



# GENESEO

COMMUNITY UNIT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #228

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**Early Childhood Education Expansion Committee  
Geneseo CUSD #228 Board of Education  
Meeting Summary  
648 N. Chicago St., Geneseo, IL  
April 2, 2024**

**Present:**

Dr. Adam Brumbaugh (Superintendent), Diane Olson (BOE), Ashley Morey, Joe Mowen, Denise Ford, Sarah Boone, Sam Mathew, Sarah Mosier, Lori Tracey, Tricia Girten, Tim Gronski, Dianna Saelens, Jackie Mickley (BOE), Renee Robertson, Andy Thurman, Lauren Bevill, Madison Warren, Susan Draminski

**Topics of discussion:**

The meeting opened at 10:30 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to update the committee after our preschool screening and other happenings since we last met on February 2, 2024.

Geneseo is now on the PreK “desert” list, making it a higher priority area for PFA funding (<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Preschool-Deserts-FY25-RFP-Ages-3-4.pdf>). The desert list outlines the resources that are available in a given school district. Priority is given to those entities on this list for RFPs. ISBE would like to see 80% of eligible children having an opportunity for a slot. ISBE’s calculation shows that we need 34 more slots.

Dr. Brumbaugh has started reviewing the Preschool funding Request for Proposals (RFPs) for FY25. He just received word from ISBE that our existing PFA Grant funding is guaranteed through FY26.

An Early Childhood Mental Health Services Community Event will be held in the future in partnership with Birth to Five. Mr. Thurman offered to host this event at the park district and it could possibly be an early childhood resource fair.

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A Preschool Family Dinner Night was held on February 8 from 5-7 p.m. There were 81 participants not counting teachers and high school volunteers. Mrs. Ford taught parents about Conscious Discipline and great feedback was received.

The community overview of [PreK options in Geneseo](#) has been updated and posted on our [website](#). It was sent home with current PreK students and placed around town.

The committee then held roundtable discussions with the first one focusing on preschool sign up at Ladders to Learning. All identified at risk students will have spots; 20 students in general will be on the waiting list. A fall screening will be held. Other topics included special education and Growth opening another preschool classroom in March.

The committee then reviewed the direction provided by the Board of Education at its Jan. 11 meeting: "The committee should review options such as optimizing current building space to create more preschool classrooms, or explore vacant community space, such as Growth, staffed by #228 teachers." Mrs. Olson asked about dropping a section of 4th grade in order to pick up an early childhood room, and Dr. Brumbaugh stated that'd be up to the BOE. Lauren shared that Growth will be opening another classroom in August at the beginning of the school year.

Next steps include exploring how the state visits goals, per Mrs. Olson's request. Dr. Brumbaugh and Mr. Mowen will share a summary of the results with the team once they are available. Mrs. Mickley thanked the early childhood team for their hard work and dedication.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

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