

Geneva Area City Board of Education
December 19, 2018

The Board of Education of the Geneva Area City School District met in regular session at 7:00 p.m., December 19, 2018, in the High School Auditorium. The meeting was called to order by President Brashear.

Roll Call: Present: Mr. Arndt, Mr. Brashear, Ms. Fisher, Mrs. Ortiz, Superintendent Kujala, and Treasurer Lillie

Absent: Mr. Dana

Visitors
& Guests: Administrative Assistant Horvath; Principals Anderson, Burzanko, Doherty, Gustin, and Wetherholt; Assistant Principal Markijohn; GATA and OAPSE representatives; newspaper reporter; and other citizens

Certification by Treasurer of Compliance with Meeting Requirements Rules

Pledge of Allegiance Mr. Brashear led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence Mr. Kujala noted that he tries to get around to all the buildings the last week before winter break, and he shares a platter of cookies and a card, which is signed from himself, the Board of Education, and administrative team. We did get a thank-you note from transportation thanking us for the tray of cookies and wishing the Board a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Agenda Modification Several agenda modifications were made.

Hearing of Public There was none.

Approval of Minutes Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, to approve the minutes of the regular session on November 21, 2018, as presented by the Treasurer. Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Fisher, and Ortiz. Motion carried.

174-18

Financial Report Mr. Arndt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to approve the November, 2018 financial report as presented by the Treasurer. Roll Call: YES: Brashear, Fisher, Ortiz, and Arndt. Motion carried.

175-18

Approval of Invoices Mr. Arndt moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, to approve the November, 2018 invoices as paid and listed by the Treasurer. Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, and Brashear. Motion carried.

176-18

Informational Items – Current Investments (see addendum file)

- \$200 from an anonymous donor to assist with the cafeteria Christmas Bike Give-a-way.
- \$75 from the Geneva Business Women's Association to be used for the Eagles Closet.
- \$20 from Sharlene Hurst of Ashtabula to the Spirit of Geneva Scholarship Fund in memory of Judith Hudson.

Mr. Lillie noted that he was disappointed that we haven't been able to take advantage of higher interest rates on investments, as we haven't been in the market since July. Rates have continued to go up, but we will have to wait until we begin receiving first half real estate collections at the end of January before we will have money available to invest.

Mr. Lillie also reported that we received the renewal information from the Ohio School Plan for our property, liability, and auto coverage. He said the renewal proposal would be emailed to Board members for review, and an item would be placed on the Organizational Board meeting agenda for approval. The renewal proposal shows a decrease in premium of \$3,665 compared to last year's premium.

Legislative Report

Ms. Fisher reported that there are currently 117 bills being monitored and 10 enacted. A new bill was introduced in the House last week that would enhance penalties for failing to stop for school buses while picking up or dropping off students. It would require the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to produce a graphic that instructs drivers on stopping and have these graphics posted at Registrar offices. However, with the number of BMV locations being reduced and so much of the licensing being done by mail, it may not be much help.

The Ohio School Boards Association has a legislative page that monitors legislation dealing with education issues, and HB 703 just showed up on that page. It is called the Decriminalization Effort for Ending Notorious Deaths, or Teachers with Options. This bill would allow a concealed handgun licensee or qualified military member to carry a concealed handgun in certain public premises, would reduce the penalty for a concealed handgun licensee who carries a concealed handgun in a prohibited place, and would prohibit public employers and universities from disciplining employees or students who lawfully carry a concealed handgun on the premises. This bill is currently in the House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee.

Another new bill, HB 776, deals with food allergies training. HB 58, which started out requiring cursive writing to be

taught by the 5th grade, is now on the governor's desk for signing, but it has been substantially changed. It now requires the State Board of Education to adopt a model curriculum for cursive handwriting instruction for K-5 students for use by any school that wishes to teach cursive. Ms. Fisher noted that most of the other 117 bills are in committee in various stages of revision or hearings.

A-Tech Report

Mr. Brashear said they always like to brag about their students. A-Tech students built a covered bridge float for the Covered Bridge Festival, and they recently decorated an ODOT plow. The trick was finding materials that would stick to the plow. A canned food drive contest had the juniors outpace the seniors by \$719.98 to \$686.87 in collecting 2,702 canned food items and cash.

Report of the Superintendent

Geneva's Image

Members of the Geneva's Image show choir under the direction of Michelle Mather gave a short holiday performance. Mr. Kujala thanked the Geneva's Image and Mrs. Mather and said they were a shining example of how we want to be represented here at Geneva with their song and their energy, and we appreciate their performance tonight.

Geneva Pride Positives

Mr. Kujala gave a brief overview of Geneva Pride Positives. At Austinburg, Santa Shop was a big hit again this year, and AESA did a wonderful job decorating and getting volunteers to help the students. Shawn Shannon, from Shannon's Mini Mart, donated money so that every child could shop for their families. The National Theatre for Children presented "The Energized Guyz" to Austinburg last month. This assembly was courtesy of First Energy, and students learned about where energy comes from and how families can save energy at home. The families were able to request energy saving kits that included LED lights and nightlights. The fifth grade organized a collection week for our local veterans, where each day the students donated items and had the chance to participate in the daily activities. The Veterans Day assembly was the kickoff for the year to help veterans, and Mr. Arndt was thanked for being the speaker at the assembly.

Mrs. Bordeaux's class at Cork Elementary has been completing their literature circles. Students read in groups cuddled up with their blankets and towels while discussing their books and completing activities. Students were also able to utilize their brand new dictionaries that the Geneva Rotary Club gifted them recently. Students completed activities in literature circles, like the Word Wizard, and the new dictionaries were very useful for this job. Students looked up words that they were not familiar with and taught their peers what the new words meant. When this activity wrapped up, students worked on skits in which they performed "Book Commercials" for their Cork school families on the stage in

the cafeteria. These book commercials introduced the books and got the audience excited about wanting to pick up the book to finish it in order to find out how the book ends. Students did a wonderful job practicing their lines, creating props, and finding costumes to wear. First Grade is reading the book "Gifts of the Heart" by Patricia Polacco. The students wrote about how they could be a gift to others, such as complimenting someone, giving a smile, helping mom and dad, telling the truth, reading to someone, being kind, and giving a hug. This lesson follows our Positive Behavior Intervention Support program and matrix on how to SOAR to success as a positive factor in the school community and beyond. The 3rd and 4th grade classes, under the direction of Mrs. Stowell, held their winter concert "The Incredible Reindeer" by telling a story and singing songs. The Geneva High School Choir visited Cork to perform holiday songs as well. The students were inspired by the performance and know that someday they could be up on stage performing for future students at Cork.

Congratulations to Mrs. Sheppard and Ms. Pfouts, the Geneva Platt R. Spencer kindergarten teachers, who were awarded a \$700 Target Field Trip Grant for a second year in a row. The GPS kindergarten students will be visiting Lake Farm Parks to participate in the Little Lambs and Little Sprouts program in March 2019. Rhiley Williams, a fourth grade student in Mrs. Scarniench's class at GPS, wrote a letter to Santa Claus that was sent to the Gazette. The Gazette posted Rhiley's letter online and someone from the APL read it and posted Rhiley's letter to their Facebook account with a proud message. GPS third grade students and their teachers viewed a performance of the Nutcracker at the Ashtabula Arts Center on December 5th. The students were so excited to attend that they wrote thank you letters to the bus drivers that made their trip possible. A big thank you to Mrs. Kirk for organizing the field trip with her grade level team and the GPS PTO for their support with the field trip.

Geneva Middle School held elections for class officers for the 2018-2019 school year, and for the first time in school history, there was a 3-way tie for the position of President between Felix Moreno, Reese Lewis and Jacob Kendall. Jordan Cedoz was elected Treasurer and Teagan Gilbert Secretary. Congratulations to the officers and great job to all students who ran for an office. GMS has been full of career-related activities lately. Students have been exposed to numerous lessons and career activities thanks to the following groups: OSU Extension, A-Tech, ACCESS Board, Junior Achievement and even some student led-lessons from Ms. Stehura's 8th grade classes, who presented career lessons to 6th grade students. GMS will be hosting the District Spelling Bee on January 28th at 6 p.m. For the first time in almost a decade, 5th grade students from all three elementary schools will participate in the Spelling Bee this year.

At Geneva High School, Robin Christopher was recognized as the first recipient of Teacher of the Month - Eagles of Excellence for her outstanding work with Rachel's Challenge and awareness of resilience and self-care. Four students were nominated for the Eagles of Excellence Award. Marissa Covetta was nominated for her positive behaviors and examples she sets throughout the school day. She is seen as going above and beyond with treating others with kindness and respect. Owen Burlingame was nominated for always being polite to everyone. He is never heard saying anything negative and is kind to all students and ALWAYS has a positive attitude. Tyler Hines found \$20 in the hallway and turned in even though no one was watching, exhibiting qualities of responsibility and honesty, which fits perfectly with our SOAR model. The best part of the story is that the money was lost and returned to his cousin. Vonda Harold was nominated for her dependability and willingness to go above and beyond. She agreed to run the light board for the choir even though she has sports' practices until right beforehand. She also is quick to jump to the defense of others when being referred to by something other than their name. Vonda does these things and moves on throughout her day without expecting acknowledgement for her kind deeds.

Also at GHS, the Choir and GIs had the opportunity to go to all the elementary schools and the middle school earlier this week and perform. The GIs have been really busy with performances throughout the community including the Rotary Club of Geneva, Geneva Chamber of Commerce, tonight's Board of Education meeting and many others. Inductees into NHS were Cassidy Bruinsma and April Hanchosky. The theme of this induction was Christmas, and Santa Claus, played by Giuseppe Pilumeli, entered the classrooms and surprised the inductees with gifts of home-made ornaments created by current NHS members. The current NHS members led Santa's parade into the room playing "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year". After the tapping, NHS members new and old were treated to a luncheon of pizza and snacks. Mr. Kujala encouraged everyone to attend the boys basketball game on Friday, December 21st to celebrate Nick Stoltz becoming only the second boys basketball player in Geneva's history to score over 1,000 points in his high school career as an Eagle. He is currently just 4 points shy, and the current Geneva boys' record is held by Jay McHugh who scored 1,158 points.

Ash. County ESC
Revised Service
Agreement

177-18

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, approval of the 2018-2019 Revised Service Contract between the Ashtabula County Educational Service Center and the Geneva Area City School District to provide a School Psychologist for an additional 26 days at a cost of \$10,565.36. Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, and Brashear. Motion carried.

Ash. Co. School
Financing District
Resolution

178-18

Cupp-Patterson Road
Map Discussion

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Arndt moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, approval of the enclosed resolution requesting to be joined to the Ashtabula County School Financing District and declaring it necessary to levy an additional tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation (see addendum file). Roll Call: YES: Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, and Fisher. Motion carried.

Mr. Brashear said that this item does not need a motion, and he believes Mr. Lillie placed it on the agenda so he could educate us a bit. Mr. Lillie explained that he has had the privilege to participate in a cooperative venture between some legislators and some school practitioners to try to come up with a viable school funding formula for Ohio. This group has been co-chaired by our own state representative, John Patterson, and a Republican representative from the Lima area, Bob Cupp. Both of these representatives are very well respected in both the House and the State Senate, and our meetings have been attended by numerous other state representatives, including the current interim House Speaker. The group consists of eight different subgroups, each co-chaired by a superintendent and treasurer representing all areas of Ohio. Mr. Lillie noted that he has served on the transportation subgroup tasked with coming up with a recommendation for funding transportation.

Mr. Lillie distributed to the Board a presentation on base cost and distribution that was presented at five regional meetings around the state during the month of October. These presentations were open to members of OSBA, BASA and OASBO, and the meetings were well-attended. Mr. Lillie said that base cost and distribution are probably the most important subgroups, since they are coming up with a concept to fund schools fairly, adequately and equitably. The goals of these presentations were to present a detailed review of base cost, a summary review of distribution concepts, a review of categorical and subgroups, and determine where we go from here. This base cost approach is different than the ones in the past as it is built around the student and the student's educational experience. It considers the "whole student" including instruction, co-curriculars, professional development, social-emotional needs, career readiness counselors, and technology. These are just some of the components that went into building this model that had never been in previous models. It is important to note that it is not prescriptive, meaning that this is a concept for funding schools, not telling districts how to spend that money.

Mr. Lillie noted that he sent Board members an email on October 3rd explaining that a ninth subgroup, the Communications committee, has developed preliminary plans for organizing an effective campaign to create support within the new administration, among legislators, and from the general public. The Communication committee believes it is necessary to retain an experienced campaign

and messaging consultant, conduct a statewide poll, hold 4 or 5 regionally diverse focus groups, and retain a lobbyist/coordinator. This would require funds, and preliminary efforts to raise those funds were made with several organizations, including the Ohio Business Roundtable and representatives of the philanthropic community, to no avail. We have been asked to consider the following: that each of the school districts represented among the subgroup co-chairs contribute to the Cupp-Patterson Funding Fund an amount equal to \$1.00 per ADM, rounded to the next highest \$500, for both FY2019 and FY2020. For Geneva Schools, that would be \$2,500 a year for those two years to fund rolling this out and getting it fully funded. Between the 16 districts represented on the subgroups with a total ADM of approximately 90,000, it is figured that they can come up with the money they need to do the things they feel are necessary to do. A Service Agreement is also provided with the ESC of Northeast Ohio acting as the fiscal agent.

Mr. Lillie expressed that his greatest fear in doing this was that we do all this work and it goes nowhere. He put this out for discussion and consideration but does not want any action on this now until he sees if there is going to be any effort by the group to reach out to other districts in Ohio for funding. The next full workgroup meeting is scheduled for January 10th in Columbus.

Mr. Brashear asked how long this work has gone on. Mr. Lillie responded that it has been over a year, starting last November. Mr. Brashear also asked of all the representatives that are serving on this workgroup, who is it that has to travel the furthest. Mr. Lillie answered myself. Mr. Brashear said that having been intimately engaged for the past 12 years in this, one thing that jumps out is fair, adequate, and equitable funding for Ohio students. We've been talking about school funding for decades, it's the butt of many jokes, and often lacks logic and sense. Mr. Brashear believes that the premise for this workgroup was what does it truly take to educate a student. This is the best and most progress he's seen in trying to fix school funding, and he complimented all those involved. He would encourage the group to look at all the school districts for funding. He understands what is behind the funding request, and he's sure it will take some experts, probably some lobbyists, probably a consultant, and probably the amount of funds requested. However, this is for Ohio's students, and he'd really like the group to look at all the school districts to help fund it.

Reinstate Cust. II
Position GMS

179-18

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, that the vacant housekeeping position at Geneva Middle School be eliminated and the Custodian II position be reinstated effective 12/31/18. Mrs. Ortiz asked what the difference was between the two positions. Mr. Kujala explained that the reason this was on the agenda was the Custodian II position was part of our reductions. When we had a resignation recently from a housekeeping position at Austinburg, the individual that was at the Middle School

decided to fill the 12-month position instead of staying in a 10-month position. We want to bring back the Custodian position because it gives us a little more flexibility with what that person can do, including being there for evening events. The change would provide two twelve-month people where we currently only have one. Also, with the other reductions, we've had a reduction in the number of classrooms used at the M.S. Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Fisher, and Ortiz. Motion carried.

2018-2019 Personnel

180-18

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Arndt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, the following personnel actions for the 2018-2019 contract year:

a. Retirement Resignation

Rochelle Austin, Teacher, effective 10/01/19, with a last date of service June 3, 2019. Mrs. Austin has worked for Geneva Schools for 24 years.

Victoria A. Whelpley, Teacher, effective 07/01/19. Mrs. Whelpley has worked for Geneva Schools for 23 years.

b. Resignation Extra-Curricular

Brian M. Belconis - Assistant Volleyball, eff. 07/01/19
Christopher P. Clemens - 7th Grade Football, effective 07/01/19
Jay D. Corlew - Assist. 7th & 8th Gr. Boys Track

c. FMLA

Victoria A. Whelpley, Teacher, leave of absence beginning 12/17/18 with the first six weeks being designated under the Family Medical Leave Act.

d. Amended FMLA

Susan K Conrad, Secretary, leave of absence from 12/19/18 through 02/04/19. This leave will be designated under the Family Medical Leave Act.

e. Resignation

Jeffrey C. Chandler, Substitute Teacher, effective 12/18/18
Teresa George, Adult Sub. Secretary & Educational Assistant, eff. 11/29/18
Tonia S. Varkette, Secretary, Geneva Platt R. Spencer, effective 01/11/19

f. The hiring of the following personnel on a one-year contract, to be paid according to the adopted wage guidelines, subject to meeting certification requirements of the State of Ohio, as well as a

satisfactory physical examination, background check and/or other training, if applicable.

1) Extra-Curricular

Brenda S. Unsinger - Assistant Softball

2) Temporary Contract

Mary A. Allison, Secretary, High School, 7 hrs./day,
5 days/wk., effective 12/19/18

3) Substitute Teacher

Kevin C. Brown
Elizabeth A. Kovacs, effective 12/07/18

4) Adult Substitute Secretary & Educational Assistant

Kathleen A. King

5) Substitute Custodian II

Bonnie L. Balaban

6) Activity Worker

Ashley Burgard, effective 12/12/18
Sydney Burgard (stu.), effective 12/12/18
Jon Gildersleeve

Roll Call: YES: Brashear, Fisher, Ortiz, and Arndt. Motion carried.

Volunteer

181-18

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Ms. Fisher moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, approval of the following volunteer coach for the 2018-2019 school year:

Matthew Hanna - Swimming

Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt and Brashear. Motion carried.

Organizational Meeting

182-18

Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, that Wednesday, January 2, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. be established for the 2019 Organizational meeting at the Board of Education office, and that Mr. Arndt be appointed as President Pro-Tempore for this meeting. Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, and Brashear. Motion carried.

Strategic Planning

Mr. Kujala reported that he held three public strategic planning meetings on December 6th at GPS, on December 12th at GMS and on December 17th at Austinburg. Attendance was not great, as we had approximately 30 people that attended all three sessions. The good thing is that the people who did attend are very interested in being involved in one of the action planning groups. We had about 20 adults

who stepped forward and said they were interested in being involved in one of those groups. We also have 11 students who are seniors at the High School who would like to be involved, and they have indicated their preference of groups. During the winter break, Mr. Kujala will be working on our groups and also constructing a community survey that we plan to post on our website to try and get some input from the community. We also hope to put the survey, or at least some directions on where to find it, in the publication that we're going to be working on in collaboration with UH Hospital System in Geneva at the end of January.

2019-2020 Calendar

Mr. Kujala said he has also been working on the 2019-2020 school district calendar. He's had conversations with the superintendents in the county and started to look at start dates and when certain breaks will take place. We're still waiting for the testing window dates to be released by the state. He does plan to contact Geneva on the Lake again to have a conversation with them to get their thoughts and talk through potentially what our calendar could look like next year. Mr. Brashear asked if Mr. Kujala knew if they've had any discussions with anybody in Columbus. Mr. Kujala responded that he is not aware of any discussion.

Mr. Kujala wished everyone a happy holiday season and best wishes in the new year. This is a great time to share with family and friends, and we wish the best to all of our students and their families.

Mr. Brashear said it's always a pleasure to see people here, especially this close to the holidays. We truly do hope that you have a safe and joyous holiday, that you spend it with family and friends, and perhaps focus on the positives a little bit more and try to find the hope in each other, especially with all of the things going on in the world at this time.

Adjournment

183-18

Mr. Arndt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to adjourn the regular session at 8:12 p.m. Roll Call: YES: Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, and Fisher. Motion carried.

The foregoing is a true and accurate record of the minutes and proceedings of the regular session held by the Board of Education of the Geneva Area City School District on December 19, 2018.