

Committee of the Whole Meeting – 6:30 pm
Tuesday, January 10, 2017
Genoa-Kingston Community Unit School District #424
Genoa-Kingston High School - Learning Center
980 Park Avenue Genoa, IL 60135

1. Call to Order
2. Travel Expense Control Act
3. City of Genoa Resolution Request
4. 2017-2018 School Calendar
5. Vision 20/20
6. Future Agenda Items
7. Superintendent/Board Communication
8. Closed session for discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District in compliance with 5 ILCS 120 /2/(c)(1),
9. Reconvene to Open Session
10. Personnel Action
11. Adjournment

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Call to Order

President Paul Kruse called the Genoa-Kingston CUSD #424 Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Taunya Fischer, David Cleveland, Kristen Andrews, Heather Edwards, Barb Gustafson, Kristin Brynteson, Paul Kruse.

Absent: None.

Travel Expense Control Act

Mr. Burgess shared an example of the Travel Expense Control Act with the Board. He also stated IASB Press Policy Services has not recommended a dollar amount so it will be determined locally by the Board of Education. Mr. Burgess shared a policy example that uses a percentage which he concurs with due to the diverse costs regionally in the state of Illinois.

Mr. Burgess stated he anticipates a recommended percentage will come from PRESS in a future policy update. He also recommended the board to review all future policies.

Fischer stated due to differences in costs many municipalities now use a percentage.

Mr. Burgess recommended reviewing the Travel Expense Policy annually in October prior to the board conference.

City of Genoa Resolution Request

Mr. Burgess shared a new resolution regarding the City of Genoa and tax abatement for Service Concepts. Mr. Burgess stated he was in favor of supporting the proposed resolution due to the nature of potential industry coming to our district.

Mr. Burgess stated the resolution is an economic incentive agreement with the City of Genoa regarding Malcour Development, LLC, and Service Concepts, Inc.

Edwards asked for a dollar amount regarding the tax abatement.

Mr. Burgess stated looking into any questions the board may have regarding the City of Genoa Resolution request.

2017-2018 School Calendar

Mr. Burgess shared the approved 2017-2018 school calendar with the board due to a recent social media debate over Christmas break. He also shared neighboring district calendars for the board to review. Mr. Burgess stated no citizens have personally contacted his office regarding calendar concerns. Potential changes to the 2017-2018 calendar were discussed.

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Kruse stated the board approves school calendars in advance so families can plan ahead. He commented on the board reviewing over nine (9) calendars prior to approving the current 2017-2018 school calendar.

Gustafson stated many things have to be considered when creating the annual school calendar including required days, finals, KEC and sports.

Mr. Burgess stated several community members attended a previous board meeting requesting a later start date. He also stated the need to get in as close to ninety (90) days prior to finals as possible and the 2017-2018 school calendar reflects 88 days. He further stated finishing the school year with days required allowing for potential snow days. Mr. Burgess commented on options to adjust the 2017-2018 school calendar and maintain the required balanced days of attendance.

Edwards stated the board felt it was important high school students finish finals prior to winter break.

Andrews commented on creating a possible survey about holding finals before or after winter break.

Brynteson commented on hearing feedback from students in favor of finals prior to winter break. .

Edwards was in favor of a survey; however recommended the survey be open to parents and students. She also stated student feedback is important due GPA and moving onto college.

Gustafson commented on students not having time to study and then come back to take finals due to family time and family vacations.

Brynteson recommended an open board discussion about returning from winter break and finishing the school year later.

Edwards recommended creating a future calendar committee.

Gustafson stated in the past principals reviewed school calendars prior to approval by the board.

Edwards commented on the social media conversations regarding the board discussing a four (4) day school week. Edwards stated it needs to be clear it was a board discussion and the board would not have approved a four (4) day school week without reaching out to the community first.

Fischer stated it is impossible to make everyone happy.

Mr. Burgess commented on the Sycamore School District's desire to move towards a calendar like Genoa-Kingston with an earlier start date.

Brynteson asked about returning from winter break on January 8th to aligning with most of the county.

Cleveland asked about the number of snow days used in the past.

Mr. Burgess stated two (2) to three (3) snow days have been used over the past several years.

Mr. Burgess stated with all snow days used May 30th would be the last possible day of the school year.

Kruse asked about Casimir Pulaski Day.

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Mr. Burgess stated adjusting attendance days to attend school on Casimir Pulaski Day.

Brynteson asked about taking the day prior to Thanksgiving off.

Mr. Burgess stated the board decided to not take the day prior to Thanksgiving off due to it being an early release day.

Edwards stated days were moved back to maintain a balanced calendar.

Kruse was in favor of reviewing an updated 2017-2018 school calendar at the board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2017.

Mr. Burgess stated he will prepare an updated 2017-2018 school calendar for the board to review.

Vision 20/20

Mr. Burgess shared information regarding Google Classes and Tech-Expo held once again in conjunction with the Genoa Area Chamber Business Expo scheduled for Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 10 am – 2 pm.

Future Agenda Items

Travel Expense Control Act
City of Genoa Resolution
2017-2018 School Calendar
Presentation Stefanie Hill / Kingston Elementary
First Midwest Bank Resolutions
Excellence in Education Nominees
October PRESS Policies for Approval
Economic Interest Statements

Superintendent Communication

Mr. Burgess publicly welcomed Mr. Brent O'Daniell as the new Superintendent for Genoa-Kingston CUSD #424.

School Closing Transition Plan.

Mr. Burgess stated the School House Committee will meet Thursday, January 12, 2017 and will continue to meet monthly. He also publicly thanked Mr. Slater and Mr. Ratliff for their efforts regarding the transition plans and the closing of Davenport Elementary.

Building and Grounds Thank You.

Mr. Burgess thanked buildings, grounds and maintenance for their efforts in snow removal and salting all facilities. He stated it is not only important for the safety of everyone but overall appearance of our buildings.

Board Communication

Social Media

Edwards commented on the recent social media site requesting board members to comment. Edwards stated board members making comments on social media may be misconstrued as how the entire board feels. She also stated future concerns of the district should be made appropriately to board members via email. The superintendent may also be contacted via email or phone.

Bond Payment

Edwards commented on the communities concerns over the bond payment that will balloon in 2022. Edwards stated it was important to note the community voted in favor of the current bond at the time the high school was being built through a referendum.

Dr. Shortridge stated the current bond balloons in 2022; however if the bond were restructured it would need to be completed by 2020.

Closed session for discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District in compliance with 5 ILCS 120/2/(c)(1),

A motion was made by Andrews, and seconded by Brynteson, to convene to closed session for discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District in compliance with 5 ILCS 120/2/(c)(1) at 7:26 pm.

Ayes: Fischer, Cleveland, Andrews, Edwards, Gustafson, Brynteson and Kruse.
Motion Carried.

Reconvene to Open Session

The board reconvened to open session at 7:56 pm.

Personnel Action

Personnel Action was not needed at this time.

The board discussed commenting on social media sites.

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Adjournment

A motion was made by Taunya Fischer, seconded by Kristin Brynteson, to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting at 7:58 pm.

Voice Vote: Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Paul Kruse, Board President

Heather Edwards, Board Secretary