

Board of Education Meeting – 7:00pm
Tuesday, July 14, 2015
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. Consent Agenda
 - a. Payrolls
 - b. Accounts Payable
 - c. Minutes
 - d. Bid Approval
 - e. Sale of Surplus Property
 - f. Contracts
 - g. Employment, Coaches, Resignations
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Old Business
 - 8.01 2015-16 Phonics Recommendation
8. New Business
 - 8.01 Tentative Budget Discussion
 - 8.02 Substitute Rates - Bus Drivers
 - 8.03 Pay to Ride Program
 - 8.04 Acceptance & Preliminary Approval of Resignations and Hiring's
 - 8.05 FOIA Report
 - 8.06 Donations
9. Superintendent/Board Communication
10. Future Agenda Items
11. Closed Session for the purpose of discussion relating to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District in compliance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)
12. Reconvene to Open Session
13. Adjournment

Board of Education Meeting – 7:00pm
Tuesday, July 14, 2015
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Genoa-Kingston High School Community Room
980 Park Avenue Genoa, IL 60135

Call to Order

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

Present: Taunya Fischer, Angie Lauderdale, Kerri Sosnowski, Heather Edwards, Barb Gustafson, Paul Kruse.

Absent: Kristin Brynteson

Pledge of Allegiance

Joe Burgess led the guests and members of the Board of Education in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mission Statement

Taunya Fischer 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 or visitors.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Gustafson, and seconded by Sosnowski, to approve the June 25, 2015 payroll in the amount of \$525,840.04, the July 9, 2015 payroll in the amount of \$455,950.98, the final June 2015 Payable Board Report in the amount of \$120,717.04, the July 2015 Payable Board Report in the amount of \$352,576.58, and the June 16, 2014 Board of Education 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 Blake Oil as the district fuel provider for the 2015-2016 school year by virtue of winning the bid process.

To approve the sale of surplus property

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To approve director contract

To approve non-union classified staff contract

To approve the following employment considerations:

Mario Flores - ESP - Effective - 2015-2016 school year
Christina Materazzi - ESP - Effective - 2015-2016 school year
Laura Swider - ESP - Effective - 2015-2016 school year
Brooke Benesh - Social Worker - Effective - 2015-2016 school year

To approve the following coaches:

Roger Butler - HS Varsity Baseball - Effective - 2015-2016 school year
Felicia Olson - MS Cheerleading - Effective - 2015-2016 school year
Steve Theil - Sophomore Baseball - Effective - 2015-2016 school year

To approve the following resignation:

Amanda Spanraft - High School Science Teacher - Effective - June 30, 2015

Ayes: Edwards, Fischer, Gustafson, Lauderdale, Sosnowski, Kruse
Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Renee Hoffman presented the June treasurers report and FY-15 report in detail.

Ms. Hoffman stated the large balance with NB&T is due to the recent property tax payment made to the district. She also stated our financial report shows that we are in balance with the financial institutions and the notes page offered details of deposits and disbursements for the month. Ms. Hoffman also stated 99.9% of current student registration fees were for the 2015-16 school year. She further stated the district received more revenue than anticipated based on our projected deficit; therefore the district shows a current \$336,000 deficit. Ms. Hoffman stated the FY-15 concise report in comparison shows this as well.

Ms. Hoffman stated the State owes us \$275,000 to date.

Ms. Hoffman stated we received more than what the district anticipated in tax revenue as well as the entire lease from the district copy machines was refunded.

Ms. Hoffman stated there was a decrease in General State Aid due to changes since Governor Rauner took office.

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Ms. Hoffman also stated allocating \$300,000 of the General State Aide into the O&M Fund opposed the Education Fund.

Edwards asked if money could be transferred from one fund to another if needed or if it has to stay in O&M Fund.

Ms. Hoffman stated any movement in funds must be done by a Board Resolution.

Edwards asked about the second tax installment.

Dr. Shortridge stated the June payment is typically unknown; however we will be aware of the September payment amount.

Ms. Hoffman stated detailed information about the district's expense report and the importance of looking at the budgeted column. Ms. Hoffman stated more was spent in debt service; however the district did budget for this. She further stated in the Education Fund, the Capital Outlay Fund was recently amended to meet the needs of the recent technology infrastructure.

Ms. Hoffman shared activity account information as well as general fund information.

Edwards asked if money in the general fund is money that has come from PTO donations.

Ms. Hoffman stated the general fund is where the PTO money or year book money is placed.

Edwards asked about FY-14 and a 5th payment from the state and if all of the payments were for FY-14 or if one was for FY-13.

Ms. Hoffman stated it was for payments in FY-13 and FY-14 but these payments must be recorded in the year in which they are received.

Kruse asked about current impact fees.

Dr. Shortridge stated there were no reports of any new construction where impact fees were charged.

Mr. Burgess stated certain communities have waived a number of impact fees to encourage new construction and growth.

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

Ayes: Fischer, Gustafson, Lauderdale, Sosnowski, Edwards, Kruse
Motion Carried.

Old Business

2015-16 Phonics Recommendation

Mr. Burgess stated the K thru 2nd grade Phonics Curriculum was discussed at a recent committee of the whole meeting, and asked the board for approval of this recommendation.

A motion was made by Sosnowski, and seconded by Fischer, to approve the K thru 2 Phonics recommendations as presented.

Ayes: Gustafson, Lauderdale, Sosnowski, Edwards, Fischer, Kruse
Motion Carried.

New Business

Tentative Budget Discussion

Dr. Shortridge stated the Tentative Budget Hearing needs to be placed on 30 day public notice prior to the public hearing on September 22, 2015.

Dr. Shortridge recommended the board make the August 11, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting a formal Board Meeting to take action to approve the posting of the Tentative Budget Hearing for 30 day public notice on September 22, 2015.

Mr. Burgess asked the board if there was anything they would like to include in the tentative budget hearing.

Kruse asked if there were any anticipated movement or changes in staffing that should be considered.

Dr. Shortridge stated there were currently no staffing changes to consider in the tentative budget.

The Tuesday, August 11, 2015 will be a regular board meeting to include taking action on the 30 day public notice of a Tentative Budget Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2015.

Substitute Rates - Bus Drivers

Mr. Burgess recommended a 2% increase in substitute rates for bus routes and extracurricular bus routes.

Mr. Burgess stated the 2% increase is similar to the base increase in the new GKEA Contract. He also stated the increase would be from \$17.40 to \$17.75 for substitute bus driver routes and would increase from \$14.73 to \$15.02 for extracurricular routes.

Edwards asked if the increase was recommended due to the current change in the GKEA contract. Edwards also asked if substitute cafeteria workers would see an increase.

Mr. Burgess stated it was due to substitute bus salaries being frozen for more than five (5) years.

Dr. Shortridge stated this would only affect substitute bus drivers, other positions are based on the minimum wage schedule.

Fradkin stated the increase would help to find substitute drivers for regular routes as well as the extracurricular routes. She also stated drivers would feel they were being acknowledged for their work since rates have been frozen for over five (5) years.

Edwards asked if the substitute bus driver increase is also being considered due to the recent increase for substitute teachers.

Sosnowski stated substitute teachers as well as substitute bus drivers are the districts areas of concern.

Dr. Shortridge stated teachers and bus drivers need specific certificates and/or CDL licensing.

A motion was made by Sosnowski, and seconded by Lauderdale, to approve a 2% increase for substitute bus drivers routes and extra-curricular routes.

Ayes: Lauderdale, Sosnowski, Edwards, Fischer, Gustafson, Kruse
Motion Carried.

Pay to Ride Program

Mr. Burgess stated the total Pay-to-Ride ridership was down by 37% in 2014-15. 17 students participated, 3 of which were employee children. The program revenues were \$1,675. Mr. Burgess stated there were many complaints this year and a lot of administrative time spent dealing with parents wanting their students to ride buses at no cost, even though the students and their residence location did not qualify for transportation services.

Mr. Burgess stated there seems to be some confusion as to what the Pay-to-Ride program is. He also stated the 17 students that participated in the program would hate to see it canceled.

Kruse asked the intent of the program.

Dr. Shortridge stated the district is getting pretty beat up for a program that was intended to help people. Dr. Shortridge stated the intent of the Pay-to-Ride Program was to help students that were too close for transportation and didn't qualify for transportation.

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Gustafson asked the ages of the seventeen students signed up for the program.

Cam Fradkin stated most were elementary students.

Dr. Shortridge stated the expectation has been that for \$125.00 a student would be picked up and taken door to door. Dr. Shortridge stated that was not the intent of the program. He also stated some of the other complaints were that parents didn't like the time frame that the bus would pick up or drop off their student.

Mr. Burgess stated a door to door service would cost our district thousands.

Fischer asked how long the Pay-to-Ride Program has this been in place

Dr. Shortridge stated seven (7) or eight (8) years.

Mr. Burgess stated if the Pay-to-Ride Program continues it will not interfere with special education routes. He also stated this is strictly a Pay-to-Ride Program.

Edwards asked if the Pay-to-Ride Program is listed on our website, advertised on Facebook, or in any paperwork in the transportation office.

Fradkin stated we do not advertise the program; however there is information available at the district office and most school offices for people in need of the program.

Dr. Shortridge stated our busses are full on a daily basis. He also stated we do not advertise the Pay-to-Ride Program.

Fradkin stated the district must guarantee a route student over a Pay-to-Ride student. She also stated there is no guarantee for Pay-to-Ride students if busses reach a maximum.

Dr. Shortridge stated anytime there is a request we try and fill it. He also stated most of the complaints are not from those that have signed up for the program; but from those that want something more than what we offer.

Fischer stated no matter how many times you explain the program you are not going to make everyone happy. Fischer stated not wanting to see the Pay-to-Ride Program discontinued. She further stated it does benefit some families that are in need of it.

Mr. Burgess stated the board's conversation satisfied his concerns. He also stated the program is a voluntary program.

It was recommended that the name be changed from the Pay-to-Ride Program to the Pay-to Shuttle Program.

A motion was made by Fischer, and seconded by Edwards, to continue the Genoa-Kingston CUSD #424 Pay-to-Shuttle Program for the 2015-16 SY.

Ayes: Sosnowski, Edwards, Fischer, Gustafson, Lauderdale, Kruse
Motion carried.

Acceptance & Preliminary Approval of Resignations and Hiring's

Mr. Burgess stated the board must approve the Superintendent's authority to accept preliminary hires and resignations prior to formal approval by the Board of Education. (Policy 3:40)

A motion was made by Gustafson, and seconded by Sosnowski, to give authority to the Superintendent to accept preliminary hires and resignations prior to formal approval by the Board of Education.

Ayes: Edwards, Fischer, Gustafson, Lauderdale, Sosnowski, Kruse
Motion Carried.

FOIA Report

Mr. Burgess stated there were five (5) FOIA to report all from the same individual.

Kruse asked board member Fischer to clarify the state law regarding The Freedom of Information Act. Kruse stated the intention of The Freedom of Information Act was not intended to open dialogue with administration but to inspect district records.

Fischer stated this meeting or an appointment with the Superintendent would be appropriate for any open dialogue with administration.

Fischer recommended looking into the reoccurrence of a requestor.

Donations

Mr. Burgess stated we have two very generous donations to report.

A motion was made by Gustafson, and seconded by Fischer, to accept with gratitude a generous donation in the amount of \$75.00 to Davenport Elementary School from Target Corporation, a donation in the amount of \$1,900.00 to Kingston Elementary School from the Genoa-Kingston PTO.

Edwards asked if the Target proceeds were from Facebook likes or from purchases using a Target credit card.

Mrs. Hill stated this was from a percentage from using a Target credit card.

Kruse stated these donations are important, because they directly impact our students.

Ayes: Fischer, Gustafson, Lauderdale, Sosnowski, Edwards, Kruse
Motion Carried.

Superintendent/Board Communication

GKHS Test Scores

Mr. McPherson stated the 2016 GKHS class accomplished a recent 20.4 test score. Mr. McPherson stated this is a 1.6 increase and is huge achievement for a composite score. Mr. McPherson further stated our teachers deserve a lot of credit for this. Mr. McPherson thanked Mrs. Simmons, Trevor Steinbach and Mrs. Hill for all their hard work and effort regarding our current test scores. He further stated being very proud of our G-K students accomplishments.

Compliance Visit

Mr. Burgess thanked the district office and administrators for their recent work with the Regional Office Compliance Visit. He further stated Amanda Christensen, Regional Superintendent, should also be commended for all her hard work regarding the compliance visit. Mr. Burgess stated having to answer several compliance questions and having a clean report on the entire process. He further stated one of the challenges for our district office has been the turnover in the Human Resources position; in which a lot of extra work was required by the district staff.

School Calendar

Mr. Burgess stated a recent conversation regarding the school calendar. Mr. Burgess stated the 2016-17 SY Calendar shows a current start date of August 12th and ending June 1st with emergency days. He further stated the possibility of an August 15th start date with an ending of June 2nd with emergency days. Mr. Burgess stated discussing the 2016-17 SY Calendar at a future board meeting.

Project Lead the Way

Mr. Burgess stated that on Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. there will be luncheon held in the GKHS cafeteria to kick off Project Lead the Way. Mr. Burgess also stated the mobile digital advertisement sign will be ordered and on display at this luncheon. He also stated a program overview, advertisement opportunities and funding for the program will be discussed at this luncheon.

Mr. Burgess stated Mr. McCune has finished his classes at UIC and the classrooms are completed.

Mr. Burgess stated Kristin Brynteson is working on creating a Maker Space Room at the middle school. He also stated the Maker Space concept will also continue at the high school level.

Mr. Burgess stated this is a big step towards introducing Project Lead the Way. He also stated having the School Board and City Council present at this luncheon will be important, not only supporting the program, but in explaining what the program is all about. He further stated this is a very exciting time for our district. Mr. Burgess stated there are numerous people to thank for their effort and hard work developing and supporting this program.

Edwards asked what will look different to parents at the middle school regarding Project Lead the Way.

Mr. Burgess stated it will be very visual and technical. He also stated it will meet a lot of the learning objectives regarding science, technology, engineering, art, and math. He further stated PLTW is a

unique opportunity for students to expand their approach to science, math and language arts. He also stated it will help some with communication and prepare many for college readiness.

Kruse stated our partners like Northern Illinois University have been wonderful to work with on this new project.

Mr. Burgess stated having many of the Northern Illinois University engineering students work with our students and discuss all the opportunities for future careers. Mr. Burgess stated this is all about giving students more opportunities.

Future Agenda Items

Board Meeting - August 11, 2015 6:30 pm.
2016-2017 School Calendar (COW 8-11-15)
Park District after School Child Care Program
Tentative Budget
Conference Delegate
PRESS Policies for Approval
Review of Closed Session Minutes
Review of Closed Session Audio
Application for Recognition of Schools
Northwestern Illinois Association Ballot

Closed Session for the purpose of discussion relating to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District in compliance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

Closed Session not needed at this meeting

Reconvene to Open Session

Adjournment

A motion was made by Sosnowski, and seconded by Gustafson, to adjourn the Board of Education meeting at 8:24 pm.

Voice vote: All
Motion Carried

Paul Kruse, Board President

Heather Edwards, Board Secretary