

Committee of the Whole Meeting – 6:30 pm
Tuesday, February 9, 2016
Genoa-Kingston Community Unit School District #424
Genoa-Kingston High School Community Room
980 Park Avenue Genoa, IL 60135

1. Call to Order
2. Recognition of GKHS Dance Team and ILMEA State Students
3. PMA - Financial Planning Profile - Mike Frances
4. Recognition of Certified Professional Maintenance Manager - Joe Ratliff
5. Safety Presentation – Jim Slater
6. Vision 2020
7. Skills 2016
8. Financial Profile Score
9. Superintendent Evaluation
10. Administrative Review of Closed Session Meeting Minutes
11. Administrative Review of Closed Session Audio Minutes
12. Public School Calendar 2017-2018 SY
13. Registration and Student Fees
14. Cost Containment
15. Superintendent/Board Communication
16. Future Agenda Items
17. Closed Session for the discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District in compliance with 5 ILCS 12/2(c)/1 and discussion of Student Discipline Case in compliance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).
18. Reconvene to Open Session
19. Adjournment

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Call to Order

Vice-President Barb Gustafson called the Genoa-Kingston CUSD #424 Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 8:05 pm.

Present: Taunya Fischer, Angie Lauderdale, Kristen Andrews, Heather Edwards, Barb Gustafson, Kristin Brynteson.

Absent: Paul Kruse

Recognition of GKHS Dance Team and ILMEA State Students

Mr. Burgess and the board recognized the accomplishments of the GKHS Dance Team and ILMEA students recently competing at the state level.

PMA – 5Cast Financial Planning Profile Presentation - Mike Frances

The PMA 5Cast Financial Planning Profile is postponed until Tuesday, February 23, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.

Recognition of Certified Professional Maintenance Manager - Joe Ratliff

Dr. Shortridge stated for his hard work and training, Joe Ratliff is now certified by the Association of Facilities Engineers as a Certified Facilities Engineer/Professional Maintenance Manager. He further stated we want all of our employees to be well trained and educated and this is another example of one of our Directors being committed to continuous learning and professional development.

Congratulations and well done Mr. Ratliff.

Safety Presentation - Jim Slater

The Safety Presentation has been postponed until Tuesday, March 8, 2016 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Vision 2020

Mr. Burgess gave the board an update on the Tech Expo and future agenda items of the Vision 2020 committee. Mr. Burgess stated the Tech Expo will take place in combination with the Genoa Chamber Business Expo on *Saturday, March 5, 2016 from 10 am – 2 pm.*

Skills 2016

Mr. Burgess presented details and agendas for the current Skills 2016 class.

Mr. Burgess stated the Skills 2016 class has received a grant from the DCCF (DeKalb County Community Foundation) in the amount of \$1,000. Mr. Burgess also stated he has done several Skills Presentations for the community and county.

Financial Profile Score

Dr. Shortridge, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, stated the Financial Profile Designation to the Board of Education. Dr. Shortridge stated the Genoa-Kingston School District has received Financial Recognition Status from the State of Illinois for the 13th year in a row. The designation is based on data from the FY '14 AFR. Each school district in the state receives a Financial Profile score.

There are five Financial Profile Indicators:

1. Fund Balance to Revenue Ratio.
2. Expenditure to Revenue Ratio.
3. Days Cash on Hand.
4. Percent of Short-Term Borrowing Ability Remaining.
5. Percent of Long-Term Debt Margin Remaining.

If a district receives a score of 3.54 - 4.00, they are in the highest category of financial strength - Financial Recognition. These districts require little or no review or involvement by ISBE unless requested by the district. Our score was 3.65. Dr. Shortridge stated unless revenue changes our district may see only one more year of financial recognition.

Superintendent Evaluation

Mr. Burgess presented his contractual goals as a reference regarding the Superintendent evaluation process with the board.

Mrs. Mulso reviewed the Superintendent evaluation process including timeline with the board.

Administrative Review of Closed Session Meeting Minutes

Mr. Burgess has reviewed the closed session minutes for February 2, 2014 through July 15, 2014 and recommends that they stay closed to the public.

The administrative review of closed session meeting minutes will be placed on the agenda for approval at the Tuesday, February 23, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.

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Administrative Review of Closed Session Audio Minutes

Mr. Burgess has reviewed the audio closed session minutes for February 2, 2014 through July 15, 2014 and recommends that they be destroyed.

The administrative review of closed session meeting audio will be placed on the agenda for approval at the Tuesday, February 23, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.

Public School Calendar 2017-2018 SY

Mr. Burgess shared current school calendars to start discussing the 2017-18 school year calendar. He also presented generic calendars prepared for quick reference with starting and ending dates, holidays, etc. He further stated with a later start date June 15th would likely be the last day of school for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Burgess asked the board for perimeters in creating different calendar scenarios for the 2017-2018 school year to review at the next board meeting.

Brynteson stated keeping finals prior to Christmas break.

Edwards agreed with holding finals prior to Christmas break. Edwards also shared an article about a Texas school with a 4 day school week extending their daily schedule by 1 hour. She further stated they use the 5th day for a teachers work day as well as to offer students extra-curricular classes and help with academics. She also stated offering career opportunities such as electrical and engineering on the 5th day.

Gustafson recommended getting out of school earlier than June 15th for students who would like to have a summer job.

Brynteson stated the importance to clearly communicate to the public that PLC's is not the reason we start school early in August.

Dr. Shortridge stated it is important to know that the number of days and minutes students are in school are part of school code.

Brynteson recommended integrating a special day of learning into the schedule as well as internship opportunities. She also stated a previous board meeting where zero hour classes were discussed.

Andrews asked about the logistics and timeline of creating a 4 day school week

Dr. Shortridge stated you would have to consider the extra 30 minutes of work time for teachers and staff.

Mr. Burgess stated the district would include a MOU in the contract. He also stated designing a calendar with a 4 day week to review. He further stated a 4 day school week could be a cost savings to the district.

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Brynteson stated a 4 day school week with an additional day of enhanced learning may be more feasible than a balance calendar. She also stated PLC time could be increased.

Mr. Burgess stated to design the 4 day school week starting on a Tuesday. He further stated a Monday would be a natural day off.

Edwards recommended reviewing the scenario of a 4 day school week calendar.

Mr. Burgess stated he will create different 2017-2018 calendar scenarios for the board to review at the Tuesday, February 23, 2016 Board of Education Meeting

2016-2017 Registration and Student Fees

Mr. Burgess shared registration fee history with the board of education. Mr. Burgess stated registration and student fees are generally discussed this time of year.

Mr. Burgess asked the board about school registration fees and community feedback.

Dr. Shortridge stated the percentage of registration fees collected this year is the worst it has been since he started in the district.

Mr. Burgess stated the district offers payment plans and a free and reduced lunch program. He also stated if approved for free lunch school registration fees may be waived.

Brynteson asked what happens to families that do not pay registration fees.

Dr. Shortridge stated families that do not pay registration fees are sent to collections.

Andrews asked if there is anything for families to reduce or relieve these fees.

Dr. Shortridge stated they can apply for free and reduced lunch. He also stated if a student is approved for free lunch they may have their registration fees waived.

Edwards asked if students that owe registration fees are allowed to take drivers education classes.

Dr. Shortridge stated if a student is approved for free lunch Drivers Ed fees may be waived.

Cost Containment

Ideas for cost containment were discussed with the Board of Education.

Mr. Burgess stated a historical account and projections from 2016-2021. Mr. Burgess stated the district currently has a 343K projected deficit.

Dr. Shortridge stated current projections show expenditures acceptable but revenues are unsustainable.

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Edwards asked about state payments and CPI.

Dr. Shortridge stated the decrease in enrollment and CPI negatively impacts revenue. He also stated the district will see an increase of future insurance costs.

Dr. Shortridge stated the current deficit projection shows -4 teachers by not replacing any of the retiring teachers. He also stated to hire additional teachers would only add to the deficit.

Edwards asked to see the state revenue breakdown.

Dr. Shortridge stated he will look at the state revenue breakdown.

Mr. Burgess stated current projections show the district is in need of a 350K increase in revenue.

Dr. Shortridge stated Dr. Jacoby will be presenting at the IASB spring dinner in Huntley IL. April 6, 2016. He also encouraged board members to attend. Dr. Jacoby will speak about retooling schools and how schools are funded.

Fischer asked about a previous board discussion where the 1% county sales tax was discussed.

Mr. Burgess stated he and President Paul Kruse will be attending a meeting about the 1% sales tax later in February. He also stated the 1% sales tax could impact the district significantly providing 1.7M in revenue. He further stated this would offset bonds and local farmers would hear more about tax abatements and balancing the budget. Mr. Burgess also stated in a few months Sycamore will be selling working cash bonds and this 1% sales tax would help them as well. He also stated Sycamore is discussing a large reduction in staff.

Dr. Shortridge stated discussing reductions in staff.

Superintendent/Board Communication

Senate Bill 100

Mr. Burgess stated Mrs. Mulso has contacted ISBE about Senate Bill 100 board training. He also stated if ISBE does not have training available the district will provide training.

IASB request proposal to present at the annual conference.

Mr. Burgess stated he has sent a request to present at the 2016 IASB Annual Conference.

City of Genoa Dance Team Letter

Mr. Burgess presented a letter from the City of Genoa regarding the Genoa Dance Team going to State Finals.

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Mascot Madness

Mr. Burgess shared information regarding the G-K Mascot Madness contest.

Future Agenda Items

Gustafson asked to have Superintendent Search and Training added to a future agenda.

February 23, 2016 BOE Meeting

PMA Financial Planning Profile – Mike Frances
Cindy Wills DES Presentation
Superintendent Evaluations review
Approval of Review of Closed Session Minutes
Approval of Review of Closed Session Audio
Cost Containment
Registration Fees
Public School Calendar 2017-2018 SY
Superintendent Search

March 8, 2016 COW Meeting

Safety Presentation – Jim Slater

Additional Comments:

Restructuring the District

Edwards asked about the decreasing class sizes and the impact on teachers and building use.

Mr. Burgess stated retiring teachers will not be replaced. He also stated due to the decrease in enrollment many of the district buildings have empty classrooms. Mr. Burgess stated there are several ways to look at restructuring the district. He also stated one consideration would be to close many of the current buildings and build one new building to house K-8th grade. He further stated restructuring a school district can have a positive impact on the district in many ways.

Gustafson asked about research and concerns housing K-8th grade under one roof.

Mr. Burgess stated dividing K-8th grade where younger students would never see older students. He also stated the significant savings by reducing 5 bus routes. He further stated logistically you have much more educational flexibility.

Brynteson stated the difference between retro fitting our existing schools over creating a new innovative building.

Mr. Burgess stated a previous board discussion over the 1% sales tax increase. He also stated the 1% sales tax could be used to build a new building and clear up the deficit.

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Gustafson asked what happens to the buildings that are closed.

Mr. Burgess stated our district is unique in that 3 buildings could be used by the municipalities and the Park District and one building is in a prime location and could be sold for retail development.

Dr. Shortridge stated gifting closed buildings to eliminate maintenance costs.

Brynteson stated the savings of time and travel housing K-8th grade in one building. She also stated the benefits of shared resources between teachers and students.

Edwards asked about the debt of the existing high school.

Dr. Shortridge stated the current bonds are set to increase significantly by 2020.

Closed Session for the discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District in compliance with 5 ILCS 12/2(c)/1 and discussion of Student Discipline Case in compliance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).

A closed session was not needed at this time.

Reconvene to Open Session

None.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Brynteson, seconded by Fischer, to adjourn the Board of Education meeting at 9:00 pm.

Voice vote: All. Motion Carried.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

Paul Kruse, Board President

Heather Edwards, Board Secretary