



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.

GISD Principals Recognized

Each year, the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education recognizes its principals during the month of February as a part of "Principals Week" celebrations. This year, GISD principals were honored at the February 14, 2006 board meeting. Over the last year, the district has received many letters of thanks from parents and community members recognizing the outstanding work of these key leaders. The board of education, as well as the leadership staff, joined in saluting the GISD principals for their efforts to make GISD programs the very, very best. GISD students and the school community benefit because of the dedication and commitment of these educational leaders.

Bridges to the Future Program Receives Children's Champion Award

At Priority Children's annual Children's Champion Award Breakfast held on February 10, 2006, the Bridges to the Future Program received the Safe Places to Learn and Play award. This award celebrates those businesses, organizations and community initiatives providing safe environments for kids that include educational programming and recreational activities. Bridges to the Future is a collaborative partnership of United Way, Genesee Intermediate School District and Flint Community Schools. The United Way of Genesee County serves as the fiduciary agent, while GISD manages the programs in the county's 20 public school districts, and Flint Community Schools does the same within the city of Flint.

When Bridges to the Future began in 1997, there were only three sites and a few thousand children served. Since then, Bridges to the Future has grown to encompass the entire county, serving over 16,000 children last year in over 100 sites. Bridges to the Future is free to all children and strives to provide fun and quality programming that most would not have access to otherwise.

Youth benefit from Bridges to the Future because they are able to receive fun and quality programming after school in a building that they know, with staff that they know and, in most cases, close to home. The youth and parents both benefit, because they know they can have fun, learn new skills, cultivate new interests and reinforce what they have learned during the school day, all while knowing that they are in a safe and caring environment.



Pictured left to right: Jeanne Quinlan, Assistant Principal-EKLC; Sue O'Brien, Principal, MCIC; Jerry Ragsdale, Treasurer, GISD Board of Education; Jan Blanck, Principal, ECPS; Lawrence Ford, Secretary, GISD Board of Education; Peggy Tortorice, President, GISD Board of Education; Dale Green, Trustee, GISD Board of Education; Dr. Thomas Svitkovich, Superintendent; and Chery Wagonlander, Principal, Mott Middle College. Not pictured: Mark Deschaine, Principal, EKLC; Lee Rossmassler, Dean of Students, Mott Middle College; and Kim Fischer, Principal, Southern Lakes Career Technical Center.

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Successful Collaboratives

Second semester is underway, and we at GISD are very, very busy working with students, constituents and colleagues. Many new programs, including the GASC Transportation Consortium, GenNET III, improvements at Ligon and recently-approved grant funded initiatives are underway.

This past month, GISD was invited to make presentations at a state conference in Lansing. The Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators (MAISA) and the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) are sponsoring this conference to focus on school district partnerships and collaborations. GISD had three scheduled sessions focusing on transportation, technology and shared business services. Thomas Princinsky, Deputy Superintendent - Human Resources and Operations, Beverly Knox-Pipes, Assistant Superintendent – Technology and Media Services, and Cindy McCain, Executive Director – Business will lead the individual sessions and highlight the structure and benefits of these collaborative programs.

GISD is a respected leader in the development and operation of effective collaborations that save resources and/or improve student performance. In addition to providing outstanding special education programs in cooperation with our constituent districts, GISD is a partner in the following collaboratives: Attendance Intervention; Business and Education Coordinating Council; Cooperative Purchasing; Educator Recruitment Fair; GASC Technology Center; GASC Transportation Consortium; GenNET; Greater Flint Educational Consortium; Mott Middle College; PASSPORT – Ready, Set, Grow; School Health Services; School Safety Collaborative; Shared Business Services; Shared Instructional Materials (REMC); and Special Needs Transportation Services.

Our newest team efforts include Attendance Intervention and Shared Business Services. The program, focusing on student attendance intervention, was the result of our accountability study and the work of a countywide attendance task force. Shared Business Services is currently serving seven

constituent districts and one charter school. Discussions are underway with two additional districts to finalize the agreement details.

A new program modeled after Shared Business Services is being developed to provide technical support to local districts. Shared Technical Support is being piloted in ten districts providing varying levels of support including: email; disaster recovery; backup; network management; local area network; and workstation support. These programs are outcomes of the work of the Superintendents Cost Containment Committee. All of GISD's collaborative efforts are guided by our Teaching, Learning and Service Plan and are specifically related to Goal #4, which addresses collaborative programs.

The success of all our partnership efforts is dependent on the quality work of GISD staff and our tradition of service excellence. We are proud of our partnerships and the continued expansion of GISD services to our constituent districts.

Sincerely,

Business Services Contract with Bentley Community Schools Approved

Over the last few months, the GISD Board of Education has been apprised of the shared business services requests from local districts. The board authorized the superintendent to continue to take the necessary actions to address the requests as the relationships are defined. The services being defined are customized based on the request of each local district. Business Services worked with the Thru

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INNERVIEWS

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Law Firm, P.C., to develop a standard contract, including options for defining the specific details of customized services and payments. Superintendent John Schantz, Bentley Community Schools, worked with Business Services to develop a concept for GISD to provide the management of the business office of the Bentley School District for the 2005-06 and 2006-07 school years. A contract was submitted to the Bentley Community Schools, and at the February 3, 2006 meeting, the Bentley Board of Education approved the contract. At its February 14, 2006 meeting, the board approved the contract for GISD to manage the business office of the Bentley Community Schools for the 2005-06 and 2006-07 school years.

Amendment 1 to the 2005-2006 Budgets Approved

The board adopted the budget for the 2005-06 school year in June of 2005. Since the development of the budget begins several months prior to the fiscal year end, several assumptions are made in forecasting. These assumptions include items such as projected increases in salaries based on the staffing levels and contract settlements, increases in the cost of fringe benefits, utility rates and anticipated funding. In addition, grants that have been awarded since the development of the budget are being added through the amendment process. The following updates are included in Amendment 1:

General Fund

Revenue originally projected for the General Fund has been adjusted in Amendment 1 to reflect increased funding and grant carryover adjustments for local, state and federal sources since the adoption of the 2005-06 budget. Expenditures, as originally budgeted for the General Fund, have been revised to reflect the various revenue changes as outlined above. After forecasting fund equities through the 2006-07 fiscal year, with State Sources remaining flat, a decision was made to reduce expenditures funded from unrestricted revenue during the current year. The goal was to maintain the fund equity threshold established by the GISD Board of Education to ensure sufficient cash flow during difficult economic times.

Special Education Fund

Revenue for the Special Education Fund for Amendment 1 increased from Current Property Taxes, Medicaid Fee-For-Service, State Aid, Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 [I.D.E.I.A. (2004)] and Infant and Toddler Early Intervention. Amendment 1 reflects a large decrease in Local Sources under Special Grants. This adjustment results from the restating of GISD specific federal flow through monies for the purpose of financial reporting to the Michigan Department of Education. Expenditures for the basic Special Education Fund budget have been adjusted to refine the original budget assumptions. Expenditures in grants correspond directly to the carryover funding for I.D.E.I.A. (2004) and Infant and Toddler Early Intervention. Outgoing Transfers to Local School Districts will be increased by \$1.5 million. The ISD projected during the 2005-06 fiscal year that fund equity would be utilized to support the Special Education Fund. The Special Education Fund ended 2004-05 with a higher fund balance than anticipated. As a result, a mid-year adjustment during the 2005-06 fiscal year to increase the Act 18 distributions to the locals was recommended. The Act 18 allocation will be amended from \$4,477,443 to \$5,477,443. The increase in local revenue will help constituent districts meet the maintenance of effort requirement necessary to receive federal I.D.E.I.A. (2004) funds.

Career Technical Education Fund

Revenue for the Career Technical Education Fund has been adjusted to reflect increases in Current Property Taxes, Payments in lieu of Taxes and Intermediate State Aid. The state aid line items have been adjusted from the proposed budget figures to the current anticipated amounts. Expenditures for the basic Career Technical Education Fund budget have been adjusted to refine the original budget assumptions. The ISD projected during the 2005-06 fiscal year that fund equity would be utilized to support the Career Technical Education Fund. The Career Technical Education Fund ended 2004-05 with a higher fund balance than antici-

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pated. As a result, a mid-year adjustment during the 2005-06 fiscal year to cover one-half of the operational costs for the GASC Transportation Consortium was recommended. The Career Technical Education Fund has also been adjusted to include \$650,000 for the purchase of buses for the GASC Transportation Consortium. This increased support is being recommended for the benefit of both future and current GASC Consortium members, keeping local district costs down.

Enterprise Fund

The expenditures in the Enterprise Fund have been adjusted to refine the original budget assumptions. The following programs fall under the Enterprise Fund umbrella: Technology and Media Services-GenNET, Other-Technology and Media Services, GenNET Capital Projects, Special Education Transportation, Career Technical Education Transportation and Career Technical Education Capital Projects. The Career Technical Education budget was increased significantly to reflect the addition of seven districts that joined the GASC Transportation Consortium in the 2005-06 fiscal year.

Other Funds

The remaining funds include Capital Projects, Special Education Capital Projects, Career Technical Education Capital Projects, Durant Settlement Fund, Debt Retirement Durant Fund and School Lunch Services Fund. The majority of the revenue generated in each of these funds is a result of transfers from other funds.

Amendment 1 was reviewed with the superintendent subcommittees and endorsed by the superintendents at their monthly association meeting held on February 1, 2006. It is important to remember that the budget process is ongoing, and ISD staff members will continue to monitor and respond accordingly as new information impacting funding becomes available. Amendment 1 to the 2005-06 budgets was reviewed by the Finance Committee. At the February 14, 2006 meeting, the GISD board approved adopting Amendment 1 to the 2005-2006 budget and amending the budget in accordance with the Uniform Budgeting Act.

2006-2007 Budgets Authorized for Presentation

At the February 14, 2006 meeting, the 2006-07 proposed budgets were presented along with the 2005-06 amendment. At that meeting, the board authorized the presentation of the budgets at the annual budget hearing, scheduled for March 16, 2006. Formal adoption of the budgets will occur prior to June 30, 2006.

Bus Purchase for GASC Transportation Consortium Approved

On July 11, 2005, the board approved a one-year lease from Hoekstra Transportation for seven (7), 2005 conventional 77-passenger buses for the 2005-06 school year. The one-year lease was approved with the understanding that GISD would be transporting students from 19 consortium member districts and expanding the transportation program to provide services that had been formerly provided by Flint Community Schools. Services would include transporting students to and from community sites to obtain work experience related to their coursework at the GASC Technology Center. It was determined that for the 2005-06 school year, the seven (7) leased buses from Hoekstra Transportation were adequate to meet the expanded needs of the program. However, these buses do not meet the specifications for the bus fleet and will be returned to Hoekstra Transportation at the end of the school year. As a result, on January 12, 2006, bids for seven (7), 2007 conventional 76- to 78-passenger school buses were opened to replace the seven (7) leased buses.

All bidders met the specifications. Hoekstra Transportation also provided the district with an alternate quote to purchase the 2005 leased buses in the amount of \$51,870 per bus. This was not recommended because these buses do not meet the fleet specifications for the GASC Transportation Consortium. Based on the review of bids and recommendations by the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the board approved the purchase of seven (7) buses from Capital City Bus Sales in the amount of \$62,459 per bus for a total cost of \$437,213.

Act 18 Payments Authorized

Annually, the ISD calculates the Act 18 reimbursement which is paid to local school districts as partial reimbursement for their unreimbursed costs as reported to the Michigan Department of Education. A base payment of \$3.8 million was established in 1996-97 to stabilize fund equity and minimize the potential for bill backs. During the 2000-01 year, it was determined that interest earned could also be redistributed to the local districts and still maintain the agreed upon fund balance, and over the last six years, an additional allocation of \$677,443 has been paid per year. This year's payment reflects the base payment of \$3.8 million and \$677,443 revenue sharing. In addition, a mid-year adjustment in the amount of \$1 million will be distributed. The Special Education Fund ended 2004-05 with a higher fund balance than anticipated. As a result, the ISD is recommending a mid-year adjustment during the 2005-06 fiscal year to increase the Act 18 distributions to the locals. The Act 18 allocation will be amended from \$4,477,443 to \$5,477,443. The 2005-06 adjusted Act 18 calculations and payment schedule were shared with board members. At the February 14, 2006 meeting, the board approved the 2005-06 Act 18 reimbursement as presented.

CTE Awards Program Honors the "Best of the Best"



In celebration of National Career and Technical Education Week, one student from each of Genesee County's 21 public school districts was honored as a Career Technical Education "Best of the Best" Award recipient. The students received their awards at a luncheon ceremony held Wednesday, March 8, 2006, at the Holiday Inn Gateway Centre. The awards program, sponsored by Genesee Intermediate School District's (GISD) Career Technical Education department, highlighted the accomplishments of the "Best of the Best" award recipients.

Each winner was selected for the award by their school district's administrative staff. Some of the selection criteria included: exemplary performance in their chosen career pathway program, leadership

skills, academic achievement, service to schools and the community, and the accomplishment of personal goals. Recipients of the "Best of the Best" award for each school district were:

Atherton - Nicholas Durish, Gr. 12
 Beecher - Whitney Lee Willingham, Gr. 11
 Bendle - John Hoats, Gr. 12
 Bentley - Jacob Mudge, Gr. 12
 Carman-Ainsworth - Brian Warth, Gr.12
 Clio - Kimberly Miller, Gr. 12
 Davison - Carrie Kreucher, Gr. 12
 Fenton - Perry Wyatt III, Gr.12
 Flint - Dorothy Sanders, Gr. 12
 Flushing - Jennah Stevens, Gr. 11
 Genesee - Sarah Cobleigh, Gr. 12
 Goodrich - Nicolas Brooks, Gr. 12
 Grand Blanc - Corey Spickler, Gr. 12
 Kearsley - Kelly Self, Gr. 12
 Lake Fenton - Lillian Tomczak, Gr. 12
 Lakeville - Kyle William Goetz, Gr. 12
 Linden - Melissa Ann Lengyel, Gr. 12
 Montrose - Robert Proffer, Gr. 12
 Mt. Morris - Samantha Altom, Gr. 12
 Swartz Creek - Nicole McLeod, Gr. 12
 Westwood Heights - Jonathan Ortquist, Gr. 11

"We want our community to see the level of skills and academic achievement students gain in career technical programs," said Dr. Thomas Svitkovich, GISD Superintendent. "We are preparing young people to be productive workers, community leaders and to move forward in their career pathways into postsecondary education."

Gary Tower, GISD's Director of Career Technical Education, commented "The 'Best of the Best' awards program is an excellent opportunity for us to raise awareness about the many students who take advantage of programs that help them gain career/job skills, while still in high school."

According to the Association for Career and Technical Education, research shows that many of the country's fastest-growing occupations require the technical skills taught in career technical education programs. Research also shows that among high school graduates, those with a technical education background earn more than those without this advantage. Equally important is that career technical education students are more likely to complete postsecondary education because they are career focused. Congratulations to the 2006 "Best of the Best" recipients!

GFEC Mini-Grants Awarded

The Greater Flint Educational Consortium (GFEC), a K-16 collaborative consisting of GISD, the 21 constituent school districts and four postsecondary educational institutions in Genesee County (Baker College-Flint, Kettering University, Mott Community College, University of Michigan-Flint) plus Powers Catholic High School, recently announced approval of \$3,000 mini-grants each to four area schools. The grants are intended to assist schools that are involved in activities to help students successfully make the transition from high school to college. Two awards were in the area of writing (Lake Fenton High School and Mott Community College) and two were in mathematics (Flint Southwestern Academy and Bendle High School).

Brazil & Beyond Visits MCIC

On Friday, February 24, Rich K. and Brazil & Beyond performed two concerts at the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

The band features musicians from the Detroit area who play Brazilian style music on bass, guitar, cavaquinho, Latin percussion and drums. They demonstrated their Brazilian instruments for students and got everyone out of their seats dancing and clapping along. Featured songs included Brazilian arrangements of two Beatles' songs, "The Girl from Ipanema," and "Tico, Tico." Students and staff had an early Carnivale celebration with this superb musical event. The performance was part of the MCIC Performing Artist Series, organized by music therapist Carolyn Vierkorn.

Donations Accepted

Generous donations to the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; Health, Safety and Nutrition Services; Office of Education and Learning; and the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center were received by the board. The donations were given by staff, family, friends, the Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor, GLC Trophy, Inc. and the Knights of Columbus Council #8245.

THANKS

"I would like to thank all the staff for the cards, prayers and well wishes they have sent regarding the recovery of my daughter, Danielle, from her recent car accident. Danielle is now at the Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital in Grand Rapids and is improving daily. Thanks for all the support!"

- Rochelle Bila, AI Teacher, EKLC -

The following is a word of thanks from the Gwiazdowski family regarding the generous donations from GISD staff to the Edward F. Gwiazdowski Scholarship Fund:

"We recently received word of your generous donations to Ed's Scholarship Fund through the 2005-06 Combined Giving Campaign. Ed always said, 'Education is the door to the future.' Your continued support of this scholarship carries on his legacy and strong belief in our education system, but it also reminds us that you, too, have lost someone you care about. We are deeply appreciative of your continued support and hope to maintain this scholarship for many years to come."

- Maryanne Gwiazdowski and Family -

MBA Achieved

Joe Firmingham, Applications Developer/Analyst in Technology and Media Services, graduated on February 13 with an MBA in Technology from the University of Phoenix. Congratulations, Joe!

Welcome to GISD!

At the February 14, 2006 meeting, the board approved the hiring of Deborah L. Isham as Teacher of Students with Cognitive Impairment, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; and Sara Rainwater as Coordinator, English as a Second Language, Education and Learning. At the February 28, 2006 meeting, the board approved the hiring of Lisa A. Whitson, School Social Worker, Special Education Services.

Leaves of Absence Approved

Leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Susan K. Zajac, Occupational Therapist, Special Education Services; Tasha Vaara-Suydam, Teacher of the Speech and Language Impaired, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; and Joselyn Johnson, Paraprofessional, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center.

Retirement Congratulations!

Resignations for the purpose of retirement were accepted from Laraine J. Schumacher, Teacher of Students with Cognitive Impairment, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; Priscilla J. Smith, School Social Worker, Special Education Services; and Ingrid E. Dulac, Instructional Materials Designer, Technology and Media Services.

11	Michele Pfeiffer	Transportation
12	Kathleen Cole	EKLC
12	Leila Rivard	Mott Middle College
13	Erik Meyer	EKLC
13	David Tennant	EKLC
14	Sharon Gehringer	MCIC
14	Mary Skitz	EKLC
15	Jane Slayton	MCIC
16	Gloria Bourdon	Health
16	Susan Irelan	Transportation
16	Kathryn MacAinsh	MCIC
16	Wendolyn Moore	EKLC/CHOICE
16	Marcia Reska Hadden	MCIC
17	Kathleen Brenner	Davis Ed. Center
17	Misty Mercier	EKLC/CHOICE
17	Patricia Peters	EKLC/CHOICE
17	Regina Wilson	Transportation
20	Margene David	Transportation
20	Merry Fischer	Davis Ed. Center
20	Gail Taft	MCIC
21	Pamela Kitchen	EKLC
21	Margaret Smithwick	EKLC
22	Kacie Fedchenko	Davis Ed. Center
22	Lorrie Pascoe	Transportation
23	Carol Snyder	ECPS
24	Karen Higgins	EKLC
24	Cynthia Hodge	Davis Ed. Center
26	Hellen Patterson	Transportation
26	Michele Shaw	Transportation
27	Michelle Alanis	Davis Ed. Center
27	Kelly Wagner	Mott Middle College
28	Michelle Heider	SESC
28	Deborah Martin	Davis Ed. Center
29	Dotty Freathy	ECPS
29	Lora Gibson	Transportation
29	Julie Howie	Transportation
30	Cynthia McCain	Davis Ed. Center
31	Gwendolyn Ringwelski	EKLC
31	Karen Seeley	Transportation
31	Rose Marie Strauss	Davis Ed. Center



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
6	Denise Lewis	Transportation
6	David Treder	Davis Ed. Center
7	Mary Walworth	Transportation
7	Allan Ziembo	Davis Ed. Center
8	Vicki Feldhahn	MCIC
8	Robin Woods	MCIC
9	Michael Daugherty	MCIC
9	Diane Kirvan	Mott Middle College
9	Carol Kolongowski	MCIC
9	Linda Krupa	EKLC
9	Nancy Schwartz	SESC
10	Denise Williams	MCIC

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April Birthdays

1	Deborah Driskill	Transportation
2	Denise Evert	EKLC/CHOICE
2	Deborah Hooper	SESC
2	Sharlene Howe	EKLC
3	Debbie Monroe	Transportation
4	Donald Kreiner	EKLC/CHOICE
4	April McNally	ECPS
4	Robin Somers	ECPS
5	Bobby Caldwell	Transportation
5	Lisa Hook	Davis Ed. Center
5	Janice Shumaker	EKLC/CHOICE

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.