

September 30, 2018

Dear Board of Education Member,

I am proud to work in this district with the team of educators at Harrison Street School. I have worked in other districts and schools, but I truly feel I have found my home in Geneva at Harrison Street School. The group of educators there is truly collaborative, professional, and all share the same goal of creating the best learning environment for our students. I am extremely proud of what we accomplish for our students on a daily basis, and it is extremely disheartening that we find ourselves in a fight for compensation that reflects our value to the community.

I went into teaching because I felt it was the best way for me to make a difference in the world. However, I did not realize how difficult it would be to live off a teacher's salary. With nine years of teaching experience, and two masters degrees, my fiancé and I still struggle to make ends meet every month, while saving for our future together. For many years I have worked as a nanny over the summer to make extra money, and recently my fiancé and I have begun mowing lawns to supplement our income. It is frustrating that I have earned two advanced degrees and the district is not recognizing these educational achievements.

I currently have the pleasure of living within Harrison Street School boundaries. I love living in the same community in which I teach. I am also looking forward to one day sending my own children to Harrison Street School. I am hopeful that they will get an education from well-qualified teachers. I am concerned that moving away from a step and lane salary schedule, and Geneva's current uncompetitive salaries, will make it difficult to attract qualified teachers to our schools.

As an educator, I do not feel as if my expertise, education, and dedication are being honored and respected in this district. In the spring, I will have the honor of hosting a student teacher. I am looking forward to being able to guide and be a role model for her. However based on the current climate and compensation proposals, I could not honestly recommend or encourage her to seek employment in this district. I am hopeful that the Board will come to an agreement that will make Geneva an attractive district for young teachers.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Please keep this letter in mind while you continue the negotiation process with the Geneva Education Association. Hopefully we can work towards a contract that is fair, allows Geneva teachers to have a sustainable income that recognizes their educational achievements and years of service, and continues to attract the best teachers to our district.

Sincerely,

Katie Doyle