



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 Receives American Cancer Society Five-Star Investor Award

The Genesee Intermediate School District received a Five-Star Investor award from the Great Lakes Division of the American Cancer Society. This award was made in recognition of GISD's efforts dedicated to fighting cancer on multiple fronts through the American Cancer Society's "Workplace Solutions" program. Elements of the program include involvement in the American Cancer Society Health and Wellness Communication program, qualifying for the American Cancer Society Prevention and Early Detection/Patient Navigation initiative, and participating in Active For Life activities. GISD also qualified by sponsoring employee wellness activities, including cancer related screenings and tobacco cessation programs. Most importantly, all of GISD's working environments are smoke free.

At the January 9, 2007 meeting, Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich thanked the board for its support of the staff and community activities and

in making GISD's environment 100% smoke free, and he also noted that the American Cancer Society receives support from Genesee Intermediate School District through the Employee Combined Campaign. The board accepted the American Cancer Society Five-Star Investor Award.

GISD Board Members Recognized



Each January, School Board Recognition Month is celebrated as a great opportunity to thank the men and women who make the commitment to share their vision about the future of Michigan's children. This year's theme was School Boards Make a World of Difference.

In honor of School Board Recognition Month, the board members of the Genesee Intermediate School District were recognized at the January 23, 2007 meeting for their vision and dedication to the district and its students.

School Closure Information

Given the daily weather changes and uncertainty in what will be next, please remember that GISD closing information is available on radio station WCRZ (107.9 FM), on television at WJRT (abc12), or on the web at www.geneseeisd.org.

Closing information is located directly beneath the "In The Spotlight" information box on GISD's website.

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Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich and GISD Board of Education members pose with the American Cancer Society Five-Star Investor Award that GISD recently received for participation in numerous health and wellness activities.



Update: Reaching Goals and Funding Status

Dear Staff,

Over the last month, members of Advisory Council and I have had an opportunity to meet with nearly 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 initiate our efforts to achieve the goals defined in the new 2006-2011 Teaching, Learning & Service Plan, 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 superior service to our constituents. Thank you for your commitment to quality education here in Genesee County.

As you recall, I've written about our budget challenges on many occasions. GISD's budget and corresponding services are structured in a direct relationship to our Teaching, Learning and Service Plan. Overall, our budgets in Special Education and Career Technical Education are stable. However, we are facing some difficulty in maintaining the stability of our General Education Fund. Specifically, we are bracing for prorations and cuts from the state. GISD's General Education Fund

supports many of our programs such as: technology; instruction; health, safety and nutrition; communications and development; as well as business services and human resources and operations. The major difficulty is that our General Education Fund from the state has been decreased in previous years. Earlier this year, we were promised, and received, an increase. However, we expect that this minimal increase will be reduced to the point that it actually results in a cut! Therefore, given rising costs in health insurance, energy costs, employee compensation and other program line items, we are experiencing serious problems in our General Education Fund. I had expected and planned for a three to four-year downturn in financial support from the state. However, the current forecast is very negative, and we must take drastic measures to balance our budget. Currently, we are addressing these challenges through our budgeting process for the 2007-2008 school year. This process also will include adjustments in the 2006-2007 budget.

At this point, our Superintendents Association committees are reviewing our 2007-08 budget proposals. These committees will hopefully recommend that the Superintendents Association approve our preliminary budget at its meeting in February. The next step is to prepare for our budget hearing, which is scheduled for March 15. We will also present an amendment for the 2006-2007 budget 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 the final documents for review and approval by each of the 21 boards of education. As you recall, in past years we consistently received unanimous approval from local boards of education. Finally, after local board

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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 Education 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,

2006-2007 Employee Combined Campaign Report



Diane Burt, accountant, Business Services, and Stephanie Resky, teacher consultant for students with disabilities, Marion D. Crouse Instructional

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

At the January 9, 2007 meeting, it was reported that last year, Genesee Intermediate School District collected \$44,032.65. This year's goal was to collect \$46,500. A total of \$49,113.48 was pledged making this year's pledge total the most generous amount ever given by Genesee Intermediate School District employees. Special thanks were given to the co-chairs and building representatives Diane Burt and Barb Eliason, Erwin L. Davis Education Center; Denice Westervelt, Health, Safety and Nutrition Services; Andrea Peters, Special Education 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 and Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; Barb Diegel, Transportation; and Diane Kirvan, Mott Middle College.

This year, monies were donated to 24 organizations participating in the campaign:

United Way of Genesee County	\$18,145.08
United Way of Lapeer County	\$102.00
United Negro College Fund	\$477.00
Community Health Charities	\$1,835.70
Genesee County 4-H Horsepower	\$166.00
Edward F. Gwiazdowski Scholarship	\$1,886.66
Genesee County Educational Foundation—Project SKIP	\$1,947.91
Genesee County Educational Foundation—Mott Middle College	\$2,091.40
Very Special Arts of Genesee County	\$4,135.74
Special Olympics	\$3,474.71
Hurley Foundation	\$1,058.00
Genesee County Educational Foundation—Ligon	\$2,630.58
Consortium on Child Abuse	\$1,689.26
Genesee County Free Medical Clinic	\$1,374.25
American Cancer Society	\$2,114.30
Black United Fund	\$279.00
EarthShare of Michigan	\$723.50
Catholic Charities	\$0.00
Crim Fitness	\$130.00
Easter Seals	\$1,392.27
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,773.12
Michigan Association for United Way	\$981.00
Special Needs Vision Clinic	\$556.00
Salem Housing	\$150.00
TOTAL	\$49,113.48

I would like to thank each and every person who donated to the Employee Combined Campaign this year. Because of your generosity, untold numbers of Genesee County residents will receive a helping hand. You went above and beyond what was asked of you, and I want you to know that it is greatly appreciated by me and Stephanie Resky, but more importantly by our community. You continue to make GISD a leader in giving, and I thank you for that. Have a great year, and thank you for being a GISD "coffee bean" and changing the world around you.

- Diane Burt

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

The Genesee County Superintendents Association continues to endorse the “Ready, Set, Grow!” Passport initiative program that identifies children as they are born in our local hospitals. This concept helps educators develop a closer relationship with the county’s 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/student for operation costs in partnership with the health and business communities. GISD Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich currently serves on the Passport Board of Directors, providing leadership and coordination for “Ready, Set, Grow!” Passport activities. At the January 23, 2007 meeting, the board of education approved financial support of \$3,000 to the “Ready, Set, Grow!” Passport initiative. This amount is in addition to the in-kind support the district is currently giving to the program.



Bid Approved for Phase I of MCIC Construction and Renovation

On May 25, 2004, the board adopted the Capital Improvement Long-Range Plan. The complete renovation of the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center was scheduled for 2006 as part of the plan. On September 12, 2006, the board approved the design and cost estimates for the actual project beginning with Phase I, construction of a 9,860 square-foot addition housing five classrooms, a changing room, music room, and boys and girls restroom facilities. Phase II involves renovation of the existing 49,552 square-foot structure to be completed in increments over two and one-half years.

Wolgast Corporation, GISD’s construction manager, solicited 2,698 contractors to participate in the bid process. Requests for Bids were posted in the newspaper and on the state website.

On January 3, 2007, the pre-bid meeting was held at MCIC and attracted over 50 interested contractors. On January 16, 2007, bids from 110 separate contractors were opened and read.

Wolgast Corporation recommended, and GISD administration concurred, that the bids for GISD Phase I MCIC construction be awarded to the low bidders in each of 13 categories of construction, for a total cost of \$1,559,710. Of the construction work to take place, 77% of the work is being completed by union companies, and nine of the thirteen companies are located within Genesee County.

At the January 23, 2007 meeting, the GISD board approved the bid recommendation, and the project is scheduled to begin on February 12, 2007.

GISD Transition Center Update

On December 12, 2006, the Building and Grounds Committee received an update on the design and projected costs for the GISD Transition Center renovation project. After a great deal of input from staff, the final design has an additional 1,144 square feet of program space as compared to the September proposal.

At the January 9, 2007 meeting, Deputy Superintendent Michael Moorman presented updated information and led a discussion regarding the proposed renovations to the site. The increase in square footage being renovated includes additional space in the serving kitchen that will provide the opportunity for training more students at one time, larger staff work areas that lend themselves to multiple shifts should they be needed, increased size of group training rooms, increased size of restrooms and a general reorganization of the space that will result in a better flow of traffic and instruction. Renovations in regard to transportation will decrease the distance from the bus to the door, allow more spacing for buses and provide safer bus turnarounds. The building will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and follow-up work will occur to ensure that the site has adequate drinking fountains.

The updated total cost for the site is \$3,698,546. This new total represents an estimated savings of \$914,454 when compared to the cost of new construction. Mr. Moorman also provided the board with the following updated schedule: pre-bid meeting at the GISD Transition Center on February 15, 2007; bids opened at Davis Education Center on March 1, 2007; and award bids at GISD board meeting on March 13, 2007. The board accepted the Transition Center update.

Blood Drive a Huge Success!

On January 18, 2007, GISD's Wellness Committee held a blood drive with a goal to collect 40 pints of blood. The Wellness Committee is thrilled to report that the goal of 40 pints was exceeded! The committee members send their thanks to all donors, those who helped to recruit donors, and a special thanks to Linda Jaworski for organizing the blood drive on behalf of the committee. Great job everyone!

Balanced Leadership Report Accepted

GISD has been working with local districts to encourage principals, central office administrators and superintendents to become involved in the balanced leadership program supported by the research of the Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning (McRel) organization. At the Association for Educational Service Agencies (AESA) CEO conference, Superintendent Thomas Svtkovich learned about balanced leadership from one of the primary researchers, Dr. Timothy Waters. Dr. Waters gave special permission to use parts of his presentation to encourage principals, central office administrators and superintendents to change their leadership styles and focus on elements which are directly related to student achievement. It is important that boards of education also understand and support efforts for balanced leadership and, as a result, change student achievement in all Genesee County schools. At the January 23, 2007 meeting, Superintendent Thomas Svtkovich shared information

on balanced leadership that was previously presented to GISD and local district administrators. Additionally, Assistant Superintendent Mary Lavengood, who is also engaged in working to change leadership behaviors and improve student achievement, was available to answer questions. The board accepted the presentation on balanced leadership.

Donations Accepted



Generous donations for use at Early Childhood Programs and Services; Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; and Health, Safety and Nutrition Services were received by the board at the January 23, 2007 meeting. The donations included cash, computer equipment, as well as books from Macy's Department Stores for the Project SKIP program. Additionally, Target Community Relations donated seasonal decorations and support for the Project SKIP Music Experience partnership.

ECPS Holiday Family Festival

Early Childhood Programs and Services hosted its annual Holiday Family Festival which involved holiday themed activities for the children. On December 15, 2006, 95 children and their families attended the festival bringing the total to over 175 people. Each child created a marshmallow snowman, a paper plate wreath, gingerbread men, a Santa and also decorated a bell. Santa was in attendance, and pictures were taken which were then sent home in frames the children decorated. The party was a huge success, and every-

one looks forward to including new activities in family gatherings to come!



A child shows off the marshmallow snowman he made at the ECPS Holiday Family Festival.

Upcoming MCIC Multicultural Festivities

February 6 and February 8

Jill Richardson's classroom will experience a joint school interaction with Davison Middle School. This experience during Black History Month will take place in the MCIC GenNET room.

February 9

The Annual Multicultural Luncheon will take place at noon in the MCIC multipurpose room. The guest speaker will be Representative Brenda Clack.

February 13

Davison Middle School students will work with Jill Richardson's class to conclude their history lesson by sharing ethnic treats and exchanging art experiences.

Operation Military Kids Michigan

The Michigan Department of Education is supporting Operation Military Kids Michigan. This is a collaborative effort among Michigan State University's Extension 4-H Program, the Michigan National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA and the American Legion to help educators recognize and deal with issues and problems facing children of deployed servicemen and women. The Military Child Education Coalition will conduct a two-day session, "Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Institute," at the Holiday Inn Livonia West, 17123 N. Laurel Park Dr., Livonia, on March 8-9.

Mike Flanagan, Michigan's Superintendent of Public Instruction, encourages school districts to send their school social worker or a representative from the guidance or counseling staff, as well as a school nurse to this unique training opportunity. This professional development program for educators and professionals is funded by The Department of the Army Community and Family Service Center. It is designed to reach out in a

support network to the children and families of the National Guard and Reserve.

The conference includes two continental breakfasts, two lunches, two break refreshments and conference materials (no registration, meal or resource material cost to participants).

The curriculum, content, process and delivery are correlated with the National Staff Development Council's Standards and the National Standards for School Counseling Programs. Registration information can be found online www.militarychild.org/GuardForm.asp. For more information, contact Linda Neault at (254) 953-1923 or Linda.Neault@MilitaryChild.org.

National Radon Action Month

Governor Jennifer Granholm proclaimed January 2007 as Radon Action Month, and the Genesee County Health Department is encouraging area residents to check the radon gas levels in their homes. The U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Richard Carmona has issued a national health advisory on the risks of breathing radon gas in homes. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S., causing approximately 21,000 deaths each year.

Radon is an invisible, odorless and tasteless gas that seeps into homes from surrounding soil. It has no immediate health symptoms. When radon gas becomes trapped in homes, it can be harmful at elevated levels. During cold weather when people spend more time indoors with windows and doors closed, potentially breathing unhealthy levels of radon is greater.

The only way to know if a home has radon gas is to test for it. Easy-to-use test kits are available year-round from the Health Department for \$6.00 each. County residents are urged to pick up a test kit from the Genesee County Health Department located at 630 S. Saginaw Street in Flint.

To find out more about radon, contact the Genesee County Health Department at (810) 257-3603, or log onto www.michigan.gov/deq/radon or www.gchd.us.

Baby News

Annette McDaniel-Fox, Paraprofessional at Gates Elementary Project Choice gave birth to a baby girl, Riley Christine, on October 7, 2006. Riley arrived two months early and weighed 2 lbs. 15 ounces. However, both mom and baby are doing great. Congratulations, Annette!



February Birthdays

- 1 Kathy St. James Transportation
- 2 Diane Burt Administration
- 2 Patti Garvin Transportation
- 2 Deborah Lannom MCIC
- 2 Laura Rainey MMC
- 3 Linda Jaworski SESC
- 3 Windel Robinson Transportation
- 4 Eileen Jackson Davis Ed. Center
- 4 Robert Snyder 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
- 9 Jennifer Smith Transportation
- 10 Pamela Koehler Transportation
- 11 Bernestine Holmes MCIC
- 12 Roberta Richards ECPS
- 13 Duane Diehl Transportation
- 15 Linda Barber MCIC
- 15 Ronald Bergstrom Transportation
- 15 Robert Phelps Transportation
- 16 Dawn Carlson Transportation
- 16 Lynn Momany 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 Bonnie O'Neal Transportation
- 19 Deborah Ray EKLC
- 20 Deborah Holtslander SESC
- 21 Susan Cyrul EKLC/CHOICE
- 21 James Donovan MMC
- 21 Pearlana James Transportation
- 21 Theresa West Transportation
- 23 Wendy Jones SESC
- 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 Ramanda Moody Transportation
- 2 Hayley Moore Transportation
- 3 Jamie Lamke EKLC
- 3 Gary Tower Davis Ed. Center
- 4 Rebecca Klobucar Health
- 4 Judy Linderman Transportation
- 5 Sheila Maclin Transportation

GISD Jobs

The Human Resources and Operations department at GISD is accepting applications for numerous positions. To view current openings and complete an online application, visit the "employment" link at www.geneseeisd.org. If you need additional information, call Cindy Workman at (810) 591-4404.

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