

Geneva Area City Board of Education
November 20, 2019

The Board of Education of the Geneva Area City School District met in regular session at 7:00 p.m., November 20, 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; 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 agenda modifications were made.

Hearing of Public

Alisa Schroeder, 1070 Sherman St., Geneva, noted that she is a 1st Grade Teacher at Cork Elementary School, and was speaking on behalf of the rest of the 1st grade teachers in the District and other teachers also. They were here to follow up on Mrs. Ellis's and Mrs. Sheppard's plea at the October School Board meeting for an all-day, every-day kindergarten program for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. She said they wanted to thank the Board for their positive words and support in response to their comments and data provided. As 1st grade teachers, they have never had the opportunity to teach students who have already had a full year of kindergarten curriculum in reading and math. They know that with an all-day, every-day kindergarten program, there will be more time for individual educational needs and social and emotional concerns that many students so desperately need. An all-day, every-day kindergarten program will provide the time to practice, master, and apply the skills that are needed to make the transition to 1st grade easier. Some students start 1st grade with baggage because of opioid crisis and other family issues at home. Mrs. Schroeder said that this problem, along with the fact that they

have only had half a year of kindergarten curriculum to prepare them for 1st grade is daunting and defeating for many of them. They urge and ask that when given the opportunity, the Board extend Eagle Pride to the very first educational experiences these children have in the Geneva Area School system. The Board's support for an all-day, every-day kindergarten program for this upcoming school year is needed and would be greatly appreciated.

Michelle Cinco, 4348 Stonegate Dr., Ashtabula, said she is a 2nd Grade Teacher at GPS Elementary. She stated that more than two-thirds of children have reported at least one traumatic event in their lives by the age of 16. A traumatic event can give a preschooler the fear of being separated from a parent or caregiver, cause them to cry and scream a lot, eat poorly and lose weight, and have nightmares. An elementary student becomes anxious or fearful, feels guilt or shame, has a hard time concentrating, and has difficulty sleeping. A middle school or high school student feels depressed or alone, develops eating disorders, begins abusing alcohol and drugs, and becomes involved in risky sexual behaviors. She feels that our children deserve mental health support. She claims the facts are there aren't enough supports to provide them with the coping skills or the counseling to help them deal with what they face on a daily basis. Mrs. Cinco said they were blessed to have Community Counseling in their building, but many students don't qualify for services because they don't have Medicaid. Unfortunately, at this point in time there is no Guidance Counselor to refer those students to either. She just wanted to put it out there that our kids need this.

Margie Netzel, 4319 North Ridge Rd. E., Geneva, was excited to announce that they are ready to purchase the Anchorman, Inc. door barricades called Anchors for every classroom in the Geneva district. The last fundraising effort was brought to our district by the students themselves, as each elementary school class raised money toward the purchase of their own lockdown barricade during October. The three elementary schools raised a collective \$2,800. Mrs. Netzel recognized the Geneva Fraternal Order of Eagles and the FOE Auxiliary for their significant partnership in this project, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, who wrote two very generous checks. She noted that early on St. John's Lutheran Church and School Board member Richard Dana donated to this cause, and more recently they received funds from the Scott Bader Company, and Anita Obhof Foundation, the Alfred M. Ford Charitable Trust, and a grant through Geneva Major True Value. She thanked every parent and grandparent who sent in money and all the building principals and Superintendent Eric Kujala for their support and encouragement for the door barricades. Now that it's time to make the purchase order for 241 barricades, she is seeking the Board's approval to submit this purchase order and have the anchors delivered to each school building. It's come to her attention that there may be a need for a

legal opinion and possibly a permit from the county to get the barricades installed, so she's asking the Board to lead that task quickly. Scott Marous, who has two daughters at Austinburg Elementary, has offered to donate the installation of the barricades by his construction company for all three elementary schools. They are looking at about \$2,000 to polish off the remaining installation costs, so she is asking the community one last time to get this project funded and completed. Geneva Parents for School Safety will host a Dining to Donate Event and Raffle at Mary's Diner on December 10th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. where the diner will donate 10% of the meal cost towards the barricades. Donations can be sent to P.O Box 54 in Geneva with checks made out to C.I.C. or online at genevaschoolsafety.com. She said the barricades could be here in 10 days and installed over the holiday break, which means students will come back to school in 2020 with both door barricades and a school resource officer.

Mr. Kujala shared that there was some discussion in regards to the door barricades, and he's worked through that with the building officials. He said he is currently in the process of getting the permits refiled so that the door barricades are part of the permit. He talked to Mr. Marous today and confirmed installation, and he checked with Dennis Bowman, the building official, on the time needed for permit changes. The quicker we get information in for our permits the better, and Mr. Bowman said that typically a week is the turnaround. A permit application needs to be submitted for each building, and the plan is to have those materials ready to go before Thanksgiving break so that installation can occur over the Christmas break. Mr. Kujala thanked Mrs. Netzel for all her work.

Approval of Minutes

155-19

Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to approve the minutes of the regular session on October 16, 2019, as presented by the Treasurer. Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Dana, Fisher, and Ortiz. Motion carried.

Financial Report

156-19

Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, to approve the October, 2019 financial report as presented by the Treasurer. Roll Call: YES: Brashear, Dana, Fisher, Ortiz, and Arndt. Motion carried.

Approval of Invoices

159-19

Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mr. Brashear, to approve the October, 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)

Donation: \$1,500 from the City Church of Geneva to Geneva High School to be used for PBIS

Ms. Fisher reported that there are currently 71 education-related bills on the agenda in Columbus. One has been passed, a transportation bill that was included in the Biennial Budget. All the others are pending in committees. There were two new bills in the past month. HB 409 deals with student attendance at internet or computer-based community schools that are not dropout recovery schools, bringing them in line with Ohio Revised Code for student attendance. SB 226 would require school districts to provide transportation for grades 9 through 12, but there is an appropriation that comes along with this requirement. There is not much information available since it was just introduced on November 16th. As a point of information, the Cupp-Patterson school funding HB 305 has scheduled the sixth House Finance Committee hearing for today.

Ms. Fisher presented a short lesson of our government at work and said she keeps mentioning about these bills being in one committee or another. She reported on HB 164, also known as the Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2019, several months ago, and it would require boards of education to provide a moment of silence for prayer, reflection or meditation. Included is that no one can require a student to participate. It passed the House 61-31, prompting the Ohio Federation of Teachers to issue the following statement. “HB 164 is an unnecessary piece of legislation that has the potential to infringe on the academic integrity of our public schools. OFT opposes this legislation. As the Supreme Court ruled in *Tinker vs. Des Moines*, students do not shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate, and neither do they shed their constitutional right to the free exercise of their religious beliefs. The laudable parts of HB 164 confirming a student’s freedom of conscience are redundant to the rights enshrined in our constitution and upheld by our federal courts. The troubling part of the legislation says school districts ‘shall not penalize or reward a student based on the religious content of a student’s work.’ Supporters and critics of the legislation disagree on what this language will mean in our classrooms and whether it would, for example, prevent a science teacher from penalizing a student who cited creationism and a 6,000 year old earth in their response. The uncertainty is reason enough to oppose this legislation.”

A Biology and Anatomy teacher at Genoa Area High School added “In my Biology and Anatomy classrooms and in science classrooms around Ohio, students are taught about the scientific method and the importance of testing a hypothesis, analyzing data, and drawing sound, scientific conclusions. It’s troubling that legislators are pushing through a bill that could open the door to academic affirmation on non-scientific, incorrect information if it is reflective of a students’ religious beliefs. Our students’ First Amendment right to free expression of their

religious beliefs is already protected. HB 164 is unnecessary and can lead to confusion in our schools.”

On November 14th, this bill moved to the Senate and will go to a committee where the OFT and others can present their arguments pro or con about this piece of legislation. Ms. Fisher stated it’s comforting to her that the system is set up to accept “expert” opinions and information, and we don’t have to depend on politicians’ opinions and beliefs. It may take a long time to move through the process, but she’s glad there is a process to go through.

Mr. Brashear asked if Mr. Lillie or Ms. Fisher could give any more information as to what’s going on or what they think is going to go on with HB 305. Ms. Fisher deferred to Mr. Lillie. Mr. Lillie reported that HB 305 is undergoing testimony and that will continue for a long period of time. Testimony for transportation is currently scheduled for the week of December 2nd. Mr. Lillie said there are still people that just aren’t looking at this the way he thinks they should. It is important to get an actual formula in place that has reasoning and a rational basis instead of residual budgeting. However, representatives from different areas of the state are looking at how it affects their districts, and he understands that, but he thinks they should look out for the entire state as a whole. He feels that the formula solves many of the problems we have and gives the majority of districts more money, but the legislators seem to focus on the better off districts that are getting more money because they’ve been on a cap for so long. He’s not sure that Speaker of the House Larry Householder has bought into this yet, and he’s a big key. Householder continues to say that he wants to see this get done this biennium. Mr. Brashear said it appears the actions aren’t matching the words. He asked Mr. Lillie how many years he personally has been traveling to Columbus to work on this Cupp-Patterson bill. Mr. Lillie responded that it has been two years this month. Mr. Brashear said that Mr. Lillie is firsthand testimony that the government moves even slower than a snail’s pace. Mr. Lillie said on some things, yes, but on other items they’ll sneak something in a budget bill through a closed door committee that nobody ever sees, and it will go in real quick. This is a very important piece of legislation that in my mind should have been an amendment to the budget bill and should have been done for this current biennium budget, but instead we have to hope that HB 305 is put in place be the second year of the biennium. Mr. Brashear implored the audience to contact legislators now to do something with HB 305.

Mr. Dana added that the Ohio Supreme Court in 1997 found that the way we fund public schools is unconstitutional according to the DeRolph decision. So for 22 years, we’ve been discussing that the school funding formula isn’t fair. When we talk about things like counseling services and kindergarten, he

understands, but how do we pay for it when we have a system at the state that hasn't been funded fully, thoroughly and efficiently for 22 years, even though it's a state responsibility and it's in the constitution. He encouraged everyone to write letters to the House Finance Committee members, which you can find online. Our representative, John Patterson, is already on board and he's already helped to draft legislation for school funding. Once we get through the hurdle of the House, then we have the Senate, and we have to contact their committee members. Mr. Dana said that help is needed with a letter-writing campaign to get something done.

Mr. Lillie advised people to also contact Governor DeWine's office because the budget amendment was hurt by all the money thrown into the education budget for student wellness and wrap-around services, which probably would have been better spent in other parts of the state budget, for instance mental health. Now they're making schools be responsible for wrap-around services, which is not what education leaders are trained to do. Mr. Dana noted that funds for student wellness and mental health did come out of the last biennium budget, but the issue is do you hire someone knowing that they may only be employed for two years. There is an issue with all schools as to whether or not those funds are going to be spent, and so if those funds aren't spent, does that open them up to be spent somewhere else, perhaps for education. He would encourage both Education committee and Finance committee be contacted to allow local school boards to determine where best to spend these dollars. Mr. Brashear suggested that we put four names and addresses on our website and inundate them with contact. Mr. Dana suggested posting a sample letter. Mr. Brashear said he has a sense of urgency that if this doesn't happen now, it's not going to. Mr. Kujala offered to get those addresses added and prepare a sample letter.

A-Tech Report

Mr. Brashear mentioned that he invited Mrs. Ortiz to Monday night's meeting for a couple of reasons. Number one is he hopes the Board considers his strong recommendation to have Mrs. Ortiz represent us beginning next year as the Geneva representative on the Atech Board. He also wanted her to become familiar with the way the meetings run and the details of it. Sophomore Show Cases are coming up. There's actually three dates for those because they separate it per school. He believes Geneva's date is November 26th. Career Night is December 5th from 5 to 7 p.m. at Atech. The well-known annual Holiday Dinner is December 12th and takes place from 4:30 to 7 p.m., and it helps to fund scholarships.

Report of the Superintendent

Exchange Students

Mr. Kujala announced that this year's exchange students, Sandra Gartler, Yongmin Lee, and Kamol Supketsopa will share information about themselves and their experience in Geneva Schools.

Sandra Gartler from Vienna, Austria said that she lives in a big city at home and here it is like living in the country. The first school day she was completely lost, but everyone helped her find her classes and walked her to the next class. Things here are completely different than Vienna. Many students drive to school here or take the school bus, but public transportation is used to get to school in Vienna. Another big difference is that Americans use different measurements while everything in Vienna is metric. She's impressed by the school spirit at Geneva, because at her home school they do not have sports opportunities like cheerleading and football. She was very glad to be part of the cheerleading squad. She's also in the choir here, which is something else she doesn't have at her home school. She's really excited about the Florida trip the choir is doing. She answered a question about the teachers at Geneva saying they are very friendly and helpful, where in Vienna if you ask a question the teacher says you should have paid attention more.

Yongmin Lee from South Korea said he is not good at speaking English, so please understand. His time here so far has been very good. In Korea, they go to school from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., so he is really happy that school is over at 2:05 p.m. in Geneva. Geneva High School students and teachers are very kind to him. His school at home is an all-boys school.

Shawn (Kamol Supketsopa) said he was from Bangkok, Thailand, the capital city, so it is a big difference here. In the city he is from, there are a lot of buildings, while here there are a lot of trees and it is quiet. Traffic is terrible in Bangkok, so many people travel by sky train. He went to the Grape Jamboree with his friends and host family and had a good time there. His favorite thing at the Jamboree was the candy apple. It is usually in the 80s in Bangkok and very humid, but here the weather is unpredictable. He said the teachers are very nice here.

Mr. Arndt pointed out the host parents and thanked them for hosting these students and giving Geneva Schools the opportunity to experience students from other countries. They are providing these three international students a place to experience America.

OSBA Conference

Mr. Kujala and Ms. Fisher provided a brief report on their recent attendance at the OSBA Capital Conference in Columbus, Ohio on November 10th – 12th.

Ms. Fisher noted that it was the second time she was able to attend the conference. She gave a little information about some of the general sessions she attended. Most of these general sessions have a guest speaker, and they're always surprising and usually a celebrity or someone you've heard of. Ernie Hudson, who played in "Ghostbusters", was the speaker in the first session she attended, and he told about how he was orphaned or abandoned at the age of two months, yet he ended up going to Yale and becoming a prominent actor. Another actor, whose name she couldn't remember, played on "Breaking Bad" and was actually a school board member in his hometown of Albuquerque, which she found to be really amazing because that was the way he kept in touch with his kids, family and community even though he spent a lot of time out of town. They also had Laura Linney, who Ms. Fisher said she primarily knew because she watches a lot of PBS, and she had another childhood that people probably prefer to avoid. Her father was a screenwriter and her mother a nurse, and they were very short on cash and divorced when she was two months old. She was in New York City with her mother, who had very strange ideas about education and put Laura in a school her friend opened that was basically a free-for-all. Laura had very little education going on, so she basically seemed to teach herself to read, and once she figured out how to read, her whole life changed. She read everything she could find, and that led into the acting. Laura believes that she would not be the person she is if she did not have arts in her education program. That reminded Ms. Fisher about a meeting after levy failures where we heard from band and choir students who said they knew there would be cuts, but please don't cut band because that's the only reason they came to school. She thinks there are a lot more kids than we realize that have that kind of hook in our school system, and she is so pleased that we have such a wonderful music department, choral and band, and art department, and that they're so active. She would really like to see the information about concerts, plays, and everything that's happening in the schools get out to the community. She thinks we need to appreciate the arts that we have in this school and try to make sure that the community sees it and appreciates it and gets the benefit of hearing these kids.

Mr. Kujala thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the 2019 OSBA Capital Conference. Often the informal conversations he has with other superintendents and board members are most valuable as he talks about issues we're having in our district, and they share something they tried in their district, or some resources or equipment they purchased. He said this year most of the sessions he attended dealt with special education students, student wellness and wrap-around services, and professional development. He really focused on these because that is the big push right now of how we're going to spend some of those Student Wellness and Success Funds. He also attended a session on kindergarten registration, because as we look at what

we may be doing with our kindergarten, he wanted to see maybe how we can change our own process. He said that many of the sessions geared toward student wellness and success were talking about how they were enhancing some of the services available to their community. This included medical, dental and vision services along with mental health counseling services for both family and community members. One session presented by Wickliffe City Schools, who is well ahead of the push right now for having wrap-around services in school districts as they started the process five years ago, identified issues in their district, and they started a family resource center open and available to their community in their school. They recently passed a bond issue, and they plan to build a family resource center as part of their plan within a new school building. They worked with various community partners such as Community Counseling, Signature Health, Lake Hospital Systems and others to provide these services. It was interesting to learn about what some districts have done to extend services they are providing within their district, and to think about some of the needs we have within our district and what we could do on a smaller scale to help our students, parents and community.

NEOLA

Enclosed for review were the following new/revised /replacement policies for Board adoption:

1310	5200	7434
1340	5230	7440.03
1615	5350	8400
2431	5460	8403
3215	5512	8462
4215	7300	8500
5113.02		

Mr. Kujala noted this was the first reading for these policies, so the Board would have a chance to look at them a little closer. Only 1615 and 7440.03 are new policies, and 8400 has been reissued. The rest of the policies are revisions and some are very minor.

Indoor Track & Field

160-19

Upon Mr. Kujala’s recommendation, Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Mr. Brashear, that the Board recognize Indoor Track and Field for the 2019-2020 season as presented in the attachment (see addendum file). Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, and Dana. Motion carried.

Five –Year Forecast

161-19

Upon Mr. Kujala’s recommendation, Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, approval of the “Five-Year Forecast” projection of revenues and expenditures for the current fiscal year and the ensuing four (4) fiscal years, and the significant assumptions upon which the numbers are based, as required by HB 412.

Mr. Lillie noted that he asked Mr. Markijohn to show the assumptions on the screen, and everybody had the opportunity to pick up a copy of the 5-year forecast numbers when they came into the auditorium. There are obviously some changes from the last forecast in May, and this is the first forecast for FY2020 through FY2024. Mr. Lillie explained that the assumptions and the forecast, once approved by the Board, will be posted to the Board of Education page of the District's website. The assumptions follow along line by line to explain the numbers on the actual forecast. Mr. Lillie reported the no large increases are being forecasted for our property tax collections on line 1.010. The biggest impact on the forecast is the school district income tax passed by voters in May 2018 which began collections in January 2019. As discussed at the last Board meeting, the District utilizes the "Timeline for Receiving School District Income Tax Payments" provided by the Ohio Department of Taxation to estimate quarterly collection amounts. The first two distributions in April and July came in much higher than anticipated, but the October distribution was lower than our adjusted estimate. For this forecast, we have settled on using 1% less than the top number of the middle range for the basis of our estimate. The Timeline has built-in increases to Ohio Adjusted Gross Income, as OAGI in the districts represented must have increased over time to reach as high as 1.16%. OAGI numbers available on the ODT website are only available through 2017, and Geneva's history shows five of the previous seven years with total income declines, so the hope is that the numbers will continue to grow from the 3.5% increase in 2017 and the economy will robust. The income tax is shown on line 1.030. The biggest portion of the revenue side is the unrestricted state grants on line 1.035, and as everyone heard earlier, Geneva won't be receiving any new operating dollars from the state because of the governor's desire to have student wellness funds for wrap-around services in the education budget. Mr. Lillie explained that the chart on page 5 of the assumptions shows state foundation support as well as state restricted aid, both of which are shown flat. Property tax allocations on line 1.050 are showing declining due to a drop in Homestead reimbursement because of increases in the income threshold. All other revenues, which includes other local taxes, PILOTs, open enrollment in , preschool and other district tuition, interest income, and pay to participate fees, are shown on line 1.060 and are projected to be relatively flat after some one-time revenues received in FY2020.

On the expenditure side of the forecast beginning with line 3.010 with wages and salaries, the plan shows reinstating reductions made the previous two fiscal years, with half of the cuts restored this year and the remaining cuts brought back next year, at least those that are needed. Mr. Lillie explained that current class sizes at elementary schools show that we may not need to restore three teachers cut at GPS, but institute all-day, every-day kindergarten instead requiring the same number of teachers.

Whichever way the Board decides to go, there is money shown in the forecast for three additional teachers. Restoring cuts increases this line item by over 4% in FY2020 and 7% in FY2021, and then a general increase of 3% is included for the last three years. Fringe benefits on line 3.020 also increase with the restoration of cuts. The District was able to hold the medical premium increase to 3% this year after a 10% increase last year, and for the first time in ten years, the dental premium needed a 5% increase. The remaining three years of the forecast show a 4% increase for fringe benefits. Mr. Dana questioned whether we can beat the national average health insurance increases of what private industry is facing. Mr. Lillie stated that Geneva has beat the industry trend many times, and the hope is our premiums will be able to keep up with claims on an annual basis, barring many catastrophic claims. Mr. Dana still felt that assuming only a 5% increase was a gamble, and Mr. Lillie explained it is a risk, but every line item in the forecast is a gamble. Any major thing happening out here could have an impact on a district's forecast. Purchased services on line 3.030 project a 5% increase, mostly due to increases in special education costs and changes by the state that increased the eligibility for choice scholarship deductions. Geneva's scholarship deductions almost doubled this year compared to last year. We now face a situation where the deduction for open enrollment, charter schools, and scholarships is greater than the income we receive from open enrollment. A new reading textbook adoption increases the supply projection to \$816,000 for FY2020, with \$650,000 shown for the other four years. Capital Outlay on line 3.050 has been increased to \$200,000 as a result of strategic planning and plans for technology.

Mr. Lillie pointed out that ending balances in the forecast grow through the first three years, but then begin to decline in years four and five as we see red on line 6.010. This means that based on these assumptions, unless something else happens at the state level or at the local level with real estate collections, the Board will have to act carefully as we move forward into those future years. Mr. Dana asked if we could discuss how much we should have in a cash balance, and he knows this is part of the strategic plan. From the business world here, he doesn't like the fact that we don't seem to have a lot of money in the way of reserve. In the private sector, you would have a much larger cash reserve in case the unexpected hits. Mr. Lillie responded that adopting a cash balance policy has been discussed before, and it is in the strategic plan as recommended by the finance committee. Because of what was our financial situation, it was recommended that we start with 30 true days cash, which means if we're spending \$24 million a year, and that's \$2 million a month, we need a \$2 million cash balance. That was done when we were looking at being under \$2 million and seeing that we couldn't meet 30 days now, but the recommendation was to build that up to 60 true days cash, which with \$24 million in expenditures would be a

\$4 million balance. This forecast shows that being reached in FY2022, but then going the other way. With the introduction of a cash balance policy, the Board would need to make decisions on how to increase revenues or decrease expenditures to stay within that policy. Some districts might use a percentage, and some districts have policies calling for 90 to 120 true days cash, but those districts have been able to maintain those balances for a long time, where we would have a very difficult time operating under that constraint.

Mr. Lillie reminded the board that legislation changed the deadline for filing 5-year forecasts from October 31st to November 30th, and we wanted to push it back to this month to see what the October 30th distribution of the SDIT would be. Mr. Dana thanked Mr. Lillie for going through this in such detail and educating the Board and the public on what the costs are to run a school district. He said the worst day in his life on the Board was when we had to make cuts, and that's why it's important to have a sufficient cash balance. Mr. Brashear commented that this is a better forecast, but it's still not good. Roll Call: YES: Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, Dana, and Fisher. Motion carried.

Approve Funds

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, the following funds to be appropriated according to the adopted budget:

162-19

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Fund Number</u>	<u>Approved Amount</u>
Career Development 19-20	019-9020	\$4,394.00
Ohio K-12 Network 19-20	451-9020	\$9,000.00
Student Wellness & Success 19-20	467-9020	\$689,174.39

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

Disposal of Assets

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

163-19

2019-2020 Personnel

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Mr. Dana, the following personnel actions for the 2019-2020 contract year:

164-19

a. FMLA

Amanda M. Cramb, Teacher, leave of absence from 12/16/19 through 12/20/19. This leave will be designated under the Family Medical Leave Act.

Jessica M. George, Guidance Counselor, leave of absence from 12/12/19 through 02/03/20. This leave will be designated under the Family Medical Leave Act.

Theresa M. Grimmett, Bus Driver, leave of absence from 12/09/19 through 12/23/19. This leave will be designated under the Family Medical Leave Act.

Tammy A. Quinn, Teacher, leave of absence from 10/22/19 through 11/01/19. This leave will be designated under the Family Medical Leave Act.

b. Resignation Extra-Curricular

John C. Mirabell - 7th & 8th Grade Girls Track

c. Change of Contract

Ann M. Craig, from Housekeeper, High School, 10 mos./year, 7 hrs./day, to Special Needs Assistant, Cork, 9 mos./year, hrs.-to-be-assigned, eff. 11/04/19.

Katherine E. Preslar, Head Cook, High School, 9 mos./year, from 6 hrs./day, to 6.25 hrs./day, eff. 11/04/19.

Patricia A. Sturm, Bus Driver - Kindergarten, 9 mos./year, from 2.5 hrs./day, to 2.75 hrs./day, eff. 10/28/19.

d. The hiring of the following personnel on a one-year contract, to be paid according to the adopted wage guidelines, subject to meeting certification requirements of the State of Ohio, as well as a satisfactory physical examination, background check and/or other training, if applicable.

1) Extra-Curricular

Jason Dalton.....7th & 8th Grade Girls Track
Gary Harriman.....Freshman Boys Basketball, eff.
11/01/19
John C. Mirabell.....Assistant Varsity Boys Track
Brian D. O'Dell.....7th Grade Girls Basketball

2) Bus Driver

Holly N. Miller, 1.25 hrs./day, 1 day/week, effective
11/01/19

3) Housekeeper

Donna L. Stone, Middle School, 7 hrs./day, 10 mos./year,
effective 11/04/19

4) Substitute Housekeeper

Gloria J. Austin, effective 10/22/19
Alexandria N. Carle, effective 10/29/19
Stephanie M. Waggoner, effective 10/28/19
James M. Wayand, effective 11/08/19

5) Substitute Custodian II/III

Gloria J. Austin
Alexandria N. Carle
Stephanie M. Waggoner, effective 10/22/19
James M. Wayand

6) Substitute Bus Driver

Brenda L. Cork
Holly N. Miller, effective 10/25/19
Karen L. Ozbolt, effective 11/01/19
Gregory J. Santiago

7) Substitute Teacher

Michael K. Whipple

8) Substitute Cafeteria Worker

Michelle L. Hobbs
Janet A. Marks

9) Adult Substitute Secretary & Educational Assistant

Michelle L. Hobbs

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

Volunteer

165-19

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, approval of the following volunteer coach for the 2019-2020 school year:

Susan Thomas - Swimming

Mr. Brashear thanked Sue Thomas for the incredible amount of volunteering she does. Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, and Dana. Motion carried.

Advertise for Buses

166-19

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, approval to advertise for the purchase of two (2) or more school bus chassis and bodies. Mr. Brashear said he wants everybody to understand that we're not buying buses, we're just looking. Mr. Lillie explained that this is later than we would usually have this on the agenda. We usually put this on in September, but we had to wait and see if we were going to pass the PI levy renewal. A thank you to voters for the passage of that levy, and we can now

hopefully look at replacing buses that are more than 15 years old and have over 150,000 miles. Roll Call: YES: Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, Dana, and Fisher. Motion carried.

Geneva Pride Positives

Mr. Kujala shared some Geneva Pride Positives. At Austinburg, the Fall party was a success despite the rain. The parties were well-attended, and the parents and community gathered in the gymnasium for the building parade. This is the first time the parade has been moved indoors due to weather. On November 8th, Austinburg held a Veterans Day assembly, where they had over 50 Veterans in attendance for breakfast and the program. Mrs. Stowell created a powerpoint with pictures of all of the Veterans and information about their service. The speaker was Mr. Dan Whitmire, and he kept the students actively engaged. Mr. Shannon gave out flags to students that could answer questions during the presentation. Special thanks to Mrs. Stowell for a wonderful assembly, AESA for breakfast, and to all the Veterans for their service! Austinburg held a table-top drill with EMA and Austinburg EMS. Grand River Academy was present to review the safety plan once we get to the designated point. Good conversation came from the meeting on specific protocol in the event of an emergency.

Cork Elementary also honored Veterans this past Veterans Day. Music teacher Lisa Stowell planned this very special event. Veterans were invited to breakfast, and an assembly was held to show Cork's appreciation to those who have served in the military. Geneva School Board President and Veteran Rick Arndt shared with staff and students the importance and true meaning of Veterans Day. We can't thank Mrs. Stowell and Mr. Arndt enough as they not only taught students the importance of the day, but also paid tribute to each Veteran in attendance with a slide show of their great accomplishments in serving our country. Students have been busy challenging themselves using the Accelerated Reading Program. The students have read a combined 9,811,801 words and have taken 2,224 reading quizzes. PTO sponsored a Bookfair to support the students' love of reading. Cork was visited by Geneva Rotary Club members. Every year, Rotary Club members want to ensure each 3rd grade student has a dictionary to call their own. Thank you to Rotary for this great project.

Geneva Platt R. Spencer Third Grade Teacher Jessica Kirk participated in the New York City Marathon on November 3rd. This was due in part to Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), who honored 50 teachers with a VIP experience to run the 2019 TCS New York City Marathon as part of the Team TCS Teachers contest. The contest recognizes exceptional teachers in the US and Canada for incorporating their passion for running into the classroom to inspire their students and promote overall mind and body wellness. Congratulations to Mrs. Kirk who completed the New York City Marathon.

Mr. Michael Sull, who is known for his training and expertise in Spencerian script, visited GPS on November 4th. Mr. Sull provided a

brief history of handwriting and modeled Spencerian script for the 4th and 5th grade students. The students were able to practice under Mr. Sull's direction and were heard cheering each time Mr. Sull wrote out someone's name or drew an image in Spencerian script. COSI on Wheels will be at GPS on Thursday, November 21st and Friday, November 22nd to provide a live demonstration and individual sessions involving astronomy. Thank you to the GPS PTO for sponsoring this event.

Three Geneva Middle School 8th Grade Students (Isabella Ciluffo, Gavin Horn, and Kylie Shieman) made a brief Veterans Day presentation. Gavin Horn reported that recently they celebrated Veterans Day and learned of the importance of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. They appreciate the men and women who served our country. Tonight, they are here to recognize Board members Mr. Arndt and Mr. Brashear for their service. They helped create patriotic Tuffey eagles for them in cooperation with Art Teacher Mrs. Monahan, Shop Teacher Mr. Chiacchiero, and Principal Mr. Anderson. Isabella Ciluffo and Kylie Shieman presented the veterans with their eagles. Gavin thanked Mr. Arndt and Mr. Brashear for their service to our county and our school district. Two Geneva Middle School 7th Grade Students (Savannah Burton and Luke Barbo) presented on the new Journalism class. The students said they have really enjoyed working in their journalism class this year with Mrs. Haeseler. They learned several aspects involved in creating a newspaper. In fact, they were able to begin producing "The Talon" again. "The Talon" was the name of the newspaper last produced in the 1990s at Geneva High School. "The Talon" dates back to sometime in the 1940s or 1950s, and they are proud to continue the tradition. After creating their first "Talon", they are already thinking of ways to improve their next edition. They are hoping to print an edition of "The Talon" each grading period. They plan to do some things differently with how articles are selected and focus more on editing and revision. They hope the Board enjoys their copy of "The Talon" (which was passed out by Mr. Anderson) and they wished everyone a great evening. Mr. Arndt asked if the students could come back down to take pictures with the newspaper and the Tuffey eagles.

Mrs. Durkovic, Spanish Teacher at GHS, shared: I received several emails from 2019 GHS grads who are "Minor/Majoring" in Spanish in College. Every email has been the same – in the summer, our students have to take a placement test for the Spanish courses, and our students are testing out of a minor in Spanish. The Ohio State University, John Carroll University, and Mount Union College are just some of the schools that have told our students, "just pick a course....you are beyond our Spanish minor requirements". For many of our students, they have decided to double major in Spanish and their other selected area. I am so very proud and honored to be apart of GHS and our extremely bright and hardworking students! Sometimes as educators we do not get to see or hear how our grads are doing - this is great news and we should be proud of their accomplishments! Two

years ago, the District had two French exchange students, Paul and Manon. Students have been writing to Manon's school and her English class for the past two years. The French III and IV students write to them in French, and they write back in English. The school is called "Lycée Bellevue" (lee say bell vue) and it is in Lyon, France, west of Paris. The French IV class is acting out and recording a 26-act play, "Suivez la Piste" with the French IV class at Riverside High School. They do every other chapter, act/direct it, and email back and forth. They have also been sending the videos to the school that they pen pal with in France. On Monday, November 18th, Geneva High School had Ms. Catherine Bosley speak about cyberbullying and social media responsibilities. No one should experience the devastating wrath of cyberbullying. The reality is no one is immune. Ms. Bosley shared her personal experiences with making a poor choice and having it placed on social media and the impact that it has had on her life. She shared her journey with taking responsibility and control over how and what she allows to be posted on her social media accounts. Your social media accounts and what you choose to post on them are out there for all to see with or without your consent. The student body learned how important it is to make sure that the message you send is an appropriate one and that you are always responsible for what you do and say regardless whether you give your consent.

Mr. Arndt said he was afforded the opportunity to answer some questions from the students at Cork, and they were all very good questions, but the two that he remembered were "What do you do when you're not at war?" and "Are you allowed to fish when you're in the military?" He thought those were pretty deep questions for that age group. His last comment was about the newspaper, "The Talon". He said when he moved back here in 2006 and their children came to Geneva Schools, he noticed that there was no school paper. When he asked somebody in 2007 why there was no school newspaper where children learned how to write, he was told that students don't need to write well; they need to learn how to use IT well. So when he sees this newspaper tonight, he is very happy and amazed to see it back, and he thanked Mr. Anderson, the students, and the teachers.

School Resource Officer

Mr. Kujala said he had shared with the Board that they did interview for a school resource officer, he did make a recommendation, and Officer Joe Cooper did accept the position. He will begin his new position as the school resource officer on January 6th, and he will have office space here at the High School, but he will be available at all of the schools. It is anticipated that he will be a great addition to our staff and we look forward to him joining us. Mr. Kujala noted that this was a collaboration between Geneva Area City Schools, the City of Geneva, and the Geneva Police Department.

Technology Plan

Mr. Kujala shared that he distributed two other documents for the Board's review. One is a 3-year Technology Plan as an addendum to the Strategic Plan prepared in consultation with other members of the Technology Action Team. This spells out the cost of what we want to

do with technology over the next three years. This is still in draft form, and he wanted to give the Board the opportunity to look it over and ask questions.

Student Wellness &
Success Funds

Mr. Kujala also presented a Plan for Student Wellness and Success Funds. The draft copy shows the initial ideas developed with the Ashtabula County ESC as a template. He realizes that there are still areas that need to be addressed, but he wanted the Board to see the initial thoughts. Mr. Dana said he thought it was very interesting when Mr. Kujala was at the state conference about how they were looking at having a one-stop center in the schools. He's not sure how that would be received in Geneva. He suggested talking with the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board to see what might be available.

Parents for School Safety

Mr. Kujala thanked the Parents for School Safety for their efforts in raising funds. There is a small snag, but he believes we can get over the hurdle. Chief Arkenburg has worked closely with him and others in the county, we're going through the process of getting the necessary permits entered and changed, and the floor plans and information data sheets sent to the building officials. Hopefully we will be on time and ready to have everything installed during winter break.

Executive Session

167-19

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Mr. Dana, 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 8:57 p.m.

Returned from executive session at 9:17 p.m.

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

Adjournment

168-19

Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, to adjourn the regular session at 9:18 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 November 20, 2019.