

**Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 pm**  
**Tuesday, March 15, 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. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Mission Statement
4. Public hearings petitions questions and comments from guests and visitors
5. Correspondence/Presentation
  - 5.01 Excellence in Education Recipient
  - 5.02 Superintendent Search - IASB
  - 5.03 Bonding and Financing Presentation - PMA
6. Consent Agenda
  - a. Payrolls
  - b. Accounts Payable
  - c. Minutes
  - d. Leave of Absence, Resignation, Retirement
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Old Business
  - 8.01 School Board Resolution
  - 8.02 2016-2017 School Calendar Update
  - 8.03 High School Math Proposal
  - 8.04 High School Science Proposal
  - 8.05 Cost Containment
9. New Business
  - 9.01 Donations
  - 9.02 FOIA Report
10. Superintendent/Board Communication
11. Future Agenda Items
12. 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)
13. Reconvene to Open Session
14. Adjournment

**Board of Education Meeting Minutes – 7:00 pm**  
**Tuesday, March 15, 2016**  
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Genoa-Kingston High School Community Room  
980 Park Avenue Genoa, IL 60135

**Call to Order**

Paul Kruse called the Genoa-Kingston Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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

Absent: Taunya Fischer

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Angelo Lekkas and students from Genoa Kingston Middle School led guests and members of the Board of Education in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Mission Statement**

Heather Edwards read the Mission Statement, "Preparing students to excel and contribute to their community."

**Public hearings petitions questions and comments from guests and visitors**

There were no public hearings petitions questions or comments from guests and visitors.

**Correspondence/Presentation**

**Excellence in Education Recipient**

Mr. Burgess and the Board of Education recognized Kendra Brauer for receiving the Excellence in Education Award at KEC on March 14, 2016.

**Chrome Book Presentation**

Mr. Lekkas shared a Power point presentation stating the use and benefits of Chrome books at Genoa Kingston Middle School. He stated Chrome books are district owned machines with access to Google Classroom. Mr. Lekkas introduced Andrea Laben who works with students on curriculum and general uses of Chrome books. Mr. Lekkas stated the safety of Chrome books using Go Guardian. Mr. Lekkas shared recent parent/student survey results: Students feel very skilled using their Chrome books, Chrome books made learning better and school fun as well as 79% of students and 100% of teachers would like to continue using Chrome books.

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Students from Genoa-Kingston Middle School demonstrated the use of Chrome books one on one to the Board of Education. Students shared Google Classroom, ALEKs or Math Text, My Typing Club, Social Science and/or Science Text, Language Arts Papers / Assignments / Google Forms and Google Drive.

**Superintendent Search - IASB**

Mr. Burgess introduced Mr. Tom Leahy from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB).

Mr. Leahy introduced himself and shared a proposal letter of what is included in a basic superintendent search. He also stated superintendent searches are included in the national search guide. He further stated an announcement of vacancy will be sent out and widely distributed and is included in the basic cost of the search.

Mr. Leahy presented a timeline with details of services IASB provides school districts in the process of a superintendent selection. He also stated the cost of a basic superintendent search is \$7,400. He also stated the IASB will compensate the online survey tool of \$1,000. Mr. Leahy stated the full search and online survey do a good job with a superintendent selection. He also stated an additional fee of \$1,500 to conduct in district interviews with staff/community and a \$3,500 consultation fee. Mr. Leahy stated a complete package for \$11,900. He also stated the fee would stay the same if approved this fiscal year. Mr. Leahy stated if there was an issue filling the seat they will continue to do another search and stay with the district until the seat is filled. He also stated some districts include internal and external candidates. He further stated the IASB will develop an announcement and story about the district and community and what the Genoa-Kingston School District is looking for in a superintendent.

Mr. Leahy stated the following timeline scenario:

May: In district interviews talking to staff and community members.

June: Report online survey and in district interview results, develop brochure.

August - October: Strict deadline in October using Applitrack to upload applications, resumes and letter of recommendation.

October – November: Initial interviews in October and final interviews in November.

December: Hiring complete.

Gustafson asked about the brochure and board identifying details for the ideal board candidate.

Mr. Leahy stated the board can add anything they wish to the brochure including a residency request.

Edwards asked about the online survey and if it would involve the community, board and staff.

Mr. Leahy stated the online survey would include the community, board and staff.

Mr. Leahy asked the board about a firm timeline.

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Kruse stated the board did not have a firm timeline at this time but wanted to learn more about IASB's process.

Mr. Leahy stated starting a superintendent search early widens the pool of candidates. He also stated the IASB is very careful in screening potential candidates. Mr. Leahy shared a contract with the board of education to review and consider working with the IASB for the superintendent search.

The Board of Education thanked Mr. Leahy for his presentation.

**Bonding and Financing Presentation - PMA**

Dr. Shortridge introduced Bob Lewis of PMA.

Mr. Lewis presented and discussed the district's bonding capacity and provided information for how to finance a building project and what Genoa-Kingston's options are should the Board decide to embark on a building project.

Mr. Leahy introduced himself and shared a municipal bond overview and financing options with the Board of Education.

Kruse asked where the money would come from.

Mr. Lewis stated Genoa-Kingston School District's credit rating is "A1" which has a very strong financial capacity but is susceptible to adversity. He also stated the district has done a good job but the uncertainty in the financial world makes it hard to upgrade the districts credit rating at this time. Mr. Lewis stated the district would need to restructure the current bond payments over time due to the increase cost to tax payers in 2021. He also stated the only non-referendum plan would be to restructure bonds every two years to not endure costly restructuring in the future. Mr. Lewis stated if the county wide sales tax passed it would help a great deal with the repayment.

Mr. Lewis stated in his opinion the district should look at the 15M option #1 or option #2. He also stated option #1 and option #2 would not need general assembly approval but option #3 and option #4 would. Mr. Lewis also shared key dates and deadlines with the Board of Education.

Mr. Lewis stated in summary under school code the Genoa-Kingston CUSD #424 has a lot of options. He also stated the extension base allows borrowing on many capital improvement projects. He further stated with a project larger than 15M the district will need a referendum. Mr. Lewis stated this information insures the board has a good foundation to be more informed when issuing bonds.

Mr. Burgess and the Board of Education thanked Mr. Lewis for the valuable information and detailed presentation.

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**Consent Agenda**

Edwards asked about the fee to renew the IHSA membership.

Mr. Burgess stated there were no fees to renew the IHSA membership.

A motion was made by Gustafson, and seconded by Edwards, to approve the February 25, 2016 payroll in the amount of \$564,702.63, the March 10, 2016 payroll in the amount of \$581,472.74, the March 15, 2016 KEC payroll in the amount of \$100,144.96, the March 2016 Payable Board Report in the amount of \$198,215.09, the February 23, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes, the March 8, 2016 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes, the February 23, 2016 closed session meeting minutes, and the March 8, 2016 closed session meeting, minutes. The approval of the closed session minutes does not constitute disclosure or dissemination until the Board has authorized the dissemination or disclosure of these minutes.

**To approve the 2016-17 IHSA Membership Renewal.**

**To approve the following leave of absence:**

Jennifer Thornton - Speech Pathologist - Effective August 15, 2016 - November 1, 2016.

**To approve the following resignation:**

Kathryn Underwood - GKHS Teacher - Effective at the end of the 2015-2016 School Year.

**To approve the following retirement:**

Cindy Wills - Principal - Effective at the end of the 2016-2017 School Year.

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

**Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Hoffman presented a detailed treasurers report to the Board of Education.

Ms. Hoffman stated the March Treasurers Report will reflect a change in financial institution due to NB&T changing to First Midwest Bank.

Ms. Hoffman stated the district has received 136K in federal grant money. She also stated there will be one more push to collect registration fees before those that have not paid registration fees are sent to collections. She further stated two generous donations \$1,000 each from DeKalb County Community Foundation and Genoa Pharmacy to the Skills Class. Ms. Hoffman stated the State of Illinois is current with all payments.

Dr. Shortridge stated unsure if the district will receive GSA for May and June.

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A motion was made by Brynteson, and seconded by Lauderdale, to approve the February Treasurer's Report as presented.

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

Kruse asked if the district's current software will be supported in five years.

Ms. Hoffman stated the current software will not be supported in five years. She further stated attending a conference in November looking into all software options for the district. She stated currently looking at three or four software vendors and the need to make a change now. Ms. Hoffman stated choosing two or three companies that would meet the needs of the district and inviting them to present at a future board meeting and a then having a proposal to review by June 1st. Ms. Hoffman stated efficiencies are needed and the current software is high maintenance for the technical department. She also stated it would be important to have software that was hosted off site and web based where an encumbrance feature could be introduced. Ms. Hoffman stated automated features desirable for forecasting while also eliminating paper PO's. Ms. Hoffman stated programs to be considered are; SunGard, Skyward, and Infinite Visions. Ms. Hoffman further stated the conversion will be the largest part of the expense along with the annual fee.

Kruse stated discussing new software for the district with Ms. Hoffman during the November Conference. He also stated he wanted to make the board aware of this concern.

## **Old Business**

### **School Board Resolution**

Mr. Burgess stated the need for the board to discuss the terms of a resolution to have action taken on at the Annual IASB Triple I conference in November. Mr. Burgess stated the application process begins April 1, 2016 and is due by June 22, 2016. He further stated sample resolutions will be available for review and the application will be shared at the April 12, 2016 Committee of the Whole meeting.

### **2016-2017 School Calendar Update**

Mr. Burgess stated updating the 2016-17 calendar to reflect corrected dates for next year.  
(i.e. Institute day)

Mr. Burgess stated the IWAS System took a date out in the middle of the year which did not impact the beginning or ending date and an institute date was corrected. He also stated the calendar has been corrected and will need to be approved by the board.

A motion was made by Gustafson, and seconded by Andrews, to approve the updated 2016-2017 public school calendar as presented.

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

### **High School Math Proposal**

A motion was made by Brynteson, and seconded by Andrews, to place the new high school math proposal on 30 day public display as presented.

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

### **High School Science Proposal**

A motion was made by Gustafson, and seconded by Lauderdale, to place the high school math proposal on 30 day public display as presented.

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

### **Cost Containment**

Mr. Burgess shared cost containment scenarios and timeline for project construction with the board.

Mr. Burgess stated the timeline for project construction to be a draft and collaboration with others in the district. He also stated the timeline includes several scenarios of construction based on looking at other districts with similar plans and obstructions.

Mr. Burgess stated determining a bonding process for construction now through the end of the summer. He also stated announcing building closures and what buildings would be closed or renovated. He further stated forming a committee prior to the end of the school year, purchasing land around the chosen school, architectural meetings, bid meetings and community meetings. Mr. Burgess stated holding community meetings during the 2016-2017 school year. He also stated designing transitional plans and construction goals to move in by the 2018.

Kruse asked about the timeline and what other communities have done.

Edwards asked if the timeline reflected building a new building or renovating current buildings. She also asked if it was possible to build a new building for 25M and how many square feet the district would need.

Mr. Burgess stated the timeline reflects renovation of current buildings.

Mr. Slater stated it could cost 20M or \$100 per square foot to build a brand new building. He also stated the current high school is 197,000 square feet.

Mr. Burgess stated a referendum would be difficult when looking at the districts bonding options for building options. He also stated staying within 15M allows the capacity to restructure the district and

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add on to the current high school for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade as well as add on to Genoa Elementary School without a referendum.

Edwards asked if the additions to both the high school and Genoa Elementary School could be accomplished for under 15M.

Mr. Burgess stated the additions to both buildings could be accomplished for less than 15M with some additional cost out of bonding.

Edwards asked if 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students would be in a separate wing of the high school.

Mr. Burgess stated the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students would be in a separate wing of the high school. He also stated meeting academic goals, growing programs and progressive change with a 7-12 academic center. He further stated the exploding band population could be addressed as well as the new Incubator EDU creating space for increased educational needs. Mr. Burgess stated the thought of restructuring our district at a tax savings to our community and knowing as a district we are not going to fold up and die but explode with opportunities for our students and our community is exciting.

Mr. Slater stated to keep in mind the current high school was built to hold 1000 students when considering building or restructuring.

Kruse asked if it would be less expensive to restructure due to the current core facilities at the high school.

Edwards asked about the heating and cooling upgrades to Genoa Elementary School.

Mr. Burgess stated the upgrades to Genoa Elementary School would be minimal due to upgrades completed in 2001. Mr. Burgess stated to restructure Genoa Elementary School the district would need to purchase existing homes that would be a part of the construction, bus and water needs. He also stated Kingston Elementary School is land locked. He further stated Kingston Elementary School would not be closed immediately due to other opportunities that exist.

Edwards asked about expanding Genoa Elementary School up or out.

Mr. Burgess stated the first choice would be expanding Genoa Elementary out. He also stated the potential at Genoa Elementary School provides many more options for K-6.

Edwards asked about future growth in two buildings and maintenance costs if the district considers keeping Kingston Elementary School open.

Kruse stated looking at all options.

Mr. Burgess stated restructuring the district for well under 15M and the potential to decrease taxes. He also stated new learning spaces with less cost are within the districts bonding capacity while closing other buildings will put the district's budget back in line. Mr. Burgess also stated possible revenue from expanding the preschool and creating a daycare at Kingston Elementary an option.

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Brynteson asked about the district's financial adaptability due to restructuring. She also stated supporting growing programs rather than cutting back.

Mr. Burgess stated the district would be in a better place financially not only due to personnel but transportation and maintenance costs. He also stated the cost savings in closing buildings. He further stated seeing the district in a position of strength and steady growth rather than a district of continual cutting important. He further stated it is importance to looking forward and begin to grow as the community expects.

Kruse asked the board for direction in moving forward possibly closing buildings or to look at other options for cost containment.

Edwards stated she supported moving forward due to maintenance costs and too many buildings compared to student population.

Brynteson stated it made financial sense to move forward.

## **New Business**

### **Donations**

Mr. Burgess stated there were five generous donations to accept. He also stated Genoa Pharmacy looking forward to helping the district with the new Incubator Edu Class.

A motion was made by Andrews, and seconded by Brynteson, to accept these generous donations: \$35.00 to Kingston Elementary School Playground Fund from the Corbett Family, \$25.00 to the Kingston Elementary School Playground Fund from the Poegel Family, \$200 to the G-K Band from the G-K United Way Youth Board in memory of a student, \$171.04 to Genoa Kingston Middle School from "Take Charge of Education", Target, \$1,000 to the GKHS 2016 SKILLS Class from The Genoa Pharmacy owner Parag Maniar.

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

### **FOIA Report**

There are no FOIA to report at this time.

## **Superintendent/Board Communication**

### **SKILLS 2016 Graduation**

Mr. Burgess shared the date of the Skills 2016 graduation to be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 7 pm. at the high school.

### **Lea Pennington Problem Solvers**

Mr. Burgess thanked Lea Pennington for the success of the Genoa-Kingston Problem Solvers.

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**Player of the Year**

Mr. Burgess stated Tommy Lucca has been selected as the player of the year this year. He also stated Tommy Lucca has been getting votes as Mr. Basketball for the State of Illinois.

**Future Agenda Items**

**Committee Meeting – April 12, 2016**

Building and Grounds Summer Help  
Summer School 2016  
February PRESS Policies for Review  
Executive Search  
Cost Containment

**Board of Education Meeting – April 26, 2016**

PLC Presentation  
Approval of High School Math Proposal  
Approval of High School Science Proposal

**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 closed session was not needed at this time.

**Reconvene to Open Session**

None

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Gustafson, and seconded by Brynteson, to adjourn the Board of Education meeting at 9:27 pm.

Voice vote: All. Motion Carried

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

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Paul Kruse, Board President

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Heather Edwards, Board Secretary