

**Committee of the Whole Meeting – 6:30 pm**  
**Tuesday, March 14, 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. Anti-Bullying Presentation
3. Water Testing Act
4. Lunch Fees
5. School Transition Update
6. Superintendent/Board Communication
7. Future Agenda Items
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. 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 6:31 pm.

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

Absent:

**Anti-Bullying Presentation**

Mr. Burgess publically thanked Mrs. Wilkins and the G-K students for efforts regarding the Anti-Bullying campaign. Mr. Burgess introduced freshman student, John Ramza.

John Ramza commented on the goals of the Anti-Bullying campaigns and the positive impact it is having on students. He also stated educating the students about bullying is the number one goal. He further stated the campaigns will be presented to each school at a grade appropriate level over the next two weeks. The campaigns are created to raise awareness about bullying and send a clear message that it will not be tolerated.

Mr. Burgess stated the student's Anti-Bullying presentations have had a huge impact on the students overall and calls from administrators regarding bullying has decreased significantly.

John Ramza stated he will have Mrs. Wilkins and Mr. Owen email the final Anti-Bullying presentations to the board. John Ramza also asked the board for their support and help regarding future funding, speakers, raising awareness and rallying for the cause.

Kruse asked for the cost of speakers.

John Ramza stated speakers can range in cost from \$700 to \$1000.

Cleveland asked about one presenter for the entire district.

Mrs. Hill stated presenters and topics need to be age appropriate for all grade levels.

Cleveland recommended funding proposals from the Impact Club be considered for a future agenda.

**Water Testing Act**

Mr. Burgess shared an update regarding requirements for the new water testing act that must be in place by December of 2017. Mr. Burgess also shared the current accomplishments of the district

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regarding this act. He also stated the district currently remains under one part per million and although this is a tremendous number the goal would be to be under one. He further stated continuing to update the new Superintendent, Brent O'Daniell on progress regarding the water testing act.

Mr. Slater commented the district has worked with the City of Genoa regarding water testing at no cost to the district. He also commented on the board approved filters added to all water stations as beneficial to water testing goals.

Cleveland asked about proper water testing procedures.

Mr. Slater stated proper water testing procedures are already in place.

### **Lunch Fees**

Mr. Burgess publicly thanked Cafeteria Director, Regan Peterson for her report and stated lunch fees will not be increased for the 2017-2018 school year.

Lunch fees will be placed on the Tuesday, March 21, 2017 board meeting for final approval.

### **School Transition Update**

Mr. Burgess shared the results of the appraisal of Davenport Elementary School with the board. He also shared a monthly calendar of accomplishments and future plans for the district maintenance staff regarding the building closure and transition.

Mr. Burgess stated the buildings are prepared for the 2017-2018 school year. He also stated Mr. Ratliff will be attending a future Village of Kingston meeting to discuss Kingston Elementary School parking and drop off ideas. Mr. Burgess stated inventory has been completed. He also stated he will continue to keep the board updated on future transition details. Mr. Burgess also stated principals will share information about open house and family night dates in their March board reports. Mr. Burgess stated PLC's have been meeting in new buildings as the transition process continues.

Kruse stated some of the students know what buildings they are going to be in next year and are very excited.

Edwards asked about the transition process and schools being fully utilized in comparison to the past several years.

Mr. Francis stated the elementary buildings will be fully utilized.

### **Appraisal:**

Cleveland stated he was surprised by the value of Davenport Elementary School and found the comparable properties very interesting.

Mr. Burgess asked the board for input on a building reserve price.

Cleveland recommended a reserve of \$750K. He also asked about marketing the building.

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Mr. Burgess stated if the building were purchased for \$750K the owner would have immediate equity due to the appraisal. He also asked the board for a recommendation to market the building.

Cleveland asked if there was anyone currently interested in Davenport Elementary School.

Mr. Burgess stated a private youth organization had interest in the property. He also stated the City of Genoa would be interested in GES, in the future, due to its location.

Kruse stated the city has no interest in the Davenport Elementary School location although there was a discussion about a new incubator business.

Cleveland asked about NIU's Incubator Satellite Class.

Mr. Burgess asked the board if they were in favor of him talking about the sale of Davenport Elementary School at the ROE meeting.

Cleveland recommended getting the word out about the building as soon as possible and asked if the Genoa Park District been approached.

Mr. Burgess stated the Genoa Park District did not express interest in the building. Mr. Burgess suggested the building's future use as senior living or apartments.

Cleveland asked about city resources and development groups.

Mr. Burgess recommended talking to Paul Borek with DCEDC (DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation).

Mr. Slater commented on the appraisal stating the building was well maintained inside and out as well as handicapped accessible.

Kruse stated it was clear in the appraisal documents that the building was well maintained but for the board it is a liability.

Edwards stated it would be important to sell the building as soon as possible. She also asked about a commercial real estate website to place the building on.

Mr. Burgess stated he will continue to update the board on the process of selling Davenport Elementary School.

**Superintendent/Board Communication**

**March 23, 2017 IASB Dinner**

Mr. Burgess commented on the upcoming IASB Dinner in Sycamore on Thursday, March 23, 2017. Paul Kruse, Barb Gustafson, Kristen Andrews and Mr. Burgess will be attending.

Mr. Burgess also stated he was asked to present on a panel at the IASB dinner to prospective board members in a question and answers session.

### **PARCC Testing**

Mr. Burgess commented on upcoming PARCC testing and a letter being sent to all parents regarding PARCC testing.

### **Tech Expo Recognition**

Mr. Burgess publicly recognized and thanked administrators, teachers and students that participated in the Annual G-K Tech Expo on Saturday, March 4, 2017.

### **The GK Education Foundation Mini Grant applications**

Mr. Burgess commented on the G-K Education Foundation Mini Grant. He stated applications are now available and due on March 24, 2017.

### **District Curriculum Council**

Mr. Burgess publicly thanked Mrs. Hill for all her work in moving board approved curriculum forward.

### **Kindergarten Registration**

Mr. Burgess stated Kindergarten registration for the 2017-2018 school year has started. There are approximately 69 Kindergarteners now registered.

### **Anti-Bullying Campaigns**

Mr. Burgess stated he will email the anti-bullying campaign presentation agenda to all board members.

### **Board Communication**

Kristen Andrews publicly thanked Mr. Burgess for speaking at the annual chamber dinner and being such a wonderful inspiration to others.

### **Future Agenda Items**

GKMS Project Lead the Way - Angelo Lekkas  
Lunch Fee Approval  
School Transition Update

Cleveland recommended looking at proposals from the Impact Club regarding the funding of future presenters.

Gustafson asked about future grants.

Andrews recommended sharing costs between other districts.

Brynteson commented on grants through DCCF (DeKalb County Community Foundation).

Mrs. Hill commented on the GKEF grant (Genoa Kingston Education Foundation) due March 4, 2017.

Brynteson recommended a Go Fund Me or Crowd Funding account as another means of fundraising

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for presenters.

Edwards commented on matching funds.

Cleveland recommended the Impact Club prepare a proposal for further review by the board.

**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, and 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 7:08 pm.

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

**Reconvene**

The board reconvened to open session at 7:58 pm.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Kristen Andrews, seconded by Barb Gustafson, to adjourn the Committee of the Whole session meeting at 7:58 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