



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.

Horses Visit MCIC Students

Students at MCIC enjoyed a fourth summer of "The Horse Experience." Over 100 students participated in touching, brushing, feeding or leading the horses. Fifty-one students were able to ride the horses, some riding double for greater assistance. Students chose their activity using Superhawks. Riders communicated the "walk" command to our side walkers by tapping the saddle, giving eye contact, smiling or saying "walk" verbally, or by using a communication device that said "walk" for them. Some students worked on turning and stopping the horse with reins.

A special thank you goes to Jill Richardson who several times brought her wonderful horse, Cody. Cody especially tolerates the students riding double. "Party Ponies" continued to work with MCIC in bringing great horses and ponies to use during the sessions. They even took home Lori Eastwood's horse, Mac, at the end of the two-hour sessions. Additionally, a special thanks goes to paraprofessional substitute Amy Irish, who led horses, cut up carrots, set up our equipment, and helped transfer and side walk with our students. These are labor intensive activities at times, especially in 90-degree temperatures, and Lori states, "We couldn't have done it without her!"



A student at Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center enjoys her horse riding experience.

They were also fortunate to have volunteers Dee Cummings and Lori Eastwood's daughter, Miranda, take great photos to share with staff and send home with students. If you are interested in volunteering next summer or would like to see more pictures, please contact MCIC's physical therapist Lori Eastwood, who is also a certified therapeutic riding instructor, at 591-4237.

Paul Newman Recognized

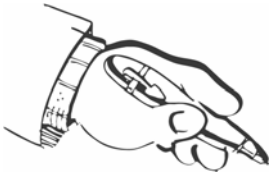
Since July 1, 1999, Mr. Paul Newman has served the Genesee Intermediate School District as president of the board of education. During that time period, the district has changed dramatically. New programs have been introduced and expanded. Examples include services to constituents in the areas of transportation; technology; support for student instruction; special education; career technical education; health, safety and nutrition services; communications and development; staff development and business services. Thanks to the leadership of Mr. Paul Newman as president and of the entire board of education, many new cost efficiencies have also been implemented.

Communication with constituent district boards of education and the Genesee County Association of School Board Members (GCASBM) has increased during Mr. Newman's terms as president. Involvement with the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) and the National School Board Association (NSBA) has also increased. Thanks to Mr. Newman's vision, GISD has been recognized as an outstanding regional educational service agency. Many awards and honors have been bestowed on the board and the district as a tribute to the dedication, leadership and commitment of Paul Newman.

At the August 23 meeting, the board of education made a special presentation to Mr. Newman and recognized him for his leadership and dedication on behalf of Genesee County's school community as President of the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education for the past six years.

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Welcome Back Staff!

This year our traditional opening day workshop keynote address was presented by Joyce Weiss. As our guest speaker, she complimented the GISD staff for its programs, quality work and commitment to excellence. Her message was to the point, and she focused on “the new work realities for our society.” She said we must commit fully to our jobs, accept ambiguity and uncertainty, behave like each of us is in business for ourselves, constantly learn, hold ourselves accountable for outcomes, add value, manage our own morale and always remember that it is tough to stay positive during constant chaos. She talked about change and emphasized that in order to be successful, we must accept ongoing transitions. As Ms. Weiss discussed change, she sent a strong message that if an organization is to grow and thrive, it must accept change as a constant. Members of the organization must commit to their jobs, must accept an ongoing process of unlearning old habits, learning new techniques and to accept lifelong learning as a reality. Everyone in the organization must broaden skills sets, use new technologies and add value to a product or service and, most importantly, develop methods to manage our own morale. She also said that we cannot accept someone else’s bad attitude, because it drains our creative energy.

Ms. Weiss made many references to our work at GISD. She complimented GISD staff members for their positive attitude and commitment to providing quality programs for our students and constituents. She asked us many questions regarding our work and our continuous process of improvement. Ms. Weiss did her homework. She visited our website and learned about our school district. Ms. Weiss’ remarks were very consistent with the continuing development of GISD’s programs and services, guided by our *Teaching, Learning and Service Plan* and validated by independent sources of information such as the most recent accountability study and our customer satisfaction study of a few years ago.

We are growing and changing in a dramatic fashion to meet the needs of our constituents. This year, we will exceed 1,000 staff members that support Genesee County students and provide service to our constituents. As of the date of our Opening Day Workshop, exactly 986 staff members are employed by GISD. Specifically, 485 (49%) are special education teachers and paraprofessionals; 203 (21%) are transportation staff; 159 (16%) are Health, Safety and Nutrition Services staff, and 139 (14%) are teachers, teacher consultants, Mott Middle

College staff, technology staff, administrative staff, Human Resources and Operations staff, Business Services staff, and custodial and support staff.

This is an exciting time for us. While other service agencies have reduced employees or spun off key services, we have proceeded in a different direction. In this next year ahead, we will be providing more services to districts, and we will continue to explore additional ways of providing efficient and cost-effective assistance to our constituents. For example, our Business Services operation will be providing services to several districts. Our Special Education Services department is continuing to provide additional services to our districts in response to their requests for expanded programming. Technology and Media Services will be providing support all the way to the desktop for our constituent students and staff. And Education and Learning will increase its support for instruction and staff development. Utilizing our *Teaching, Learning and Service Plan* as a guide, I am certain that many other growth programs will be introduced for GISD, providing cost savings to local districts through economies of scale, as well as GISD experience and efficiency.

All in all, I believe we had an outstanding opening of school program. I want to extend my sincerest thanks to our Opening Day Workshop Committee for their time and energy in arranging the details. We extend our appreciation for their efforts to put this year’s program together.

On behalf of the board of education, we want to wish all of you great success during this upcoming school year. We hope that you have wonderful experiences. Our expectation is that 2005-06 will be filled with many changes and challenges; however, the year ahead will be one of our best.

Sincerely,

INNERVIEWS

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GISD’s Communications
& Development Department

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GISD Board Committee Assignments for 2005-06

Based on recommendations by Peggy Tortorice, President, the following board committee assignments were approved for the 2005-06 school year:

Personnel/Salary/Labor Relations:

Lawrence Ford, Chairperson
Paul Newman
Robert Mark (alternate)

Building & Grounds:

Paul Newman, Chairperson
Jerry Ragsdale
Robert Mark (alternate)

Policy:

Robert Mark, Chairperson
Paul Newman
Peggy Tortorice (alternate)

Finance:

Jerry Ragsdale, Chairperson
Lawrence Ford
Paul Newman (alternate)

MASB Liaison/LRN Member:

Peggy Tortorice
Paul Newman (alternate)

Liaison to Local Boards:

Lawrence Ford
Robert Mark (alternate)

GASC Technology Center Administrative Council:

Paul Newman
Peggy Tortorice (alternate)

Education Advisory Group (EAG):

Lawrence Ford
Paul Newman (alternate)

Genesee County Educational Foundation:

Peggy Tortorice
Jerry Ragsdale (alternate)

Mott Middle College Advisory Committee:

Jerry Ragsdale
Peggy Tortorice (alternate)

Genesee/Shiawassee Workforce Development Board:

Lawrence Ford
Paul Newman (alternate)

Genesee County Association of School Board Members Executive Committee:

Paul Newman
Jerry Ragsdale (alternate)



New GASC Transportation Consortium Members

During the 2003-04 school year, the Genesee County Superintendents Association developed several cost-containment committees to explore cost saving ideas and programs. One of the committees was charged with analyzing transportation to and from the GASC Technology Center. It was determined that if all of the 21 school districts worked together to form a consortium, the districts could save over \$450,000 annually in transportation costs.

Last year, the boards of education of Beecher, Bendle, Clio, Davison, Flushing, Genesee, Goodrich, Grand Blanc, Kearsley, Montrose, Mt. Morris and Westwood Heights passed resolutions to have GISD serve as the fiscal agent and to operate the consortium. The GASC Transportation Consortium is similar to the Specialized Transportation Consortium, yet it operates under a separate agreement along with a separate operating structure and funding. The 12 participating districts realized collective savings of over \$200,000 in 2004-05.

On June 28, 2005, the board approved the membership of Flint Community Schools to the consortium. Since that time, the boards of education of Atherton, Bentley, Carman-Ainsworth, Fenton, Lake Fenton and Linden approved resolutions to join the consortium, also.

At the August 9 meeting, the board approved Atherton, Bentley, Carman-Ainsworth, Fenton, Lake Fenton and Linden as new members of the GASC Transportation Consortium in accordance with the consortium agreement and authorized the superintendent to sign the agreements.

GCASBM Officers Ballot Cast

The district received a communication from the Genesee County Association of School Board Members concerning the election of association officers and a ballot for the 2005-06 school year. At the August 9 meeting, the GISD board cast its official ballot for John Schafsnitz, vice president; Loretta Bendall, secretary; and Brian Simons, treasurer.

PAC Members Appointed

Benny Wrose, representing Beecher Community Schools, and Deborah Nelson, representing Clio Area Schools, were both reappointed by the board to serve on the GISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee.

MASB Ballot Cast for Lillian Mason

The board cast its ballot for the election of one Region 5 Director on the MASB Board of Directors. This year, the Genesee Intermediate School District board unanimously cast a ballot for Lillian Mason, Grand Blanc Community Schools, for MASB Region 5 director.

New EDP Software Approved



GISD's Career Technical Education staff has worked to finalize details of a new

contract for Educational Development Plan (EDP) software. Third Coast Software Development, Inc., the district's current vendor for EDP software, and Career Cruising formed a partnership to provide enhanced software with new career exploration and EDP features. Career Cruising will provide this improved software for the current annual licensing fee of \$20,000. The contract was reviewed by legal counsel, and all suggested changes were made. The software received outstanding reviews from the Superintendents Career Technical Education Committee, principals and counselors. At the August 9, 2005 meeting, the GISD board voted to approve the contract for EDP software.

New MASB Delegate

This year the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) will hold its fall conference at the Lansing Center in Lansing on October 27-30, 2005. As a part of the conference, the MASB Delegate Assembly will meet and decide MASB's positions on a wide variety of issues affecting education. Michigan intermediate school districts are entitled to one voting delegate and one alternate. The board unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Jerry Ragsdale as the voting delegate and Mr. Robert Mark as the alternate to the Delegate Assembly.

Shared Business Services Expanded

In 2003, the Business Services Department began a pilot program with Flushing Community Schools to provide payroll services. This concept of providing shared services was presented to the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education at its September 23, 2003 meeting. The 2005-06 year will be the third year of the continued partnership between both districts.

In June, Superintendent John Angle, Bendle Public Schools, requested technical assistance from the Business Services Department. Business Services staff members, along with Technology and Media Services staff members, have been working collaboratively to provide both business office support and technology support.

In July 2005, Superintendent Jerri Lynn Williams, Westwood Heights Schools, requested a review and analysis of the current utilization of the SchoolsOPEN software and the business office functions. Pending review and approval of shared business service recommendations by the Westwood Heights board, GISD will move forward to develop a formal relationship.

On May 6, 2005, the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education authorized the superintendent to enter into a partnership arrangement with Beecher Community School District resulting in the operation of the Beecher Business Services Office. Several other districts have indicated an interest in partnering with Genesee Intermediate School District Business Services in providing a variety of customized services depending on the current status of the individual district's business operation. At the August 23 meeting, the GISD Board of Education authorized the superintendent to continue to develop and implement the plans, hire necessary staff and execute appropriate documents that define each individual district's shared business office relationship.

Annual Donations Report

During the 2004-05 school year, the board accepted 131 donations with a total value of \$50,484. Donations ranged from cash, furniture and wheelchairs to diapers and bowling trophies, and were received from parents, staff members, organizations, businesses and community members. All GISD special education center programs, as well as Health, Safety and Nutrition Services; Education and Learning; Mott Middle College and the Ligon Outdoor Center received donations during the 2004-05 school year.

THANKS

Judy Purdy Recognized

At the August 9, 2005 meeting, Board President Peggy Tortorice presented Judy Purdy with an engraved clock for her 32 years of service to the Genesee Intermediate School District. Judy has earned the appreciation of her staff and school community for her leadership and service to the students of MCIC. Members of the board of education and administrative staff expressed deep gratitude for Judy's great service as an administrator and member of the Genesee Intermediate School District staff.



Board President Peggy Tortorice (left) and Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich congratulate Judy Purdy on her retirement and thank her for 32 years of service to GISD.

Administrative Contracts Approved

At the August 9 meeting, the GISD board approved administrative contracts for: Susan M. O'Brien, Principal, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; and Terese K. Knag, Shared-Time Director of Business Management Services, Business Services.

GISD Welcomes New Employees

At the August 9 and August 23 meetings, the board approved the employment of: Sherry E. Dykes, Teacher, Early Childhood Programs and Services; Pamela A. Marsack, Teacher of Students with Cognitive Impairment, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; Andrea M. Camero, Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; and Jennifer M. Malzahn, Teacher of Students with Cognitive Impairment, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center.

Employees Terminated

Employment rights were terminated for: Brenda J. Paulson, Bus Driver, Transportation Services and Pamela A. Wagner, Bus Driver, Transportation Services.

Resignations Accepted

Resignations were accepted from Sara N. Sikes, Teacher of Students with Cognitive Impairment, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; Judith R. Frantz, Paraprofessional, Early Childhood Programs and Services, Project CHOICE Classroom at Mary Crapo, Swartz Creek; Betty T. Nelson, Teacher of Students with Cognitive Impairment, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; and Patricia D. Gora, Teacher of Students with Cognitive Impairment, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center.

Leaves of Absence Approved

Leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Jeffrey S. Reno, Paraprofessional, Special Education Services Center; Mary E. Rickard, Teacher Consultant, Early On Services, Early Childhood Programs and Services; Claudia J. Mercier, Bus Driver, Transportation Services; Ronald Ledford, Custodian, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; and Audrey Fickle, Teacher of the Speech and Language Impaired, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center.

Leave of Absence Rescinded

The board approved the request to rescind the personal leave of absence for Kathleen S. Brenner effective August 15, 2005.

ECPS's First Summer Program a Success!

The Summer Enrichment Program at ECPS was a great time for students and staff. Ninety-three students were enrolled for the five-week program. Weekly themes included community workers, farm animals, zoo animals, tropical rain forest and beach week. Guests who were invited from the community to reinforce these themes included a police officer, firefighters, ambulance attendants, a clown/juggler and Carol Weaver from Party Animals Petting zoo. Learning through music, movement, play, art and literature were emphasized. The summer program ended with a family potluck picnic. It was a great experience for students and staff alike!

GISD Transportation Director Earns Certification



Gary West, Director of GISD's Transportation Services, was recently awarded the Certified Director of Transportation distinction from the Michigan School Business Officials' (MSBO) voluntary certification program. The award

reflects a high degree of academic and professional preparation established by the MSBO Board of Directors through its professional development committee.

Gary joined GISD in October of 2001. Prior to that, he served in the Transportation Department of Davison Community Schools and was the supervisor in Howell Public Schools. He also has experience in the private sector, having worked for a contract company servicing schools in northern Michigan as a charter bus driver and as a commercial carrier.

Dr. Svitkovich stated, "Gary has always exhibited a sincere commitment to the highest level of personalized transportation service to our students and families. We are very proud of his accomplishment and this certification."

First Grandchild for Retiree Marlene Bradley

Career Technical Education Program Secretary Marlene Bradley (retired) and her husband, Paul, are proud to announce the arrival of their first grandchild, Andrew Nicholas Bradley. Andrew (Drew) was born on Wednesday, July 13, 2005, at 1:15 p.m. He weighed in at 8 lbs. 13 oz. and was 20" long. Congratulations and best wishes to Grandma and Grandpa Bradley from all of your friends here at Genesee ISD!

Jeanne Quinlan's Daughter Married

Jeanne Quinlan, EKLC's assistant principal, is proud to announce that her daughter, Gabrielle, was married on August 6 at the Fenton Gazebo. The lucky guy is Chad Brizendine. The happy couple honeymooned in the Bahamas. Mother, Jeanne, is excited to have a son-in-law!

Find Out What's UP Downtown!

There are many exciting things happening in the City of Flint. If you would like to learn more about them, take advantage of upcoming bus tour opportunities. The "What's UP Downtown" Community Tours will feature the following highlights: learn what "University Boulevard" means to our college community; step inside a loft-style apartment and discover what loft living is all about; find out first-hand the details of the exciting developments with the 500 Block Entertainment Complex; and discover the historical significance of some of downtown Flint buildings and properties! The two-hour tours are scheduled for:

Tuesday, September 13 and 20—8:30 and 11:30 a.m.
Thursday, September 15 and 22—8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

The tour bus will depart from the Flint Farmers' Market. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to tour departure time.

Comfortable/seasonal clothing and walking shoes are suggested, as the tour includes multi-level buildings, most of which are not air-conditioned. Tours are free. Space is limited, so please RSVP in advance by calling 423-2321 or by e-mail to lsmith.themarketinglink@comcast.net.

The "What's UP Downtown Community Engagement Project" is funded by the Ruth Mott Foundation and managed by Uptown Reinvestment Corporation.

Flu Shots for GISD Staff

GISD will again provide flu shot vaccines at no cost to its employees. Staff may attend on any date and at any site that fits into their schedule. Please make arrangements with your immediate supervisor to ensure that your work area is covered prior to participating on district time.

Flu Shot Schedule:

- **Tuesday, October 25, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m., at Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center.**
- **Wednesday, October 26, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m., at Erwin L. Davis Education Center, Room 101.**
- **Friday, October 28, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m., at Erwin L. Davis Education Center, Room 102B.**
- **Friday, October 28, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., at Special Education Services - South.**
- **Tuesday, November 1, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., at Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center.**

A Matter of Degree

A television presentation
Saturday, September 24, 2005
7:30 p.m. on abc12 (WJRT-TV)

(Date/time subject to change. Please check local listings and visit www.connectwithkids.com/wjrt for future televised specials.)

A Matter of Degree explores the various reasons millions of kids skip class or drop out of school – feeling alienated, bullied or excluded, pressure to support their families financially or emotionally. How do you help convince students, *and their parents*, that staying in school is the foundation to a healthy and successful future? You'll hear from families facing this issue: *Connect with Kids* programs feature real kids, true stories, experts and educators ... a way to help parents and kids start a conversation about the tough topics kids face every day.



Connect with Kids

A Matter of Degree is part of the Emmy® award-winning **Connect with Kids** series, and is offered through a community-based partnership sponsored in our area by our local schools, the Law Offices of Lee Steinberg, P.C., abc12 and *Connect with Kids*/CWK Network.

For more information, visit the website:
www.connectwithkids.com.



September Birthdays

1	Barbara Abdella	EKLC/CHOICE
4	Sheila Cummings	ECPS
4	Robert Stacey	EKLC
5	Evelyn Tereau	EKLC/CHOICE
5	Wanda Timmons	Transportation
7	Donald Dunlop	MCIC
7	Ida Green	MCIC
7	Barbara Williams	Health
8	Van Bueche	Transportation
8	Janice Callison	Davis Ed. Center
8	Larry Casler	Davis Ed. Center
9	Christine Ballinger	MCIC
9	Glenda Letavis	Davis Ed. Center
9	Linda McKeown	ECPS
9	Michelle Motyl	EKLC/CHOICE
10	Audrey Fickle	EKLC

11	David Burt	Davis Ed. Center
11	Carolyn Clark	MCIC
12	Dana Applebee	SESC
12	Amy Cox	Mott Middle College
12	Linda Justice	ECPS
12	Cynthia Miller	ECPS
12	Bradley Rife	Transportation
13	Mary Bright	MCIC
13	Dawn Satchell	MCIC
13	Sharon Titus	Transportation
13	Deanna Yurk	Transportation
14	Al Craven	Health
14	Tammy Krul	MCIC
14	Thomas Svitkovich	Davis Ed. Center
14	Kristie Wilson	Transportation
15	Evelyn Andrews	EKLC
16	Nick Carson	Transportation
16	Andy Feldhus	Davis Ed. Center
16	Vicki Fletcher	Transportation
17	Dianne Fillwock	Transportation
18	Cheryl Thomas	Davis Ed. Center
19	Nannette Simpson	Transportation
21	Karen Merrill	Davis Ed. Center
22	Laura Elder	ECPS
22	Stacy Gillman	ECPS
22	Debra Gonzalez	EKLC
22	Brenda Maynard	EKLC
22	Mary Rickard	ECPS
22	John Shepard	SESC
22	Peggy Walt	EKLC
22	Sara Willingham	EKLC
23	Pancy Dippold	Transportation
23	Dianne Dunchock	MCIC
23	Jeri Jackson	Transportation
24	Carla Diehl	Transportation
25	Bonnie Lee	Transportation
26	Cathy Bueche	Transportation
27	Karri Trezona	EKLC
28	Patricia Gora	MCIC
28	Jan Russell	SESC
28	Kathryn Sergeant	Davis Ed. Center
29	Rhonda Mattiuzzo	ECPS
30	Pauline Coleman	ECPS
30	Alan Houtaling	EKLC

October Birthdays

1	Phyllis Clark	EKLC/CHOICE
1	Vicki Waltrip	SESC
3	Diana Drake	EKLC
4	Patricia Sanford	EKLC
5	Lisa Hocutt	EKLC/CHOICE
5	Sharon Welch	Transportation
5	Gary West	Transportation

GISD Jobs

GISD's Human Resources and Operations department is accepting applications for the following positions:

Substitute Bus Driver
Substitute Transportation Aide
Teacher of Students with Cognitive Impairment
Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders
Teacher, Early Childhood Special Education
Teacher Consultant for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders
Teacher of Students with Emotional Impairment - Day Treatment
Systems Specialist
PC Applications Assistant
Director, Compliance & Special Services Admin.
Interactive Media Operations Engineer
Information & Application Systems Administrator

Instructional Media & Technology Administrator
Health Care Liaison
Reading Recovery Teacher Leader Internship Program
Coordinator - English as a Second Language
Youth Development Coordinator
Child Associate
Parent Educator
Before & After School Facilitator
Tutor, Bridges Plus
School and Community Liaison
Secretary, Human Resources & Operations

Online applications are available at GISD's website: 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.

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