

**Committee of the Whole Meeting – 6:30 pm**  
**Tuesday, October 11, 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. Buildings & Grounds Presentation
3. Triple I Conference Update
4. ERO 2016
5. Levy Information and Necessary Approval Dates
6. Building Usage
7. Superintendent/Board Communication
8. Future Agenda Items
9. 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)
10. Reconvene to Open Session
11. Adjournment

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes– 6:30 pm**  
**Tuesday, October 11, 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 6:30 pm.

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

Absent: None

**Buildings & Grounds Presentation**

Mr. Ratliff shared a presentation regarding completed and planned building and grounds projects.

Mr. Burgess stated the building usage decision is a high priority and the buildings and grounds department will be greatly impacted by the planned projects next year. He also stated it was important to note buildings and grounds will be able to perform most of the work in-house.

Kruse asked about the details of the summer sealcoating projects.

Cleveland asked about the timeline and routine of future sealcoating projects.

Mr. Ratliff stated owning our own seal coating equipment will allow the building and grounds staff to maintain, resurface and sealcoat on an annual basis.

Edwards asked about the cost to remodel the restrooms at Kingston Elementary School. She also asked about additional parking needed at Kingston Elementary School.

Mr. Ratliff stated Kingston Elementary School restrooms could be remodeled during the school year at minimal cost.

Mr. Slater stated twelve (12) parking spots could be added.

Andrews recommended creating a flyer making the public aware of the cost savings due to the work done in-house by the building, grounds and maintenance department. She also stated sharing the flyer at school events such as; the Chamber Expo and Tech Expo.

## **Triple I Conference Update**

Mr. Burgess asked board members for attendance plans and topics to explore at the Triple I Conference in Chicago.

The board discussed sessions and workshops that may be beneficial to attend.

Kruse shared current IASB Resolutions for consideration at the Triple I Conference in Chicago. He also stated the board will need to approve a board delegate for the IASB Resolution Committee at the next board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Burgess stated Genoa-Kingston Board of Education's resolution regarding clock hours vs. minutes of instruction made it to the committee and is recommended to be adopted.

Mrs. Mulso shared deadlines for booking conference tickets, housing and workshops.

## **ERO 2016**

Mr. Burgess stated historically the Board votes on the early retirement option for the TRS staff but this is no longer needed because it is no longer an option for TRS eligible staff members.

The board discussed the latest communication from TRS regarding refunding members who may have already paid in to the ERO option. Mr. Burgess stated meeting with union leaders about the refund update reminder. He also stated information about the refund will be emailed to all staff.

## **Levy Information and Necessary Approval Dates**

Dr. Shortridge shared Levy information and necessary dates for approval with the board.

Dr. Shortridge stated in order to insure that all available local funds are accessed through the levy process, it may be necessary to levy for more than a 5% increase over last year's request. As a result, Truth in Taxation laws require the District to publish the amount of the levy and the percentage of the increase over last year's levy allocation in the newspaper. Further, the Board must adopt a Tentative Levy and then hold a public hearing before Board approval of the final levy. The recommended levy process for the District in the next two months is as follows:

- **October Full Board Meeting:**
  - Approve the request for permission to issue appropriate public notice of the Levy Hearing to be held at the December 13, 2016 Board meeting.
  - Give permission to the administration to publish in the paper the required Truth in Taxation notice if the levy amount will be over 5% of last year's allocation.
- **November Committee Meeting:** Discuss the tentative levy and the percentage increase necessary over the previous year.
- **November Full Board Meeting:** Adopt the tentative levy
  - If the levy request will be more than a 5% increase over last year's levy extension, the district will publish notice of Levy Hearing and the Truth in Taxation information, including the percentage increase of the levy request, in the newspaper between November 29 - December 6.
- **December Full Board Meeting:** Conduct the Levy Hearing (will only be necessary if the levy amount is over 5% of last year's extension). Adopt the Final Levy.

For this month of October, we ask the Board to approve the request for permission to issue the appropriate public notice of the following:

1. Levy Hearing to be held at the December 13, 2016 Board of Education Meeting (if necessary).
2. Truth in Taxation notice (if necessary).

## **Building Usage**

Mr. Burgess led the building usage discussion and gave a recommendation based on closing Davenport Elementary School. Mr. Burgess stated having numerous meetings with building professionals and made every attempt to answer as many questions about several scenarios as possible. There were several scenarios the building usage committee recommended to the board.

Mr. Burgess recommended the board consider ordering an appraisal to sell Davenport Elementary School (DES) or moth ball and maintain the property. He also shared a cost savings by having one less bus route if DES was closed. He further stated considering to keep only a portion of DES open for a Pre-K education center. Mr. Burgess shared staffing changes through attrition. He also shared the renovations to GES and KES to accommodate additional staff and students. He further stated creating additional parking spaces and "school streets" at remaining elementary school buildings. Mr. Burgess stated consolidating schools and looking progressive as important. Mr. Burgess shared the costs of maintenance and renovations at the middle school to be approximately \$1.7M. He also shared the cost of renovations moving middle school students to the high school by adding 10 classrooms, band, and chorus renovations and a separation for middle school and high school students at approximately \$2M. Mr. Burgess stated renovations could begin as early as this winter. He also stated teacher prep time including P.E. and music time will be an improvement due to everyone being in one building. He further stated due to the declining enrollment there would still be 4-5 empty classrooms at GES and KES while closing DES.

Kruse asked about current and future enrollment numbers.

Dr. Shortridge shared the enrollment projections and stated looking at -50 students for next year.

Mr. Burgess addressed the concern of selling DES and future growth.

Dr. Shortridge stated closing DES would still leave 4-5 extra classrooms and allow for 14-15% growth in the district.

Gustafson asked about new construction in the community

Dr. Shortridge stated seeing only \$150-200K in new construction.

Kruse stated in a recent board meeting being asked to discuss the cost of moving middle school 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to the high school. Kruse commented on following the community committee's recommendation to close one elementary school as the first step.

Andrews stated closing the middle school was one of the committee's options.

Mr. Burgess stated closing the middle school would have a large impact on athletics and the community. He also stated the middle school is the least expensive regarding usage.

Edwards asked if keeping the middle school was in the best interest of the district.

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Cleveland stated looking at renovation costs to move middle school students to the high school versus keeping the middle school and installing a new HVAC system a wash. He also commented on the low utility costs at the middle school. He further stated not seeing a benefit moving middle school students to the high school.

Edwards asked about future upgrades necessary at the middle school.

Brynteson asked about increased energy costs bringing middle school students to the high school.

Andrews shared concerns over the need to keep the middle school building due to the investment in a new HVAC system.

Mr. Burgess stated it was important to consider the middle schools 11 acres of property.

Kruse commented on the importance of keeping the middle school.

Andrews shared concerns regarding transporting students and athletics when considering moving middle school students to the high school. She also asked about the timeline to close an additional school if necessary.

Mr. Burgess recommended waiting at least one year prior to closing an additional building.

Fischer asked about keeping the middle school and closing two elementary schools. She also commented on the amount of land at the middle school for future growth.

Andrews stated the committee expressed concerns over renovation costs to house elementary students at the existing middle school.

Mr. Burgess stated if by closing one building the district reduces the deficit and saves the budget the board has achieved its goal.

Edwards stated assuming the state continues to pay what is promised to the district.

Kruse stated the goal was to increase opportunities for academic possibilities without looking like the district is bleeding cash. He also stated it would not be responsible to keep all buildings open although closing two schools would be a rash decision at this time. He further stated the middle school is an asset to the district and does not recommend closing the middle school. Kruse stated closing KES was not widely discussed. He concluded the building usage decision is a board decision: however, the district supporting the board's decision is important.

Andrews stated it was important KES remain open for the Kingston community. She was in favor of closing one school and continuing conversations to close an additional building in the future. Andrews recommended continued discussions over building usage due to the HVAC investment at the middle school. She also recommended the board not be complacent.

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Gustafson asked about the timeline and need to replace roofs and HVAC for buildings.

Mr. Slater stated the buildings and grounds department will continue to maintain buildings. He also stated it is important buildings be as energy efficient as possible.

Edwards asked about the difference in roofing costs.

Mr. Slater stated some of the building roofs were replaced in sections.

Gustafson share concerns over the cost of repairs needed at DES.

Mr. Burgess stated board discussions at a previous retreat revealed it was important to look like a thriving district by making good decisions, adding to academics, and creating a better use of the space while remaining on a budget.

Brynteson asked about long term solutions. She also stated the building usage committee did not want to close two schools due to relocation and renovations costs. She further stated not wanting to shoe horn students into classrooms but rather use remaining schools to create new learning spaces for students. Brynteson also commented that closing schools without reinvesting in academics and learning spaces is not the goal of the board or in the best interest of the students.

Edwards was in favor of closing DES. She also shared concerns about selling or moth balling DES until final numbers are available.

Andrews asked about appraisal costs.

Mr. Burgess stated an appraisal cost of approximately \$3,500.

Gustafson was in favor of closing DES.

Brynteson asked about moth balling DES.

Kruse stated he was not in favor of moth balling DES. He also stated it would hold back stakeholders.

Gustafson was not in favor of moth balling DES.

Brynteson asked about energy usage patterns in remaining buildings if DES is closed.

Mr. Slater stated there would be minimal increases in energy usage patterns.

Andrews stated not seeing the value in moth balling DES.

Mr. Burgess stated the need to consider the cost of moth balling DES while it is for sale.

Edwards asked about the community's perception not moth balling DES.

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Kruse asked Mr. Burgess to request an appraisal of DES.

Building Usage will be placed on the Tuesday, October 25, 2016 board of education meeting agenda.

**Superintendent/Board Communication**

**ESSA Listening Tour**

Mr. Burgess shared information about the ESSA Listening tour (Every Student Succeeds Act) with the board.

**G-K Institute Day**

Mr. Burgess publically thanked administrators for a successful Teacher's Institute Day. He also stated two attorneys presented information regarding legal mandates.

**Board**

Kruse asked the board to select dates to hold a special meeting to discuss the superintendent search candidates with Dr. Leahy from IASB.

The board selected Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 6:30 pm to hold a special meeting in closed session to discuss the superintendent search candidates.

**Future Agenda Items**

**Special Meeting**

October 20, 2016 at 6:30 pm

**Future Agenda Items**

GKMS Presentation - Angelo Lekkas  
Levy Publication Approval  
Building Usage Approval  
Board Delegate for Triple I Conference in Chicago  
Superintendent Search  
November Board Meeting Dates - Nov. 8th and Nov. 15th

**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 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) at 8:20 pm.

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Ayes: Andrews, Brynteson, Cleveland, Edwards, Fischer, Gustafson, Kruse  
Motion Carried.

**Reconvene to Open Session**

The board reconvened to closed session at 8:44 pm.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Barb Gustafson, seconded by Kristin Brynteson, to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting at 8:44 pm.

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

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Paul Kruse, Board President

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Heather Edwards, Board Secretary