

**Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 pm**  
**Tuesday, October 27, 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. Correspondence/Presentation
  - 5.01 Brett McPherson/Genoa Kingston High School
6. Consent Agenda
  - a. Payrolls
  - b. Accounts Payable
  - c. Minutes
  - d. Employment, Coaches, Leave of Absence, Resignations
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Old Business
  - 8.01 PRESS Policies for Approval
  - 8.02 ERO 2015
  - 8.03 Levy Notice and Public Hearing
9. New Business
  - 9.01 IHSA Student Athletic Participation Request
  - 9.02 Board Vacancy
  - 9.03 Acceptance of Donations
  - 9.04 FOIA Report
  - 9.05 November Board Meeting Date
10. Superintendent/Board Communication

## 11. Future Agenda Items

12. 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), and the selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in this Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance in compliance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3), 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).

## 13. Reconvene to Open Session

## 14. Adjournment

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**Call to Order**

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

Present: Taunya Fischer, Angie Lauderdale, Heather Edwards, Barb Gustafson, Kristin Brynteson, Paul Kruse.

Absent: None

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The G-K High School senior music students led the guests and members of the Board of Education in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Mission Statement**

Edwards 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 and visitors.

**Correspondence/Presentation**

**Brett McPherson/Genoa Kingston High School presentation**

Mr. McPherson shared a presentation with the Board of Education highlighting the achievements and future goals of the high school.

Mr. McPherson introduced the High School Science Team:  
Mrs. Henkel, Ms. Balaskas, Mrs. Fruit and Mrs. Lemmens.

Mr. McPherson stated the outstanding growth of the 2014-2015 ACT, exceeding the state average in all areas of study. Mr. McPherson also stated several students attained a 25 or higher on their ACT. He also stated the significant gains in math scores.

Mr. McPherson stated the achievements of students in music and sports this year. He also stated the accomplishments of the current high school students in several academic areas. He further stated the continued goals for the current 2015-2016 school year, focusing on math labs, tutoring, and the

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creation of AP Calculus, professional development, growth components, and quality instruction with greater teacher/student relationships. Mr. McPherson stated teachers continue to go to professional development.

The Science Team reviewed claim, quote, comment in the classroom, and the development of lab reports. Mrs. Fruit shared the importance of developing detailed lab reports freshman through senior year.

Edwards asked if students answers and are expected to be backed up with evidence and statements within their lab reports.

Mr. McPherson stated lab reports help students develop technical writing skills.

Edwards shared concerns of accommodating over 100 band students next year. Edwards asked if there have been discussions about adding an additional instructor or increasing classroom size.

Mr. McPherson stated the exceptional growth of band students is a great problem to have. Mr. McPherson stated financial concerns due to the need for additional band uniforms. He also stated the band room will hold the additional students.

Mr. McPherson stated he was very proud of the class of 2016. He also thanked the board for their time.

Mr. Burgess thanked the science department for embracing technology five years ago and helping to set the tone for the future. He also stated taking blame for the increase in size of the G-K Band. Mr. Burgess stated the district hired Tom Rucker in 2010. Mr. Rucker asked what the vision was for the district. Mr. Burgess stated wanting the program to grow and have many more kids involved. Mr. Burgess stated wanting a band of 100.

### **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Gustafson, and seconded by Fischer, to approve the September 25, 2015 payroll in the amount of \$575,190.04, the October 9, 2015 payroll in the amount of \$547,420.42, the October 15, 2015 KEC payroll in the amount of \$100,373.34 the October 2015 Payable Board Report in the amount of \$285,136.46, the September 22, 2015 Board of Education Meeting minutes, the October 13, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes, the October 13, 2015 Closed Session 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.

### **Approval of the following employment considerations:**

Barbara Callahan - ESP - Effective October 7, 2015  
Uriel Ortega - Custodian - Effective October 6, 2015  
Shannon Strader - Cook - Effective - September 30, 2015

### **Approval of the following coaches:**

Anson Ellis - Middle School Girls Basketball - Effective for the 2015-2016 school year.  
Matt Holley - High School Varsity Boys Track - Effective for the 2015-2016 school year.

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Clayton Johnsen - Middle School Boys Basketball - Effective for the 2015-2016 school year.  
Chad Wilmarth - High School Varsity Wrestling - Effective for the 2015-2016 school year.

**Approval of the following leave of absence:**

Brad Kuhn - Custodian - Effective January 14, 2016 - February 3, 2016

**Approval of the following resignations:**

Kerri Collins - Bus Driver - Effective May 29, 2015  
Steve Szymanski - Custodian - Effective October 30, 2015  
Greg Westlake - Custodian Effective October 7, 2015

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

**Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Hoffman presented the September Treasurer's Report to the Board of Education in detail.

Ms. Hoffman stated the district has received the first installment of property taxes as well as the state reimbursement.

Edwards asked how many families have signed up for the Pay to Shuttle program.

Ms. Hoffman state approximately twenty (20) families have signed up for the Pay to Shuttle program to date.

Dr. Shortridge stated families continue to sign up throughout the entire school year.

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

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

**Old Business**

**PRESS Policies for Approval**

Mr. Burgess stated the August PRESS Policies have been placed on public display for the appropriate time. He also recommended the board approve the August PRESS Policies as presented.

August PRESS Policy Updates  
2:160 - Board Attorney  
2:260 - Uniform Grievance Procedure

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4:50 - Payment Procedures  
5:50 - Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; Tobacco Prohibition  
5:170 - Copyright  
5:270 - Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment  
5:290 - Employment Termination and Suspensions  
7:10 - Equal Educational Opportunities  
7:40 - Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students  
7:220 - Bus Conduct  
7:260 - Exemption from Physical Activity  
7:310 - Restrictions on Publications  
7:325 - Student Fund-Raising Fundraising Activities  
8:10 - Connection with the Community  
8:80 - Gifts to the District  
6:140 - Education of Homeless Children  
7:90 - Release During School Hours

A motion was made by Fischer, and seconded by Gustafson, to approve the August PRESS Policies as Presented.

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

**ERO 2015**

Mr. Burgess stated it was his recommendation that the board approve the limit of 10% of eligible staff to participate in ERO 2015.

Article IX

B. Limitation on Retirements under Modified ERO. At the discretion of the Board, the number of teachers under age 60 who may elect to participate in the TRS Modified Early Retirement Option may be limited to ten percent (10%) of the teachers under age 60 who are eligible for participation with the right to participate to be allocated among those applying on the basis of seniority in service to the District. An employee may not access both the Modified ERO option AND any retirement incentives described in this Agreement.

A motion was made by Gustafson, and seconded by Edwards, to limit the number of teachers under age 60 who may elect to participate in the TRS Modified Early Retirement Option to ten percent (10%) of those who are eligible for participation with the right to participate to be allocated among those applying on the basis of seniority in service to the District at the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

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

## **Levy Notice and Public Hearing**

### Levy Information and Necessary Approval Dates

Dr. Shortridge stated in order to ensure 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 15, 2015 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 years 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
  - 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 December 1-8.
- **December Full Board Meeting:** Conduct the Levy Hearing (will only be necessary if the levy amount is over 5% of last year's total). 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 15, 2015 Board of Education Meeting
2. Truth in Taxation notice

*Submitted by Brad Shortridge, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations*

A motion was made by Fischer, and seconded by Brynteson, to publish the public notice of the Tax Levy Hearing scheduled for December 15, 2015 and publish the Truth in Taxation notice.

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

## **New Business**

### **IHSA Student Athletic Participation Request**

Mr. Burgess stated there is a request for a senior to participate as an individual in the sport of swimming. He also stated the district has approved similar requests such as swimming or gymnastics in the past, and he supports the participation as long as no cost is incurred by the school district.

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A motion was made by Gustafson, and seconded by Fischer, to approve the IHSA Student Athletic Participation request as presented.

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

**Board Vacancy**

Kerri Sosnowski resigned from the Board of Education on September 22, 2015.

President Paul Kruse and the Board of Education presented a plaque to former Board Member Kerri Sosnowski in recognition of her service to the board from 2013-2015.

Sosnowski stated learning a lot from being a school board member. She also thanked the board for the valuable experience.

Mr. Burgess recommended the following schedule to fill the board vacancy position.

Close board vacancy applications on November 6<sup>th</sup>  
Interview November 10<sup>th</sup>  
Appoint at November Board Meeting

**Acceptance of Donations**

Mr. Burgess stated the generous donations from Mrs. Meier and 3M Corporation.

A motion was made by Brynteson, and seconded by Gustafson, to accept a generous donation of 3 soccer balls, basketballs and footballs from Doreen Meier to Kingston Elementary School, and a very large donation of school office products to Kingston Elementary School that will be distributed to all staff from the 3M School give away.

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

**FOIA Report**

There were two FOIA requests to report from Rhonda Gillespie Reporter, DeKalb Daily Chronicle and Patrick McCraney, Better Government Association.

**November Board Meeting Date**

Mr. Burgess recommended the November Board of Education date change from November 24th to November 17th due to the 24th being the week of Thanksgiving.



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A motion was made by Fischer, and seconded by Lauderdale, to approve changing the November Board of Education Meeting from November 24, 2015 at 7:00 pm. to November 17, 2015 at 7:00 pm. due to the 24th being the week of Thanksgiving.

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

**Superintendent/Board Communication**

Hall of Fame Information

Mr. Burgess thanked Mr. McPherson, Mrs. Volkening, and the entire Hall of Fame committee for their hard work planning and preparing for the Hall of Fame event. He also stated over 300 guests attended.

Brynteson also thanked the committee and the staff for their hard work with the Hall of Fame event. She further stated it was exciting to meet everyone that was inducted into the first G-K Hall of Fame.

**Project Lead the Way Update**

Mr. Burgess discussed upcoming presentations to community groups regarding Project Lead the Way. He also discussed his recent presentation to the Village of Kingston and thanked Mrs. Lauderdale for helping to communicate Project Lead the Way efforts to the Kingston community.

**National Education Law Conference**

Mr. Burgess stated Dr. Shortridge will be representing the G-K district at the National Education Law Conference November 4-6. Dr. Shortridge will be speaking on "Can school administrators find legal support to discipline students for cyber speech aimed to attack staff?"

**IASB October 22<sup>nd</sup> Dinner Review**

Brynteson stated the IASB guest speaker spoke on communication as a board member and unified communication strategies.

**Task Force Update**

Mr. Burgess shared notes and the progress of the Substance Abuse Task Force. Mr. Burgess stated N.I.U. is in the process of finishing the task force survey and Mr. Lekkas has volunteered to work with parents K-12.

**State Superintendent Meeting**

Mr. Burgess recently met State Superintendent, Tony Smith. He also stated State Superintendent Tony Smith understands the current concerns and will send a strong message to Springfield.

**Board Member Side Note**

On behalf of the Genoa-Kingston Athletic Booster Club board member, Taunya Fischer thanked Heather Edwards and Superintendent Joe Burgess for helping with concessions at a recent football game.

**Future Agenda Items**

**November 10, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting**

Board Vacancy interviews  
October PRESS Policies Review  
PMA

**November 10, 2015 Board Retreat**

**November 17, 2015 Board Meeting**

Board Appointment  
Board Vice President Appointment

**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), and the selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in this Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance in compliance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3) 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) as well as safety and security in compliance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)8.**

A motion was made by Brynteson, and seconded by Edwards, to convene to 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), and the selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in this Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance in compliance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3), 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) as well as safety and security in compliance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)8 at 8:02 pm.

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

**Reconvene**

The board reconvened to open session at 8:49 pm.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Angie Lauderdale, seconded by Barb Gustafson, to adjourn the Board of Education meeting at 8:49 pm.

Voice vote: All motion carried.

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Paul Kruse, Board President

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Heather Edwards, Board Secretary