

**Committee of the Whole Meeting – 6:30pm**  
**Tuesday, September 8, 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. Summer School
  - 2.01 Summer School - Cindy Wills
3. Senate Bill 100 Student Discipline
4. Policy 7:180 Preventing Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment
5. Superintendent/Board Communication
6. Future Agenda Items
7. 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), and litigation when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting in compliance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).
8. Reconvene to Open Session
9. Adjournment

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – 6:30pm**  
**Tuesday, September 8, 2015**  
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Genoa-Kingston High School Community Room  
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**Call to Order**

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

Present: Fischer, Lauderdale, Sosnowski, Edwards, Gustafson, Brynteson, Kruse  
Absent:

**Summer School**

Mrs. Wills presented information and data from the 2015 Summer School Program to the Board of Education.

Mrs. Wills stated that Davenport hosted the 2015 summer school program for the district K-5 students July 27<sup>th</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup>. She also stated 46 students were enrolled in summer school and 98% of the students (45) showed growth on the post assessment. Students were selected based on their AimsWeb RCBM and/or Guided Reading level. Enrollment for the 2015 summer school program was as follows: 9 kindergarten students, 9 first grade students, 9 second grade students, 4 third grade students, 13 - 4<sup>th</sup> grade students and 2 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Two teachers from each building were the instructors. The focus was on literacy development using Fountas and Pinnell Leveled Intervention kits (LLI). Mrs. Wills stated pre and post tests were given to show growth in various areas. She further stated at Davenport 100% of the Kindergarten students showed growth on the WIF as well as 88% of First Grade students increased their WCPM (words per minute) on AimsWeb RCBM. Kingston Elementary had 100% of Second Grade students increase their CWPM and 100% of Third Grade students increased their CWPM. 100% of Fourth and Fifth Grade students increased their CWPM on RCBM. At Genoa-Kingston Middle School students used a computer based program building reinforcement of skills in reading and math along with credit recovery. High school students met May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 23<sup>rd</sup> for a total of 30 hours. Students at the high school used APEX math courses for skill building and reinforcement of skills as well as credit recovery. 21 high school students completed the course and received .5 credits. Mrs. Wills also shared that over 100 students participated in Biggest, Fastest, and Stronger (BFS). Of the 100 students attending BFS it was required to attend 85% of the days to receive credit. 75 students reached the goal and received .5 elective credits. Mrs. Wills stated jumpstart summer school gives struggling students an opportunity to get back into the school routine, which give them a boost before they join their peers. The objective with RTI and struggling students at the elementary level is to close the gap between their peers who are performing at grade level. At the middle and high school level APEX is advantageous to our students in building and reinforcing skills as well as recovering credits. BFS provides students an opportunity to set goals and receive elective credits.

Kruse asked if the nine kindergartners had already completed kindergarten.

Mrs. Wills stated the students had already completed kindergarten.

Edwards asked why the 5<sup>th</sup> grade summer school class was smaller in comparison, and if there was a way to encourage more participation. She also suggested changing the time summer school begins.

Sosnowski stated changing the time summer school begins would compete with baseball, softball and summer vacations.

Mr. Francis stated it is always more difficult for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to commit to a summer school program.

Mrs. Wills stated the goal would be to improve the summer school program and have more students participate.

Mrs. Wills stated holding summer school in one building for K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students has made a huge difference.

Kruse stated the board has generated several good ideas to not only increase summer school attendance but for more students to benefit from the program for next year.

### **Senate Bill 100 Student Discipline**

Mr. Burgess stated the recent law signed by the Governor gives school districts very specific guidelines for suspension and expulsion. Mr. Burgess reviewed the law and how it relates to the current district handbook. Mr. Burgess stated Senate Bill 100 and the district's current handbook prove our district has fallen into the guidelines and has had good foresight.

Mr. Francis stated the handbook advisory committee meets once a year in March which includes one or two representatives from each building as well as parents. He further stated the advisory committee has been meeting for over 10 years and the handbook meets or exceeds the current criteria.

Mr. Burgess introduced GK CUSD #424 attorney, Tony Ficarelli, who shared more information about Senate Bill 100.

Mr. Ficarelli stated the emphasis and understanding of Senate Bill 100 is students being out of school. He also stated legislation has decided districts need to be more aware of how they administer ISS (in school suspension) and OSS (out of school suspension). He further stated districts will need to go through a series of analysis and acknowledge why an OSS was administered. Mr. Ficarelli stated legislation has decided to hold districts accountable and if it precipitates immediate danger to the district or classroom. He also stated parents and advocacy groups may become more vocal and expulsion may be more vigorously opposed. Mr. Ficarelli stated in his experience parents may or may not become more involved with the process and look to legal counsel to review explanations to have

an OSS stick. Mr. Ficarelli stated there are a series of bullet points to have the district handbook committee and board review. He also stated the IASB will have detailed information to share with districts. Mr. Ficarelli stated this is a good time to begin looking at Senate Bill 100 as it will tie into the districts bullying policy.

Mr. Ficarelli stated zero tolerance will also be banned and most districts will be revising their policies. He also stated it remains to be seen if this will be better or worse for districts in helping or inhibiting the learning environment. He further stated students that are expelled for 2 years may be mainstreamed back into a district.

Sosnowski stated with more guidelines to follow there may be a need for more legal counsel.

Mr. Ficarelli stated the only guidelines in the past have been student hearings held case by case. He also stated there will be more legislation providing more services to students as needed. Mr. Ficarelli stated it will certainly create more administrative burden. Mr. Ficarelli stated the new legislation will be challenging.

Sosnowski asked if new legislation included both OSS and ISS.

Mr. Ficarelli stated it is primarily for OSS but touches on ISS. He also stated it will create some challenges for districts to become creative in how they handle this new legislation. He further stated it will be the responsibility of administration, teachers, and staff to follow the new guidelines and benchmarks.

Mr. Burgess stated the district will have to remain proactive regarding this new legislation.

Kruse asked if there was an oversight committee to review the expulsions and board's decision. He also asked who a parent/student would file a claim to.

Mr. Ficarelli stated the OCR (Office of Civil Rights). Ficarelli further stated maintaining guidelines and analysis will be important to show why a district couldn't keep a student in school.

The board will continue to stay updated on this new legislation as the state shares information.

### **Policy 7:180 Preventing Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment**

Mr. Burgess reviewed and discussed policy 7:180 with the board. Mr. Burgess stated there have been numerous public comments made regarding the loss of our student last week that related to this policy.

Mr. Burgess stated the last couple of weeks have been very difficult for our entire community and the issue has been brought up on numerous social media posts, including Facebook, and phone conversations that the board requested to talk about it. Mr. Burgess stated it was important to point out what each of the five buildings do currently to work through the topic.

Kruse stated students take their example from their parents and the community as a whole. He also stated sometimes social media gets off track and allows students to think it is ok to talk or speak a certain way because they are anonymous. He further stated there is a certain amount of bullying going on among the parents and adult community which is not setting a good example for the students. Kruse stated the board has reviewed this policy in the past and asked the board once again to review the bullying policies set in place.

Edwards stated the middle school has a box in which a student can anonymously report bullying. Edwards asked if this box is working.

Mr. Lekkas stated in the three years he has been back at the middle school the box works well to anonymously report bullying or peer issues. He further stated the district website also has a link where you can report bullying. Mr. Lekkas stated he also has received phone calls and/or emails in the past. Mr. Lekkas stated it is always good to look at board policies and new legislature. He also stated we always look at meeting the students' needs to handle these issues appropriately. He further stated the number one thing is strengthening student teacher relationships. Mr. Lekkas stated if a student reports a problem having one or two adults to turn to is very helpful. Mr. Lekkas stated typically reported issues come from either a parent or another student. He also stated the box to anonymously report bullying or any peer issues will stay in the middle school.

Lauderdale asked how often the box is checked.

Mr. Lekkas stated the box is not checked daily but is checked frequently. He also stated there has not been a high volume reported from the box.

Sosnowski stated a good point to make is if it is a bullying issue or another issue. Parents need to understand that if a student is picked on one time it is not a bullying issue.

Fischer asked if the district has considered peer advisory.

Mr. Lekkas stated we do offer peer advisory. He further stated it has to be a good fit for the student and given the right situation it works well. He also stated not wanting to place the student in an embarrassing situation.

Gustafson asked if the language of harassment of students in the policy needs to be rewritten.

Mr. Ficarelli stated one infraction of harassment could equate to a form of discipline. If you violate the policy it could automatically cause a one day OSS. Mr. Ficarelli also stated the legislation is trying to eliminate this. He further stated an advisory committee will meet and review this information to make sure guidelines are being followed. He also stated there will be guidance with this process. Mr. Ficarelli also stated do not feel you cannot administer discipline. He also stated this is a matter of looking at the new law and guidelines which will take at least a year to assimilate.

He also stated previously reviewing our districts board packets and not seeing too many expulsions. Mr. Ficarelli stated being mindful of the new law and how to address it. Mr. Ficarelli also stated Mr. Burgess will have some ideas of how to address this.

Edwards asked what the board could do to help administration as well as the students with this process. She also stated the Impact Club's Anti-Bullying Campaign, as well as counselors have done a great job!

Brynteson asked what else the board could do to help give the ownership back to the students and look out for each other. Brynteson agreed the Impact Club and counselors are doing a great job.

Mr. Burgess stated the Substance Abuse Task Force (SATF) focuses on gateway drugs such as marijuana; however last spring bullying came up. Mr. Burgess stated the Impact Club's Anti-Bullying Campaign, gave ownership back to the students. He also stated this year the district will be inviting Michelle Demery and Matt Miller back to the district to be a part of the task force and split the focus between gateway drugs and bullying. He also stated Michelle Demery will be focusing on opportunities the district can do on a consistent basis. Mr. Burgess also stated the Impact Club will be receiving a youth grant through DCCF to continue the anti-bullying campaign this year. Mr. Burgess stated we will be hearing from experts and reviewing what we currently do and what we can do in the future. Mr. Burgess stated substance abuse and bullying go hand and hand. He also stated we are definitely not ignoring this issue.

Kruse stated the district is only one piece of the puzzle. He further stated the district and the community need to fight back against the social media problems.

Mr. Burgess stated he recently sat down with administrators and found the problem to be parent cooperation. He further stated from personal experience getting a phone call from a parent about their student being bullied or picked on and when you ask the parents who is doing this the other end of the phone goes silent. Mr. Burgess stated the silence on the parent's part is no longer acceptable. He also stated if the expectation is for the district to help, then parents need to share information and cooperate with the district. He further stated the district is not mind readers. Mr. Burgess stated from an administrators perspective the recent social media posts stating the district does nothing is not true.

Brynteson stated this may be something we could address to parents on our website in a statement "Bullying, What can I do as a parent?"

Mr. Burgess stated he has been there with his own three children and understands you do not want to get caught up in a tattletale scenario. He also stated there is not an unreasonable expectation from parents but parents have to be cooperative. He further stated no parent gets up in the morning and tells their student to be a bully.

Sosnowski stated students are learning this through actions of parents and adults on social media.

Mr. Lekkas stated the concern is often retribution. Mr. Lekkas also stated anytime a student tells his mom or dad and/or a parent calls it is always addressed. He further stated considering that a win. He also stated the handbook and procedures set in place are aligned with board policy.

**Superintendent/Board Communication**

Mr. Burgess stated several reminders of upcoming events to the Board of Education

Reminder of IASB Kishwaukee Division Dinner @ Hampshire High School Thursday, October 22, 2015

Reminder of required Board Member Training

Reminder cancellation deadline for IASB Triple I Conference Pass is October 21, 2015

Reminder cancellation deadline for the IASB Triple I Conference stay at the Hotel Monaco stay, 30 days or less prior to arrival on November 19, 2015 for a 90% refund.

Mr. Burgess stated last Friday night was the first ever COGSApaloosa tail gate party and first home football game of the season. Mr. Burgess thanked Mr. Ratliff for cooking pulled pork and Ms. Peterson for the additional food and drinks from the G-K Café. He further stated it was a great turnout and the football game was packed. Mr. Jerbi stated it was one of the largest gates G-K has ever had. Mr. Burgess stated it was a great way to kick off the school year and thanked everyone that helped with the success of the event.

**Future Agenda Items**

Public Hearing - FY-16 Tentative Budget  
Presentation – Student Services – Karen Simmons  
Approval of the FY-16 Budget  
Donations  
FOIA Report

**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), and litigation when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting in compliance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).**

A motion was made by Brynteson, and seconded by 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), and litigation when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting in compliance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) at 7:27 pm.

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

### **Reconvene to Open Session**

The board reconvened to open session at 8:02 pm.

Edwards questioned Superintendent Burgess about vehicles in the parking lot that had flags on them. Superintendent Burgess commented the students have the right to fly the flags unless a disturbance occurs because of them.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Taunya Fischer, seconded by Kerri Sosnowski, to adjourn the Board of Education meeting at 8:08 pm.

Voice vote: All motion carried.

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Paul Kruse, Board President

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Heather Edwards, Board Secretary