

**Committee of the Whole Meeting – 6:30 pm**  
**Tuesday, March 8, 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 - United Way Youth Board
3. Safety Presentation - Jim Slater
4. High School Math Proposal
5. High School Science Proposal
6. High School Incubator Class
7. Cost Containment
8. Superintendent/Board Communication
9. Future Agenda Items
10. 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)
11. Reconvene to Open Session
12. Adjournment

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980 Park Avenue Genoa, IL 60135

**Call to Order**

President Paul Kruse called the Genoa-Kingston CUSD #424 Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

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

Absent:

**Recognition - United Way Youth Board**

Mr. Burgess recognized Mrs. Volkening and the G-K United Way Youth Board for their commitment to the Genoa-Kingston School District and the community. Mrs. Volkening introduced the G-K United Way Youth Board. She stated there are currently 14 students active on the G-K United Way Youth Board. The G-K United Way Youth Board has donated \$200.00 to the G-K Band in memory of a student.

Mr. Burgess thanked the G-K United Youth Board for their hard work and effort and this generous donation.

**Safety Presentation - Jim Slater**

Mr. Slater shared a detailed presentation regarding safety updates to the Genoa-Kingston School District including front entrance reconfigurations, cameras and alarms.

Mr. Slater thanked the board for their support in approving the updated security in the district.

Edwards asked if in the event of a lock down or active shooter if police had access to the district cameras and security.

Mr. Burkhalter stated it is possible for the police to have access; however would require training and maintenance. He also stated the extra bandwidth required and access to the districts firewall a concern.

Mr. Slater stated it is possible to record video and place it on a flash drive to share with the police if necessary.

Andrews asked if the cameras can be viewed in live mode at any time.

Mr. Slater stated cameras can be viewed in live mode at any time.

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Lauderdale asked if the local police have key card access to all buildings in the district.

Mr. Slater stated the police and rescue squad both have key card access to all buildings in the district. Mr. Slater also stated he will be attending the national safety and security conference again in April.

Kruse asked about a transition plan due to Mr. Slater's retirement.

Mr. Slater stated he will be training Scott Herrig of the G-K Technical Department to take over after he retires.

Kruse thanked Mr. Slater for his presentation and ongoing training to keep our school safe.

### **High School Math Proposal**

Mr. Burgess shared information regarding the new high school AP Calculus math proposal with the board.

Mr. McPherson stated 17 students have currently applied to the EMSA program and all 17 students have been accepted. He also stated having a 4<sup>th</sup> year of math available for students is important.

Mrs. Hill stated the curriculum committee looked at two different programs. She also stated the chosen curriculum has an online component.

The high school AP Calculus math proposal will be placed on the March 15, 2016 Board of Education Meeting agenda for approval of 30 day public notice.

### **High School Science Proposal**

Mr. Francis shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding the new high school science biology proposal. Mr. Francis stated the key components are designed with heavy vocabulary and an online platform. He also stated the mini lessons in the video library enhance learning.

The high school biology science proposal will be placed on the March 15, 2016 Board of Education Meeting agenda for approval of 30 day public notice.

Kruse asked if there would be enough time for staff training of the new math and science curriculums prior to the start of school this fall.

Mr. Francis stated the online training for staff is extensive. He also stated the staff is already prepared for the new curriculums.

### **High School Incubator Class**

Mr. Owen, a first year business and tech teacher and Mr. Henkel a 5<sup>th</sup> year teacher in the district shared a PowerPoint and detailed information about the new incubator business class at GKHS.

Mr. Burgess stated this is a very exciting class with unlimited potential for our students to gain real work world experience.

Mr. Henkel stated the new Incubator EDU will fill a gap in our entrepreneur class. He also stated visiting Dundee Crown High School and Buffalo Grove High School where they had support staff and observed two sides of working classes. Mr. Henkel shared the course curriculum and how students will begin brainstorming and problem solving to find real solutions to real life problems. He also stated students will develop a viable product while establishing themselves in a business with help from coaches and teachers.

Mr. Owens stated through coaches and mentors there would be over 30 business professionals brought in to work with students. He also stated expanding on the ongoing relationship with the community and students as well as the Incubator EDU professional development.

Brynteson asked if Incubator EDU assists students with seed funding to help take their viable products to the next level. She also asked about the collaboration between other schools and teachers.

Mr. Henkel stated Incubator EDU will assist students with seed money and to compete and help students take their products to the next level. He also stated ongoing collaboration with schools that are already involved in the program.

Brynteson asked if Incubator EDU has the ability to help teachers connect to the proper coaches and mentors. She also asked if there was training for the coaches and mentors.

Mr. Henkel stated Dundee Crown High School found mentors and coaches quickly and had a surplus. He also stated resources and training are available for all coaches and mentors.

Brynteson asked what grade level(s) the Incubator EDU would be offered to.

Mr. Owen stated most schools offer this to junior and senior high school students.

Mr. McPherson stated there has been a lot of interest in the program.

Mr. Burgess stated the district has been working with current economic groups in the county for several years now. He also stated the district works with Bruce Griffith of KEC's regarding a leadership academy in which students are already working with leaders and business people from the community. Mr. Burgess stated the Incubator EDU is the next step.

Mr. Henkel stated it is very exciting to hear there is a large amount of interest from students who wanted to take this class.

Fischer stated enthusiasm and recommended for the program to move forward.

### **Cost Containment**

Mr. Burgess stated multiple issues to discuss moving forward. Mr. Burgess gave an update on building closures, personnel and potential funding ideas and issues with the board of education. Mr. Burgess also stated the district's bonding agent will be at the Tuesday, March 15, 2016 board meeting to discuss bonding options for school construction. He also stated personnel discussions will be held in closed session.

Mr. Burgess stated three scenarios of building closure considerations:

Mr. Burgess stated the lack of student population at the kindergarten level. He also shared what it would look like to close one building, two buildings, add on to an existing building or build a new K-8 building.

Mr. Burgess stated as a district we can look at the idea of building a new K-8 building slowly by closing one building and consolidating while looking negatively at our funding issues in Illinois. He also stated the district has done nothing but cut costs for more than 7 years while revenue in the state and county remain an ongoing issue. He further stated viewing a dying community while putting band aides on problems or looking at our districts issues from a positive perspective while on the forefront of restructuring our district to attract people to our community without raising property taxes. He also stated the impact on the community by restructuring the debt, building a new building, and using older buildings as a hub in our community as extremely positive. Mr. Burgess stated conservatives will ask how we will pay for this. He further stated the district saving a lot of money closing older buildings and restructuring debt, not raising taxes as a cost effective way of moving forward and yet staying in the forefront of students' academic needs. Mr. Burgess stated clear decisions made in March of 2016 need to be the right decisions for March of 2030 as well as consider the community and student needs for the future. He also stated if we cannot do it right then the district will not do it.

Kruse stated what the 2030 board would feel like if the current board left 4 buildings with band aides.

Edwards asked if there would be interest in someone purchasing our current buildings so that we would not have to maintain them.

Mr. Burgess stated preliminary discussions about building closures have not been met with resistance but interest if the district would happen to sell them.

Edwards requested more details from PMA to trust the board is looking clearly at everything and making the right decisions for the community.

Mr. Burgess stated funding questions should be addressed ahead of time so that the PMA has time to address them.

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Kruse stated in the future the board will address the community to understand the financial and academic reasons to move forward with a different facility that meets the needs of our students.

Fischer stated it is important moving into the future to meet student needs academically without ripping up walls.

Lauderdale stated the board discussed accomplishing many of these goals and ideas for the future needs of students at a recent strategic planning meeting.

Edwards asked to hear more about the process at a future board meeting.

Mr. Burgess stated trying to bring as much information to discuss at future board meetings as well as giving the bonding and financing group 4 scenarios to talk about.

Kruse thanked Superintendent Joe Burgess for bringing the detailed information to the board.

### **Superintendent/Board Communication**

Mr. Burgess stated 5 of our 7 fall sports teams received the IHSA Team Academic Achievement Award: 4 of the 5 winter teams have qualified. He also stated it is exciting to hear our students are doing well in scholastics as well as interscholastic roles.

Volleyball (3.48 GPA)  
Girls Cross Country (3.74)  
Boys Cross Country (3.09)  
Girls Golf (3.59)  
Boys Golf (3.4)

### **Tech Expo / Chamber Expo**

Mr. Burgess thanked the Genoa Area Chamber of Commerce for a rewarding day and large attendance at the G-K Tech Expo and Chamber Home and Business Expo. He also thanked everyone that participated in helping to make it a great day.

Gustafson stated all the students that participated in the Tech Expo seemed excited to share their information.

### **Excellence in Education**

Mr. Burgess stated the Excellence in Education dinner is Monday, March 14, 2016 and we will be recognizing the recipients at the Tuesday, March 15, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.

### **Future Agenda Items**

High School Math Proposal 30 Day Public Display  
High School Science Proposal 30 Day Public Display  
Public School Calendar Update  
Superintendent Search Presentation IASB  
Bonding and Financing Presentation  
Cost Containment

**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 Brynteson, seconded Gustafson, 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 8:28 pm.

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

**Reconvene**

The board reconvened to open session at 9:42 pm.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Kristin Brynteson, seconded by Kristen Andrews, to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting at 9:42 pm.

Voice vote: Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0.  
Motion carried.

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Paul Kruse, Board President

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Heather Edwards, Board Secretary