

February 27, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

In attendance were: Terry Bleau, Cindy Baggio, Martha Harrison, Kylie Peters, Amy Huizenga

District 304 Board Member Kelly Nowak report

April 4, 2017 - Upcoming School District 304 Board elections

March 7, 2017 - Meet the candidates at the Kane County facility @7pm

March 21, 2017 - Student run forum at GHS meet the candidates @ 7pm

TIF update – The school district will initially benefit and then gradually decrease over time. The results will be that the tax burden will shift back to the homeowners in Geneva. The School District 304 Board members approved talking points at their last meeting which can be found on the district website.

Refinance Update - The Board recently approved refinancing of the 2004 debt incurred from the construction of the two middle schools and the 2007 debt for the two grade schools. They traded in debt for a lower rate on the \$14 - \$15 million. The annual principal will be reduced but the term has been extended. They anticipate that homeowners may see a savings on tax bill due to the refinance.

Academic performance update - The board discussed the Academic performance presentation specifically regarding GHS AP offerings and students that are taking the AP exams for college credit. Debate if colleges are accepting AP credits for higher standards and for college preparedness. Students are not required to take the AP Exam. IL accepts a score of a three in order to qualify for college credit.

ACT scores are higher than the Illinois average. The Academic performance presentation is posted on the district website. Geneva HS students will begin taking the SAT instead of the ACT. March 16-18 School play will be Hello Dolly and the Senior Volunteers will be assisting with the play.

State of IL proposed property tax freeze will have an impact on the school district. There will be a presentation this evening. There will be a cost to the district for pension shift.

Facilities and Development - In 2008, the board discussed expanding the high school campus, however the board decided to table that decision because after further analysis the costs would be too high. The decision was made to forgo a renovation and add mobile classrooms temporarily. Enrollment is slightly increasing, but not enough to justify the expansion at this time.

There is a separate facilities task force that discusses the various projects and they are stretching projects from 5-7 to 10 years, due to debt and cash flow. The roof at Western Avenue elementary was recently repaired and the costs were covered by insurance. Presentations regarding facilities planned renovations can be found on the district web site.

Geneva Library Update - Bob Shiffler, Christine Iazaris

Library has been researching the capacity of the current facility to provide additional services to the community. The findings resulted in the fact that the current library building does not have enough space to provide additional services that other communities are offering. These services include collaboration zones, tutoring areas and programs specific for high school and middle school students. It is also costing 130% more to run the current facility due to the layout of the building for work place efficiencies. Also, the building is aging and is becoming too costly to maintain. Any repairs or renovation that is made to the library will require it to be brought up to the current ADA requirements which are not being met including the elevator not being large enough for emergency equipment specifically a stretcher, books are not located in areas that are accessible at ADA height requirements.

The current library facility is 27,000 square feet. The proposed new library is being brought to 42,000 square feet. The library accommodates 250,000 visits per year. The library purchased land and has presented a preliminary to build a new library. The referendum will be coming out for vote on April 4, 2017. The referendum will include the request for \$21.8 million in bonds and the remainder of the funding will come from the libraries reserves. The estimated tax implication on an average home valued at \$300k will be an additional \$8.25 / month or \$100 / year. The financial plan can be found on the library website. The new proposed library will include onsite parking, ADA compliant design, interactive indoor and outdoor play areas, collaboration zones, tutoring rooms, and middle school and high school areas. If the referendum is not approved then there will be a review to determine why the referendum didn't pass and adjustments will be made to the proposed plan. The library serves a wider audience and provides value to a broader demographic of the community than most of other libraries in other communities of similar size, but does not have the same capacity to offer similar programs to the Geneva. Library is only 3% of the tax bill. Library has been extremely conservative with the debt and have not based on projected population growth. The library has millions of dollars of maintenance and the new library provides a more cost effective and comprehensive long term solution then trying to repair and maintain the current facility.

The library has received a grant to serve the middle school students; this program is meant to encourage students to utilize the library to run age specific programs. The library has been adding after hours programming for middle school students, a teen tech studio and laser tag so far with the funding from this grant. The library team will continue to do more programming like this to serve middle school students in the community. In addition, the library does have a collaborative zone for middle school students, which is currently located in the children's section collection area. If the referendum is successfully passed then the library would break ground on the new facility in spring 2018. The new library would open Fall of 2019. The current facility will be offered to the city as first right of refusal and if the city does not want it the building would be sold.

If the library enters into any type of renovation then the rest of the facility would need to be brought up to code. It is a community problem because it is a community resource.

The community in general does not have a clear understanding of the true condition of the current library building or the cost implications for repairing and renovating the currently facility. The perception of most individuals in the community is that the library provides a good atmosphere and it is accommodating their needs and most residents do not realize the value of the additional services that can be provided and the positive impact to the community with the new library facilities.

Library update from Chazmin Becker – Citizens for Geneva library is running the campaign to help gather support of the referendum. The purpose is to gather the positive support from community members for the library referendum. There have been yard signs and negative social media discussions around the referendum. The citizens for Geneva library will be updating their Facebook page and addressing the concerns that are being expressed by the community

Community Forums will be taking place on March 14, 2017 at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm and on March 18, 2017 at 10:00 am at the library in the lower level.

Proposed adding a coffee shop to the new building the problem is staffing costs and coffee shops are not really successful in libraries.

Library team is willing to attend community events and block parties to discuss the referendum and the plan.

Secretary's report – Nothing new to report from the secretary

Treasurer's report - Proposed that the PTO changes the policy for the written 2nd approval for charges of \$500 or more which is primarily for Spirit wear and PE uniforms. There may need to be an amendment to the bylaws that the approval process for the \$500.00 if it is currently documented. If it is then the PTO board will need to propose and vote on a formal amendment to the bylaws to reflect a higher total.

PTO Donations are now under a different line item due to the HONEYWELL donation, so that this item will not impact the budget process for the next school year.

Nancy's night out GMSS fundraising event only raised about \$21.00, so that was not successful. The first restaurant fundraising night was successful and raised approximately \$100.

Principal's report from Mr. Bleu

For all upcoming events check out the South Scoop.

Science Day is Thursday there will be some new participants and the PTO provides funds for the presenters.

MAP and PARCC testing announcement will be sent out – MAP testing is used to award 8th grade students with the presidential awards. PARCC helps gauge how GMSS compares to other schools.

Science assessments for 8th graders will be coming up in April .

District level self assessments on technology will be conducted by a 3rd party. This will become an annual assessment with students and teachers beginning in March. The intent is to keep track of the progress of technology integration at GMSS.

March 17, 2017 - 7th & 8th grade Dance and scavenger hunt. Attendance has been 70-80 students out of a potential 500 students. This year the PTO will be adding a Scavenger hunt to boost student participation. The dance will run from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. The Scavenger hunt will run from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm. Make sure to read the 8th grade letter from Mr. Bleu.

March 10th Read across America event. GMSS throughout the week will be themed “Read across the decades” students, teachers and staff will be encouraged to dress in clothing that represents different decades each day.

The Student faculty basketball game is scheduled at the end of next week. It will be a game with the 8th grade students who participated in winter sports against the GMSS faculty. The game will take place after school in the GMSS gymnasium.

Pebbles the school dog started attending GMSS with the students full time. She is doing well and students are adjusting to her presence well.

Proposed change to the PTO meeting structure

The proposed change to the Eboard meeting structure for 2017-2018 school year was discussed between Martha, Jim and Mr. Bleu. Since the E-board meeting and the PTO meeting include the same PTO board members there is really no distinction between the two. It was proposed that for the next school year, the PTO meetings be open to everyone and take place during the day with all board members. The E-board meetings will include only the principal and president and will be scheduled according to availability. This has been proposed and will be reviewed at a later PTO meeting date.

Next meeting E-board meeting will occur in early April. At this time the current PTO members will need to start soliciting board members for the 2017-2018 school year.

It was agreed that the Honors certificates do not need the board members signature. This will eliminate the need to change the 2nd name change on the certificates and is likely to reduce the printing costs.

Volunteer sign up sheets will be going out in 5th grade parent night packets and will be available on the website. Martha will be confirming the dates.

Musical needs volunteers and cash box on the March 10, 2017. If not enough volunteers sign up a mass email will go out looking for help from other parents.

Dance committee is doing a sign up genius for chaperones. Martha will contact Nancy's for pizza at the dance and will need an initial check from the Treasurer. If more pizza is needed during the dance Mr. Bleu will cover any additional charges and do reimbursement from the PTO.

6th grad jive coming up

5th grade parents night – Jim and hospitality funds from PTO

Next PTO meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2017.

The next E-board meeting is April 13, 2017 @ 9:00 am.

Jim motion to adjourn Martha and Cindy seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.