

Geneva Area City Board of Education
January 16, 2019

The Board of Education of the Geneva Area City School District met in regular session at 7:00 p.m., January 16, 2019, in the High School Auditorium. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Arndt.

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

Absent: None

Visitors

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

Certification by Treasurer of Compliance with Meeting Requirements Rules

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Arndt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence

There was none.

Agenda Modification

Several modifications were made.

Hearing of Public

Bill Tobias, 685 Timber Lane Rd., Geneva, said he was here to voice his concern on the traffic they are getting now that the rear gates at the High School are unlocked before and after school. He said the people who built houses there were told that the gates would only be unlocked in cases of emergency. He said it is now like an expressway before and after school. He said that a couple of weeks ago, a little boy was playing in his driveway and his ball went out near the road, and it was a good thing that it stopped in the grass between the sidewalk and the road, or he would have gone out in the road, and he would have been hit by a car. He wondered if we could do what was done before and keep it locked up except for emergencies. He's worried about safety, and he thinks that is very important. Mr. Arndt asked if he just noticed the problem this school year, and Mr. Tobias answered yes.

Lana York, 2302 Walter Main Rd., Geneva, said she was here one other time to talk to the Board about the busing. She saw on the agenda that we're going to be buying a bus for almost \$90,000 with a wheelchair lift, and she was confused what that is

for when we already have one and when we don't even have high school busing. If we had high school busing, Mr. Tobias might not have so many cars going through his neighborhood. It's not only students coming through that gate, but also parents picking up their children. She asked if the Board knew that we could use Laketran, and we wouldn't have to pay our bus driver or the aide, or pay for maintenance on the bus, or fix a wheelchair, we could just use Laketran. She said that she looked it up and the State of Ohio doesn't say it has to be the school public busing as long as it's public busing. She said they'll help as long as the child is coming to school. If we had high school busing, part of Mr. Tobias's problem would go away, her son getting to school late would go away and other kids being late. She doesn't understand when you have almost \$90,000 to pay for a bus when we don't even have high school busing. She said she was so confused, thank you. Mr. Kujala replied that we do have a recommendation on our Board agenda for a handicapped bus, and we are required by law to transport our handicapped students. We have had some issues with our current handicapped buses due to mileage and some mechanical failures, and we want to make sure that we have reliable buses to transport those students and a reliable spare when needed. We often use all three buses that have wheelchair lifts and that is the purpose of the recommendation.

Approval of Minutes

19-19

Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, to approve the minutes of the regular session on December 19, 2018 and the organizational meeting on January 2, 2019 as presented by the Treasurer. Mr. Dana explained that he was okay with the January 2nd minutes but he would abstain because he wasn't in attendance at the December meeting. Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Fisher, and Ortiz. ABSTAIN: Dana. Motion carried.

Financial Report

20-19

Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, to approve the December, 2018 financial report as presented by the Treasurer. Mr. Lillie reported that the General Fund balance on the December 2018 financial report is \$652,337 less than December 2017. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$268,681 for the first six months of the fiscal year. The current five year forecast projected deficit spending of \$507,439 in FY 2019. The total cash balance of all funds except Student Activity is \$361,569 less than December 2017. Roll Call: YES: Brashear, Dana, Fisher, Ortiz, and Arndt. Motion carried.

Approval of Invoices

21-19

Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to approve the December, 2018 invoices as paid and listed by the Treasurer. Roll Call: YES: Dana, Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, and Brashear. Motion carried.

Informational Items – Current Investments (see addendum file)

Donations:	\$1,000	from the City Church to be used for PBIS at the Middle School.
	\$137	and various school supplies from the Geneva Lodge and Conference Center Staff to replenish the Eagle's Closet at the Middle School.
	\$100	from an anonymous donor to assist with the cafeteria Christmas Bike Give-a-way.
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Legislative Report

Ms. Fisher noted that this past month has seen the end of Governor Kasich's term as well as the 132nd session of the Ohio Legislature. There was a flurry of activity as those leaving tried to clear their desks during their last few days. So there are more actual accomplishments for her to report than in any other prior month.

Ms. Fisher reported that Governor Kasich signed seven education related bills into law. HB 66 requires public schools, within two hours of the start of a school day, to notify the parent of a student who fails to arrive at school and is not excused from attendance. HB 291 would allow school districts and other government entities to purchase an "employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy" instead of individual surety bonds for those who are otherwise required to have a bond. HB 338 qualifies licensed chiropractors and medical professionals listed on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners to perform an annual physical on school bus drivers. HB 477 revises civil immunity protections for instances in which mental health services are not provided or procured by school districts, schools, school board members and employees. It also revises certification requirements for employment of paraprofessionals and eliminates nonoperational and outdated educational provisions. HB 491, which extends the alternative high school graduation pathways to the classes of 2019 and 2020, exempts treasurers from liability for certain cases in which loss of public funds occur and revises licensure for pupil services personnel. HB 502 requires certain public school employees to undergo youth suicide awareness and prevention training once every two years.

Ms. Fisher continued that then there's HB 58, which requires the Ohio Department of Education to include supplemental instructional materials on cursive handwriting in the English language arts model curriculum. As many have figured out, this one was of particular interest to her, so she wanted to see how this bill evolved from its introduction until the Governor's

signature on December 19, 2018. On February 13, 2017, it was introduced and required “handwriting instruction in Kindergarten through fifth grade to ensure that students develop the ability to print letters and words legibly by third grade and to create readable documents using legible cursive handwriting by the end of fifth grade.” From here it went to the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee, then to the House Rules and Reference Committee, then back to the Education and Workforce Development Committee where it was “re-reported” (corrected) and finally sent to the Senate Education Committee. Finally, it landed on the governor’s desk on December 19, 2018 and read as follows: “The Department of Education shall include supplemental instructional materials on the development of handwriting as a universal skill in the English language arts model curriculum under division (B) of section 3301.079 of the Revised Code for grades kindergarten through five. The instruction materials shall be designed to enable students to print letters and words legibly by grade three and create legible documents using cursive handwriting by the end of grade five. The instructional materials shall be included in the model curriculum not later than the first day of July that next succeeds the effective date of this amendment and thereafter shall periodically be updated.” The model curriculum is made up of a group of primarily educators who work to establish preferred subjects to be taught in several areas of study, and they put together suggestions as to how they should be taught. There is no mandate that any school system use any of the information that comes out of this committee. Therefore, all this time was spent to have a committee put together a teaching plan that may or may not be used by school districts.

Ms. Fisher mentioned one other task that governor Kasich performed was the appointment of four at-large state school board members for four-year terms. They included a gentleman who was once a school board member of Fayette Local Schools in Fulton County, a lady who is a real estate agent, a gentleman who is the president of Humtown Products, and another who is president of Everyday Technologies. The state board is composed of 19 members, eleven elected and eight who are appointed by the governor.

Mr. Brashear said that Ms. Fisher has proven to us that we need to change the governor’s seat every month so we can get something done.

A-Tech Report

Mr. Brashear reported that they had a new Board member introduced at their organizational meeting, Dr. Debra Barrickman representing Ashtabula Area City Schools. Mr. Steve Candela from AACCS was elected A-Tech Board President, and Mr. William Hill from Ashtabula County Educational Service Center was elected as Vice-President.

Report of the Superintendent

School Board Recognition Month

Mr. Kujala explained that each January we join with the Ohio School Boards Association to celebrate and recognize our local Boards of Education.

As citizens who serve children and represent their communities, individual school board members face complex and demanding challenges. Their love of learning and concern and caring for students, staff and the community drive board members' desire to lead so students can achieve.

Mr. Kujala said that this evening, it was his pleasure to introduce some of those students from the PBIS class at GHS who will make a special presentation to honor our Board members.

Marissa Covetta introduced Mrs. Ortiz, gave some biographical information about her, thanked her for being an Eagle of Excellence, and presented her with the gift of a T-shirt. Garrett Stocker did the same for Ms. Fisher, Vonda Harold for Mr. Arndt, Anika Dudik for Mr. Brashear, and Jordan Vencil for Mr. Dana. Mr. Kujala thanked the students for being Eagles of Excellence and coming and sharing tonight with the Board.

Mr. Kujala said he also wanted to recognize the Board on behalf of the Ohio School Boards Association for our all-star team that we have here of Geneva Board members, and he presented each Board member with a certificate to thank them for their service to our district:

Mr. Richard Arndt with 3½ years of service
Mr. Edward Brashear with 11 years of service
Mr. Richard Dana with 5 years of service
Ms. Sarah Fisher with 3 years of service
Mrs. Jamie Ortiz with 1 year of service

Recognizing Mr. Brashear's 2 years as Board President

Mr. Arndt said the last two years have been turbulent, between a levy, between relationships with outside entities, the as school has had to work very, very hard. Mr. Brashear served two years as the President, which normally is a one-year term. All the Board members agreed that with his experience and getting into something that was very serious for everybody involved with Geneva Schools, it was vital for our future and for our existence, we opted, without his request, to vote him in to serve a second term as the President consecutively, which is not the norm. He's put up with each of us along with that host of other issues for two full years. Dedication, sleepless nights, tireless efforts, my hat is off to him, I respect him, and I'm glad we were able to convince

him through pressure to serve a second term until we could get the levy passed, which he did have a huge impact on the success of that levy. Mr. Arndt thanked Mr. Brashear for everything he did as President the last two years. Mr. Arndt said he thinks the Board and the School District, our teachers, our students, the community, everyone benefited from Mr. Brashear sitting in this chair, so thank you.

Mr. Brashear said he appreciated that and thought Mr. Arndt was too kind. It was truly his honor and privilege to serve.

Geneva Pride Positives

At Austinburg, the Geneva Area City School's Preschool went through the review process and once again earned a 5-Star rating. The Preschool team works very hard to attend necessary professional development sessions and meet during common planning to address all the standards necessary for the 5-Star rating. Students participated in a spirit week while collecting items for local Veterans. Thank you to Ms. Quinn for heading up this activity and to our families for their generosity. The Veterans were very thankful for the donations. Austinburg Elementary students created a "Kindness Tree" for each grade level. The trees are displayed throughout the school to remind everyone that they should always be kind. The students are looking forward to the next activity for our PBIS initiative.

Mrs. Bowser's 2nd grade class at Cork Elementary is setting aside time each week for "Genius Hour". Genius hour is a movement that allows students to explore their own passions and encourages creativity in the classroom, and it provides students a choice in what they learn during a set period of time during class. Students pick a topic that interests them and follow three rules: (1) They have to research something; (2) They have to create something; and (3) They have to present something. The teacher provides support and models the process. Mr. Kujala said he would keep the Board updated on the progress of this movement. Mrs. Bordeaux's class continues to work on our SOAR Initiative, with activities incorporated throughout the curriculum and being made a part of the daily routine. They have been reading the book "Wonder" as a read-aloud, and students are able to share stories and make real-life connections with the characters focusing on accepting differences. To further build on this with Valentine's Day around the corner, the students recently started their "Sweetest Thing" writing project. Students create a written narrative about a time they did something sweet for a family member. They are adding details that support what they did, for whom, and how they knew it was kind. Taking the theme of spreading kindness and care, students will be creating Valentines for a child battling cancer. Earlier, the students sent Christmas cards to Olivia Hall, the young Ashtabula girl who lost her battle with cancer. Cork's first family gathering of the new year took place, and the topic for

family activities was practicing properly greeting others as they pass one another in the hall. Family groups paired up to act out a proper way to greet others and then practiced greeting as if they were an alien, spoke a foreign language, or met a long lost friend, to name a few scenarios. It was a fun way to learn a new and important skill.

COSI on Wheels visited Geneva Platt R. Spencer on January 7th and 8th courtesy of the GPS PTO. Students participated in the Exploring Energy Program, which consisted of a school-wide assembly and hands-on learning stations. A big thank you to all of the volunteers, including Mrs. Ortiz and Ms. Fisher, that helped make these two days possible. The GHS PBIS class visited GPS on January 14th to perform two interactive game show themed assemblies for various grade levels. The high school students created the games to help reinforce the District's SOAR behavior matrix. Thank you to the PBIS class and Mr. McQuoid for all the work they've done this year at GPS. It has been appreciated and has helped to make GPS students SOAR! An early thank you to Mr. Kopczak for organizing an assembly to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The students at GPS will learn more about Dr. King through various speeches and songs performed by the fourth grade students on Tuesday, January 22nd.

Geneva Middle School students collected and donated nearly one thousand pounds of food to the Geneva Food Pantry during the holiday season. GMS held their 7th and 8th grade Science Fair last week. Twelve students achieved scores that will allow them to represent GMS at the Lake to River Science Fair which will be held at Youngstown State University on March 23rd. The 6th grade Science Fair at GMS will be held next week. Sincere thanks to all the high school and middle school teachers as well as GHS students for always helping with these events. The next generation of Spencerian Writers have begun studying the art of cursive handwriting thanks to the Platt R. Spencer Historical Society. GMS students are meeting once weekly at the Geneva Library in small groups to learn cursive handwriting and keep the Spencerian Saga alive in Geneva.

The Friends of Rachel Club (FOR Club) has been meeting weekly to plan and implement activities to promote a positive attitude at Geneva High School. Current projects include Locker Hands - individual notes placed on students' lockers to validate and encourage students beginning with the freshman class. Joy Boxes, which contain clothes, hygiene items, school supplies, and food, have been set up in the media center. Students are encouraged to "take what they need and leave what they can". Members have also spent time welcoming new students this past week by showing them around school and encouraging them to join extra curricular

activities. Last week, FOR Club showed the movie about Rachel Joy Scott's life--*I'm Not Ashamed*--for students and the community. FOR club has around thirty members who have been working diligently to spread kindness around GHS, following in Rachel's path, and in Rachel's words, "Look hard enough and you will always find a light!" Congratulations to GHS for being selected as the site for the Ohio Supreme Court Off-Site Court Program. This unique and educational experience will occur in the GHS Auditorium on April 24, 2019. In 1987, Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer, wanted to honor the year of the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution and initiated the educational program and Off-Site Court. The Off-Site Court is designed to educate high school students and other Ohioans about Ohio's judicial system. Twice each year, once in the spring and once in the fall, the Supreme Court of Ohio relocates from the capital city and holds sessions in another community, selecting a different county each time. It was Ashtabula County's turn and GHS was selected from the three locations that submitted letters of interest. We know this will be a wonderful opportunity for some of our students, teachers and staff, along with students and others from around the county.

Mr. Dana asked if we would be doing anything with the government classes when the Ohio Supreme Court holds sessions at Geneva High School. Perhaps we could have a mock appellate argument for our students and get the briefings of the cases that are going to be handled on that date. It might be a fun experience for our students, and maybe the justices would agree to hear a mock argument from some of our students.

Mr. Kujala asked Mr. Wetherholt if he wanted to add anything, because he knew that Mr. Wetherholt had been in contact with the group from the Ohio Supreme Court. Mr. Wetherholt said it was a very interesting interview process. They send their court administrators and their marshalls, and he had a lot of help from Mr. Yost, who went through the whole process with him. He thanked the Geneva Police Department and their chief, because one of the things we were complimented on was that we were the only school that brought on outside resource to meet with them to help them make their decision. They went through the auditorium and checked the exits and entrances to see how they could secure the building. He's not sure exactly what they're going to let us do, but he certainly will check to see what we can do. Mr. Dana said if we can enhance the learning experience from this, he's sure the local bar association would be willing to help as well.

Mr. Brashear offered congratulations to Mr. Wetherholt and his staff. He said this is great for our students, and he's sure we'll take full advantage of it.

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Mr. Dana, that the Board approve the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.21 OF THE REVISED CODE SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT THE QUESTION OF THE RENEWAL OF AN EXISTING 0.85-MILL TAX LEVY FOR THE PURPOSE OF GENERAL ON-GOING PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS.

WHEREAS, on January 2, 2019, this Board adopted Resolution No. 03-19 pursuant to Section 5705.03 of the Revised Code declaring it necessary to renew an existing 0.85-mill tax for the purpose of general on-going permanent improvements and requesting the Ashtabula County Auditor to certify the total current tax valuation of the School District and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the renewal of the existing 0.85-mill levy; and

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2019, the Ashtabula County Auditor certified that the total current tax valuation of the School District is \$354,831,830 and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by that 0.85-mill renewal levy would be \$192,324 annually during the life of the levy, assuming that the total current tax valuation remains the same throughout the life of the levy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Geneva Area City School District, Ashtabula County, Ohio, that:

Section 1. This Board hereby finds, determines and declares that the amount of taxes which may be raised by the Board of Education of the School District within the ten-mill limitation by levies on the current tax list and duplicate will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements of this School District, and that it is necessary to renew, for five years, an existing 0.85-mill ad valorem property tax outside of the ten-mill limitation for the purpose of general on-going permanent improvements.

Section 2. The question of the renewal of an existing 0.85-mill ad valorem property tax outside of the ten-mill limitation, for five years, for the purpose of general on-going permanent improvements, beginning with the tax list and duplicate for the year 2019, the proceeds of which renewal levy first would be available to

the School District in the calendar year 2020, shall be submitted under the provisions of Section 5705.21 of the Revised Code to the electors of the School District at an election to be held therein on May 7, 2019 (or such other date as is established for the primary election in calendar year 2019), as authorized by law. That election shall be held at the regular places of voting in the School District as established by the Ashtabula County Board of Elections, or otherwise, within the times provided by law and shall be conducted, canvassed and certified in the manner provided by law.

Section 3. The Treasurer of this Board be and is hereby authorized and directed to give or cause to be given notice of that election as provided by law.

Section 4. The Treasurer be and is hereby directed to deliver a certified copy of this Resolution, Resolution No. 03-19 referred to in the first preamble to this Resolution and the related County Auditor's certificate, to the Ashtabula County Board of Elections, not later than February 6, 2019.

Section 5. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board and any of its committees concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with the law.

Section 6. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption.

Mr. Dana noted that this is a renewal, so it is not a new tax, and it is dealing with permanent improvement funds, so it is for things that have a longevity of five years or more. It is not something that can be used towards the general fund for purposes of salaries and those types of things. He just wanted to be clear that it is a renewal and won't incur any additional taxes.

Mr. Lillie noted that he distributed information to the Board showing the expenditures that were made with permanent improvement funds. He also shared that Geneva has the second lowest PI millage in Ashtabula County, with only Pymatuning Valley being lower at .50. The .5 mill OSFC maintenance levy is considered to be PI by the Ohio Department of Taxation, so Geneva's total PI is listed as 1.35 mills, followed by Buckeye at 1.9 mills, Conneaut at 2.0, Grand Valley at 2.05, Jefferson at 3.3 and Ashtabula at 4.25. So Geneva's .85 mill PI levy is very small in comparison to the rest of the school districts in the county. Mr. Lillie stated that the County Auditor's Certificate shows the current total tax valuation at \$354,831,830 and the estimated

property tax revenue to be produced by the levy at \$192,324.
Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, and Dana. Motion carried.

Bus Bids

23-19

Bus bids for one (1) 47-passenger special needs bus were opened on Friday, January 11, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at the Board of Education office. Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Mr. Dana, approval to purchase one (1) 47-passenger complete bus unit with wheelchair lift from Rush Bus Centers of Akron, OH at a cost of \$84,681 plus the upgraded option of a Cummins 250 HP engine at a cost of \$193, and that the permanent improvement fund be used to make the purchase (see addendum file). Mr. Dana said that it is obvious that the discussion we need to have as brought up by members of the public is what is the need for this particular bus. He noted that the Board had prior discussions on this and concerns were raised by Board members at a previous meeting. When it was discussed, we were presented with the mileage on our buses, which hasn't gotten any better since then. Mr. Dana asked if Mr. Lillie could update the Board and the public on the status of the bus fleet. Mr. Lillie explained that he did not have the mileage list with him tonight, but the big thing in this case is that we are looking at a handicap bus with a wheelchair lift, and as Mr. Kujala mentioned earlier, we currently have three such buses. The oldest bus is only a 2011, the newest is 2015, and the other is a 2012, and the two oldest buses already have around 150,000 miles and 130,000 miles on them. The newest bus is just over 52,000 miles. The problem is that during the mid-day, all three buses are running, and we have no spare handicap bus if one of those buses breaks down. Bus 18 has had some issues and has been breaking down, so it is very important to have a spare. We are not looking to increase the size of our fleet and are trading in one of our older buses, a 2006 model. Sometimes our handicap buses are needed for field trips paid for by the PTO's and a class is going where there is a student in a wheelchair, and that makes it difficult if they are all on the road with no spare. This purchase is being made to make sure that we can effectively transport our special needs population to and from school as well as having a bus available if there is a need for a field trip.

Mr. Brashear said the fact of the matter is that we have talked about the busing situation and the transportation situation at previous meetings, we've given the facts and done the due diligence, and we did it publicly. The fact is that this is not a frivolous spend, and we understand how tight the money is. This purchase is a necessity, and overall our fleet is behind the plan because we have not been purchasing new buses per the original plan due to budget cuts. This is a spend we have to do. Mr. Lillie noted that the purchase is not being requested from the general fund but from the permanent improvement fund. Roll Call: YES: Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, Dana, and Fisher. Motion carried.

2018-2019 Personnel

24-19

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

a. Rescind Resignation

Tonia S. Varkettable, Secretary, Geneva Platt R. Spencer, effective 01/14/19, that was acted upon at the December 16, 2018 Board Meeting.

b. FMLA

Kathleen D. Knauff, Cafeteria Manager, leave of absence from 01/08/19 through 01/17/19. This leave will be designated under the Family Medical Leave Act.

Jay W. Miller, Head Mechanic, leave of absence from 01/07/19 through 01/14/19. This leave will be designated under the Family Medical Leave Act.

Cheryle L. Newmeyer, School Nurse, leave of absence from 12/17/18 through 01/11/19. This leave will be designated under the Family Medical Leave Act.

c. Resignation

Ruth M. Hamrick, Adult Substitute Secretary & Educational Assistant, eff. 1/1/19

d. Change of Contract

Kristen C. Balsler, 7 hrs./day, from Housekeeper, High School, 10 mos./year to Custodian II, Middle School, 12 mos./year, effective 12/31/18

e. I recommend 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) Substitute Teacher

Tammara L. Haeseler
Mark E. Mizak

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

Revised Preschool Handbook

25-19

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, approval of the enclosed Preschool Handbook for Parents, revised Jan. 2019 (see addendum file). Mr. Dana said that this is absolutely excellent, as he had an opportunity to review it, and you could tell that there was a lot of time spent on it. He said thank you for the hard work that was put into creating this document.

Mr. Arndt said he was impressed with the statement on page 3 of the handbook, and he hoped every single parent would read this one paragraph. It read "Parents are the primary teachers of their children. Parents are the most influential part of any child's life and the most influential in their development. All parents have the right and the responsibility to become involved with their child's education and to be an integral part of that experience. The Geneva Area City Schools and its preschool staff fully supports parental involvement in the program and provides various opportunities for parents to become involved." Mr. Arndt said that's our schools, our educators, our duty experts reaching out to parents saying we endorse, request, and need your support in this preschool program.

Mr. Dana said he wanted to note that when we had discussions about which school we were going to be closing, so he loves the fact that in the Geneva Pride Positives, kudos to Austinburg. With a 5-star rating, can you imagine what would have happened with this and other projects if the levy didn't pass, and we didn't have this great resource in our community. Roll Call: YES: Brashear, Dana, Fisher, Ortiz, and Arndt. Motion carried.

Disposal of Assets

26-19

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, to approve the disposal of the attached list of assets, as they are no longer of any use to the District (see addendum file). Roll Call: YES: Dana, Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt and Brashear. Motion carried.

District Calendar

Mr. Kujala met with Geneva-on-the-Lake officials on Monday, January 14th to listen to their concerns and also share some early information about the 2019-2020 District calendar. They were very appreciative of his visit and time, and he did let them know that he would be sharing the calendar choices with the Board in February at our regular meeting and then asking for Board approval in March. In regards to the question that was raised by our Board of has Geneva-on-the-Lake continued to work with various tourism groups to open the discussion at the state level and put some pressure on our lawmakers, they shared that they have been working not only locally but through some other state groups to share their concerns. They don't feel there's a lot of support at this time, but they said they will continue to get that message out.

Strategic Planning

Mr. Kujala also reported that the Strategic Planning Group will meet tomorrow evening, January 17th at 6:30 p.m. for their initial whole group meeting. All six action planning teams will gather and have a chance to set their own meeting dates and discuss their focus area. He will be providing an overview and other materials to all the groups. He also mentioned that we still have a few spots left for both community and teacher involvement, and he felt that as we get started, we may be adding a few additional members. Currently, we have 12 District or administrative representatives on those teams, 16 community representatives, 10 teachers, and 11 GHS student reps, so a total of 49 that are part of those committees. He reminded the Board that they may select a team of interest or may even collaborate and visit multiple groups. He will be involved not only with the communication action planning team, but he also plans to at least visit each of the groups at one of their meetings. If a Board member has a team they would like to be on, he encouraged them to let him know, and he would also maintain a full schedule of meeting dates, times, and locations, so if they are interested in attending more than one, he'll continue to post that full schedule for everyone. Mr. Arndt asked for the location of tomorrow's meeting, and Mr. Kujala responded that it would be in the commons area at the High School.

Executive Session

27-19

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, that the Board hold an executive session for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee.

Went into executive session at 7:58 p.m.

Returned from executive session at 9:33 p.m.

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

Adjournment

28-19

Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, to adjourn the regular session at 9:34 p.m. Roll Call: YES: Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, Dana, 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 January 16, 2019.