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Educate and prepare students with the **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS,** and **PERSONAL QUALITIES** to be productive citizens.



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 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at 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

Board members present: Molly Ansari, Policy Committee Chair Stephanie Bellino, President Larry Cabeen, Vice President/Finance Committee Chair Jackie Forbes, Willard Hooks, Paul Radlinski. Late: None. Absent: Dan Choi.

The President welcomed everyone, and Jackie Forbes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

District staff present: Adrian Ramirez, Assistant Director for Business Services; George Petmezas, Director for Learning & Teaching; Todd Latham, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services; Shonette Sims, Assistant Superintendent Learning & Teaching; Dr. Adam Law, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services; Dr. Andy Barrett, Superintendent.

Others present: Cathy Fuller, Carol Ireland, Renee Juergens, Ashley Girara, Nicole Liskey, Kara Prefountain, Erin Kelly, Lily Defino.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Policy 2:220)

1. Regular Session, August 25, 2025
Motion by Forbes second by Radlinski, to approve the above-listed minutes, item 2.1. On roll call, Ayes, five (5), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Choi. Abstained, one (1), Hooks.

3. RECOGNITION, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Annual Grants Update – George Petmezas
George Petmezas gave an update on the FY 26 federal grants, which include Title I, Title II, Title III, and Title IV. Our Title I schools include Harrison Street Elementary, Geneva Middle School South, and Geneva High School. This year we received \$158,435 in Title I funds, which is less than we received last year. These funds are used to provide students with an opportunity to a fair, equitable, and high-quality education. For Title II, we received \$62,082, which is a decrease from last year. These funds are used to increase student academic achievement by providing staff with professional development. For Title III, we received \$13,284 and these funds are used for our Language Instruction Educational Program. We were informed that Title III may be sunseting in 2027. For Title IV, we received \$10,795, which is also a decrease from last year. These funds are used to provide a well-rounded education, improve school conditions, and improve the use of technology. The district also

receives grant funds for career and technical education. This year we received \$38,858 from the Career and Technical Improvement Grant and \$20,672 from the Strengthening Career and Technical Education Grant.

Board comments, questions, concerns: It appears the funds keep decreasing each year, so is it because the funding decreases each year or because our enrollment has dropped? (It is a combination. These funds are connected to our low-income numbers. We have had less students apply for free lunch.)

2. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Hearing (Policy 4:10)

1. Public Hearing Agenda

President Cabeen called the hearing to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. 2025-2026 Budget Presentation

Todd Latham presented the final 2025-26 budget, which is required to be adopted by the Board of Education no later than the month of September within the fiscal year it represents. The major changes from the tentative budget to the proposed budget are staffing levels reviewed/updated, grant expenditures and reimbursements, salaries and benefits, Mid-Valley tuition, State and federal grant carry overs, and fund transfers. The proposed revenue is \$122,886,972 and the proposed expenditures are \$129,481,085, which leaves us with a \$6,594,113 deficit. This deficit will be offset by transferring money between funds. The next steps are to file the budget with the Kane County Clerk, upload the approved budget to the Illinois State Board of Education, adopt the 2025-2026 budget in Skyward, updated the treasurer's report, prepare the tax year 2025 levy, look at the 5-year projection model, and begin assumptions/forecasting for FY 27.

3. Questions/Comments from Board Members

None.

4. Questions/Comments from Audience Members

With the \$6.7 million deficit you are going to take \$2.5 million from the Education Fund, but where is the rest coming from ? (The \$4.3 million will come out of the Operations & Maintenance Fund.)

5. President Closes Hearing

President Cabeen closed the hearing at 7:32 p.m.

4. **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.

None.

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."

Jackie Forbes shared that the resolutions that we generally start talking about this time of year and are voted on at the Delegate Assembly in November have been released. They will be shared with you at an upcoming board meeting for review and discussion.

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

The Superintendent shared that back-to-school events are underway and athletics/activities are in full swing. He also shared that all parties have approved the La Fox of Campton Hills developer donation agreement. The Village held their public hearing last Thursday and voted 5-1 in favor of the annexation. The annexation agreement outlines criteria and requirements for what this development could

ultimately be. We anticipate the developer developing the Planned Unit Development (PUD) and taking that back to the Village of Campton Hills. We also anticipate that there will be further discussions regarding a potential TIF. Our developer donation agreement includes language should this TIF were to go forward. This process could take several months, so we will continue to keep you updated as we receive additional information. There will be another important conversation coming regarding our Strategic Plan Goal Area 1, which covers enrollment, staffing, and right sizing our schools. Last year, we conducted a formal demographic study and a capacity analysis of our facilities. We will continue to update the demographic data, evaluate implications of La Fox development, share updated findings and implications, and determine our next steps.

Board comments, questions, concerns: The open land in the La Fox development is subject to future use, which could be anything from forest preserves to additional housing. Is this covered under our developer donation agreement? (Yes, part of the annexation agreement does include language about the open land. This land is slotted for open space should someone buy it and keep it open land. There is a chance that it could change, but if they build more homes, we will get more money.) Was Mill Creek open space at one time? (Yes.) Could they develop some kind of facility on this land in the future? (We do not know.)

At the last meeting, Dr. Barrett shared some fun facts about transportation, so this time he shared some fun facts about technology. The technology department supports and manages 7,200 devices. They had 8,600 support requests in February 2025, there are 210Gbps internet circuits, and there are 560+ wireless access points. Over the summer they put in new wireless network infrastructure, prepped and distributed 1,600 devices, installed security appliance, and updated board meeting videos. Board meeting videos will now be found on YouTube beginning this week.

Lastly, the high school has been working with Sandy Riley on a parent presentation that covers anxiety and the long-term consequences. The first presentation is this Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium with a local psychologist who works with kids that have anxiety.

7. BOARD DIALOGUE TOPICS & PENDING ACTION CONSIDERATION

1. Policy Updates: Second Reading – **Updated, Reviewed & New** (Policy 2:240)
 1. Policy 1:10, School District Legal Status – Review & Monitoring
 2. Policy 1:20, District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements – Review & Monitoring
 3. Policy 1:30, School District Philosophy – Review & Monitoring
 4. Policy 2:10, School District Governance – Review & Monitoring
 5. Policy 2:80, Board Member Oath and Conduct – Review & Monitoring
 6. Exhibit 2:120-E1, Guidelines for Serving as a Mentor to a New Board of Education Member – Rewritten
 7. Exhibit 2:120-E2, Website Listing of Development and Training Completed by Board Members – Updated
 8. Policy 2:130, Board-Superintendent Relationship – Update
 9. Exhibit 2:220-E4, Open Meetings Act – Updated
 10. Exhibit 2:220-E7, Access to Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Recordings – Updated
 11. Exhibit 2:220-E9, Requirements for No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video During Disaster Declaration – Rewritten
 12. Policy 2:240, Board Policy Development – Review & Monitoring
 13. Exhibit 2:240-E1, PRESS Issue Updates – Rewritten

14. Exhibit 2:240-E2, Developing Local Policy – Rewritten
15. Policy 3:30, District Administrative Protocol – Updated
16. Policy 4:50, Payment Procedures – Review & Monitoring
17. Policy 4:90, Student Activity and Fiduciary Funds – Review & Monitoring
18. Policy 4:180, Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery – Review & Monitoring
19. Exhibit 5:20-E, Resolution to Prohibit Sexual Harassment – Review & Monitoring
20. Policy 5:270, Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment – Review & Monitoring
21. Policy 7:40, Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students – Review & Monitoring
22. Policy 7:90, Release During School Hours – Review & Monitoring
23. Policy 7:130, Student Rights and Responsibilities – Review & Monitoring
24. Policy 7:140, Search and Seizure - Updated
25. Policy 7:300, Extracurricular Athletics – Updated
26. Policy 7:325, Student Fundraising Activities – Review & Monitoring
27. Policy 8:80, Gifts, Grants, and Bequests – Updated
28. Policy 8:110, Public Suggestions and Concerns – Review & Monitoring

These policies have been reviewed by the Policy Committee and administrators. If anyone has any questions you can find more information on the video from the last policy meeting.

Motion by Bellino second by Hooks, to approve the above-listed policies, items 7.1.1-7.1.28. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Choi. Abstained, none (0).

2. Board Action on Resolution to Adopt Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (Policy 4:10)

Motion by Radlinski second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed budget, item 7.2. On roll call, Ayes, six (6), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. Nays, none (0). Absent, one (1), Choi. Abstained, none (0).

8. WORK-STUDY TOPICS & FUTURE ACTION CONSIDERATION

9. INFORMATION

1. Board Meeting/Presentation Schedule (Policy 2:220)
2. Suspension Report (Policy 7:200)

10. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Personnel Report: Resignations, Retirements, Leave Requests, Changes in Assignment/FTE, New Hires (Policies 3:50, 5:200, 5:280)
2. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$7,000, Harrison Street School PTO, for field trips (Policy 8:80)
3. Gifts, Grants, Bequests: \$12,567, Harrison Street School PTO, for 5th grade Outdoor Education (Policy 8:80)
4. Technology Asset Disposal

Motion by Bellino second by Forbes, to approve the above-listed, items 10.1-10.4. On roll call, Ayes, seven (7), Ansari, Bellino, Cabeen, Choi, Forbes, Hooks, Radlinski. 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, Geneva Academic Foundation, Geneva All-Sports Boosters, Geneva Music Boosters, Geneva High School Theater Boosters, GEARS, K-12 Discipline Committee, PRIDE, Fox Valley Career Center, IASB/Legislative, IASB Kishwaukee Governing Board

Thank you to Sandy Riley, our Communications Coordinator, for all the work she does. Not only does she post to social media, but she also leads the Communications Task Force. The upcoming parent presentation was brought to the

Communications Task Force, so we discussed it, and Sandy took that information back and worked on the presentations. In addition, something we are seeing at the high school is a high number of emails going out to parents, so we have been talking about this and Tom Rogers shared how they are going to reformat their email distribution and what that will look like going forward. There was a cross country meet this past weekend and at this meet the coaches put together something for teacher appreciation, so each student was asked to invite a teacher. It was great to see the number of teachers that showed up for the students. Thank you to our educators for taking time out of your weekend to attend this cross-country meet. There were several curriculum nights this past week and a shout out needs to go to the counseling department at the high school. They did a great presentation on colleges and how to start looking for colleges for junior and senior parents. Thank you to Todd Latham for his presentation this evening. It was great to hear that our students conducted themselves in an orderly matter during the walk out this past Friday. The upcoming presentation is timely with this recent walk out. The open space parcels of the La Fox development, it looks like some of those parcels are being donated to the forest preserve. One board member attended the first girls flag football game. There were many girls who participated in this new sport. Thanks to Todd Latham, Adrian Ramirez, and the finance team for their hard work on the budget. Thank you to Harrison Street School PTO for their generous donations. The beginning of the school year can be exciting and filled with many back to school events, but it can be incredibly challenging for many individuals. If you have anxiety, please seek help. The Facilities Task Force met today. Thank you to Brian Pedersen and his team for the many summer projects they worked on. We are looking to have a retreat this fall to discuss our 10-year plan for capital projects. Next Tuesday, there is a Theater Boosters meeting. If you would like to donate your time, please reach out to them. Thank you to those that attended tonight's meeting.

12. NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER MATTERS PERTAINING TO 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 AND POSTED AND HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ACT [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)]. [5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)] (Policy 2:220)

At 8:07 p.m., motion by Forbes, second by Bellino, to go into executive session to consider matters pertaining to 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 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 and posted and held in accordance with this Act.

At 8:48 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:49 p.m., motion by Radlinski second by Bellino and with unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED _____ PRESIDENT
(Date)

SECRETARY _____