

Committee of the Whole Meeting – 6:30 pm
Tuesday, June 14, 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. Midwest Transit Bus Lease Check
3. June 30, 2016 Second Accounts Payable Run
4. 1% Sales Tax
5. Superintendent Evaluation Tool
6. Superintendent Search Committee
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

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – 6:30 pm
Tuesday, June 14, 2016**

Genoa-Kingston Community Unit School District #424
Genoa-Kingston High School Community Room
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: Kristen Andrews, Heather Edwards, Barb Gustafson, Kristin Brynteson, and Paul Kruse.

Absent: Taunya Fischer, Angie Lauderdale

Midwest Transit Bus Lease Check

Mr. Burgess stated payment is typically made to Midwest Bus Transit prior to busses being delivered in early July.

Dr. Shortridge stated the payment is approximately \$212K.

Dr. Shortridge recommended the board to approve the Midwest Transit Bus Lease Check payment at the June 28, 2016 board meeting.

The Midwest Transit Bus Lease Check Payment will be placed on the consent agenda for approval at the Tuesday, June 28, 2016 Board of Education meeting.

June 30, 2016 Second Accounts Payable Run

Dr. Shortridge stated a second accounts payable run is necessary to make sure all the bills are paid within this fiscal year.

Dr. Shortridge recommended the board's approval to run a second bill payable run at the June 28, 2016 board meeting. The specifics of those expenditures, if any, will be presented for board approval at the July 19, 2016 board meeting.

The June 30, 2016 Second Accounts Payable Run will be placed on the consent agenda for approval at the Tuesday, June 28, 2016 Board of Education meeting.

1% Sales Tax

Mr. Burgess shared information from the May 26th County meeting. He also stated the City of Genoa has come out against the 1% sales tax due to the fuel issue in the city similar to Sycamore. Mr. Burgess stated he anticipates a letter from the City regarding this issue.

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Edwards asked about other cities, towns or governing bodies not in favor of the 1% sales tax.

Brynteson asked about statements from surrounding school districts regarding the 1% sales tax.

Mr. Burgess stated DeKalb and Sandwich have interest in the 1% sales tax.

Andrews asked if Shabbona School District had any interest.

Mr. Burgess stated Shabbona is non-committal and will not speak for or against the 1% sales tax due to their support from the surrounding windmills.

Edwards asked how much the City of Genoa would lose regarding the 1% sales tax. Edwards also asked about the fuel tax.

Andrews commented on excluding the fuel tax for the 1% sales tax to move forward.

Mr. Burgess stated there have been conversations about excluding the fuel tax.

Kruse asked if the City would be in favor of the 1% sales tax if the fuel tax was excluded.

Mr. Burgess asked the board about an August 3rd or August 4th meeting date regarding the 1% sales tax.

The board agreed on the Wednesday, August 3, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Burgess stated the December Board Meeting is the last possible date for the board to pass a resolution regarding the 1% sales tax to be placed on the April Election Ballot.

The 1% sales tax will move forward as an agenda item for further discussion at the Tuesday, June 28, 2016 BOE meeting.

Superintendent Evaluation Tool

Mr. Burgess shared several examples of a Superintendent Evaluation Tool with the Board of Education. He also asked the Board for direction in creating a new evaluation.

The board discussed several examples for a new Superintendent Evaluation Tool.

Edwards stated in favor of two examples. She also commented on the Superintendent providing evidence, goals being spelled and a rubric format including comments as potential changes. She further commented on a staff survey bringing balance to the evaluation process. Edwards was also in favor of the Superintendent seeing all of the comments.

Gustafson stated it was important to establish goals with the Superintendent from the beginning. She also commented in favor of a staff survey. She further stated a combination of evaluation tools from Somonauk and Meridian School District would be best. Gustafson stated the Superintendent providing evidence or being evaluated more than once a year to be considered.

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Kruse stated in favor of a shorter version evaluation tool. He also stated the Superintendent providing evidence for goals achieved important. Kruse stated new board members would find viewing prior evidence and goals of the Superintendent valuable.

Brynteson stated creating a rubric to provide evidence and clear examples of accomplishments important. She also stated to assign a value or need for improvement within the rubric. Brynteson commented on the Meridian School District's evaluation tool. She also stated it would be important to continue conversations targeting future goals throughout the year. She further stated evaluation frequency could be based on performance. Brynteson stated the evaluation tool needs to be clear. She also stated in favor of sharing all staff and board comments with the Superintendent.

Andrews stated in favor of a combination of evaluation tools. She was also in favor of an evaluation mid-year to check status of a Superintendent. Andrews was in favor of a rating scale and rubric along with the Superintendents input. She also shared concerns about honest feedback from staff.

Mr. Burgess stated to use caution when relying on just data. He also stated it would be important for a Superintendent to show the ability to be flexible as well as provide evidence. Mr. Burgess stated the staff survey could be included in a mid-year check. He also stated being cognitive of staff feedback which could be negative due to board directives.

Kruse stated he would like to add a July Summer Retreat to further discuss the Superintendent Evaluation Tool.

The board asked Mr. Burgess to create framework for a new Superintendent Evaluation Tool using a combination of the Meridian School District and Somonauk School District evaluation tool including a staff survey portion.

Superintendent Search Committee

Mr. Burgess shared a timeline and advertising information for the superintendent search with the Board of Education. He asked the Board of Education to share any detailed information to add to the brochure.

Mr. Burgess stated Tom Leahy will be attending the July 19, 2016 Board of Education Meeting to discuss the advertising brochure for the superintendent search in detail.

Kruse stated sharing district partnerships in the brochure.

Edwards asked Mrs. Mulso to share a sample brochure with the board.

Brynteson asked Mrs. Mulso to share the brochure to Google Docs.

Cost Containment

Mr. Burgess shared a breakdown of areas discussed at the community meeting and a draft agenda for the committee meeting. Mr. Burgess asked the board to review the agenda and share input prior to the committee meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

Andrews asked to have restructuring bonds added to the agenda. She also stated creating a new Power Point and clarifying the issues.

Kruse stated it was important to do a better job sharing the differences in the bonds issue and the deficit issue. He also stated sharing clear examples regarding the health of existing buildings.

Gustafson stated it was important to discuss the cost of maintaining existing buildings.

Edwards commented on the current deficit and asked the board if they were prepared to not close schools. Edwards stated personally, closing a school next year will happen. She also stated the board could have closed a school year this year and chose not to. She further stated to be fiscally responsible we need to close a school.

Andrews stated it is important as a board to be fiscally responsible and that closing one building will not fix the problem. Andrews also stated the next committee meeting should include introductions and the responsibilities of the committee.

Brynteson stated the committee is an advisory committee to provide perspective over the existing concerns. She also stated it is important for the board to consider advice from the committee to make the best decision for the betterment of the community, staff and most of all students.

Mr. Burgess commented that even after multiple meetings, multiple times the community still does not understand that the community meeting was to share information regarding concerns of the district and to discuss one example of what could be done to restructure bonds and reduce the deficit.

Edwards commented on the amount of empty classrooms

Gustafson commented on the amount of empty classrooms. She also commented on the community understanding the board is looking at many options.

Brynteson asked about a communication plan.

Brynteson stated the committee will ensure discussions about different perspectives and ultimately help the community better understand the decision of the board.

Edwards commented on the deficit and buildings remaining open when money runs out. She also stated it was important to have a clear understanding of what the community wants whether it is to add on to existing buildings or build a brand new building.

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Brynteson stated it is important to communicate to the community the board's objective in trying to eliminating the deficit while creating classrooms with better technology, enhanced learning environments, and advanced curriculum for our staff and students.

Andrews asked what brings the most value under the current circumstances. She asked if building a brand new building was the best option.

Brynteson asked about building a brand new building being accomplished by reducing debt and closing buildings.

Mr. Burgess stated looking at all options.

Edwards stated to communicate clearly, to the committee, the board is not going to sit and do nothing.

Kruse commented the purpose of the community meeting was to communicate the board was not going to do nothing.

Mr. Burgess stated he will create a Power Point and new agenda with the input from the board and send a reminder to the committee on Thursday regarding the meeting on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

Superintendent/Board Communication

Triple I Conference Update

Mrs. Mulso stated the 2016 Triple I Conference request has been mailed to IASB.

IASB Membership Update

Kruse asked when updates and codes would be sent to all board members.

Mrs. Mulso stated they should be arriving in the next two weeks.

Letter Regarding Budget

Mr. Burgess shared a letter with the board he has prepared to the Citizens of Genoa-Kingston Schools regarding the State Budget. He also stated there are leaders from both sides that are positive about getting something done. He further stated uncertainty of anything being done prior to the November election. Mr. Burgess stated the first paragraph states the speculation of schools opening this fall. He also stated our board is committed to opening school on time. Mr. Burgess stated he is asking Representative Pritchard to step across the aisle and work. He also stated it is a big mistake for our representatives to think we work for them. Mr. Burgess asked the board to support the attached letter and support opening school on time this fall.

Andrews asked what it means for the district if a budget is not passed.

Mr. Burgess stated it means there will be no General State Aide revenue for our district.

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Dr. Shortridge stated we currently receive approximately \$500K a month in General State Aide. He also stated the district would be in trouble in the 2017-2018 school year and could not open in the 2018-2019 school year.

Kruse asked if this would occur in this fiscal year

Dr. Shortridge stated it would be late in this fiscal year.

Edwards recommended all emails for representatives be listed in the letter.

The board supported the letter to be sent to the Citizens of the Genoa-Kingston Schools.

Future Agenda Items

Night School Presentation
Amended Budget Presentation Hearing and Approval
Midwest Bus Transit Payment Approval
Second Bills Payable Run Approval
1% Sales Tax
Superintendent Search Committee
Superintendent Evaluation Tool
Cost Containment
Community Committee Meeting
Reminder of July 19, 2016 Board of Education Meeting

Board Policy 7:60

Edwards asked about Board Policy 7:60 Students – Residence.

Kruse stated if changes were to be made to policy 7:60 it would need to be on public display for 30 days prior to board approval.

Mr. Burgess stated he would not support changes to policy 7:60 Students-Residence. He commented on the association and attorneys that write the policies. He further commented that the policies are not written based on recent conversations but rather every student that may or may not want to attend a district.

Edwards stated it important to have a discussion regarding policy 7:60. She further stated the discussion should include; why we have the policy, why we have not changed the policy and the history of the policy. Edwards recommended discussion of policy 7:60 under Superintendent/Board Communication during the next Board of Education Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 28, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

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Board Resolution Update

Kruse asked about the board's recent resolution submission to IASB. Kruse stated this resolution could help schools from completely closing to redesign their school days or hours.

Mr. Burgess stated he has not heard anything from IASB regarding the recent resolution submitted.

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)
Subject

A closed session was not needed at this time.

Reconvene to Open Session

There was no need to reconvene

Adjournment

A motion was made by Gustafson and seconded by Brynteson to adjourn the Board of Education Meeting at 7:41 pm.

All: Motion Carried.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Paul Kruse, Board President

Heather Edwards, Board Secretary