

Geneva Area City Board of Education  
January 22, 2020

The Board of Education of the Geneva Area City School District met in regular session at 7:00 p.m., January 22, 2020, in the Middle School Cafetorium. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Ortiz.

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

Absent: None

Visitors

& Guests: Administrative Assistant Horvath; Principals Anderson, Burzanko, and Gustin; Assistant Principals Markijohn and Mollohan; Director of Maint./Trans. Tom Currence; newspaper reporter and other citizens

Certification by Treasurer of Compliance with Meeting Requirements Rules

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Ortiz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence

There was none.

Agenda Modification

Several modifications were made.

Hearing of Public

Andy Tetlow, 2033 Pelton Rd., Austinburg, announced that the Geneva Academic Boosters Adult Spelling Bee is Sat., April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at GHS. He hopes that the Board will put a team together as they have in the past. He also put in his appeal that the public comment section be placed at the end of the meeting instead of the beginning, so that when things come up during the course of the meeting, or people have questions, they can ask those questions at the end of the meeting.

Mrs. Ortiz let everyone know that the meeting is being recorded, with the hope that the next meeting will be livestreamed, as long as the technology works.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Arndt moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, to approve the minutes of the regular session on December 18, 2019 and the organizational meeting on January 8, 2020 as presented by the Treasurer. Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Dana, Fisher, Metzler and Ortiz. Motion carried.

Financial Report

20-20

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

Approval of Invoices

21-20

Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mr. Arndt, to approve the December, 2019 invoices as paid and listed by the Treasurer. Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Metzler, Ortiz, Arndt and Dana. Motion carried.

Informational Items – Current Investments (see addendum file)

Donations: \$1,500 from the City Church of Geneva to the Geneva High School Athletic Department.

Mr. Lillie noted that when the Board looks at the Investment Report, they will see several brokerage firms utilized. One of those, Piper Jaffray, was involved in a merger, so the next report will show Piper Sandler Company.

Legislative Report

Mrs. Metzler reported that since the last meeting in December, there have been two new House bills introduced that we haven't spoken about. HB 448 deals with school credit and authorizing school credit for approved programs offered at times outside the normal school day. Approved programs would be those that receive funds under the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Program or if it is a program being proposed by a specific school district to the Department of Education that offers supervised learning opportunities for academic credit outside the normal school day. The Department of Education will approve this if it satisfies all of the following criteria: the program provides students enrolled in grades 6 through 12 with regularly scheduled, structured and supervised learning opportunities at times outside the normal school day; if the program provides learning opportunities including multiple subjects and activities, not just one; if it's offered ten hours or more per week on an ongoing basis; and if it meets any other standards determined necessary by the State Board. HB 465 deals with preschool zones and would amend the Ohio Revised Code to authorize the creation of school zones around specific preschools.

Mrs. Metzler also wanted to talk about the continued hot topic of the educational choice scholarship program or EdChoice, as an article appeared in the Gazette last Wednesday. There have been no plans introduced to revise Ohio's main voucher program. EdChoice started as a way to provide alternative choices to students whose local public schools were considered underperforming, but it's been expanded to include students from

higher-performing public schools. It's two parts include vouchers for students whose families meet low-income requirements and vouchers for students whose schools are considered under-performing by the state. That voucher is then paid for by the local public school district. Currently, the elementary voucher amount is \$4,650 per student and the high school amount is \$6,000 per student. Once that student receives a voucher, he or she can continue to get that voucher for their entire education, even if the school report card improves for their resident district. There are a growing number of students who have never been enrolled in public schools, and they are now qualifying for vouchers that are being paid for by our public school district. That means our district is not currently receiving any money for that student from the state or anywhere else, and they are not in our enrollment counts, but we are still having to pay for a voucher for that student. Since September 2018, the number of buildings that have become eligible for vouchers has gone from 255 to 1,227, over a 400% increase. More than 70% of districts have a voucher-eligible building now, so due to the changes in the state budget bill, districts are losing millions of dollars. With enrollment for this program beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, Board members and all concerned community members are being asked to contact your local legislators and urge them to implement the short-term solutions proposed by OSBA, BASA and OASBO. These solutions include that the state fund the new vouchers by providing an appropriation to cover fully the cost of any new vouchers awarded during this current biennium, instead of making the school districts pay for these under the new rules; replace the current default mechanism in Ohio law to make the income qualification the main reason a student receives a voucher when qualifying for both income and under-performing district; and require high school students to attend a public school in the year prior to applying for the voucher to go to a private school.

Mr. Dana commented that our local community has to pay a higher percentage of the cost to educate our students, and his concern is that when we go to our citizens for a levy, are there levy dollars potentially going to fund private school education outside of our District? Mr. Lillie responded yes, because the state does not give us the amount of money that they deduct and send to a charter school or private school and parochial schools via vouchers, a combination of state and local dollars is going to these schools. On the current frozen state formula, the amount deducted per pupil is set at \$6,020, while we receive state funding of around \$4,500 per pupil, so the difference is made up by local tax money voted to be under the control of the local board of education. Mr. Dana noted that it is problematic then that the voters pass a levy for the purpose of going to the Geneva School District, but the

state takes a portion of that to fund a private school. He's not sure how that can occur.

### A-Tech Report

Ms. Fisher reported that every year, students from area high schools visit Atech for their career technical exploration, or CTE. They sign up to tour the center and get a taste of what's available, then as juniors, they choose a technology or career area to focus on for their junior and senior years. Of all the programs offered, only two, graphic design and welding, have shown slower than average job outlooks over the next ten years according to the Bureau of Labor statistics. There are 20 programs for the high school that have a 93.7% job placement. There's also workforce development with 30 programs for adults to begin or advance a career. Usually 25 to 30 students attend the CTE, but this year there were 126.

Ms. Fisher noted that the 2020 census is approaching, and it will determine how much federal and state moneys go into communities based on population. It is estimated that for each person not counted, the community would lose \$2,000 each year for the next ten years. To emphasize the importance of participating in the census, a Media Specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau challenged Atech and the five satellite multi-media programs to make a 30-second commercial to promote the census. On January 15<sup>th</sup>, nine videos were presented at Atech in an Oscar-like setting with a red carpet and a master of ceremonies. The students did the research, wrote the script, videoed it, and edited. They were judged on audio and video, the editing, creativity, and overall presentation. Lakeside had their video filmed twice, once in English and once in Spanish. The winning team was Grand Valley, and they received small Oscar statues and a limo ride out to dinner.

### Report of the Superintendent

#### School Board Recognition Month

Mr. Kujala noted that each January we join with the Ohio School Boards Association to celebrate and recognize our local Boards of Education.

As citizens who serve children and represent their communities, individual school board members face complex and demanding challenges. Their love of learning and concern and caring for students, staff and the community drive board members' desire to lead so students can achieve.

This evening, students from the Industrial Arts and Arts classes of GMS, will make a special presentation to honor our Board members. Cora Harper said they have all participated in Ms. Monahan's art class this year and have really enjoyed all of their projects. Addison Reece said with some help from the High

School and Middle School Industrial Arts classes, they created for all Board members a small token of their appreciation for the School Board Appreciation Month. Shae Wilson-Owens wanted to sincerely thank the Board members for all they do to make the School District so great. They hope Board members enjoy these Ohio-shaped Tuffy the Eagles and have a great evening. The three girls then presented each Board member with their own Tuffy the Eagle.

Mr. Kujala said it was his pleasure to recognize our board members with a framed certificate and to thank them for their service to our district:

Mr. Richard Arndt with 4 ½ years of service  
Mr. Richard Dana with 6 years of service  
Ms. Sarah Fisher with 4 years of service  
Mrs. Amber Metzler beginning her 1<sup>st</sup> year as a member of the board  
Mrs. Jamie Ortiz with 2 years of service

Mr. Dana thanked the Middle School and said the plaques were awesome. Mr. Arndt asked Mr. Anderson who the artist was that painted the plaques. Mr. Anderson responded that they all worked together and set up a little production line, and they each did certain parts of it. All of the girls here tonight were involved in the process over the course of the year. They also do something similar to those to support the PBIS program as a reward and incentive for students. Mr. Arndt asked the girls to tell their fellow students that the Board very much appreciates the plaques, and they will be displayed.

#### OSBA New Board Member Workshop

Mrs. Metzler gave a brief report on her recent attendance at the OSBA New Board Member Workshop. Mrs. Metzler said she attended the Board Member 101: Survival Kit for Your First 90 Days in Office held two weekends ago in Warrensville Heights. There were about 50 to 75 people in attendance, and everyone was a new board member in their district in the northeast Ohio region. It was a very informative two days, and the speakers were very engaging. It started out by discussing the roles and responsibilities of board members, superintendents, and treasurers, as well as the relationships between board members and the relationships with the superintendent and treasurer. Best practices were shared in terms of communicating with each other and the public and what to expect at a board meeting. She liked that all of the speakers were willing to stop and answer questions, and all the participants seemed to have the same questions. The legal side of boardmanship was discussed, including the legal resources that OSBA offers, how boards conduct their meetings, ethics and conflicts of interest. They talked about the types of meetings and

what the reasons were for those meetings, including the reasons for an executive session, the state requirements regarding records, and the Sunshine Law. They went through legislation and advocacy, a refresher on how a bill becomes a law, and knowing the issues and how to get involved in advocating for those issues. A lot of time was spent on school funding. They talked about policy, who develops it, how it's set, the implementation, the considerations, communicating it with the public, and researching the topic before deciding about policy. There was a brief discussion about what resources were offered on the OSBA website, district goal-setting and strategic plans. Her three takeaways from the workshop included of the \$8.07 billion spent on education in the state of Ohio, over \$1.1 billion is going to charter and stem schools and private schools through vouchers. She enjoyed the refresher of the bill process and how it becomes a law. One thing that she was surprised to hear, and clarified a lot of things for her having been a member of the public sitting in these meetings for ten years, is that our meeting here is not just a public meeting, but it is a meeting of the board in public. She appreciated the opportunity to go and learn, and it helped prepare her to go forward.

Mr. Dana said he was curious with respect to Mr. Tetlow's question if there was any consensus about when the public comment period occurs in other districts. When he started on the Board six years ago, we had very limited time for the public to speak at meetings, and we've changed that with a very open session at the beginning of the meeting. The public can address or raise any concerns they have, and the Board can address if able at that moment or get back with persons on it once we get additional information. He knows that some districts don't have any public portion. He wondered if there was anything about having it at the start of the meeting, at the end of the meeting, or having both. Mrs. Metzler said it was a pretty big topic of conversation, and the speaker said that it really depends on the school district. Some districts had two times that the public can speak, some had a public open comment session after a hot topic, but most had just one open public session. She believes that we need more opportunities for the public to speak, particularly after specific agenda items, but she knows there needs to be more discussion about that.

### Geneva Pride Positives

At Austinburg, over the winter break, all the temporary door barricades were installed in the classrooms. Thank you to Marous Brothers Construction for their time and dedication to making our schools safe! Students wrote thank you cards before the break and they were given to the family. Austinburg Elementary held a donation drive for Veterans, and items were delivered over the holidays. Thank you to Ms. Quinn for organizing this event. The families and community came together and contributed much needed items for our local Veterans.

Cork Elementary Teachers attended a Wonders Reading Series Training in January. Each grade level met with a Wonders expert trainer to gain additional insight on how to effectively use the components of the program to engage students on their journey to reading excellence. Cork Staff recently met with the Cork PTO to discuss and plan future field trips. Parents and teachers worked together discussing opportunities for our students to travel to outside learning venues. Visiting alternate learning settings helps to create experiences students can connect with when reading, writing, and answering state testing questions. Congratulations to Cork 5<sup>th</sup> grade representative Nathan Opron and alternate Jayla Reigert for participating in the GACS District Spelling Bee. Nathan did an excellent job competing with nerves of steel. The spelling bee is an opportunity for students to work outside their comfort zone and grow confidence as a student learner. A big thank you to Mr. Alex Anderson and Mr. Mark Mollohan for providing the opportunity for our students.

Congratulations to Geneva Platt R. Spencer Kindergarten Teachers Anne Pfouts, Amber Sheppard, and Joan Kuhn, who were awarded a \$700 field trip grant through Target for the third year in a row. This grant will cover transportation and entry to Lake Farmpark on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to GPS 5<sup>th</sup> grade student Rhiley Williams for finishing second in the District Spelling Bee on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. The entire staff is extremely proud of Rhiley's success in this year's bee as a fifth grade student competing against students in 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. GPS 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Lauren Stewart had three students earn Accelerated Reader benchmark goals this past month. Marley Strong and Emma Strmac both read 500,000 words and Rhiley Williams read 1,000,000 words. Congratulations to these students on their accomplishments in reading.

Geneva Middle School congratulates 8<sup>th</sup> grade student Mya Evangelista, who was the winner of the Geneva Area City School District's Spelling Bee. The bee lasted 15 rounds and was very competitive. When the contest slimmed to the final four contestants in the 7<sup>th</sup> round, there was a member from each grade level (5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade). Thank you to board members Mrs. Ortiz and Ms. Fisher for helping judge the contest along with Geoff Freeman from WKKY. Thank you also to our excellent pronouncer Mr. Lillie and to the Elementary Principals and teachers for holding the preliminary bees in their buildings. Mya will represent Geneva at the Ashtabula County Spelling Bee on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at the Ashtabula County Educational Service Center. On Friday January 17<sup>th</sup>, core middle school teachers and intervention specialists participated in training for a new program called Study Island. Fifth grade teachers from all

three elementary schools also participated. Study Island is a program that is geared toward grade specific content and standards in all core content areas and provides questioning, lessons and activities that model and are similar in format to the Ohio State Tests. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, teachers will roll out this new program in the hopes of increasing student achievement and to better prepare students for the state tests which will begin in April. Geneva Middle School is proud to announce that they will be hosting Amanda Berry on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Amanda is a local trafficking and abduction survivor from Cleveland who travels with her attorney to spread awareness on this topic. There will be two separate presentations at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. that will include all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls. Parents are encouraged to attend by making a reservation with school counselor Jessica George. Space is limited, so interested parties are encouraged to RSVP as soon as possible by emailing: [jessica.george@genevaschools.org](mailto:jessica.george@genevaschools.org)

Thirty-five Geneva High School students participated in the Young Writers program sponsored by an international organization that promotes and encourages creative writing. Each competition is created to challenge a specific age group and is aimed at encouraging a writer's creativity. A big challenge (besides the topic) is to create a story with a beginning, middle and end in just 100 words! This past year's theme was to write about a catastrophe - with the book declared *Mission Catastrophe - It's the End of the World as We Know It - Tales from Ohio*. Mrs. Smith made it an assignment for two of her creative writing classes. Congratulations to all of the GHS students that participated and to the twelve students that are now published! The book - *Mission Catastrophe: Tales from Ohio* came out in paperback this month. Mr. Kujala said that he did have a copy of the book if Board members would like to take a look. He shared one of the entries from a GHS student. On January 16<sup>th</sup>, the GHS Philanthropy Club awarded numerous community organizations with monetary awards to assist in helping our communities. This is a wonderful opportunity for the students to learn about the needs in Ashtabula County along with finding ways to help. It is always heartwarming to hear the students speak about the various organizations. Congratulations to the students and Mrs. Best for a job well done!

All-Day Every-Day  
Kindergarten

22-20

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Ms. Fisher moved, seconded by Mr. Dana, that the Board approve the implementation of all-day every-day kindergarten beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Dana commented that this has been a long time coming, and he asked what impact this would have on the budget. We approved a five-year forecast, and he would like to have some idea of what we can expect and if we have to make provisions on our five-year plan, so do we have numbers for that? Mr. Kujala responded that we will have to hire three additional kindergarten

teachers. Some of those teachers may come from within our own staff. There would obviously be some additional materials or resources that would need to be purchased. Mr. Lillie added that the cost of three teachers would be around \$206,000. Mr. Arndt asked if that would be one per school, and Mr. Kujala answered yes, and that would give us two at Austinburg, two at Cork, and three sections at GPS. Mr. Kujala added one hope is that we will stop losing students to other districts with full kindergarten. Mr. Lillie commented that during the five-year forecast presentation in November, he had noted that there was money in the budget for all-day, every-day kindergarten based on Mr. Kujala's statement that with current enrollment numbers we wouldn't be looking at bringing back three elementary teachers that were part of the reductions. Mrs. Metzler asked if there was space for the extra classes in each building. Mr. Kujala replied that we've looked at each of the buildings, and we know that we may have to move classrooms around, but we do have space in each building. Roll Call: YES: Metzler, Ortiz, Arndt, Dana and Fisher. Motion carried.

Early Graduation

23-20

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Arndt moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, that the Board approve the following student as having met the requirements for early graduation for the 2019-2020 school year.

Kaily Lovejoy

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

Appropriations 2019-2020

24-20

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Arndt moved, seconded by Ms. Fisher, adoption of the appropriations, as presented, for the fiscal year 2019-2020, to be considered permanent appropriations upon receipt of the Certificate of the County Auditor (That the Total Appropriations from Each Fund Do Not Exceed the Official Estimate of Resources). General Fund appropriations are considered approved by the 2<sup>nd</sup> digit of function and the 1<sup>st</sup> digit of object. All other appropriations are approved by fund. Mr. Lillie explained that this was just put before the Board at the beginning of the meeting along with an Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources updating changes and some new funds, changes in our federal funds because of reductions, and a few changes to our general fund. Roll Call: YES: Arndt, Dana, Fisher, Metzler and Ortiz. Motion carried.

2019-2020 Personnel

25-20

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

a. Resignation

Sherry A. Bruinsma, Special Needs Assistant, effective 02/21/20  
Donna A. Sulecki, Sub Caller, effective 06/04/20

b. FMLA

Gina S. Monahan, Teacher, leave of absence from 02/03/20 through 02/18/20. This leave will be designated under the Family Medical Leave Act.

c. Amended FMLA

Jessica M. George, Guidance Counselor, leave of absence from 01/30/20 through 03/20/20. This leave will be designated under the Family Medical Leave Act.

- d. I recommend 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) Substitute Teacher

Hillary C. Jeschelnic, effective 01/21/20  
John P. Matune

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

EdChoice Scholarship Program

Upon Mr. Kujala's recommendation, Mr. Dana moved, seconded by Mr. Arndt, approval of the following:

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE STATE OF OHIO EdCHOICE SCHOLARSHIP (VOUCHER) PROGRAM**

26-20

WHEREAS, the Ohio legislature has recently made amendments which greatly increase the number and availability of vouchers for students to attend private/parochial schools at public tax expense, and

WHEREAS, such vouchers will be available to numerous families and students who have never attended Geneva or any other public schools and for whom state funding has never been provided to Geneva or any other public schools, and

WHEREAS, Geneva's state funding will be unjustly decreased by the amount of the vouchers provided to such families and students who have not and will not attend public schools and others who transfer to private/parochial schools, and

WHEREAS, the estimated loss of revenue to the Geneva Area City School District over the next four (4) years is \$736,892 which would impact the District's finances, and

WHEREAS, private/parochial schools accepting students with public tax vouchers would not be required to accept all students but would be permitted to retain their selective admission policies without enforcement of other laws applicable to public schools, and

WHEREAS, private/parochial school students are not subject to the testing standards required of public school students so that the actual performance of private/parochial schools subsidized with public tax dollars will not be known, relative to equivalent public school evaluation standards, and

WHEREAS, this Board believes that the EdChoice voucher program as it currently exists presents serious constitutional issues regarding the separation of church and state and the funding of religious institutions with public tax dollars, and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has the constitutional responsibility to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools, and

WHEREAS, the EdChoice voucher program will have exactly the opposite effect by providing funding to private/parochial schools at the expense and to the detriment of public schools and their students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Geneva Area City School District Board of Education that this Board reaffirms its commitment to free accessible public schools which are adequately and equitably funded to guarantee a comparable education for ALL children and therefore opposes and respectfully requests the repeal of the ill-conceived EdChoice voucher program of the State of Ohio.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board opposes any funding programs, vouchers or otherwise, that have the effect of diverting public tax dollars from public schools to private/parochial schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to forward copies of this Resolution to all Ohio state legislators, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Governor of the State of Ohio.

Mr. Arndt asked if someone could explain this. Mr. Kujala responded that in his conversations with many of the school superintendents in our county, with changes in legislation for the EdChoice Scholarships, there are dollars that are being deducted

from our funding for students that attend a private or parochial school. Some of these students have never been in Geneva or attending a public school, but public dollars are going to be used to help them fund their education elsewhere. The estimated loss of revenue to GACS over the next four years for all vouchers would be \$736,892. Private and parochial schools are not subject to the same standards that we are, they do not take any state testing, and they do not have a state report card. There are many educators across the state and many in the county that feel we need to all stand together and let the state know that we oppose the legislation as it has been presented. Mr. Arndt asked if we have any idea how many school districts in Ohio are doing something like this. Mr. Kujala answered that he doesn't know an exact number, but OSBA sent out this sample resolution and was encouraging all districts to adopt it.

Ms. Fisher said she decided to look up the Ohio Constitution, and Article VI, Section 2 says "the General Assembly shall make such provisions, by taxation, or otherwise, as with the income arising from the school trust fund, will secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the state; but no religious or other sect, or sects, shall ever have any exclusive right to, or control of, any part of school funds of this state." Ms. Fisher said she doesn't know how they can fold the Ohio Constitution into what they are planning to do with this particular piece of nonsense. The laws and lawmakers of this state have always put a big premium, in the past, on education. Article IV comes after I which is the Bill of Rights, II the set up of the Legislature, III the set up of the Executive, IV the set up of Judicial, and IV the set up of the Elective Franchise. So right after the set up of the whole government comes schools, before any taxation, before any voting, before all of this other stuff, and yet we have a legislature now that chooses to use it as their piggy bank.

Mr. Kujala mentioned that after one of our previous Board meetings, he did add information to our website about EdChoice, so if there is anyone in our community who also opposes this, there is contact information on the bottom for various representatives and senators and talking points. He feels that any communication that happens in opposition to this will be beneficial. Roll Call: YES: Fisher, Metzler, Ortiz, Arndt and Dana. Motion carried.

#### H.S. Curtain Wall Issue

Mr. Kujala said over the past meetings we've discussed some issues with the curtain wall at Geneva High School. We had some water testing completed, and he was asked by the Board to go out and get bids and look further into the issue. Tonight he has our Director of Maintenance/Transportation, Mr. Tom Currence, to share some information and introduce an additional guest.

Mr. Currence said he is tasked with trying to keep our buildings at peak performance. Sometimes our staff can handle the jobs, sometimes as in this case, this is a big job, and we have to seek outside assistance. We've tracked over a year of water issues in this curtain wall and tried to find personnel around here that can help him fix these window leaks. Jason Wysong from Tremco Roofing was hired to do a comprehensive report on why the window system was leaking. The upper level of the commons area at the High School has been taking on water since the school was built. We've had this issue opened up four other times that we know of, but he's had trouble finding records showing where the issues are and exactly what has been fixed. Through the years, Mr. Markijohn has mentioned that we've corrected some of the issues. The problem with the curtain wall windows is that water coming in from any level is supposed to come down channels and weep back out, but the weeps are not working correctly, so the water is coming in and ruining the roof above the first level of the commons. We have water issues on the bottom level as well that we're going to talk about, the administration area is leaking a little bit of water, but we want to concentrate on the top level now because it is ruining the roof. Mr. Currence ran through a slide presentation showing how and where water is coming into the building. What he found was that the product was fine, but it was the installation that failed.

Mr. Arndt asked whether materials weren't installed because they were absent from the materials list and the building specs, or was it something that was skipped over to cut a corner. Mr. Currence responded that it looked like the workmanship was just bad. Mr. Currence pointed out that the picture on the screen showed where flashing was supposed to be to push water out, but it was missing. Mr. Arndt asked if no flashing was recommended in the building specs. Mr. Wysong noted that the blueprint drawing showed the flashing required, but it was never installed. Mr. Arndt said it was spec'd but not put in, and we didn't catch it. Mr. Wysong responded that the designer of record didn't catch it, so he wouldn't say that the Geneva School Board didn't catch it. Mr. Currence said he cannot find a record of who did what on the building, as we don't have decent records at the bus garage that show who was involved. Mr. Arndt asked how can that be. Mr. Kujala said there were at least two or three companies involved, and there was some remediation done not only in the curtain wall in the media center but also in the front. Mr. Kujala asked Mr. Lillie what the settlement was on the remediation, and Mr. Lillie replied that it was \$1.3 million. Mr. Dana asked with respect to the remediation, was part of that to correct this problem, or was it this and additional problems. Mr. Lillie responded that there were numerous issues that were the point of the remediation. There

were water problems dealing with through-wall flashing that was terminated incorrectly, there were curtain wall issues, there were issues with lack of continuous sealant on roof edge metal, there were issues with open air pockets along the steel beams, and there were numerous other issues. As Mr. Wysong pointed out, there was an architect that designed this; there was a construction manager that was supposed to be supervising the project, but not babysitting contractors; and there were numerous contractors and subcontractors involved. The settlement of \$1.3 million was on a \$1.7 million fix, and it involved money from the general contractor and four of the subcontractors, including the glass subcontractor at the time. Mr. Lillie said when he and Mr. Kujala reviewed the settlement document, that settlement was final, so this is now our problem.

Mr. Currence continued with the slide presentation showing additional water issues. He said we have a quote for a good approach that would change from a water management system to a sealed system. This could be a good option for us, but it is limited by time; when the sealants fail, the system is going to fail, and that could be up to ten years or less. Mr. Dana said there is no guarantee then with this option. Mr. Wysong explained that the silicone sealants typically have a 20-year service life, and with something like this that is very labor-intensive, you're also looking at a two-year contractor warranty. Mr. Currence said that some of the other options would be more long term. Mr. Dana asked about the cost. Mr. Currence replied that the cost for the good option was \$72,000. The other options would be at a higher cost. The better option would remove metal and put the sealants back in, while the best option would remove the whole system and reinstall it the way it was intended to be. He said we don't have a price on these two options, as he went with the quote on the good option until he had a chance to get the Board's direction on what we want to do. Mr. Dana asked if this is done correctly, what type of warranty will there be on that work. Mr. Wysong said he can work up the information on the better and best options and present that to the Board, he just hasn't done that yet because it will be a major expense. Mr. Arndt said he can't see putting a band aid on it. Mr. Currence said he was concerned that we don't know what the other companies did in the past, so if we re-install the system the way it was originally intended, he doesn't know if we'll find additional holes drilled or something removed. He felt that if we went ahead and did a water seal now, we wouldn't have to depend on the system to take on water and expel it later.

Mr. Dana thanked Mr. Currence for getting down to the bottom of the problem, but he asked if Mr. Currence's recommendation was really to abort the system we currently have and go with a potential two-year fix where we have to keep going

back on a regular basis and resealing this. Mr. Currence said he would like to see more numbers, since he and Mr. Wysong had only concentrated on the cheaper one. Mr. Wysong said he didn't want the Board to think that the good option was just a bandaid that would only last for two years, because that type of repair is done on window curtain wall systems all over the country with a lot of success. It does rely on the contractor properly cutting the heads of the gaskets and installing the sealant properly. He doesn't want the Board to think that they have to hit the nuclear option and all of a sudden start looking at complete replacement, because the numbers will be high. Mr. Dana asked Mr. Wysong if he could give a ballpark cost on full replacement. Mr. Wysong estimated that it would probably be \$250,000 plus to rebuild the system to specifications. This doesn't include the area below and the administration wall. Mr. Dana said so we have a choice between fixing this with the best option or having all-day, every-day kindergarten. Mr. Dana said he'd like to see more numbers. Mr. Lillie noted that there are capital dollars for this type of repair, either in our maintenance fund or our PI fund. The dollars for all-day, every-day kindergarten are operational dollars from our general fund. Mrs. Ortiz asked if we do the grand fix, are there other behind the scenes problems that aren't included in that fix. Mr. Wysong said that there should not be because you're taking it apart to find everything. The Board decided it would be best to get numbers for all the options and go from there.

#### Board Office

For his last item, Mr. Kujala said at our organizational meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>, he had shared some information about the need and hopefully a future project for the construction of an administration office. After that meeting, he realized that many on our Board had little knowledge or background of previous discussions regarding our Central Office. An administrative office was the last phase of construction, as we have constructed our school buildings and our Bus/Maintenance building. As part of our Strategic Plan, the facility group discussed various options, and since he has looked at a few other potential options. Mr. Kujala distributed a chart showing those options for the Board to review. He also shared a copy of the original drawing prepared by Serge Grenier in 2014 utilizing the house and property purchased in front of the High School and building an addition with renovations to the existing house. Until definite plans are completed, Kurt Gowins with Smolen Engineering, who has worked with us in the past, said costs would range from \$165 to \$200 per square foot, depending on specific factors.

#### Adjournment

Mr. Arndt moved, seconded by Mrs. Metzler, to adjourn the regular session at 8:21 p.m. Roll Call: YES: Metzler, Ortiz, Arndt, Dana and Fisher. 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 January 22, 2020.