

## Superintendent Updates From Around the State

1. Public Act 100-0465, also known as the Evidence-Based Funding for Student Success Act, made sweeping changes to education funding in Illinois. In making changes to state financial support to schools, the Act also repealed Section 18-8.05 of the School Code, which required an instructional day to be a minimum of five hours. As such, there is no current statutory minimum number of hours or minutes that constitutes an instructional day. This change provides districts with maximum flexibility to ensure that student needs, rather than the needs of regulatory and compliance systems, determine the method and timelines of instructional days.
  - a. What does this mean for Geneseo? In the short term, not much will change. We have a collective bargaining agreement and IEPs in place. I believe this was an oversight by the state and was only recently discovered (November 2018) even though it was passed on Thursday, August 31, 2017. They are therefore making a positive spin on this “new” flexibility.
2. During the first week of the Illinois General Assembly’s veto session, lawmakers voted to override Gov. Bruce Rauner’s vetoes or amendatory vetoes on dozens of bills. One high-profile bill that didn’t get override votes the first week was the bill to set a new minimum salary for Illinois school teachers. Sen. Andy Manar, D-Bunker Hill, said he’s not giving up on the idea of increasing the minimum salary that every school district in the state will have to pay their teachers. “There have been ongoing conversations that haven’t stopped since going back to May, when we passed the bill,” Manar said. “Those are going to continue. I would expect to re-file, if not a bill that’s exactly the same, something that’s very similar to what was filed and already passed in the General Assembly.” The bill that already passed, Senate Bill 2892, gradually raises the minimum salary for teachers to \$40,000 starting with the 2022-2023 school year. The current minimum salary for teachers is \$9,000, a level set in law 38 years ago. The bill set a minimum salary for teachers at \$32,076 for the 2019-2020 school year. The delayed start of the bill was intended to give school districts time to adjust their budgets to accommodate the higher wage. Manar said that since a new law couldn’t be adopted until next year, he is open to discussing a further extension in the start date for raising the wage.
3. Gov.-elect J.B. Pritzker announced his seventh transition team. This one is charged with advising Pritzker on policies for all levels of education, and has almost three dozen members, including 10 advocacy group leaders, six lawmakers (all Democrats), four public university officials, three community college officials, and one current principal. Leading the group will be four co-chairs: Janice Jackson, CEO of Chicago Public Schools; Kathi Griffin, president of the state’s largest teachers union; State Rep. Chris Welch, who will focus on colleges and universities, and State Sen. Andy Manar, the legislator who authored and pushed through a complete overhaul of the state’s school funding formula. A complete list of the team can be found [here](#).
4. Listening Tour Notes (see attachment)

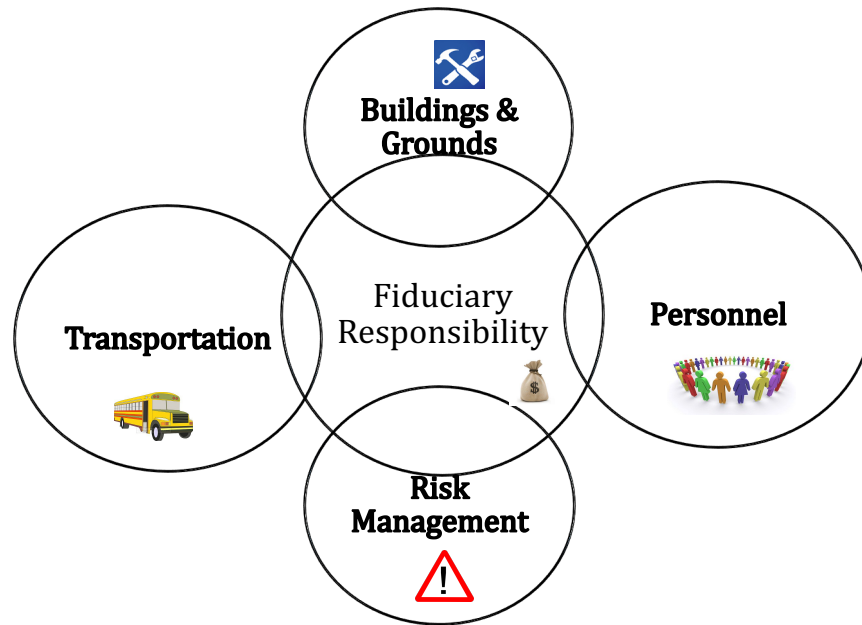
## Listening Tour Notes

I conducted 10 listening tour meetings (two in each building, one before school and one after school) in an attempt to learn more about the staff and the perceived needs of the district. A total of 113 staff members attended those meetings. I shared some of the results with building administrators that I thought were relevant or time sensitive and we discussed how we might address some of those perceptions in the coming months. Some have already been addressed.

I am sharing with you items that I feel are pertinent to the Board and your relationship with the staff. You will notice that a few of the items have already been brought to your attention for action. Overall, the staff feel that there are good supports in place for both staff and students to be successful, but there are ways to make the learning experience and environment even more effective.

1. The new evidence based funding formula looks at 27 research-based elements that are proven to increase student achievement such as smaller class sizes, reading specialists, and access to technology. Under that model, Geneseo should be employing 215 staff members. We currently employ 157. **That's 58 fewer staff than recommended and by which we will be evaluated under this funding model!** Since our student population is holding firm, we cannot continue to reduce staff for retirements or transfers. I will likely be making recommendations to maintain or slightly increase our staff for the 2019-2020 school year.
2. Competitive wages for substitute teachers was mentioned, which you have taken action to address. I am also recommending to you that we address our long-term sub pay policy this month, which is outdated and non-competitive.
3. The Board voted to maintain our preschool programming this year even though funding will not become available for another two school years. Mr. Kashner will be giving a presentation and making a request to you at the January Board meeting to maintain the program for another year.
4. Free tuition for employees who live outside of the district. I recommend you take action at the January Board meeting to request a waiver from the state to allow us to do so.
5. Renewing curriculum across the district that had not been updated during the last replacement cycle was mentioned by staff several times. Mr. Mackey and myself, both former Math teachers, began with the GHS Math department to identify gaps in our Math curriculum due to outdated material, the fact that Illinois changed from the ACT to the SAT as the college entrance exam issued to all high school juniors, and assessment scores not where we want them to be. GHS will receive new textbooks in Math (Algebra II and Geometry) next year, replacing material printed in 2005. Other curriculum are in the early stages of being assessed as a part of future replacement cycles.
6. Other items brought up have to do with the collective bargaining agreement and will be discussed further at the time of negotiations.

**CSBO Update  
December 2018**



**Sales Tax Revenue.**

Sales Tax Revenue

	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19
July	\$75,669	\$72,660	\$82,824	\$71,936	\$74,987
August	\$78,339	\$78,312	\$76,691	\$78,778	\$99,687
September	\$87,977	\$83,634	\$82,544	\$85,508	\$81,368
October	\$85,377	\$83,718	\$83,451	\$85,204	\$91,463
November	\$79,133	\$80,163	\$80,143	\$81,876	\$86,915
December	\$81,146	\$78,882	\$80,001	\$81,758	
January	\$80,888	\$82,089	\$79,251	\$81,544	
February	\$82,888	\$81,088	\$77,618	\$83,919	
March	\$80,552	\$79,131	\$78,646	\$85,957	
April	\$84,144	\$86,295	\$89,126	\$94,502	
May	\$66,904	\$64,765	\$67,456	\$73,367	
June	\$68,349	\$63,908	\$63,360	\$82,165	
Total	\$951,366	\$934,645	\$941,111	\$986,514	\$434,420



**Risk Management Plan Objectives:**

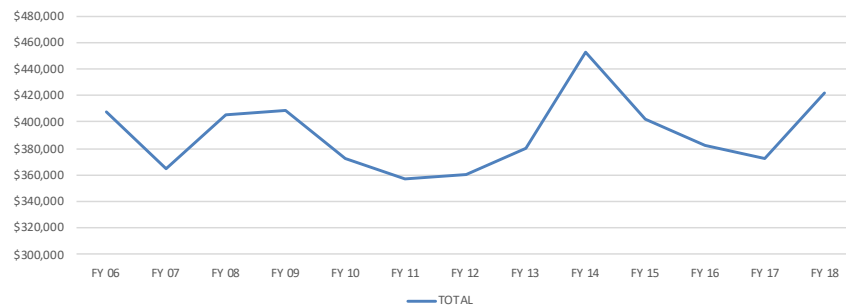
- Reduce/prevent District exposure to liability.
- Ensure health/safety laws and rights are extended to visitors, employees, and students.
- Ensure buildings and grounds are maintained in a safe condition.
- Provide careful supervision and protection of all District real and personal property.
- No recommended changes from the Board Approved Risk Management Plan from FY18.



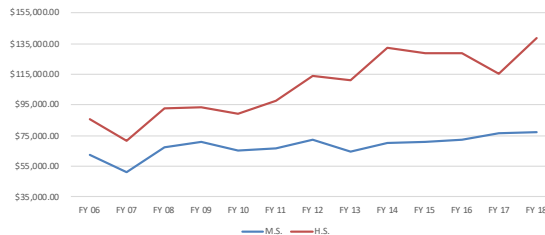
## Utilities Expenditures.

Utilities Costs Summary		
	Percent Change Since 2006	
Elementary Electrical	74.22%	
HS Electrical	61.81%	
MS Electrical	23%	
Total District Electrical		54.17%
Elementary Natural Gas		-68.45%
HS Natural Gas		-63.02%
MS Natural Gas		-55.76%
Total District Natural Gas		-63.04%
Total District Utilities		1.4%

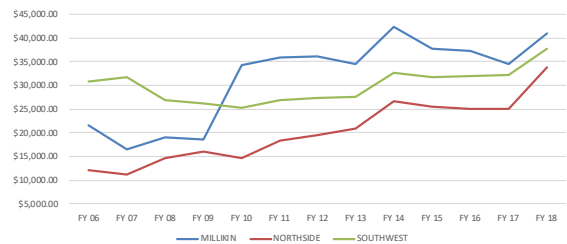
Total District Utilities Costs  
All Buildings



High School and Middle School  
Electricity Costs



Elementary Buildings  
Electricity Costs



High School and Middle School  
Natural Gas Costs



Elementary Buildings  
Natural Gas Costs

