

Geneva Area City Board of Education
October 16, 2019

The Board of Education of the Geneva Area City School District met in regular session at 7:00 p.m., October 16, 2019, in the High School Auditorium. The meeting was called to order 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, Doherty, Gustin, and Wetherholt; Assistant Principals Markijohn and Mollohan; GATA and OAPSE representatives; 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 agenda modifications were made.

Hearing of Public Jennifer Joy, 3216 Doril Dr., Austinburg, said she represents the Ashtabula County District Library. She is the School Liaison Librarian, and she spoke to seniors last week in Mrs. Shymanski's class, giving them resources for their academic as well as personal use, and she touched on an education resource center database that will help them with their future. She said the library would love to continue with the collaboration in working with the schools, so if there is anything they can do as a partner for us, please let them know.

Kim Ellis, 59 Maplelane Dr., Geneva, is a Kindergarten teacher at Cork Elementary and said she was speaking tonight as an advocate for an all-day, every-day kindergarten program to be adopted in the Geneva Area City Schools. As a teacher of kindergarten children, she has accumulated a lot of research on the subject, and she would like to share a few points. First, longitudinal data demonstrates that children in full-day kindergarten classes show greater reading and mathematical achievement than those in half-day classes. Second, full-day kindergarten can produce long-term educational gains, especially

for low-income and minority students. Thirty years ago, Mrs. Ellis said she was hired by the Twinsburg City Schools as an all-day, every-day kindergarten teacher. The Twinsburg City School Board made the decision to transition from a half-day kindergarten program to an all-day, every-day program. She hopes the Geneva Area City School Board will choose to make the same decision to transition to an all-day, every-day kindergarten program for the 2020-2021 school year. Our children need this, and our children deserve this.

Amber Sheppard, 969 St. Rt. 534, Geneva, is a kindergarten teacher at GPS. She has been with the District a little over 10 years, and during that time the standards that need to be met in kindergarten have drastically changed. Children now need to know sentences and skills, and the kindergarten teachers don't have the time to dig into the Wonders Reading Program that was just purchased. They can only touch on the nouns and verbs and the other skills that are needed, so when the students enter 2nd grade, they are below the benchmark needed. She said that report cards don't tell everything, but they do give a snapshot. On our recent report card, we scored a D overall on K-3 Literacy. Last year, 224 students K to 3 started out off-track. Only 80 became off-track in a years time, which means we basically let down and failed 69% of these children. She believes if we had a base and a strong foundation, we would be able to close that gap. She knows people like to say that it all evens out by the time they get to 4th grade, and the facts show that 100% of our students went on to 4th grade and closed that gap and left that 3rd grade reading guarantee. What people don't see is that they tested up to six times to pass that.

Haley Fields, 317 S. Myers Rd., Geneva, a student at GHS, said she heard that we are taking ACTs on computers, and she has heard from school people that we do worse on computerized tests than we do on paper tests, and people aren't happy about that. Mr. Dana asked if that was a requirement that they have to take the ACT on the computer. Mr. Wetherholt responded that they have to take the ACT and it can be computer or paper, but you have to select which one you want. The data comes back that there is no difference in test scores between computer or paper. Mr. Dana asked if it was a comfort level as far as taking it on computer or paper. Mr. Wetherholt said it absolutely is a comfort level, but he thinks every one of these students has been testing on computers for the past ten years. Mr. Brashear asked if the data we're looking at is from our students or is it data from Ohio. Mr. Wetherholt answered that this will be the first year the ACT is taken on computers. Mr. Dana asked if our students will be given practice with taking the ACT on the computer, so they are familiar with that. Mr. Wetherholt believed that they are working on that in their English classes with Mrs. Shymanski. Mr. Brashear asked if there

is an opportunity for our students to go somewhere and practice on the computer so they might do better. Mr. Wetherholt said absolutely. Jennifer Joy added that for the educational resource database that she shared with Mrs. Shymanski's classes, students have to have an ACDL card to access it, but it has the capability of actually printing tests just like the ACT for practice. Mr. Dana emphasized that the library card is free, and the library is a great resource. While we want to have those resources here at the school, and we're going to have to think about providing that, students have online resources available through the Ashtabula County District Library.

Approval of Minutes

144-19

Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, to approve the minutes of the regular session on September 18, 2019, as presented by the Treasurer. Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Dana, Fisher, and Ortiz. Motion carried.

Financial Report

145-19

Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mr. Brashear, to approve the September, 2019 financial report as presented by the Treasurer.

Mr. Lillie informed the Board that 2nd half real estate collections came in slightly higher than the previous year by \$8,624. Collections in 19-20 were \$2,913,523 compared to \$2,904,899 in 18-19 for the General Fund only. Collections for all funds in the 2nd half increased \$8,775, which includes our PI levy that is on the ballot. If the PI levy doesn't pass, we won't receive anything for it past this year's collections.

Mr. Lillie said he also wanted to update the Board on our school district income tax collections, where we are slated to receive our third distribution at the end of this month. He mentioned that since the law has changed pushing the five year forecast submission deadline to the end of November, he would like to hold off on presenting the forecast, which was previously presented in October, so we can get a better handle on our income tax estimates. Mr. Lillie noted that he had asked Mr. Markijohn to put the Timeline for Receiving School District Income Tax Payments on the projector screen, and the Board had a copy in hand. The first distribution was received on 4/30/19, so we receive distributions at the end of the month following the completion of a quarter. The Timeline provided by the Ohio Department of Taxation shows percentages and ranges of what districts received based on historical data from the districts passing earned income levies since 2006. We were also informed by the department and other treasurers that we should be conservative with our estimates because the SDIT was new to our area. For our original estimates, we used the average of the lower range, so our forecast projected \$144,878 to be received in FY19, or 4.35% of the full collected value. Instead, we actually received \$260,574, or 7.7%, which put us in the upper range. For the May forecast, estimates were

increased to the average of the middle range, or \$511,236 (15.35%), but the second distribution received on 7/30/19 was \$594,459 (17.8%), again putting us in the upper range. For the November forecast, we are considering using the beginning percentage of the upper range, unless something different occurs with the third distribution.

Mr. Lillie also informed the Board that we received our first distribution of the Student Wellness and Success Funds in the amount of \$344,587.20. These are restricted funds that will go in Fund 467. While we showed this money on the May forecast, it will have to be removed from the forecast now that guidance has been issued. The District cannot spend this money until a plan is adopted in collaboration with an outside organization as outlined in the guidance.

Mr. Kujala said he provided the Board with the guidance received for the Student Wellness and Success Funds. Ohio's strategic plan for education shows a commitment to work with students, parents, caregivers, and community partners to help schools address the needs of the whole child, including safety, social belonging, self-esteem, and self-actualization. We are currently in the first step of this process, and he'll be meeting with the county superintendents tomorrow. Now that we have more guidance from the state, we'll be looking at our plan development with the Educational Service Center, and we can also develop plans with other services in the community. There are eleven different initiatives where we can direct funds. We may look at wrap-around services for after school programs or care, community liaisons, and other ideas. Mr. Kujala said he would be sharing more information with the Board as our plan is developed. Mr. Dana asked when we expected to have a plan in place. Mr. Kujala said we will aim to have a first draft for our next meeting. Mr. Brashear asked if we have any idea about the sustainability of these funds beyond fiscal years 2020 and 2021. Mr. Lillie answered that we know for sure it is in this biennium budget, and the only other thing we know is that Governor DeWine has indicated that his hope is that money will be made available in his next biennium. Keep in mind that this budget froze districts at last year's funding level, so there are no additional operational funds, only these funds for wrap-around services. Mr. Lillie reported that the Cupp-Patterson bill, HB 305, began testimony today in the House Finance Committee, and this bill would give most districts additional operational funds that are unrestricted. Roll Call: YES: Brashear, Dana, Fisher, Ortiz, and Arndt. Motion carried.

Approval of Invoices

146-19

Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Mr. Dana, to approve the September, 2019 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: \$3,000 from the City Church of Geneva
to Geneva High School to be used for
PBIS.

 \$675 from the Community Improvement
Corp. of Geneva on behalf of the
Gridiron Club to cover football pay to
participate fees.

Legislative Report

Ms. Fisher reported that there are currently 65 education-related bills on the agenda in Columbus. One has been passed, a transportation bill that was included in the biennial budget, while all the others are pending in committees. There were three new bills in the past month. HB 360 would require water bottle filling stations and drinking fountains in certain public buildings. HB 367 would require the Department of Education to make recommendations for a job description for school counselors and the designation of at least one staff member as a school counselor liaison. SB 218 would adjust school start times to prohibit school from starting earlier than 8:30 a.m. As a point of information, the Cupp-Patterson school funding bill HB 305 is currently in the House Finance Committee for hearings.

There is some interesting news from California. They seem to be on the cutting edge of quite a few society-altering changes, such as the no smoking regulations. Their governor just signed into law a mandatory start time of 8:00 a.m. for middle schoolers and 8:30 a.m. for high school. Research shows that teens perform better when they start later than schools typically start now. They claim that insufficient sleep causes physical and mental health and safety issues and diminished achievement. However, there are some potential problems. Many parents drop off their kids on their way to work, before the school day begins. This leaves the students unsupervised for a longer period of time while still getting up at the earlier hour. Critics have asserted that the effects of the later start time are wide spread and have not been properly studied. They feel that the start time should be decided by each locality.

Another bill that has just been signed in California is an anti-shaming school lunch program. It institutes a state-reimbursed, Ms. Fisher repeated, a state-reimbursed meal program provided by the school even if the student has unpaid meal fees. This amends a program that provided alternative lunches that were usually a cheese sandwich. Quite often, the hot food was taken away from the student at the cash register and replaced in front of their peers. It seems rather illogical to have anti-bullying programs in your school and then be the bully in a situation like this.

A-Tech Report

Mr. Brashear did not have a formal report, as their meeting is not until next Monday, but he did pass around some information on the 2019 Annual Stakeholder and Advisory Committee Dinner held last week and a report on Leveraging Business Development in Ashtabula County put together by Growth Partnership.

Report of the Superintendent

Geneva Pride Positives

Mr. Kujala presented a Geneva Pride Positives report. Geneva Parents for School Safety came to Austinburg Elementary and had the students create decorative slap style bracelets to promote kindness. The students then swapped bracelets and talked about ways to be kind to each other. AESA held their 2nd “Eagles Soar” 5K run, and everyone had a great time while raising money for the school. Staff has been working hard during their Teacher-Based Team (TBT) meetings to collect data and differentiate instruction for all students. The title tutors are a crucial part to the success of this data collection.

At Cork Elementary, the PAX (Peace, Productivity, Health and Happiness) initiative is underway. PAX is a tool to create and promote a positive culture through positive behavior in the classroom and school. The district PAX leaders are Kathy Simmons for Cork and Austinburg and Michelle Cinco for GPS. Cork staff met with Austinburg staff to go over a roll out for the year. Cork is continuing with “Blessings in a Backpack” again this year. The Ashtabula County Health Department creates take home care packages of food and drinks. Cork appreciates the time and effort put into making sure students are taken care of when the circumstances exist. The Harpersfield Fire Department stopped by in honor of Fire Prevention Week to remind students of how to stay safe in the event of a fire. Reminders to change smoke alarm batteries and a visit to the fire equipment is an event students look forward to each year.

Geneva Platt R. Spencer thanks Mrs. Doherty and Kent State University - Ashtabula Campus for arranging Career Day on Friday, October 4th. Students took part in various presentations and activities involving careers in nursing, criminal justice, accounting, and technology. Bingo for Books/Family Night will take place on Thursday, October 17th from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Families will have a chance to shop at the Book Fair for “Buy One, Get One Free” Books, along with playing bingo to win books and other prizes to take home. For September, GPS 4th grade students passed 317 of 358 i-Ready math lessons for a passage rate of 88.5%. Mr. Bryan recognized the top quiz takers in each of the 3 classes. The 4th graders have been writing and performing skits for the whole school in regards to modeling appropriate SOAR behavior (part of our PBIS initiative). The classes will be visiting Playhouse Square

on Wednesday, October 23rd to view “The Jungle Book,” thanks to grant money that Mr. Kopczak secured to cover the cost of bus transportation.

All 6th grade students at Geneva Middle School recently completed a Vape Education class with Ms. Camplese to help spread awareness of the dangers of vaping. Ms. Camplese is part of the tobacco grant through Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board. This is the 2nd year that Ms. Camplese has presented, so she has now connected with all students currently enrolled in grades 6 through 9. Eighth grade students visited A-Tech on October 15th and had a very enriching experience that exposed them to several career paths. Mr. Kujala noted that a GMS student would briefly present on behalf of our new industrial arts program. Eighth grader Dylan Martinez said he has really enjoyed the new industrial arts class at the Middle School, and he was even able to be a part of the set up for the new shop area. Working with Mr. C has been a very good experience, and he said they wanted to present these call phone holders to Board members to show what they have been working on. This was the first project in the class, and they were able to use tools like the table saw, drill press sanders, and power miter saws to complete these. He hoped the Board would enjoy these gifts, and he thanked the Board for bringing the shop program to GMS.

At Geneva High School, 65 students and 12 facilitators participated in Rachel’s Challenge Chain Reaction on Thursday, October 3rd. For six hours, students and adults engaged in a number of activities to build community, promote personal introspection, and focus on the following themes: Take Off Your Labels...Be Who You Really Are; Appropriate Affection; Our Words Have the Power...to Hurt or Heal; You are Not Alone...We Have Shared Experiences; and Today is YOUR Chain Reaction Moment. Students learned that they are not personally defined by their circumstances and experiences, and they also came to understand that despite their personal uniqueness, they share experiences with many others. Barriers among the students were broken down by the realization that through the shared experiences they are not alone. The powerful program left a lasting impression on everyone involved. All of the students and facilitators were challenged to take what they learned from the Chain Reaction and bring it into the GHS environment by taking the time to learn about each other, reach out in kindness, and promote an atmosphere of acceptance instead of conflict.

The 2019-20 GHS Botany Team has continued the legacy by winning First Place in the Ashtabula County Botany Fall Tree Identification Competition. This year the competition consisted of 29 trees to be identified, and Geneva’s Team consisting of Myla

Rhodes, Dan Jackam, John Jackam, Sydney Snyder and Joseph Carley identified 22 of the 29 correctly. Every year Geneva competes against other schools in Ashtabula County, and every year our students receive compliments on their enthusiasm and how well they work together as a team. Mrs. Dragon has been the Advisor for Botany since 2001, and she says it is always a pleasure to work with a new group of students every year. Thank you for all the support that Geneva Schools continually provides to the students and this program.

Aquatic Center Use
Agreement – Practices

147-19

Upon Mr. Kujala’s recommendation, Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Mr. Brashear, approval of the attached Aquatic Center Use Agreement with GaREAT in regards to team practices for the 2019-2020 season. Mr. Kujala noted that this item and the next item are two agreements for the Aquatic Center use. This item is for practices, and the second item is for swimming competitions. There is no cost for our use for practices, as part of our general usage agreement. Mr. Brashear said the important thing to say here is it’s business as normal. We’re still doing everything we did before at SPIRE. Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, and Dana. Motion carried.

Aquatic Center Use
Agreement – Competitions

148-19

Upon Mr. Kujala’s recommendation, Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, approval of the attached Aquatic Center Use Agreement with GaREAT in regards to conducting swimming competitions during the 2019-2020 season. Roll Call: YES: Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, Dana, and Fisher. Motion carried.

Early Graduate

149-19

Upon Mr. Kujala’s recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, approval of the following students as having met the requirements for early graduation for the 2019-2020 school year.

Maddilyn Metz
Makenzee Stamper

Mr. Dana asked if there was anyone who was here that would like to talk about this. Makenzee Stamper said she plans on enlisting in the Air Force when she graduates, but she plans on taking a year off to work on mental health and save up a bunch of money, because she’s not going to have money when she graduates. She plans on being in the Air Force for four years minimum and then use the GI Bill to pay the tuition to go to business school. She wants to get her business degree and start her own photography business. Mr. Brashear mentioned that over the years we’ve seen quite a few of these requests. The two we are looking at tonight are probably the most impressive letters he’s seen with the most thought put into the requests. Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Dana, Fisher, and Ortiz. Motion carried.

2019-2020 Personnel

150-19

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, the following personnel actions for the 2019-2020 contract year:

a. Resignation

Robin A. Fowler, Housekeeper, effective 10/01/19

b. Resignation Extra-Curricular

Scott E. Torok - Assistant Boys Tennis
Joseph D. Tredent - 8th Grade Boys Basketball

c. FMLA

Pamela S. Lloyd, Special Needs Assistant, leave of absence beginning 9/23/18 through 10/07/19. This leave will be designated under the Family Medical Leave Act.

d. Reinstate from Reduction in Force

Cassandra N. Murray, Special Needs Assistant, Geneva Platt R. Spencer, Hours-to-be-Assigned, 5 days/week, 9 mos./year, effective 09/23/19 to a 2 year contract.

e. Change of Contract

Theresa M. Grimmert, Cafeteria Worker, Geneva Platt R. Spencer, from 2.0 hrs./day to 2.25 hrs./day, effective 09/30/19.

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) Homebound Tutor

Deborah S. Mayle, effective 09/28/19

2) Extra-Curricular

Jay D. Corlew - 8th Grade Wrestling
Jeffrey A. Griffiths - Assistant Girls Tennis, 1/3-time
Scott E. Torok - Head Boys Tennis
Brenda S. Unsinger - 9th Grade Class Advisor
Joshua S. Williams - 8th Grade Boys Basketball

3) Substitute Teacher

Stacie Y. Winchell, effective 10/14/19

4) Cafeteria Worker

Paula A. Korvig, Cafeteria Worker, Geneva Platt R. Spencer, 2 hrs./day-breakfast, 9 mos./year, effective 9/30/19.

Paula A. Korvig, Cafeteria Worker, Geneva Platt R. Spencer, 2 hrs./day-lunch, 9 mos./year, effective 10/21/19.

5) Bus Driver

Janice S. Patterson, Bus Driver, 4.75 hrs./day, 5 days/week, 9 mos./year, effective 10/07/19

6) Adult Substitute Secretary and Educational Assistant

Sherry A. Bruinsma

Bailey M. Gustin

Jacqueline M. Prine, effective 10/10/19

Pegi J. Shupska, effective 09/16/19

7) Substitute Bus Driver

Stephanie McNeil

8) Activity Worker

David Yost, effective 09/18/19

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

Volunteer

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Mr. Dana, that the Board approve the following volunteer for the 2019-2020 school year:

151-19

Chad Marrison – Girls Soccer

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

Curtain Wall Window
Project Bid Request

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, approval to advertise for bids for the curtain wall window project at Geneva High School. Mr. Kujala provided Board members with some information entitled GHS curtain wall water issues, which also included photos and a diagram. We still continue to have some issues with the curtain wall at the front of the building in front of the cafeteria. We had a company come out and do water testing, and they completed a very thorough report. There was discussion about what curtain wall issues were addressed through the remediation with Blaze. Mr. Brashear felt that we should advertise for bids to fix the water problems, but we should also dig up the old records. His

152-19

understanding is that we will probably have zero recourse with the Ohio School Facilities Commission, but we should gather whatever data we can to see if there is any recourse. He said this isn't an issue of materials but of installation, as he recalls. We're still battling the same thing – it was not quality work.

Mr. Lillie added that according to Mr. Kujala, the estimate from Tremco was around \$70,000. He suggested that we reach out to Bricker & Eckler, who served as our Construction Counsel on the project and put together the package that helped us recover \$1.3 million of the \$1.7 million remediation cost. Mr. Brashear said he loved the idea of going to Bricker & Eckler, as long as they are not charging us for every moment. Mr. Kujala said we will do some research for records, and Mr. Currence has already looked at some of the past information in his own investigation. Because of the project and because of the need, we wanted to at least get it on the agenda so we can get started. Mr. Brashear suggested that Tom call Serge Grenier. Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, and Dana. Motion carried.

Improvement Plan for State Report Card

Mr. Kujala noted that at our last meeting, he had shared some information about the state report card, and at that time, we had only had a few days since the state report card was released and really just started looking at scores and the information provided. He met with each administrator and communicated with them in regards to their focus areas for this year and the improvement they want to see within their own building. He provided the Board with a summary for each of the buildings. The three elementaries are similar in the plans they have in that they are all focusing on the K-3 Literacy and also 5th grade Science. Each of the buildings is in the process of doing data reviews and looking closely at the item analysis for each of the tests. He has shown more detailed information in the summary for each of the three buildings. All three will be looking at what questions are being asked, where there might be gaps in instruction, and how students are scoring on particular questions, so we can start to see some of the alignments within our own curriculum. For Cork, he did add a couple of attachments, one being a review of the diagnostic information from the i-Ready Dashboard. The first page is from the beginning of the year when the first administration is done. For the second page, the Board can see the end of year results and the improvement made by students. Mr. Dana asked what the cause of the drop-off was between end of year Grade K results and the beginning of the year Grade 1 results. He wondered if there was any explanation for this. Mr. Kujala explained that over the summer you will see some regression, the diagnostics are more difficult as you go to the next grade, and they are trying to get baseline data to see where those students are at the beginning level. Mr. Horvath noted that the diagnostic assesses how that child

would do at Grade 1 standards before they have been taught, defining what they know for 1st grade and what they don't know. By the end of the year, we hope that they know everything they need to know for 1st grade.

Mr. Dana mentioned that the Board has been talking about all-day, every-day kindergarten forever, and he knows that there were going to be recommendations made to the Board once we finished out strategic plan. There has been information presented today and information brought up at previous meetings, and he'd like to have an update with respect to that, and he wondered if we were ready to discuss that now. Mr. Kujala responded that we are not ready to make a recommendation at this point, but we are continuing to look at that as well as a number of other items in the strategic plan. Mr. Dana noted that a big improvement occurs from the start to the end in K-3, but there is not as much improvement in Grades 4 and 5, and instead there is a higher number of at-risk children. He asked if there was anything to explain why that was the case. Mr. Kujala asked Mrs. Doherty if there was anything different in 4th and 5th grade with i-Ready that she might be able to share. Mrs. Doherty explained that there was a situation in 4th grade last year where we had a substitute for the majority of the year because of a teacher's circumstances, and that is skewing the results, but there are a lot of factors involved that skew those scores. There are a lot of other reports that really drill down and look at individual needs and help the teachers to group students in order to make sure they are differentiating learning. Mr. Dana said he would like to see this dashboard for the other elementary schools. Mr. Kujala reported that the other item he included for Cork was a test blueprint for Grade 3 looking at the number of questions asked in each of the categories, how they scored, how many points are available, looking at the standards that are passed, and looking at the questions asked.

For Geneva Middle School, Mr. Kujala said they discussed their building level needs and looked closely at the item analysis for English Language Arts and Math for grades 6, 7 and 8. They also reviewed the item analysis for ELA and Math for grade 5 in all three elementary buildings. Mr. Anderson has worked closely with his team, provided a survey to them, and provided information to make sure the teachers were using all the tools available to them. He attached copies of the item analysis for Grade 6 ELA and Grade 7 Math so the Board can see what the Teachers are using and what is available to them. Geneva High School discussed alternatives for students not meeting the standards for courses or end of course exams. There are options being designed and implemented to offer standard-based course offerings or online (VLA) options. This will assist in improvement in overall achievement, graduation rate, and Prepared for Success. Mr. Kujala noted that we are looking at offering some prep classes

for the ACT and some potential after-school tutoring and student/family engagement with the Student Wellness and Success Funds. The High School would also be looking to do some standards-based classes in English or Math online or through VLA, peer-to-peer tutoring at the Eagles' Nest, and the Positive Behavior Intervention Center that is working for behavior and discipline issues and also focusing on student academic issues.

PI Levy information

Mr. Kujala also wanted to share a brief update about the permanent improvement renewal levy, Issue 32. They continue to distribute signs with a "Take 2" push with teachers and staff to get the remaining signs out in the community. There is a website/school media presence that is gearing up, and if you are a Facebook person and can share some of the posts, we would appreciate that. Verbal announcements are being made at football games, and the last home football game is October 18th. Pre-printed postcards will go out to voters early next week, and Radio Ads will appear on WKKY during main drive times eleven days prior to election day. The main focus we are trying to get out to our community is this is not a new tax or a tax increase, this is the District's final opportunity to pass the levy at its current rate, and right now there are rollback and reduction factors that reduce the cost of this levy to taxpayers that won't be available later. This levy has been around since 1959, and currently costs the owner of a \$100,000 home about \$26 per year after the 12.5% rollback. Any new levy would cost taxpayers more, so this current levy is at the lowest cost to them. Mr. Brashear noted that we have been saying over and over that this is the last opportunity to get this at a bargain rate. If it fails this time, Mr. Brashear said he would strongly push that we continue to put a levy on until it passes. People need to understand that this is not an operating levy, but it is a permanent improvement levy that helps to maintain our facilities and purchase buses. He urged people to help spread the facts. Mr. Dana mentioned that we brought back busing, and during the timeframe that we had reduced busing, we did not make new purchases with respect to our bus fleet, so our fleet continues to get older. From his perspective, it makes no sense to bring back full busing, and then we can't afford to purchase new buses. We have to get our children safely to school, so he would agree with Mr. Brashear that we would have to continue to put this levy on the ballot, and he fears what cuts would have to be made if this levy isn't passed. Mr. Arndt said that this Board cannot pass the levy themselves. There are signs in Geneva that say vote no, and he hasn't been able to find out why it should not pass. He said schools can't operate without funding, and you can't improve things without funding. Mr. Arndt noted that as said previously, this is a renewal and not additional funding. It's at a bargain price now but will cost more later, and it is needed and essential. We need everybody's support to help this pass.

Executive Session

153-19

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mr. Brashear, that the Board hold an executive session for the purpose of 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 8:35 p.m.

Returned from executive session at 9:13 p.m.

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

Adjournment

154-19

Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, to adjourn the regular session at 9:14 p.m. Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Dana, Fisher, and Ortiz. 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 October 16, 2019.