

Geneva Area City Board of Education
July 18, 2018

The Board of Education of the Geneva Area City School District met in regular session at 7:00 p.m., July 18, 2018, in the High School Auditorium. The meeting was called to order by President Brashear.

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

Absent: None

Visitors
& Guests: Assistant Principal Markijohn; Food Service Director Laura Jones; GATA and OAPSE representatives; newspaper reporters; and other citizens

Certification by Treasurer of Compliance with Meeting Requirements Rules

Pledge of Allegiance Mr. Brashear led the Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence There was none.

Agenda Modification Several agenda modifications were made.

Hearing of Public Mr. Kujala read from a prepared statement. "I know we have had many concerned parents and students in regards to the Geneva Marching Band, or Marching Geneva as they are more commonly known. First, let me say that Marching Geneva, like many of our student groups, are an important part of our school and community. The entertainment, smiles and energy that the band brings is tremendous and a true sense of Geneva Pride!

With that being said, the unforeseen resignation of Mr. Stanford on June 28th along with the reinstatement of Mr. Butera from the Reduction in Force list (following our contract provisions) in early July provided many days of uncertainty. Mr. Butera had accepted the position of MS/HS music teacher but made no final commitment to the band director position, which includes the time for band camp, games, parades and other band activities outside of school. As of today, and part of tonight's Board agenda, Mr. Butera submitted a resignation to accept a new position. During this time, we have had numerous individuals express interest and we will begin the hiring process for a new teacher/director. We hope to find a qualified candidate quickly.

Due to the numerous emails, phone calls and social media posts, I made the decision to postpone the first week of band camp from July 23rd to July 27th. This was necessary since a district band director was not in place, and I believed that families needed to be able to change plans and make arrangements to move forward. At this time, we still plan to have band camp during the second scheduled week from July 30th through August 3rd. If any additional changes are necessary, I will update the website and complete a robo-call to inform families.

Coming from a family that believes in the value of music education, I have been a supporter of both the band and vocal music in Geneva Schools. We will do all we can to get this situation worked out quickly and get Marching Geneva on the field sharing their joy of music.”

Lisa Demshar, 1371 Mechanicsville Rd., Geneva, said she was a concerned band parent. Her perception is that it seems this position of band director and music teacher has been somewhat of a revolving door the last few years or so. She thought four people had been hired in the last seven years. She hopes the Board can bring some stability to the band program. She also said that she is the vice-president of the music boosters, and they do need volunteers. She wondered if the taxpayers are to hold the Board accountable for the hiring and retention of good talent.

Marti Milliken Dixon, 4500 Lake Road East, Geneva, said that she is also a member of GAMBA, and she is concerned with the delay of band camp. She said that she is a certified music teacher and wonders if we can start band camp with parent volunteers. She said she is more than qualified to run it on a volunteer basis, and she knows that there are a lot of people willing to support her and help her do it. That would at least get the children started. She even has a lesson plan in her head on how to do that in order to let the new director come in with a smooth transition. She noted that the children already have their music and have been practicing throughout the summer with their sections. She said Mr. Stanford was kind enough and respectful enough of everyone to at least do that piece before he resigned.

Mr. Kujala responded that he did have to make a decision, and he's going to stand by that decision today that we're going to postpone the first week of band camp. We're going to go through the process of posting the position tomorrow and work through the hiring process quickly. He thinks the new director will be able to come in and get things started very quickly. He warned that the band may look a little different this year from what we've been used to, but that will be up to the director.

Brock Pierson, 19 Oakridge Dr., Geneva, said these past four years we've seen a tumultuous air around the band. He said every single person in these two rows have come here tonight to offer support, and they all were section leaders. He said we have two people here that actually led the band specifically, and they want to offer themselves as a contingency for sectionals to get the band off the ground. This isn't to take control of the children's music, but to assist in the process.

Beth Castrilla, 646 S. Eagle St., Geneva, wondered what the back-up plan would be if the district is unable to get a new director in place and ready to go by the following week. Mr. Kujala said it is great to see alumni and individuals within the community that are willing to help. He will leave a sign-up sheet in the back for people to leave a name and phone number. If we run into some type of situation where it looks like we're not going to get someone in place, we'll look at having someone from the school available to provide supervision for those that are willing to help. It's obvious that there are people who have the marching band in their hearts and best interests.

Sam Fenner, 252 Chestnut St., Geneva, challenged the Board to find the reason we are having such a high turnover rate in band directors and fix the problem.

Jennifer Joy, 3126 Doril Dr., Austinburg, said her question does not deal with the band. Her family just moved to the area from Okinawa, Japan, as her husband is active duty Marine Corp, and she is interested in knowing if the district has dual enrollment classes. These are classes that you take at the high school, but yet you get college credit at the same time. Does the district have this program or is there a possibility of getting that program? Mr. Markijohn noted that right now we have AP courses and our students that go through CCP for college courses. At one point, we did have professors coming in from local universities to work with our teachers. He said we do not have any dual enrollment right now.

Mr. Dana challenged everyone to go on our Geneva website, to the first page in the middle, and click on a report of what the state of Ohio has said with respect to the nature of our finances. He encouraged everyone to read the entire report, and it's lengthy, and he also wants everyone to look at what our response was to this. The state of Ohio came in here and did a very thorough investigation and said, what we all knew, that this is a well-run district. We're having difficulties with respect to financing, but they made suggestions of how we could save additional funds. The state auditors said in the report that consistent with our peers, we need to cut extra-curricular activities in order to save \$132,000. Mr. Dana said the most difficult day we

had as Board members was when we had to issue pink slips to persons that lost their jobs. When the levy didn't pass in November, we said we are going to lose a lot of good people, and we did. We can't continue to lose millions of dollars in state funding and continue to fund everything we want to fund. There are decisions being made in Washington and Columbus that affect the education of the District's children. He encouraged everyone to contact the education committee folks down in Columbus in both the House and the Senate and talk about why extra-curriculars are so important.

Mr. Dana added that on top of all this, we have this charter school system where a million dollars got funneled away from just Geneva alone, and no one said a word about it. It's taxpayers' money. We could have used the extra million dollars just from the ECOT scandal alone. We are left to pick up the pieces of providing a high-quality education under extremely difficult circumstances. Mr. Dana said when the citizens are ready to march and crash through the capitol gates, he's there with you. Ms. Fisher interjected that when talking about the Columbus situation, she saw last week that Governor Kasich was thrilled to make one more deposit into his rainy day fund, she thinks it was \$647 million, which brings the rainy day fund up to \$2.7 billion. This is basically our tax dollars being captured and sat on. Ms. Fisher said you see the effects with the fire departments that can't afford a new fire engine, police departments that can't staff 3rd shift, and school districts that are having discussion just like this one.

Mr. Brashear said the fact of the matter is that we don't mind being held accountable because we expect it. You can feel the passion and frustration of the Board, as he's had to listen to Mr. Dana once a month for years, he's had the opportunity to hear Mr. Lillie trying to educate the public about this problem, and he's listened to Ms. Fisher's legislative reports talking about the some exact things. We keep asking where is the public outcry.

Mr. Kujala wanted to thank the supporters of the marching band for their passion. He did leave his pad out in the hallway with a pen, so as people decide to leave the meeting, they can leave their name, telephone number, and email. If we do get in a situation where we are not going to be able to get someone in place, or maybe just to help as needed, he truly appreciates the offer to help.

Approval of Minutes

109-18

Mr. Arndt moved, seconded by Mr. Dana, to approve the minutes of the regular session on June 27, 2018, as presented by the Treasurer. Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Dana, Fisher, and Ortiz. Motion carried.

Financial Report

110-18

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

Approval of Invoices

111-18

Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mr. Arndt, to approve the June, 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)

Mr. Lillie noted that he had distributed to the Board at the beginning of the meeting some financial summaries, and he wanted to focus on the second page showing a comparison of revenues and expenditures for the last two fiscal years. You can see where things have gone up or down, but the biggest thing to note is the purchased service line where our expense increased almost \$635,000. The previous year these expenses increased over \$549,000. These increases are coming from special education such as excess costs, tuition, scholarship deductions, and vision impaired services; other instruction including open enrollment, community school deduction, CCP, and tuition to other districts; and pupil support services such as speech, OT, PT, and psychologist purchased service. This is a concern because we did not anticipate these increases, but we have new students that move into the district needing special services that we have to place outside the district.

Legislative Report

Ms. Fisher reported that there is finally a new Speaker of the House, so things are moving again in Columbus, and five education-related bills moved to the governor for signing. The first is HB 87, which requires that funds returned to the state because of a community school enrollment audit be credited back to certain public schools. Amendments to this bill include a requirement for standards to be established for learning management software to be used by e-schools and exempting community schools from closure if more than 20% of students who were enrolled in an e-school that had its operations suspended by its sponsor in the 2017-2018 school year enroll in the community school.

HB 312 deals with the use of credit and debit cards by schools systems and other public entities. HB 318 prescribes training and qualification requirements for school resource officers and appropriates \$12 million in grant money to public and private schools for school safety programs and training. It also prescribes positive behavioral intervention supports requirements and revises suspension and expulsion policies for students in grades pre-K through 3. SB 216 enacts the Ohio Public School Deregulation Act dealing with the revision of several education policies such as

treasurer evaluations and licensure, e-school regulations, and paper testing. It also now includes a study committee to provide recommendations on e-school funding. The fifth bill is SB 299, which includes a provision establishing the Ohio Corps Project for at-risk students to participate in mentorship programs and receive scholarships to attend higher education institutions and technical colleges. It appropriates \$2.5 million for the program.

The governor has signed two bills, HB 21 requiring charter schools, instead of school districts, to verify charter school student residency and enrollment and HB 438 which affects the composition and annexation of educational service centers and local school districts.

Ms. Fisher reminded everyone that August 3rd to 5th is the sales tax holiday for school supplies and clothes.

A-Tech Report

Mr. Brashear reminded everyone that the A-Tech Information Day for incoming students will be held on August 5, 2018 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the A-Tech facility. This will be part of the 50th anniversary kickoff. The A-Tech School of Nursing will hold graduation at 6:00 p.m. on August 30th in the Building B Cafeteria. The Knoedler School of Practical Nurse Education will hold graduation at 6:00 p.m. on August 7th, also in the Building B Cafeteria. Mr. Brashear also passed around some information on summer school statistics.

Report of the Superintendent

Food Service Update

Laura Jones, Director of Food Service, gave a summary of our 2017-2018 food service operation along with a look at plans for the 2018-2019 school year.

Mrs. Jones reported that receipts were down in the cafeteria due to participation being down, and expenses were down slightly after a reduction-in-force in January. The food service staff was excellent in picking up the slack from the reductions, especially covering for the lost french fryer position, because they didn't want to do without french fries. The RIF in January that eliminated buses and playground aides had a huge ripple effect on the cafeteria. Students that didn't have buses weren't getting to school as early as they had been, so the breakfast program suffered, especially at GPS, where 70% are free or reduced. When you have 300 students that qualify, but only 100 are eating breakfast, we have a problem that needs to be addressed.

Mrs. Jones touched on the performance audit, which recommended that she could eliminate a cashier position at the high school. Mrs. Jones is afraid we would lose participation because students wouldn't want to wait in longer lines. She would rather

reduce a 4-hour cashier position to 2 hours and keep the extra line open. The performance audit also recommended a reduction at the middle school. The middle school is tricky because the lunch periods are spread over a longer period. She would hope to just make a reduction of 1.75 hours at the middle school. She realizes that she is not meeting the full recommendation of the auditors, but she would like to propose an alternative. She would like to capture breakfast at the middle and high schools by taking breakfast carts to the first period study halls. GPS also took a big hit for breakfast, so she is hoping to work with the principal and teachers to find a way to serve breakfast in the classrooms.

In order to be in compliance with the USDA's paid lunch equity requirements, Mrs. Jones said she will be proposing a \$.05 lunch increase. Also, we have not raised the elementary paid breakfast price of \$1.25 in the 21 years that Mrs. Jones has been here, so she would like to raise that to \$1.50.

Mrs. Jones reported that we were awarded an equipment grant for Cork Elementary, so we are able to purchase some new computers, touch screens, and pin pads. The rest of her report focused on the importance of breakfast and alternative ways to get breakfast to students, such as breakfast in the classrooms. We need to come up with a way to get students to eat breakfast.

Mr. Dana commented that it is difficult with the state performance audit, and he appreciates Mrs. Jones' willingness to make any changes that can help with the bottom line. He is concerned with the breakfast situation and thinks we could improve the overall numbers with some help on the sales side. He is especially concerned with Geneva Platt R. Spencer where we have so many kids on free or reduced lunch. He hopes at some point we can solve the busing situation. Mr. Brashear said he likes the out-of-the-box thinking of breakfast in the classroom, and he thinks that it can be worked out so it's not a disruptive thing. He also wanted to touch on the state audit and let everyone know that there was a lot of spirited debate during the process. He wanted Mrs. Jones to understand that the Board appreciates what she was saying about the registers and the lines, and whether the auditors really thought things through regarding whether we really would save money when we lose customers.

Mr. Brashear also had a question about the drop in lunch participation shown on the first page of Mr. Jones' report, which he didn't think would be attributed to busing. Mrs. Jones answered that we did have a drop in high school participation, and she wasn't sure if enrollment changed after the busing reductions. Mr. Dana had a question about whether or not there's a stigma among children who are getting a free or reduced lunch so they are not taking it because they're concerned about how it looks to their

112-18

peers. Mrs. Jones said she doesn't think that's an issue in this district because the point of sale is confidential and cashiers are trained not to overtly identify anyone. Applications are also online now. Mr. Arndt thanked Mrs. Jones for her thoughts, hard work, motivation and enthusiasm to ensure that all our children are fed. Upon Mrs. Jones' recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mr. Arndt, to approve a \$.05 lunch price increase at both the elementary and secondary levels and a \$.25 breakfast increase at the elementary level only. Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Dana, Fisher, and Ortiz. Motion carried

NEOLA

The following existing Policies were enclosed for the Board's review:

Policy 2111	Parent and Family Involvement
Policy 2261.01	Parent Participation in Title 1 Programs
Policy 2261.02	Title I – Parents Right to Know
Policy 5111.01	Homeless Students
Policy 5330.04	Procurement and Use of Naloxone (Narcan) in Emergency Situations (new)
Policy 5540	Interrogation of Students (revised)

Mr. Kujala explained that the first four policies are required to be reviewed annually, but there will be no action to be taken on them. The new policy regarding the Procurement and Use of Naloxone (Narcan) had to be requested from NEOLA and would be needed if we want to utilize the Naloxone provided by N.A.D. Mr. Arndt wanted to clarify that Naloxone is a no harm drug, meaning that even if it isn't needed, it wouldn't cause any harm. Mr. Kujala said that is the case. Mr. Dana said he'd like to see some procedure in place where we work with NAD on a yearly basis to check expiration dates. Mr. Kujala noted that the last policy on Interrogation of Students is being revised to remove our employees from risk of hearing sensitive information by excluding them when there is a compelling reason.

Cooperative
Purchasing
Program

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mr. Arndt, approval of the following resolution with the Cooperative Purchasing program for the 2018-2019 school year:

113-18

OHIO SCHOOLS COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Geneva Area City School District Board of Education is desirous of participating in certain of the cooperative purchasing programs of the Ohio Schools Council, a council of governments organization under the laws of the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Geneva Area City School District Board of Education has reviewed the Agreement and Bylaws of the Ohio Schools Council and agrees to abide by them;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geneva Area City School District Board of Education authorizes its Superintendent to initial the Agreement and Bylaws of the OHIO Schools Council and for its Treasurer to pay the annual fee.

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

Delegate OSBA

114-18

A delegate and an alternate need to be selected to represent our School Board at the annual business meeting of the Ohio School Boards Association on November 12, 2018. Mr. Brashear noted that we did not attend this event last year due to our finances. He suggested that under the current circumstances we just have Mr. Kujala go. Mr. Dana thought Mrs. Ortiz should have an opportunity to attend if she would like, as all the other board members have had the opportunity to attend this conference. Mr. Arndt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to appoint Mrs. Ortiz as delegate and to select no alternate. Roll Call: YES: Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, Dana, and Fisher. Motion carried.

Class of 2025
Stu. Act. Acct.

115-18

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, that a Student Activity Account be established for the Class of 2025 (200-9025). Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Dana, Fisher, and Ortiz. Motion carried.

2018-2019 Personnel

116-18

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

a. Resignation

Mario J. Butera, Teacher, effective 07/18/18
Annette M. Millard, Teacher, effective 07/07/18
Mark A. Stanford, Teacher, effective 07/05/18

b. Change of Contract – Reinstatement from R.I.F.

Cheryle L. Newmeyer, from ½-time Nurse to full-time Nurse

c. 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) Tutors - Hours-to-be-assigned (Contingent upon funding)

Krista N. Blake
Nicole J. Bucci
Kelly K. Earley

Joan R. Kuhn
Jennifer L. Limpert
Helene B. Moore
Victoria L. Vliek
Aimee A. White

2) Homebound Tutor

Tiffanee M. Warner, effective 07/02/18

3) Extra-Curricular

Brent Carrick - Assistant Girls Soccer

4) Substitute Teacher

Amy J Granat

5) Adult Substitute Secretary & Educational Assistant

Debra L. Holmes

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

Executive Session

117-18

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Arndt moved, seconded by Mrs. Fisher, 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 or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee or official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the employee requests a public hearing, and preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment.

Went into executive session at 8:27 p.m.

Returned from executive session at 9:45 p.m.

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

Adjournment

118-18

Mr. Arndt moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to adjourn the regular session at 9:46 p.m. Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, and Dana. 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 July 18, 2018.