

Geneva Area City Board of Education
December 18, 2019

The Board of Education of the Geneva Area City School District met in regular session at 7:00 p.m., December 18, 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,
Doherty, Gustin, and Wetherholt;
Assistant Principals Markijohn and
Mollohan; 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 Andy Tetlow, 2033 Pelton Rd., Austinburg, wanted to thank Ed Brashear for his service. He said the community is better off for Ed having served so well.

Approval of Minutes Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Mr. Dana, to approve the minutes of the regular session on November 20, 2019, as presented by the Treasurer. Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Dana, Fisher, and Ortiz. Motion carried.

167-19

Financial Report Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Mr. Dana, to approve the November, 2019 financial report as presented by the Treasurer. Roll Call: YES: Brashear, Dana, Fisher, Ortiz, and Arndt. Motion carried.

168-19

Approval of Invoices Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, to approve the November, 2019 invoices as paid and listed by the Treasurer. Roll Call: YES: Dana, Fisher, Ortiz, Arndt, and Brashear. Motion carried.

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Informational Items – Current Investments (see addendum file)

\$103.41	from an anonymous donor to Food Service to pay off negative balances on student accounts at Geneva High School.
\$100	from an anonymous donor to Food Service to pay off negative balances on student accounts at Geneva Middle School.
\$160	from an anonymous donor to Food Service to pay off negative balances on student accounts at Geneva Area elementary schools.

Mr. Lillie noted that the investment report showed a couple of called Federal Agencies. With the recent drop in interest rates, any callable investment with a rate of 2% or greater has the potential of being called.

Mr. Lillie also reported on the final result of the Board of Revision valuation complaint involving Pine Grove Reality. This property was undervalued according to a recent sale, and the Board decided to file a complaint using Bricker & Eckler to represent us. The BOR decision was received on 8/20/19, and an increase was granted to the \$2,581,700 sale price, resulting in a value increase of \$1,576,800. The increased tax revenue from the complaint would be \$15,328.92 per year, while the cost of Bricker & Eckler was \$3,918.70. Mr. Lillie said he waited to report this until the appeal deadline had passed and the decision was final. Mr. Lillie also informed the Board that the House passed HB 75 and sent it to the Senate. This bill would require school boards to pass a resolution approving a property valuation complaint or counter-complaint prior to filing that complaint and also send written notice to the property owner indicating intent to file a complaint or counter-complaint. This would make it more difficult for school districts to do this. Currently, the county auditor's office sends out notices when complaints are filed.

Legislative Report

Ms. Fisher reported that the legislature has recessed for the holiday, but there were a few new items entered before they left. HB 398 would make the General Election Day a legal holiday, which means that government employees would receive paid leave. HB 410 would allow a sales tax exemption for college textbooks. HB 436 would require screening for dyslexia. HB 447 would establish a school safety advisory committee that reviews laws, policies, and practices of other states regarding school safety and focusing on harassment, violence prevention, mental health of both students and teachers, and increased parental involvement.

Ms. Fisher noted that in the Senate, there were two new bills. SB 248 would extend until 2022 the moratorium on building requirements for storm shelters for construction projects of both public and private schools, while SB 249 would require at least one adult changing room bathroom in public buildings. Ms. Fisher added that HB 305 is still in hearings in the House Finance Committee.

A-Tech Report

Mr. Brashear reported that the Annual Holiday Dinner at Atech was again successful with 569 meals served, which was up 33 from the previous year, and they netted a little over \$3,000 for their scholarships. The Atech organizational Board meeting will be held along with their regular and budget meeting on Thursday, January 9th beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Report of the Superintendent

Geneva's Image

Members of the Geneva's Image show choir under the direction of Michelle Mather gave a short holiday performance. Mr. Kujala thanked the Geneva's Image and said that they've had an incredibly busy week as they toured all the elementary schools and the middle school, they were at the Geneva Rotary Club meeting last night, and they were here tonight. Their concert is tomorrow evening with all of the choirs at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Geneva Pride Positives

Mr. Kujala gave a brief overview of Geneva Pride Positives. At Austinburg, Mrs. Stowell held a concert for 1st and 2nd grade families on December 11th. There was a packed house for both performances and families had a good time mingling with other families afterwards. This was a great community event and the weather held out too. Austinburg is currently collecting donations for the Veterans Services Office in Ashtabula. Families are bringing in canned goods, hats/gloves/scarves, comfort items, hygiene products and paper products. The items will be delivered for Christmas. Thanks to Ms. Quinn for organizing this event.

Cork students, in accordance with district PAX goals and Positive Behavior Interventions, practiced writing "Tootles". A Tootle is the opposite of a tattle in PAX terms. Students learned the art of writing a Tootle in a controlled environment by writing a Tootle to a partner in their class, then the next week they wrote a Tootle to a fellow student in the other class. The tootles were posted with lights down the hallway for "Light Up the Hallways with Tootles". The plan is to start the new year having students write meaningful Tootles in accordance with the PAX model. This activity was a way to teach what expected behaviors look like. The Cork BLT team has been analyzing data to locate areas of needed academic attention along with discussion on High Impact

Teaching Strategies. One High Impact Teaching Strategy that is in use involves Mrs. Bordeaux's 3rd grade class. The class is working in literature circles to build vocabulary, critical thinking, and in-depth collaboration. Literature circles guide students to a deeper understanding of what they read through structured discussion paired with extended written expression and ending with an artistic response. The students will be performing their stories for parents this Thursday as their artistic response. Congratulations to our own Phys Ed Teacher and Coach, Mr. Jay Corlew, who has been inducted into the Ashtabula County Football Hall of Fame! He sets an example as to what hard work and dedication can bring.

Geneva Platt R. Spencer 3rd grade classes viewed the matinee performance of the Nutcracker at the Ashtabula Arts Center on Wednesday, December 11th. The highlight of the show for many students was watching GPS third grade student Willa Lindenmuth in the show. The students were so excited and were talking about the play for some time upon their return to school. A special thank you to Mrs. Jessica Kirk for organizing this event with assistance from the GPS PTO. Friday, December 13th the GPS kindergarten classes had their Annual Gingerbread Design, Build, and Sequence Writing Event. Each kindergarten student was allowed to invite one special guest. It was a perfect way to practice sequence writing with some holiday cheer.

Geneva Middle School and GHS students raised nearly \$200 dollars participating in a hat day last week at the request of the High School's Interact Rotary Club. The money will be donated to the Geneva Community Christmas Card. GMS wishes to thank the Geneva Business Women and Helping Hands for their donations to the Eagles Closet over the past few years. The Eagles Closet helps students at GMS by handing out gently used clothing, school supplies, and also gives food to families over weekends and breaks. Thank you to these organizations for their continued support! GMS also wishes to thank the Superintendent, Board of Education, high school administration, and music teachers for working creatively to again offer general music classes to all students. Additionally, the Band continues to improve and increase in numbers, and the Choir program has been restored after an 8-year hiatus. The Choir held their concert on Dec. 11th, and the Band held their concert on Dec. 16th. Both concerts were fantastic and showcased the amazing level of talent among our students.

Geneva High School installed three water bottle filling stations this past summer, and the reception by the students has been wonderful. These stations have digital counters on them, and over just the first few months, they have prevented approximately 5,758 plastic bottles from entering the waste stream just during the first quarter of the school year. The Courtyard Crew recently had a water bottle sale to encourage more students to use the stations. In addition, the high school continues to offer metal silverware during lunch. Thanks to a donation from a community member, the Middle School has also switched completely to metal silverware. Thanks to the reminders of the staff at the middle school, the program has so far been very successful there. The Geneva High School Metals and Jewelry Fabrication class seeks to expand students' creative experiences through differentiated arts instruction and material exploration. With a new art teacher at the HS for this year, Ms. Elizabeth Pasky, some new ideas have been implemented. What is Metals and Jewelry Fabrication? This is a volunteer art class within an art class where students sign up to do a metals project in place of a traditional 2-dimensional art project. Students learn traditional metal fabrication skills, most of which have been passed down by craftsman over long periods of time. Examples of projects include band and stone-set rings, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, keychains, pins, etc. All are made from soft metals. Currently, students are making beginner-level projects using copper.

Mr. Kujala said he wanted to share one other item. Each week, Geneva has a dedicated page in the Gazette. We are very proud and we celebrate the giving nature of our staff, our students, and our families, and we also thank the many school/community sponsors and supporters that we have. He distributed the previous week's page highlighting and recognizing all of the giving done throughout the year.

NEOLA

170-19

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Mr. Brashear, to accept the following new/revised/replacement policies for Board adoption. Policy numbers are:

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

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

Early Graduation

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Mr. Dana, to approve the following students as

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having met the requirements for early graduation for the 2019-2020 school year.

Taylor Baumgardner
Samuel Davis
Tyler Gustincic

Mr. Kujala mentioned that it is quite an honor when you have two of the students mentioned going into the military, with Taylor planning to enlist in the Navy and Tyler planning to begin in the Air Force Reserves. Both have completed the coursework and even taken additional courses through CCP. Sam Davis, who was a member of the Geneva football team and received an athletic scholarship from Temple University, will be graduating early to attend classes this spring at Temple. Mr. Kujala added that we are very proud of these students and wish them all the best. Roll Call: YES: Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, Dana, and Fisher. Motion carried.

Approve Fund

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Upon Mr. Kujala’s recommendation, Mrs. Ortiz moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, the following fund to be appropriated according to the adopted budget:

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Fund Number</u>	<u>Approved Amount</u>
School Safety Grant 19-20	499-9020	\$9,941.65

Mr. Dana asked what this was. Mr. Kujala responded that this was the second round of safety grants provided by the state. It will be used towards training of staff and our school resource officer. Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Brashear, Dana, Fisher, and Ortiz. Motion carried.

OAPSE Agreement

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Upon Mr. Kujala’s recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mrs. Ortiz, that the Board approve the attached tentative bargaining agreement with OAPSE Local 307, effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. This agreement was ratified by the OAPSE membership on December 5, 2019. Mr. Kujala said he provided a summary of the one-year agreement with limited language changes and the specifics of the contract. Roll Call: YES: Brashear, Dana, Fisher, Ortiz, and Arndt. Motion carried.

2019-2020 Personnel

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

a. FMLA

Margaret J. Slowey, Teacher, leave of absence from 11/25/19 through 01/10/20. This leave will be designated under the Family Medical Leave Act.

b. Resignation

Robin A. Fowler, Special Needs Assistant, Cork, effective 12/16/19

- 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) Reinstatement from Reduction in Force

Robin A. Fowler, Special Needs Assistant, Cork, Hours-to-be-Assigned, 5 days/week, effective 12/13/19

2) Special Needs Assistant

Angela D. Dempsey, Cork, Hours-to-be-Assigned, 5 days/week, effective 01/06/20

Lisa D. Prouty, Austinburg, Hours-to-be-Assigned, 4 days/week, effective 01/06/20

3) Substitute Teacher

Regina T. Petros, effective 12/16/19

4) Substitute Housekeeper

Bailey M. Gustin

5) Substitute Copy Machine Operator

Michelle G. Elek

6) Activity Worker

Sydney Burgard (student)

Alexandria Nugent, effective 11/20/19

Roger Wilt, effective 08/21/19

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

Volunteers

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

Matthew Hanna	-	Swimming
Wayne Lomas	-	Wrestling, effective 12/16/19
Jeff Richmond	-	Basketball

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

Organizational Meeting

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Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mr. Arndt, that Wednesday, January 8, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. be established for the 2020 Organizational meeting at the Board of Education office, and that Mrs. Ortiz be appointed as President Pro-Tempore for this meeting. Roll Call: YES: Ortiz, Arndt, Brashear, Dana, and Fisher. Motion carried.

3rd Grade AIR Results

Mr. Kujala shared that we received the 3rd grade ELA results for the first administration of the AIR test. This test is taken in October after students have been in school approximately two months. It does give the students and teachers a chance to see if students have already mastered some of the 3rd grade standards or what interventions and supports may be needed for other students. Mr. Kujala said he has provided information for Fall 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2015 showing the percent proficient and the average scale score for the state and each of the elementary schools, as well as the number of students that were proficient or higher out of the total number tested. He also provided updated enrollment information for each elementary building at the kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade levels.

EdChoice School Funding Contacts

Mr. Kujala said that he added information on our website about school funding with the key contacts. He received an email today in regards to EdChoice Vouchers. Even though the General Assembly is on recess, OSBA wanted to make sure that the public knows their voices still need to be heard. EdChoice provides up to 60,000 scholarships to students attending what the state considers are “underperforming” public school buildings based on state report cards. This results in public taxpayer dollars being used to fund tuition payments for students at private or parochial schools which are not held to the same academic accountability standards as traditional public schools. He urged everyone here tonight to look at the information on the website and contact or write legislators using the EdChoice talking points. Mr. Lillie added that the biggest problem with this legislative action is that many new students using EdChoice vouchers are not funded because of flat foundation funding, so school districts are having money deducted that they never received. Mr. Dana stated that this threatens public schools, and more districts are probably going to have to be taken over by the state.

Door Barricade Update

Mr. Kujala updated the Board in regards to the door barricades. We did receive our new permits, so we are ready to go and the door barricades will be installed next week during the holiday break at all five schools.

Farewell to Mr. Brashear

Mr. Kujala announced that knowing tonight is Mr. Brashear’s final meeting as a member of the Geneva School Board, on behalf of the Geneva Board of Education, Geneva Area City Schools, the administration, teachers, staff, and especially the students, as Mr. Brashear’s focus has always been what’s best for students, he would like to present Mr. Brashear with a gift as a token of our appreciation for twelve years of service on the Geneva Board of Education. Mr.

Kujala said Mr. Brashear's time and efforts have been appreciated through some challenging years here in the Geneva School District. Mr. Brashear's sound judgment, dedication, and reasonable approach provided steady leadership and guidance. He thanked Mr. Brashear for leading the way with Geneva and Eagle Pride, so best wishes to him.

Mr. Arndt said that he doesn't believe that someone has to search for words when describing Mr. Brashear. He's not only good at what he does, but he rubs off on other people. Because he is good, he was tasked with additional things that normal presidents of a school board aren't, meaning we kind of just shoved another year on him as a president. One, he didn't have to do that, and two, it was during a terrible time, and Mr. Arndt said he would not have wanted to do it then, but Mr. Brashear took it, gutted it out, and Mr. Arndt knows he lost sleep over it. Mr. Brashear had a family at home with children in college, and he was able to guide the school board and the school district through levy campaigns and dealings with a civilian business. Mr. Arndt thanked Mr. Brashear for that and added that his patience is noteworthy, and he is an asset to the community. He wished more community members were like him. Mr. Arndt said his hat was off to Mr. Brashear, he enjoyed listening to him and working alongside him, and he would personally miss him.

Mr. Dana shared that when you talk to board members around the state and ask how long they are serving, you hear four years, six years, eight years, but it is very rare to hear 12 years. Mr. Dana said he cannot thank Mr. Brashear enough for all those years of service. Every meeting we have, we talk about the difficulties that public education has, such as flat funding or the decreases in funding. It is a very tough situation, yet Mr. Brashear's commitment to public education and his willingness to serve in unbelievably difficult circumstances causes him to appreciate Mr. Brashear so much and he will also miss him.

Mr. Arndt said that not only has Ed put a lot of work in with the school and community, but he has a family that has been right there with him. Because of that, he presented Mr. Brashear with a gift certificate to take his family out to dinner with the appreciation of the Board members.

Mr. Brashear thanked everyone and said he was talking to Mr. Dana prior to the meeting, and Mr. Dana asked him if he ever pictured early on during his service if he thought of this last meeting, and to be honest, he had not. He didn't start thinking about this last school board meeting until this month. Folks have asked him how does it feel, is he relieved, and it's mixed emotions. He knew he would be taxed tonight with emotions, and the Board's words are deeply appreciated, but it is difficult to accept some of them as they are far too kind. He did bring a script because he felt that he might trip and stumble a little bit. Mr. Brashear read: "To borrow the words of one of his favorite philosophers: "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." First and foremost, I must thank my family. My

wife is the source for any good that I am or that I do and my two daughters an inspiration for being a servant leader. In the same breath I find it necessary to ask their forgiveness for any stress or difficulties that my service has presented over the past twelve years. It cannot be understated that an elected office is never filled by an individual, but rather a family, and it brings both joy and strain. Cathy, Kayleena, and Hunter: I love you all very, very much.

I am indebted to the extraordinary people that I have had the pleasure to work with: my Peers, our Staff, and our incredible Students. Our magnificent, beautiful Students that provide hope every day. These young people have and will continue to inspire us. Cathy has a favorite expression that hangs on our wall at home: "You will never regret being kind." This is the example that our Students need, deserve, and hopefully pass on to one another. Please continue to be an expression of this kind gesture.

There is no doubt that we have some of the finest individuals ever, both past and present, in our school district. To name them would take us into a marathon meeting that we have had way too many of over the past several years. But two I will point out this evening. Mr. Lillie is an absolute gem that I fear many will not fully appreciate until late. Informative, detail oriented, professional; just a true Gentleman that authentically cares. I thank you more than my simple words can express. Mr. Kujala is one of the most student focused individuals that I have had the pleasure to know. One of the highest compliments that I can give another is to say that we are blessed that you have found your calling and that it is with us.

Finally, I know that we experience the true character of individuals when we face difficult times. Those periods when adversity and challenges are placed in our path is when you can measure the moral fiber, integrity, and honor of leaders. I am grateful and comforted to have these individuals sitting here tonight to face the hurdles ahead and I will always have you in my thoughts and prayers."

Adjournment

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Mr. Brashear moved, seconded by Mr. Dana, to adjourn the regular session at 7:54 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 December 18, 2019.