

Committee of the Whole Meeting – 6:30 pm
Tuesday, September 13, 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. Summer School - John Francis
3. Recognition of Community Committee
4. Community Committee Meeting
5. Superintendent Evaluation Tool
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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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 6.32 pm.

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

Absent: None

Summer School

Summer School - John Francis

Mr. Francis shared a report with data from this year's summer school program. He stated consistently finding that the "jump start" approach to having summer school two weeks prior to school starting assists those students in preparedness for the upcoming school year. Mr. Francis stated a slight decline in this year's summer school attendance.

Edwards asked about ways to increase summer school attendance.

Brynteson asked about benchmarking and student growth.

Mr. Francis stated benchmarking and student growth are used.

Andrews asked about current summer school hours and needs of students.

Mrs. Simmons stated the jump start program is a great addition to the summer school program providing additional help to kindergarten students.

Cleveland asked about future growth of the summer school program and additional staffing needs.

Mrs. Wills stated the summer school program helps prepare students for the beginning of the school year.

Recognition of Community Committee

Mr. Burgess presented certificates of appreciation to committee members who volunteered to be on the Building Usage Committee.

Board President, Paul Kruse read the names of all community committee members, and thanked them for their service.

Community Committee Meeting

The building usage committee presented their findings and thoughts to the board. Mr. Burgess shared notes on the topic for the board to review.

Ryan Stoffregen shared a Power Point presentation regarding building usage to the board.

Mr. Stoffregen stated the committee worked extremely hard over the past several months discussing every option when considering changes in building usage for the district. He also stated the committee did not blame past or current board members for the district's current financial situation. He further stated Dr. Shortridge did a very good job sharing detailed financial information with the committee. Mr. Stoffregen stated a feasibility study was not available to make a complete decision. He also stated the committee recommended making current buildings work without building a brand new facility. Three recommendations were prepared by the committee. Mr. Stoffregen stated the committee looked at short, intermediate, and long term goals. He also stated the committee would be interested in feedback from all administrators. He further stated the committee discussed pros and cons of closing Davenport Elementary School versus Kingston Elementary School. The committee also discussed the age of the middle school building along with maintenance concerns and cost. Mr. Stoffregen stated the middle school is also largely used by the community as well as many of the middle school sports practices.

Mr. Stoffregen thanked the board for allowing the committee to present their recommendations.

Mr. Burgess thanked Mr. Stoffregen for his presentation.

Cleveland asked about details and additional information needed for the board to make a decision.

Kruse stated Mr. Burgess and Dr. Shortridge would provide any additional details and information needed. He also stated a feasibility study was not completed due to the extreme cost and time. He further stated the board needs to be in agreement when making the final decision on building usage.

Andrews stated she would like to have more information prior to making a decision.

Edwards recommended discussing which building to close.

Gustafson recommended talking to administrators for feedback.

Brynteson stated the questions in the presentation were excellent.

Kruse stated the committee's presentation was an interesting view of the decisions facing the district. Kruse also thanked the committee for their time and work.

Mr. Burgess stated board and committee discussions have been thorough and it is time to move forward.

Edwards asked about the committee's thoughts on moving the 7th and 8th grade students to the high school.

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Mr. Stoffregen stated the committee is aware that construction at the high school would be necessary to accommodate the 7th and 8th grade students. He also stated community buy in would be important; however once restructuring and segregating was complete the positive would outweigh the negative.

Edwards asked about the committee's thoughts on 21st century learning environments.

Mr. Stoffregen stated the committee was in favor of 21st century learning environments along with being mindful of the financial responsibilities of the district. He also stated learning a lot through this process and that the district holds a good foundation and excellent teachers.

Mr. Heinisch stated it is less about building and more about teachers. He also stated if the decision is to close the middle school it should be sold right away.

Mr. Slater stated the need to complete repairs to any chosen building prior to selling it. He also stated having preliminary repair costs of each building. He further stated Mr. Burkhalter and the technology departments have done a great job on the networking system for the district.

Kruse recommended researching the repairs and cost associated with each building.

Edwards asked about the highest grade level that could be housed at Davenport Elementary School.

Gustafson stated 4th grade as the highest level to be housed at Davenport Elementary School. She also stated Davenport is landlocked regarding the playground.

Mrs. Wills stated 4th grade; however 3rd grade would be a better choice as the highest level to be house at Davenport Elementary School. She also stated the playground to be adequate. She further stated the early childhood prevention class would have to be considered.

Edwards asked about Genoa Elementary School and lower grade levels.

Mr. Francis stated 6th grade and under would work well at Genoa Elementary School.

Kruse asked for administrator's collaboration and input.

Mr. Burgess asked about the financial questions that need to be addressed.

Brynteson asked about the cost of renovations of all buildings.

Gustafson asked about transportation costs.

Kruse expressed his gratitude to the committee and board members for their hard work and time regarding building usage for the district.

Mr. Heinisch asked about additional community meetings.

Kruse stated he may consider a future community meeting. He also stated the importance of hearing all the information and reading all previous notes to come to the same decision as important. Kruse stated the committee has done a lot of work and the community and board appreciate it.

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Mr. Stoffregen shared concerns over closing schools and then purchasing a new LED sign at the middle school.

Mr. Burgess stated many upgrades to buildings are donations from outside organizations.

Superintendent Evaluation Tool

Mr. Burgess shared the new Superintendent Evaluation Tool with the board. He stated changes made were taken from discussions at our prior board meetings.

Edwards stated the new evaluation tool was a good start. She also asked about professional practices and a survey.

Mr. Burgess stated a survey would be helpful to the board for future goal setting.

Superintendent/Board Communication

Hope for the Day

Mr. Burgess expressed his gratitude to everyone who helped with the Hope for the Day event.

Kishwaukee Division Dinner

Mr. Burgess shared a reminder of IASB Kishwaukee Division Dinner @ Hononegah High School 207, Thursday, September 22, 2016

IASB Triple I Conference Updates

Mr. Burgess stated board members should let Mrs. Mulso know if there any Pre-Conference Workshops they would like sign up for. He also stated October 14, 2016 is the deadline for reservations or cancellations for the IASB Triple I Conference.

P-20 Meeting

Mr. Burgess shared information about the P-20 meeting and new legislation.

Future Agenda Items

Presentation – Student Services – Karen Simmons
Public Hearing - FY-17 Tentative Budget
Approval of the FY-17 Budget
July PRESS Policies for Approval
Building Usage
Salary & Benefits Compensation Report
Donations
FOIA Report

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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 Gustafson, and seconded by Brynteson, 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 7:50 pm.

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

Motion Carried.

Reconvene to Open Session

The board reconvened to open session at 8:12 pm.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Kristin Brynteson, seconded by Barb Gustafson, to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting at 8:13 pm.

Voice vote: Ayes: 7.
Nays: 0.
Motion carried.

Paul Kruse, Board President

Heather Edwards, Board Secretary