analyst, effective 9/9/21

Pantano, Carrie, WAS, Lunchroom Supervisor to PT Special Education Assistant, effective 8/16/21

Retirement Support Staff

Fagot, Robin, GHS, Administrative Assistant, effective 11/1/21

FLMA Support Staff

Licher, Bruce, CO, Maintenance, effective 8/2/21-10/26/21

2. EIS Teacher & Administrator Annual Report
3. Monthly Financial Report – July (Policy 4:50)
4. Fountas & Pinnell Classroom and Interactive Reading Materials
5. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$12,000, multiple donors, for GHS Athletics
6. Contract Between Geneva CUSD 304 and Suicide Prevention Services of America
7. Postage Machine Lease Renewal for Central Office and GHS
8. Sodexo Contract Amendment

Motion by Choi, second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed, items 9.1-9.8. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Choi, Forbes, Meek, McCormick, Saxton, Egan. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Cabeen. Abstained, none (0).

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(PRESS Policy 2:230) *Per Board Policy 2:230, attendees wishing to formally address the Board must register their intention to participate in the public portion(s) of the meeting upon their arrival at the meeting. Complete the form 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.*

Parents and community members shared with the Board their thoughts and concerns. One parent thanked the nurses for everything they do. They are also grateful to have their kids back in school, saying this is possible because we are following the guidelines. She voiced that she would still like to see Shield testing within our schools. Another parent asked that we “unlock the chains” and allow parents and caregivers back into the buildings saying, if masks work, this should not be an issue. Others shared statistics on COVID and children.

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

The Board President took a moment to respond to some of the comments made during public participation this evening. Over the last two years, it has been overwhelming to overcome difficulty after difficulty. The technology presentation addressed some celebratory moments for our district. When we look at the numbers, especially in access and ability, those are two very telling data points. We paid attention to technology, which put us in a position for that access number to already be ahead of the pandemic. We were able to provide equity to our students from a technology standpoint. E-learning was not ideal, but it took the lemons and made lemonade. We want to get back to normal, yet we are told in public comment that we have changed nothing. We have kids in school and after school activities taking place. Let’s celebrate what we have done and stop going back to what we have not done. The district has looked at Shield testing and there are some struggles with it. Currently, there is an 8-week waiting period to get started. This is not a lack of interest by the district.

The Facilities Task Force met today and discussed security issues. We are pleased with how the administration is working with our staff and students. Mr. Baker is doing a great job of talking to our staff about this issue. The district is investigating solar electricity at Fabyan, but the payback is 19 years. Thought this would be more cost effective. The COVID Task Force met recently, and it was refreshing to hear everyone contributing during the meeting. Thank you to the administration for the dashboard. It is nice to know it will be updated every Friday and to see the current numbers. Board members attended the football game last week, and it was great to have everyone together again. Regarding visitors in buildings, it would be nice if we could find a way to make that happen.

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 [5ILCS 120/2(c)(2)]; LITIGATION, WHEN AN ACTION AGAINST, AFFECTING, OR ON BEHALF OF THE PARTICULAR PUBLIC BODY FINDS THAT SUCH AN ACTION IS PROBABLE OR IMMINENT, IN WHICH CASE THE BASIS FOR THE FINDING SHALL BE RECORDED AND ENTERED INTO THE MINUTES OF THE CLOSED MEETING [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)]. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)

At 8:40 p.m., motion by McCormick, second by Choi, to go into 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; 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 10:05 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

14. POSSIBLE ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. Memorandum of Understanding
No action was taken.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:06 p.m., motion by McCormick, second by Meek and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED September 27, 2021
(Date)

_____ PRESIDENT

SECRETARY _____

_____ RECORDING SECRETARY