

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
GENESEO COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL
DISTRICT #228 BOARD OF EDUCATION
209 SOUTH COLLEGE AVENUE
GENESEO, ILLINOIS
HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008, AT 7:00 P.M.
IN THE GENESEO DISTRICT OFFICE MEETING ROOM**

PRESENT:

D. Ford
C. Frerichs
J. Mickley
J. Puentes
B. Snodgrass, arrived at 7:07 p.m.
A. VanDeWoestyne

ABSENT:

C. Coleman

ALSO PRESENT:

Scott Kuffel, Superintendent
Jack Schlindwein, Director of Operations
Joni Swanson, Asst. Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction
Mike Kiss, High School Teacher, GEA President
Jon Obrecht, High School Teacher
Al Ringenberg, High School Teacher
Glendon Gustafson

Natalie Haugse, Recording Secretary
Lisa Depies, Reporter, *Geneseo Republic*

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

Roll call was taken with five members present (Ford, Puentes, VanDeWoestyne, Frerichs, Mickley), two absent (Coleman, Snodgrass).

2. Public visitors were recognized. Mr. Gustafson, who had completed a request to address the Board concerning the levy, was asked to speak during the levy hearing. He indicated he had another engagement at 7:30, so requested he be given the opportunity to speak prior to that time. The Board agreed to modify the agenda to accommodate his request.
3. The Board recognized Michelle Schneden as a National Board-Certified Teacher. Congratulations were extended to her for this admirable, professional achievement.
4. Board Correspondence
 - a. Kewanee School District notice of intent to withdraw from the NCIC Conference effective 2010-11 school year.
 - b. Bureau, Henry and Stark Counties, as well as Rock Island County, Equalized Assessed Valuation and Tax Rate Charts, as supplied by their ROEs, for taxes payable in 2008. It was noted Geneseo CUSD #228 has the lowest tax rate by 15 cents of any unit district in the Bureau, Henry, Stark ROE.

5. The regular meeting was suspended for a Truth in Taxation Hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Mr. Kuffel explained that the Levy reflects 4.0662 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation. The total amount of the December 2008 levy including bond and interest is \$12,402,000.00, a 4.1261% increase. He noted that a Truth in Taxation Hearing was not required, as the 2008 levy does not exceed 105% of the 2007 tax extension, and commended the Board for its willingness to be transparent in its conducting of business. Fiscal responsibility has made it necessary to close Atkinson School, increase class sizes, and reduce one administrator by the end of the first semester of the 2008-09 school year, (Tom Domino).

Public comment was welcomed, at which time Mr. Glendon Gustafson addressed the Board. He supplied Board Members with a handout illustrating school enrollment compared to his portion of school taxes per 100 students beginning with the year 1992. His taxes have increased four times greater than the cost of inflation. He suggests a “restructuring process”, which includes: a. Increase class size; b. Restructure school district administrative functions; c. Redesign high school curriculum—too many extraneous, non-productive programs available; and, d. Consider consolidation with other school districts. He believes housing in Geneseo is too expensive for young families, thus lower student enrollment.

Mr. Kuffel requested that Mr. Gustafson provide the Board with suggested High School Curriculum changes, as well as reasonable class size numbers. Mr. Gustafson replied he would have to speak with those he consults with about curriculum, and as far as class sizes go, feels the Board of Education and administration is in the position to make that decision.

Mr. Gustafson suggested the Board seek professional assistance and enlist the aid of community retirees as it considers restructuring.

6. The Truth in Taxation Hearing ended and the regular meeting was reconvened at 7:44 p.m.
7. Report from Jack Schlindwein, Director of Operations—Mr. Schlindwein reported on the S.A.F.E. Program, rate comparisons, financial report, and eight-year history. The S.A.F.E. Program has had a positive cash flow for the past three years. He also gave a utilities update. He updated the Board on the geothermal project at Millikin.
8. Motion by Ford, seconded by Mickley to accept the consent agenda as presented:
 - a. Approve the minutes of the November 13, 2008, Regular Meeting
 - b. Approve the Closed Session minutes of November 13, 2008, as Closed
 - c. Approve RRCAS bills in the amount of \$24,521.16, payroll in the amount of \$10,993.88, for total expenditures of \$35,515.04.

- d. Approve Geneseo District #228 bills in the amount of \$1,106,366.84, payroll in the amount of \$764,997.02, for total expenditures of \$1,871,363.86.
- e. Approve request of The Geneseo High School After-Prom Committee that they be added to the District's liability insurance policy, carried by Bullis & Sundberg LLC Insurance Services, at the annual rate of \$35.00, for coverage of After-Prom activities to be held at the High School on May 2, 2009. The Committee agrees to reimburse the District for this temporary coverage.

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

- 9. Motion by Ford seconded by Snodgrass to accept the personnel agenda as presented

Employment

Name	Position
Michelle Gramling	Northside Food Service
Bob VanKerrebroeck	Middle School Volunteer Girls Basketball Coach

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

- 10. Motion by Frerichs, seconded by Snodgrass to approve the 2008 Tax Levy as presented

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

- 11. Motion by Ford, seconded by Mickley to approve the District Improvement Plan, including Rtl Plan as presented

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

- 12. Motion by Mickley, seconded by Snodgrass to approve Board Policy 6:310 as presented

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

13. Motion by Ford, seconded by Frerichs to approve the High School Course Planning Guide for 2009-10 as presented

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

14. Motion by Frerichs, seconded by Snodgrass to approve the authorization of the Director of Operations to seek anticipated bids for 2009-10

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

15. Motion by Ford, seconded by Frerichs to approve agreement with Precedence, Inc. to provide Geneseo CUSD #228 employees with the Employee Assistance Program as presented

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

16. Motion by Mickley, seconded by Frerichs to approve Board Policies 4:60 and 4:70 as presented

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

17. Motion by Ford, seconded by Frerichs to approve changes to the Support Personnel Handbook, which include allowing four (4) paid holidays for 12-month, part-time employees working 30 to 34.9 hours per week

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

18. Motion by Ford, seconded by Snodgrass to approve recommended health insurance rates for 2009 plan year, reflecting a 4% overall increase

The Board commended Mr. Kuffel for his work in negotiating rates and keeping increases down. Thanks were also extended to the insurance committee.

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

19. Report from Joni Swanson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction—Dr. Swanson reported on technology purchases in Geneseo CUSD #228 K-12 schools since 2007, and implementation and training for SMART and Promethean Systems.
20. Mr. Kuffel reviewed the District Scorecard with the Board. Possible revisions for 2009-10 District Scorecard include reports for Board review.
21. Reviewed 2008 Tri-Conference.
22. Heard first reading of Board Policies 2:220, 4:160, 5:90, 5:100, 5:150, 5:240, 5:250, 5:290, and 5:330.
23. Discussed Board Meeting Monitoring Form, which will be handed out at the end of each Board meeting.
24. Follow up on the 2007 Winter Retreat was shared with the Board.
25. A draft of recommendations for discussion at the June 24, 2009, Board Retreat was shared.
26. The Board suspended the regular meeting open session for a 5-minute break at 9:37 p.m.
27. Motion by VanDeWoestyne, seconded by Ford to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of discussing:
 - The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity.
5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1), as amended by P.A. 93-0057.

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

28. President Puentes asked for a motion to reconvene the regular meeting at 10:35 p.m.

Motion by Frerichs, seconded by Ford to reconvene the regular meeting

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

29. Motion by Ford, seconded by Frerichs to adjourn the regular session meeting

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

30. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY