



GENESEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
GENESEE COUNTY'S REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

INNERVIEWS

InnerViews is published for the staff of GISD with additional distribution to community partners and friends.

Deputy Superintendent Search Report from Michigan Leadership Institute

Mr. William Kimball, East Central Michigan Regional President of the Michigan Leadership Institute, was commissioned to act as the district's consultant in the hiring process for the new deputy superintendent as a result of Thomas Princinsky's pending retirement. Mr. Kimball met with many different groups, including Advisory Council members, administrative staff, union leadership, support staff and local district representatives from such groups as County Negotiators and the Genesee County Superintendents Association. Mr. Kimball reviewed the questions he used with groups to gather input on the position, as well as draft success indicators for the posting brochure. The process was reviewed by the Personnel Committee. The GISD Board of Education received the report at its January 10, 2006 meeting.

For more information and application instructions for the Deputy Superintendent for Human Resources and Operations position, visit the GISD website at: www.geneseeisd.org and select the "Employment" tab, then "Job Listings."

Career Technical Education DVD Presented

At the January 10, 2006 board of education meeting, Mr. Gary Tower, director of Career Technical Education, presented a new DVD entitled *Regional Vision, Leadership and Collaboration: Delivering Comprehensive Career Planning*. This DVD is an outstanding communication tool that provides an excellent overview of GISD's career planning initiative. Ms. Donna Burmeister, career preparation/work program developer, coordinated the development of the DVD which took place in 13 local districts, Mott Middle College and Mott Community College. The DVD was produced to improve understanding of GISD's EDP partnership with

local districts and increase communication regarding the importance of career planning. The target audience for the DVD includes students, parents and the school community in general.

MyEDP @ www.myedp-gisd.org
of Genesee County

Board Policy Revisions from NEOLA Adopted

At the December 13, 2005 meeting, the board approved a first reading of board policy revision recommendations from NEOLA's policy update service to keep the district abreast of changes or additions needed for legal compliance and to maintain quality and usefulness of the board policies. Changes recommended by the Policy Committee at the first reading were noted, and additional changes were recommended. New changes included expansion of Policy 3162, Drug and Alcohol Testing, to include more extensive language contained in the district's previous policy; changing the cumulative length of military service not to exceed ten years in Policy 3437.01, Military Leave; and adding "Such" at the beginning of paragraph 4 in Policy 6320, Purchasing. Also, Policy 8330, Student Records, was reviewed by the school attorney.

At its January 24, 2006 meeting, the board approved the second reading and adopted the board policy revisions recommended by NEOLA.

PAC Member Appointed

At the January 24, 2006 meeting, the board appointed Mary Hobson, representing Mt. Morris Consolidated Schools, to serve on the GISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee.

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Update: Reaching Goals and Funding Status

Over the last several months, I had an opportunity to meet with every staff group. I am extremely grateful for your participation in these meetings and for your candid comments and questions. Your input related to GISD issues and our Teaching, Learning & Service Plan will be an asset to our leadership team and the board of education as we move ahead to address the issues we will face during the next several months.

As we all continue our efforts to achieve the defined Teaching, Learning & Service Plan goals, it is important to remember that student achievement is the core of our efforts. Whether you transport students, work in one of our many offices, provide technical support, maintain our facilities, provide staff development or work throughout our school community in programs ranging from special education to early childhood, our major goal is to improve the learning outcomes for students. GISD has grown dramatically in response to the great needs in our county for increased support and efficiency, particularly during these difficult economic times. This need is driven by the demand that our students reach the highest standards. I can say with great pride that after our meetings, I am convinced, despite the many challenges we face, that we are indeed providing a great service to our constituents. Thank you for your commitment to quality education here in Genesee County.

As you recall, we also discussed the challenges of the budget. Overall, our budgets in Special Education and Career Technical Education are in great shape. However, we are facing some difficulty in maintaining the stability of our General Fund. GISD's General Fund supports many of our programs such as technology, instruction, health, safety, nutrition, communications and development, as well as business services, human resources and operations. The major difficulty is that our General Fund revenue from the state has decreased for the last two years. This year, there was no decrease; however, we did not receive General Fund increases from the state commensurate with the increase in the per pupil foundation allowance that our constituent districts received. This is the first time that a disconnect between ISD funding and local district allocations occurred. Traditionally, ISD funding from the state (specifically Section 81) was increased proportionately when local districts received increases. Next year, we have been told that we should not expect an increase. Therefore, given rising costs in health insurance, energy costs, employee compensation and other line items, we project serious long-range challenges to the health of our General Fund. I had expected

and planned for a three-year downturn in financial support from the state. However, the current forecast is not very positive, and we must work even harder to achieve further efficiencies. We will address this challenge throughout the ongoing budgeting process.

At this point, our Superintendents Association committees have reviewed our 2006-07 budget proposals. These committees recommended that the Superintendents Association approve our preliminary budget, and last week the Association did so unanimously. The next step is to prepare for our budget hearing, which is scheduled for March 16. We will also present a budget amendment to the board of education for its approval as a part of this process. After the budget amendment has been approved and our budget has been presented to the representatives of the 21 constituent district boards of education, we will prepare final documents for review and approval by each of the 21 boards of education. As you recall, last year we received unanimous approval from local boards of education. Finally, after local board of education approval, the GISD Board will act to approve our budget in June before the July 1 deadline. This entire process requires a great deal of work from many GISD staff members, and this year it is particularly challenging due to the limited revenue supporting our General Fund. You can be assured we will do our best to maintain our budget within the established parameters required by law and board policy.

Please also be assured that I am most appreciative of your involvement in this complicated and time-consuming process. Should you have a specific question about the budget process or its impact on GISD programs and services, please do not hesitate to contact your supervisor directly or by calling my office. As always, we will keep you informed as to changes and new developments which have a direct impact on GISD programs and services.

Sincerely,

INNERVIEWS

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GISD's Communications
& Development Department

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2005-2006 GISD Employee Combined Campaign a Big Success



Diane Burt, accountant in Business Services, and Stephanie Resky, teacher-consultant for cognitive impairment, at the Marion D. Crouse Instructional

Center, served this year as co-chairs of the GISD Employee Combined Campaign.

At the January 10, 2006 board of education meeting, it was reported that last year, GISD collected \$41,214.94. This year's goal was to collect \$42,000. A total of \$44,032.65 was pledged. Since 1986, GISD employees have donated over one-half million dollars to Genesee County programs.

At the January 10, 2006 meeting, special thanks were given to the co-chairs and building representatives Diane Burt and Barb Eliason, Davis Education Center; Denice Westervelt, Health, Safety and Nutrition Services; Andrea Peters, Special Services-North; Dotty Freathy, Early Childhood Programs and Services; Larry Williams and Ida Green, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; Major Harper and Karen Seeley, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; Stephanie Resky, Project CHOICE; Barb Diegel, Transportation; and Marcia Clark, Mott Middle College.

This year, monies were donated to 20 organizations participating in the campaign:

United Way of Genesee County	\$16,686.50
Very Special Arts of Genesee County	3,446.13
Project SKIP to a Great Start	3,044.00
Special Olympics	2,881.34
Genesee County Educational Foundation	2,294.67
Mott Middle College	2,061.18
Hurley Foundation	1,922.00
American Cancer Society	1,616.12
Edward F. Gwiazdowski Scholarship	1,610.54
Habitat for Humanity	1,427.50
Community Health Charities	1,286.50
Genesee County Free Medical Clinic	1,265.84
Consortium on Child Abuse	1,202.00
Special Needs Vision Clinic	1,135.00
EarthShare of Michigan	773.36
United Negro College Fund	482.50
Genesee County 4-H Horsepower	452.50
Salem Housing Task Force Corporation	176.00
United Way of Lapeer County	152.00
Black United Fund	<u>116.97</u>

TOTAL **\$44,032.65**

A special thank you to the following GISD departments that had staff participation of 100%:

- Administration/Business Services
- Career Technical Education
- Communications and Development
- Education and Learning
- Human Resources and Operations
- Mott Middle College

“Ready, Set, Grow!” Passport Initiative Support Approved

The Genesee County Superintendents Association continues to endorse this program that identifies children as they are born in our local hospitals. This concept helps GISD develop a closer relationship with our newest parents, as well as increase the health and learning levels of incoming preschool and kindergarten students. Local district superintendents support the program at \$.75 per student for operation costs in partnership with the health and business communities. Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich currently serves on the Passport Board of Directors, providing leadership and coordination for “Ready, Set, Grow!” Passport activities. At its January 24, 2006 meeting, the board of education approved financial support of \$3,000 to the 2005-2006 “Ready, Set, Grow!” Passport Initiative. This amount is in addition to the in-kind support the district currently provides to the program.



Board Members Recognized

January was School Board Recognition Month. Throughout Michigan, 553 local and 57 intermediate school districts recognized the 4,100 elected school board members that serve their schools and communities with untiring dedication to school governance.

In recognition of their dedicated service, Genesee Intermediate School District board of education members were recognized for their contributions to our school community.

GISD also salutes every board member across the county for their leadership. We appreciate the efforts of our board members during these very challenging times. Thank you, on behalf of the students and educators of Genesee County.



GISD Programs Celebrate Black History Month

February is Black History Month. Black History Month celebrates the leadership and contributions of members of our community who have worked to bring about equality for all. As Black History Month, it is a fitting time to remember the contributions of two African American women who have passed away within the past several months: Rosa Parks, and very recently, Coretta Scott King. Rosa Parks believed that all people deserve to be treated fairly. In 1955, she courageously refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, sparking the civil rights movement that changed history! Coretta Scott King, wife of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., carried on his legacy and emerged as one of America's most influential voices for social change and human rights. She led the fight to make her husband's January birthday a national holiday and established the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta.

In recognition of Black History Month, GISD buildings/programs have incorporated activities into their curriculum and scheduled the following events:

Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center:

- February 3, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
Movie: "Our Friend Martin L. King"
- February 10, 2006 at 12:00 Noon
Annual Multicultural Luncheon

Mott Middle College:

- Focus group curriculum activities designed to highlight unique African-American historical figures.
- Conducted peacemaker training institutes in how to promote nonviolence to 1/3 of their student population in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King.
- MMC American Literature classes are studying and exploring early African-American literature.
- World Studies courses – promote technique of gathering oral histories.

Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center:

- February 7, 2006 - Storyteller: "Porch Stories—Everyday Heroes"
- February 14, 2006 - Flint Northwestern High School Wildcat Dancers
- February 16 and 23, 2006 - Movies: Stories of African American historical figures

Ready to Retire?

The Michigan Office of Retirement Services is conducting "Preretirement Information Meetings." Learn more about pension benefits, service credit, retirement eligibility, insurance coverage and much more! The nearest upcoming meeting will be at Lapeer ISD on February 28, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Large Conference Room. For more information and to register online go to <https://mis.state.mi.us/dmb/ors/Seminars/prim/SeminarDates.asp>.

ECPS Annual Spring Raffle

ECPS will be hosting its Annual Spring Raffle on Friday, March 17, 2006 at SESC-S. There will be many different prizes raffled off: First prize - \$200.00 cash; Cedar Point tickets, dinner certificates, personal care items, toys, jewelry and many more. Tickets are \$1.00 each and you need not be present to win. The proceeds from the raffle will benefit students in the ECPS program. If you're interested in purchasing tickets, please call Dotty Freathy at (810)-591-4963.

Donations Accepted

Generous donations to the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center, Early Childhood Programs and Services, the Special Education Services Center and Health, Safety and Nutrition Services were received by the board. The donations were given by relatives, staff and community friends.

Employees Hired

At the January 10, 2006 meeting, the board approved the hiring of Stephanie J. Williams as Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center. At the January 24, 2006 meeting, the board approved the hiring of Mary E. Cripps as Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center, and Nicolette J. Cheff as a Consultant for Behavior Support, Special Education Services Center.

Leaves of Absence Approved

Leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Susan R. Meyer, Teacher of Students with Autism, Early Childhood Programs and Services; Judith A. McAllister, Paraprofessional, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; Ruth Robinson, Occupational Therapist, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; Becky S. Finkle, Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Early Childhood Programs and Services; Linda L. Bradshaw, Bus Driver, Transportation Services; and Beth Harvey, Paraprofessional, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center.

Congratulations New Grandparents!

Carol Rumminger, teacher at Reid Elementary Project CHOICE site, and husband Bill welcomed their first grandchild on August 1. William James was born in Redondo Beach, California, to their son Jason and wife Heidi. The proud grandparents went to visit on August 10. Congratulations Grandma and Grandpa Rumminger!

Vickie Buckley, supervisor/trainer in Transportation, is proud to announce the birth of her granddaughter, Shayla Rae Owen. She was born on December 21, 11:30 p.m. at Hurley Medical Center, weighing 6 lbs. 8 ozs. and was 18.5 inches long. The proud parents are Vickie's son and daughter-in-law, Craig and Kendra Owen. Congratulations, Vickie!

Engagement Announced

Jeanne Quinlan, from EKLC, is happy to announce the engagement of her daughter Mariah to Scott Gordon. They have planned an August 5th wedding. The ceremony and reception will be at Crossroads Village. Best wishes to the couple!



February Birthdays

1	Ruth Cassidy	Davis Ed. Center
2	Diane Burt	Davis Ed. Center
2	Patti Garvin	Transportation
2	Deborah Lannom	MCIC

2	Laura Rainey	Mott Middle College
3	Linda Jaworski	SESC
3	Windel Robinson	Transportation
4	Eileen Jackson	Davis Ed. Center
4	Genevieve Weber	EKLC
5	Kathleen Bell	ECPS
5	Annette Harden	Transportation
6	Rebecca George	SESC
6	Scott Long	MCIC
7	Dorothy Montney	Davis Ed. Center
8	Agnes Bedell	Health
8	Beverly Knox-Pipes	Davis Ed. Center
9	Jennifer Malzahn	EKLC
10	Pamela Koehler	Transportation
11	Bernestine Holmes	MCIC
12	John Burmeister	Davis Ed. Center
12	Roberta Richards	ECPS
13	Duane Diehl	Transportation
15	Linda Barber	MCIC
15	Robert Phelps	Transportation
16	Lynn Crissman	MCIC
17	Elizabeth Lester	Transportation
17	Jeanne Quinlan	EKLC
17	John Waldo	Health
18	Robert Dippold	MCIC
18	Marcia McGee	ECPS
18	Ernest Steward	Davis Ed. Center
18	Denise Welsh	SESC
19	Cheryl Klinert	EKLC
19	Deborah Ray	EKLC
20	Deborah Holtslander	SESC
21	Susan Cyrul	EKLC/CHOICE
21	Theresa West	Transportation
23	Wendy Jones	SESC
23	Tamiya Shaw	Transportation
24	Rebecca Powell	Transportation
25	Darlene Barror	Transportation
26	Carly Adams	ECPS
26	Linda Bradshaw	Transportation
26	Joseph Firmingham	Davis Ed. Center
26	Andrea Lamay	EKLC/CHOICE
27	Sonia Brumley	EKLC
27	Pamela Prior	EKLC
28	Debra Newbold	MCIC
29	Melissa Graves	EKLC/CHOICE

March Birthdays

2	Hayley Moore	Transportation
3	Gary Tower	Davis Ed. Center
4	Ingrid DuLac	Davis Ed. Center
4	Rebecca Klobucar	Health
4	Judy Linderman	Transportation
5	Sheila Maclin	Transportation
5	Andrea Pittenger	Davis Ed. Center

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GISD Jobs

GISD's Human Resources and Operations department is accepting applications for numerous positions. Online applications are available at www.geneseeisd.org.

For more information, call Cindy Workman at (810) 591-4404 or visit GISD's Human Resources and Operations department at 2413 West Maple Avenue in Flint.

School Closure Information

Given the daily weather changes and uncertainty in what will be next, please remember that you can visit GISD's Website to access multiple media sources in our region that list the latest school closure information. Visit www.geneseeisd.org, and look in the bottom right-hand corner to check it out.