

Geneva Area City Board of Education
Organizational Meeting
January 2, 2019

The Board of Education of the Geneva Area City School District met for the Organizational Meeting at 5:30 p.m., January 2, 2019, at the Board of Education office. The meeting was called to order by President Pro-Tempore Arndt.

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

Visitors
& Guests: Newspaper reporters; and other citizens

Certification by Treasurer of Compliance with Meeting Requirements Rules

The Treasurer reported that we were in compliance with the meeting notification rules.

Election of Officers

01-19

Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mr. Brashear, to nominate Mr. Arndt for President for 2019, and Mrs. Ortiz for Vice President for 2019 and to close the nominations. Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Dana, Fisher, and Ortiz. Motion carried.

Budget Hearing

A public hearing was held on the proposed budget for the Geneva Area City School District. Andy Tetlow, 2033 Pelton Rd., Austinburg commented that he hadn't seen the proposed budget and asked if it was posted on the District's website. Mr. Lillie explained that the budget was not posted on the website, but two copies have been on file and available for public inspection in the Board office for ten days prior to this budget hearing, as required by law. Mr. Lillie shared his budget copy with Mr. Tetlow and explained that the information provided in the tax budget enables the county budget commission to issue the first certificate of estimated resources. After Mr. Tetlow viewed the budget, he had no questions.

2019-2020 Budget

02-19

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mr. Brashear, approval of the budget, as presented, for fiscal year 2019-2020. Roll Call: YES: Brashear, Dana, Fisher, Ortiz, and Arndt. Motion carried.

Tax Levy Renewal Resolution

03-19

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

RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO RENEW AN EXISTING 0.85-MILL TAX LEVY 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 LEVY.

WHEREAS, at an election on November 5, 2013, the electors of this School District approved the renewal of a 0.85-mill levy for the purpose of general on-going permanent improvement, for five years, the last collection of which will occur in calendar year 2019; and

WHEREAS, this Board finds that it is necessary to renew that 0.85-mill levy in excess of the ten-mill limitation for the purpose of general on-going permanent improvements for an additional five years; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Division (B) of Section 5705.03 of the Revised Code, in order to submit the question of a tax levy pursuant to Section 5705.21 of the Revised Code, this Board must request that the Ashtabula County Auditor certify (i) the total current tax valuation of the School District and (ii) the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the renewal levy; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Division (B) of Section 5705.03 of the Revised Code, upon receipt of a certified copy of a resolution of this Board declaring the necessity of the tax, stating its purpose, whether it is an additional levy or a renewal or a replacement of an existing tax, and the Section of the Revised Code authorizing its submission to the electors, and requesting such certification, the County Auditor is to certify the total current tax valuation of the School District and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the proposed levy;

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

Section 1. This Board finds, determines and declares 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, and that it intends to submit the question of the renewal of that levy to the electors at an election May 7, 2019 (or such other

date as is established for the primary election in calendar year 2019), as authorized by Section 5705.21 of the Revised Code.

Section 2. The Board requests the Ashtabula County Auditor to certify to it both (i) the total current tax valuation of the School District and (ii) the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the 0.85-mill renewal levy specified in Section 1.

Section 3. The Treasurer of this Board is authorized and directed to deliver promptly to the County Auditor a certified copy of this Resolution.

Section 4. 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 5. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption.

Mr. Lillie informed the Board that in order to be on the May 7th ballot to renew this PI levy, we would have to file all necessary paperwork with the Board of Elections on February 6th. That means adopting this resolution of necessity today, obtaining the county auditor's certification, and adopting a resolution to proceed at the regular January meeting. We would have one other opportunity in November if we were not successful in May. This levy actually expired after tax year 2018, but it will be collected in 2019. In order to continue to receive collections after 2019, this levy must be renewed by voters during 2019. Mr. Arndt asked how long the district has had this PI levy, and Mr. Lillie responded that he believes it's been in place since the 1940's in one form or another. In 1999, the issue was run as a replacement levy to bring collections up to the full .85 mills. The effective millage is currently about .56.

Mr. Brashear asked how our PI millage compared to other districts. Mr. Lillie responded that he was aware of many districts with multiple PI mills, so he believes we're one of the lowest in the state and possibly the lowest in the county. Mr. Dana asked what purchases have been made with the PI fund. Mr. Lillie explained that buses have been purchased with PI funds, though no buses were purchased last year due to the reduction to state minimums. Other PI expenditures include the repair and resurfacing of the tennis courts and completing the Krzic Bus/Maintenance Garage addition and upgrades. The PI fund can be used for general on-going permanent improvements defined as any property, asset, or improvement with an

estimated life or period of usefulness of five years or more. While we have the OSFC maintenance levy to help maintain our new school buildings, the PI levy is needed to help maintain the rest of the district's buildings and grounds.

Mr. Lillie advised the Board that the next time this PI levy comes up for renewal, they may want to consider trying to make it a continuing levy. All the District's current operating levies are continuing, and many districts have continuing PI levies. It would give the Board more flexibility in entering into lease-purchase agreements and having a funding source to make the annual debt-service payments. Roll Call: YES: Dana, Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, and Brashear. Motion carried.

Insurance Renewal

04-19

An insurance renewal proposal was received from the Ohio School Plan on December 19, 2018 for coverage for the District's buildings and contents, fleet, and general liability. Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, approval of the insurance renewal proposal from the Ohio School Plan at a package premium of 77,879. Last year's premium was \$81,544. Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, and Dana. Motion carried.

2019 Membership OSBA

05-19

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Mr. Brashear, that the Geneva Area City Schools Board of Education continue its membership in the Ohio School Boards Association for 2019 at a cost of \$5,841 including electronic copies of the Briefcase and School Management News subscriptions and to continue the annual Virtual Transportation Supervisor subscription at a cost of \$250. Roll Call: YES: Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, Dana, and Fisher. Motion carried.

2019 OSBA Legislative Liaison

06-19

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mr. Brashear, that Ms. Fisher be appointed as Legislative Liaison to the Ohio School Boards Association for 2019. Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Dana, Fisher, and Ortiz. Motion carried.

OSBA Legal Assistance

07-19

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, approval to join the OSBA Legal Assistance Fund at a cost of \$250. Roll Call: YES: Brashear, Dana, Fisher, Ortiz, and Arndt. Motion carried.

OEPI

08-19

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, that the Geneva Area City School District renew its membership with the Ohio Education Policy Institute (OEPI) for 2019 at a cost of \$1,000. Roll Call: YES: Dana, Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, and Brashear. Motion carried.

Signature
Authorization

09-19

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, approval of legal and facsimile signature authorizations for 2019 checks and warrants by the Treasurer, or the Treasurer and Board President as provided by law. Signature on employee contracts may include any member of the Board of Education and the Treasurer. Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, and Dana. Motion carried.

Roberts Rules
Of Order

10-19

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, that Roberts Rules of Order and the Laws of the State of Ohio be used during the 2019 calendar year in regard to Board of Education meetings. Roll Call: YES: Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, Dana, and Fisher. Motion carried.

Treasurer

11-19

Upon the Superintendent's recommendation, Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Mr. Brashear, the following for 2019:

1. Authorization of the Treasurer to approve, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, expenditures within the limits of appropriations as established by the Board.
2. Authorization of the Treasurer to pay the warrants in advance in order to take advantage of discounts, where applicable, within the limits of the Board adopted appropriations.
3. Authorization of the Treasurer to request advances of the 2019 tax collections and/or settlements, and to invest Board funds, or to borrow necessary funds to meet the Board's requirements in compliance with the limitations and regulations of the laws of the State of Ohio up to an amount sufficient to meet the needs of the district until the next regular meeting.
4. Authorization of the Treasurer to post interest income directly to the OSFC Maintenance fund; Permanent Improvement fund; Private Purpose Trust Funds (formerly Expendable) and Permanent Funds (formerly Non-Expendable); Auxiliary Service funds; and student-managed, active Student Activity funds.
5. Authorization of the Treasurer to accept donations, to be reported to the Board at the next regular meeting.

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

Uniform Accounting System

12-19

Upon the Superintendent's recommendation, Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, approval for the Treasurer to add new funds, receipts and appropriation accounts as necessary to comply with the State-mandated Uniform School Accounting System within all existing funds and any new funds approved by the Board of Education, according to the approved budgets for State and/or Federal programs. Roll Call: YES: Brashear, Dana, Fisher, Ortiz, and Arndt. Motion carried.

Application for Supplemental Monies

13-19

Upon the Superintendent's recommendation, Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, authorization for the Superintendent to apply for supplemental Local, State or Federal monies including but not limited to, Local Professional Development, Title I, Title II-A, Title III-LEP, Title IV-A, Title V-B Rural, Part B-IDEA, ECSE-IDEA, SchoolNet, SchoolNet Plus, Career Education, OhioReads, Safe School Helpline, and Ohio School Facilities. Roll Call: YES: Dana, Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, and Brashear. Motion carried.

Board Service Fund Account

14-19

Upon the Superintendent's recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, that \$10,000 be set aside from the general fund to be placed in the Board Service Fund account for 2019-2020. Mr. Brashear said he didn't think we've ever come close to spending the full \$10,000. Mr. Lillie replied that was correct. Mr. Arndt asked what happens to the money that is not spent. Mr. Lillie responded that it stays in the general fund. The fund can be used to pay expenses incurred by Board members in performing their duties and for training expenses. Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, and Dana. Motion carried.

Treasurer, Supt., President's Bond

15-19

Upon the Superintendent's recommendation, Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, that the Bond for the Treasurer be established at \$100,000, and Bond for the Superintendent and Board President be established at \$50,000 each for the 2019 calendar year. Mr. Lillie informed the Board that new legislation will be effective in March which will permit school districts and other local political subdivisions to purchase an "employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy" in lieu of the currently required surety bonds. The Board might want to consider this next year. Roll Call: YES: Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, Dana, and Fisher. Motion carried.

Official Newspaper

16-19

Upon the Superintendent's recommendation, Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, the designation of the Star Beacon as the official newspaper for the publication of those notices required by law to be made in a newspaper. Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Dana, Fisher, and Ortiz. Motion carried.

2019 Meeting Times

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Ms. Fisher moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, that the regular meetings of the Board of Education for the

17-19

2019 calendar year be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium, except for the June meeting which will be held on June 26, 2019. Roll Call: YES: Brashear, Dana, Fisher, Ortiz, and Arndt. Motion carried.

Other

Mr. Kujala said he was working on the school calendar for next year and has had preliminary discussions with the other superintendents in Ashtabula County. He has contacted GOTL to meet with them to discuss this further. He has not heard back from them as of this time, but he will contact them again. It looks like there may be a few other Ashtabula County schools that may start later, but we are waiting for the spring 2020 testing window to make the final decisions. Again, he plans to meet and listen to the issues that GOTL would like to share, and he wondered if there was anyone from the Board that would like to join him. Mr. Brashear asked if GOTL officials have talked to the state about changes they might make. Mr. Kujala responded that he has not heard anything, but he will ask that question when he meets with GOTL. Mr. Dana thought that the cost of transporting A-Tech students on days before we are in session is a big factor, and he wondered if GOTL was willing to compensate the District if we start later.

Mr. Kujala brought up that the Board has discussed transportation as one of the possible items that may be restored for next year. He wanted to share with the Board that if this is a consideration, we will need to make a decision early. A decision to restore transportation will take time. The main item will be the recruitment and hiring of drivers to fill routes, since all school districts are having a tough time finding enough drivers. In addition, we would need to notify parents early, complete route changes, and make sure that all our buses are ready. This type of change will take time, and he wanted to share this with the Board so we can discuss it further at our January meeting.

Adjournment

18-19

Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, to adjourn the organization meeting at 6:07 p.m. Roll Call: YES: Dana, Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, and Brashear. Motion carried.

The foregoing is a true and accurate record of the minutes and proceedings of the organization meeting held by the Board of Education of the Geneva Area City School District on January 2, 2019.