

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
GENESEO COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #228 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
209 SOUTH COLLEGE AVENUE  
GENESEO, ILLINOIS  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 09, 2008, AT 7:00 P.M.  
IN THE GENESEO DISTRICT OFFICE MEETING ROOM**

**PRESENT:**

C. Coleman  
D. Ford  
B. Snodgrass  
J. Mickley  
J. Puentes  
A. VanDeWoestyne  
C. Frerichs, (via iChat)  
(absent 7:40 p.m.-8:10 p.m.)

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Scott Kuffel, Superintendent  
Jack Schlindwein, Director of Operations  
Carolyn Jiles  
Susan Mochel  
Brad Toone  
Charles Lotridge  
Guy Pauley  
Marnie Eggen  
Becky Rowe  
Nancy Wiese

Natalie Haugse, Recording Secretary  
Lisa Depies, Reporter, *Geneseo Republic*  
Steve Elliott, Reporter, *The Dispatch*

1. President Puentes called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll call was taken with seven members present (Ford, Snodgrass, Puentes, Mickley, Coleman, VanDeWoestyne, Frerichs (who was available via videoconference)).

2. Bob Reade Field Update: Brad Toone, President of the Grid Club, explained proposed signage for ticket booths and bronze plaque to be placed by the victory bell. Each Board member received a handout with illustrations. High School Administration and District maintenance will determine final placement of plaque and signage.
3. Mr. Kuffel asked that the agenda be amended by removing the High School Extra Curricular Handbook from Action Items. He is proposing the High School Extra Curricular Handbook be recreated to become a Middle School/High School. High School and Middle School Administration will work on a draft version.

Motion by Coleman, seconded by Snodgrass to amend the agenda by removing the High School Extra Curricular Handbook from Action Items.

Motion carried by roll call vote of seven yes (Snodgrass, Puentes, Coleman, Mickley, VanDeWoestyne, Frerichs, Ford).

4. Board Correspondence
  - a. Alliance Legislative Reports: 95-72. Mr. Kuffel made special mention of the Medicaid Moratorium Extension. He also informed the Board that the District has received all 24 General State Aid Payments for fiscal year 2008. We did not receive one transportation payment and one Special Education-Extraordinary payment before the end of fiscal year 2008.
  - b. Utility Reports
  - c. Summer Construction Update: Mr. Schlindwein updated the Board on work being done, including exterior stucco on the front of the High School, floor tile at the High School and Middle School, carpet at Southwest Elementary, and installation of a concrete pad at the High School football field for the ambulance. The paint crew's projects are at the halfway point.
5. Motion by Ford, seconded by Mickley to accept the consent agenda as presented:
  - a. Approve the minutes of the June 11, 2008, Regular Meeting
  - b. Approve the Closed Session minutes of June 11, 2008, as Closed
  - c. Approve RRCAS bills in the amount of \$33,512.14, payroll in the amount of \$8,931.62, for total expenditures of \$42,443.76.
  - d. Approve Geneseo District #228 bills in the amount of \$1,290,363.58, payroll in the amount of \$716,357.80, for total expenditures of \$2,006,721.38.
  - e. Approve Second Reading of Board Policy 6:145
  - f. Approve Recommendation for Review of Closed Session Minutes
  - g. Approve Application with Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging (WIAAA)
  - h. Approve Richard L. Johnson and Associates as the District Architect for 2008-09
  - i. Approve Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton, Taylor, along with Nash, Nash, Bean and Ford to serve as appropriate and approved legal counsel for 2008-09

Motion carried by roll call vote of seven yes, (VanDeWoestyne, Coleman, Frerichs, Puentes, Ford, Snodgrass, Mickley).

6. Motion by Coleman seconded by Snodgrass to accept the personnel agenda, including assignment of teacher aides K-8 (attachment), as presented

#### **Employment**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Judy Hartman	High School Food Service
Deanna Humphries	Ladders to Learning Parent Educator/First Steps to Learning Parent Educator
DeAnna Coulter	Ladders to Learning Aide

Becky Daniels	MS/Atkinson Music Teacher, Part Time
Jayne Hoelscher	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball Coach
Kyle Wickwire	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football Coach
John Kroener	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Football Coach
Dan Manna	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball Coach
Michelle Glazier	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Volleyball Coach
Elmer Reedy	MS Athletic Director
Todd Ehlert	MS Head Boys' Track Coach
Kent Wolfe	MS Assistant Boys' Track Coach
Todd Ehlert	MS Head Cross Country Coach
Theresa Fredericks	MS Assistant Cross Country Coach
Jill DePauw	MS Head Speech Sponsor
Amy Feely	MS Lunch Supervisor
Kyle Wickwire	MS Personal Student Aide
Matt Eastlick	MS Head Wrestling Coach
Todd Misfeldt	MS Assistant Wrestling Coach
Renea Dearborn	HS Asst. Cheerleading Coach

### **Retirement**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Diane Olson, at end of 2012-13 school year	MS Teacher

### **Resignations**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Todd Ehlert	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Assistant Basketball Coach
Pat Mitchell	MS Wrestling Coach

Motion carried by roll call vote of seven yes, (Puentes, Mickley, Ford, VanDeWoestyne, Snodgrass, Frerichs, Coleman).

## **7. Board Committee Reports**

- a. Curriculum Committee— Mrs. Coleman described the Curriculum Policy Committee Draft Scorecard as an ongoing project, but the committee is pleased with scorecard's most current draft, which places an emphasis on reading and comprehension.
- b. Operations Committee—Mr. Schlindwein recapped the June 16 Operations Committee meeting. The Operations Committee AC/ Ventilation Recommendation does not need approval from the Board until Scott Johnson has completed the Health/Life Safety amendment. On August 15, the committee, along with any interested Board members, will be traveling to Jefferson Elementary School in Sterling to look at the Geothermal System they are currently installing.

- c. Finance Committee—No report given.
  - d. Mr. Kuffel presented Board Committee Options for restructuring. Option One would reorganize into two committees: Operations and Curriculum. Option Two would keep three committees as presently operating, but changing committee member composition. This will be considered an Action Item for the August Board of Education regular meeting.
  - e. Mr. Kuffel presented a Board Retreat Proposal offering two dates, January 28, 2009, and February 25, 2009, as possible days to meet. The Superintendent's Evaluation must be completed prior to February 1, but a date later in the school year for a Board Retreat may be more beneficial. Mr. Kuffel will give additional dates for consideration at the August Board of Education regular meeting. He also outlined several topics for discussion, and asked for any additional suggestions for topics for discussion.
8. Motion by Ford, seconded by VanDeWoestyne to approve hearing the PE Policy Waiver First Reading at a future Board of Education meeting

Motion carried by roll call vote of six yes, (Snodgrass, Mickley, Coleman, VanDeWoestyne, Ford, Puentes), one absent, (Frerichs).

9. Motion by Snodgrass, seconded by Coleman to approve the recommendation that Geneseo Community Unit School District 228 no longer house students at the Atkinson Grade School effective July 10, 2008. Additionally, the Board of Education directs the Superintendent to make recommendations for any necessary intergovernmental agreements with the Village of Atkinson relative to this Board Action.
- The Board opened the floor up to visitors for discussion. Mrs. Jiles expressed her opinion that prior decisions made by the Board have perpetuated the closing. She asked whether the closing was due to low numbers or a financial decision. Mrs. Coleman explained this decision as being driven by low numbers of students over the years. Many Atkinson parents have freely chosen to send their children to Geneseo with older siblings attending schools located in Geneseo.
  - Susan Mochel feels that Atkinson students have done better on test scores due to small classes. She also believes parents have pulled their kids because an Atkinson teacher is ineffective. Additionally, classes in Geneseo will be too large.
  - Charles Lotridge explained there is an economic benefit to having a school in the community of Atkinson. The 2009 budget for the City of Atkinson does not allow for operating and maintaining the school building. He

asked that the Board keep in mind this is “District 228”—keep the lines of communication more open. He asked Mr. VanDeWoestyne to keep the City of Atkinson aware of District 228 happenings.

- Mr. Puentes explained Mr. VanDeWoestyne is not elected as an Atkinson representative, he just happens to have an Atkinson address. He also reminded the visitors all regular meetings are open to the public, as well as approved minutes.
- Mr. Pauley feels communication only occurs once a year at the Village meeting. He also expressed the Village’s inability to take the school over this year.
- Marnie Eggen believes the deadline extension for parents to send their kids to Geneseo caused more parents to feel the decision to close was imminent. Some parents liked the chance to have the same teacher in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade as in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. She knows the choice of building is honored, but not choice of teacher. She also feels with parents sending their kids to Geneseo, they are in essence given their choice of teacher by not having the teacher in Atkinson. She is also concerned with children being unfamiliar with their school.
- Mr. Kuffel expressed his understanding of the emotional as well as economic issues involved with closing a school. Of the District’s population, (16,500 over 261 square miles), 7,000 people live in a town or village. The balance lives out of town. Atkinson comprises 90 of the 261 square miles. Other scenarios have been presented in the past, such as closing Northside Elementary, and busing students to Atkinson. There were eight Kindergarteners pre-registered in April, 2008. He is aware of the “90-days to vacate premises” agreement as set forth in the 1989 merger, but is willing to work with the Village of Atkinson to keep the building operating through June 30, 2009. Mr. Kuffel expressed his dismay at blaming a teacher for kids moving as “sad”. He also conveyed his hopes that one day District 228 can take the building back because enrollment is booming again.
- Mr. Pauley asked why Northside couldn’t be closed now if it was considered three years ago. Mr. Kuffel explained that was in the study stage and would have required going out for a referendum. The Board also hoped the enrollment would stabilize. Retirements helped the cash flow at the time. The timing wasn’t right then, nor would it be prudent to close Northside now.
- Mr. Puentes credited Mr. Kuffel as he has worked hard at keeping Atkinson Elementary open. He is optimistic about adding more sections that will benefit all kids of District 228. The numbers dictate closing the school. Financially it makes sense. The District can’t keep the school open for 17 students.

- Mrs. Jiles inquired about the bus stops. Mr. Kuffel said Pinks' has been apprised of the situation. There will be a crossing guard at Route 6.
- Mr. Lotridge apologized to Mr. VanDeWoestyne for not knowing he isn't the Atkinson representative on the Board. He again asked that the District be referred to as "District 228", not Geneseo, in the future.

Motion carried by roll call vote of seven yes, (Frerichs, Snodgrass, Coleman, VanDeWoestyne, Ford, Puentes, Mickley).

10. Motion by Ford, seconded by Snodgrass to approve 2008-09 Student Activity and Miscellaneous Fees

Motion carried by roll call vote of seven yes, (Snodgrass, Coleman, VanDeWoestyne, Ford, Puentes, Mickley, Frerichs).

11. Motion by Ford, seconded by Mickley to deny Devon Schaaf's request for maternity leave for the 2008-09 school year as she is not a tenured teacher. Section 7.4 of the Professional Agreement states the Maternity Leave/Child Rearing Leave is available to tenured teachers.

Motion carried by roll call vote of seven yes, (Coleman, VanDeWoestyne, Ford, Puentes, Mickley, Frerichs, Snodgrass).

12. Heard first reading of Board Policies 2:120, 4:50, 4:55, 4:80, 4:90, 4:150, 5:50, 6:20, 7:100, 7:340, 8:30, and 8:40

13. Mr. Kuffel presented the Board with a preliminary review of the FY09 Education Fund expenses. He noted this is a draft version. There was a positive cash flow in the Education and Building Fund in the FY08 Budget. He will present the Board with a full budget form as a draft in August.

14. Mr. Kuffel gave a Health Insurance update. Rob Dorsey from Laurus Strategies has been working to collect, organize and analyze information regarding our current self-insured health insurance program to determine what types of provider discounts we are receiving. Laurus Strategies is currently identifying options for our Plan for third-party administrators. Our third-party administrator at this time is Mutual Medical. Screening would occur mid-August, with interviews occurring at the end of August. We will be able to make a recommendation for third-party administrator at the September 11, 2008 Board meeting. The Claims Fund has a balance currently in excess of \$500,000, which is far improved from our status a couple of years ago.

15. Mrs. Coleman inquired about the progress of the NCLB audit currently being conducted. Mr. Kuffel explained the auditor is going through three years of Title Grants, Transportation Reports, and General State Aid. He has at least two more days of work before he will be out of the District. We can expect his final report within the next three months.

16. Motion by Ford, seconded by Snodgrass to adjourn the regular session meeting

Motion carried by roll call vote of seven yes, (Ford, Puentes, Mickley, Frerichs, Snodgrass, Coleman, VanDeWoestyne).

17. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY