



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 Staff Participate in School Bus Road-e-o

On May 20, Genesee Intermediate School District sent five bus drivers to participate in the Region 10 School Bus Driving Championship, referred to as the Bus Road-e-o. Also participating as event judges were three drivers and four transportation aides.

During the competition, drivers competed in various events designed to help them perfect their driving skills. Some of the categories included: student pick-up, railroad crossing, backing, offset alley, serpentine (forward and backward), driving a straight line, mirror test and stop line to see how close they stop without crossing a line. Drivers also had to take a written test and bus inspection test where the buses have safety defects that they must identify.

Participating GISD drivers were; Walt Davis, Mike McWherter, Michele Shaw, Brian Watson and Dawn Wineman. GISD drivers did very well in this year's overall competition. Dawn Wineman qualified for the State competition that took place on June 21.



Pictured are GISD Transportation Services staff that competed or participated as judges during the annual School Bus Road-e-o on May 20, 2006.

The GISD employees who participated as judges were Elaine Andres, aide; Gloria Davis, driver; Angela Gittings, aide; Jeri Jackson, driver; Kelli McDowell, aide; Linda Roberts, driver; and Tracee Shaw, aide. Barb Diegel, Transportation Services Coordinator; Di- anne Fillwock and Regina Taylor, Dispatcher/Routers; and Carol Juretich, Transportation Training Specialist, assisted with the registration and coordination of the event. Without the assistance of all these individuals, this event would not have been possible.

Amendment #2 to the 2005-06 Budget Approved

At the June 13 board meeting, GISD's Business Office presented a final budget amendment to the board of education in accordance with the State of Michigan Budget Act. Amendment #2 represents the anticipated revenue and expenditures for the 2005-06 school year for the delivery of the *GISD Teaching, Learning and Service Plan*, as adopted by the board of education.

Adjustments were made within the funds to account for items such as, but not limited to, proration, new grants, staff turnover, line item adjustments, special projects, the utilization of deferred revenue and pilot programs.

The district will be finishing the year in a very strong financial position. This is a result of the implementation of cost-effective measures such as the copier/printer project and energy conservation.

The board approved Amendment #2 to the 2005-06 budgets and adopted a resolution amending the budget in accordance with the Uniform Budgeting Act.

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Efforts for Education Funding

Dear Staff,

Last summer, on June 21, the GISD educational community joined over 11,000 citizens, including community members, school staff, students and their parents, to rally in Lansing on the capitol steps to show support for quality public education in our state. Supporters from each of our constituent districts joined GISD to send a strong message to our legislative delegation regarding the ongoing financial crisis we are facing.

The months rolled on, and a petition drive was initiated to guarantee funding for education. The petitions were circulated, submitted and certified. Now, the K-16 proposal will be on the November ballot. The legislature can vote on the proposal and short circuit the need for a vote in November. However, I believe that the legislature will not consider the proposal and allow the question to be decided by the voters of Michigan. Simply stated, the proposal ensures that Michigan schools, including ISDs, will receive annual increases equal to the rate of inflation. This is a positive for ISDs since our Section 81, which is our "foundation allowance," provides revenue for our General Education Fund. The General Education Fund supports many of the functions of the Education and Learning Department, almost all of Technology and Media Services, as well as the nongrant-funded elements of Health, Safety and Nutrition Services, and many other functions serving local districts. As you know, over the past three years, our Section 81 allocation from the state has not kept pace with even the minimal growth in the K-12 foundation allowance.

The rally over a year ago started a process to bring equity to school funding. Over the past year, we have also worked diligently to increase our service levels and bring more efficiency to GISD operations. New programs, such as shared business services and shared technology, are making a real difference in local districts. These initiatives will decrease costs, leverage resources and improve services.

As the summer moves ahead, we will be extremely vigilant in Lansing, attending legislative sessions, talking with our elected officials and meeting with candidates as they prepare for the upcoming primary election in August. The budget and school aid funding will be our primary focus. Our goal is to be certain that all school programs receive the financial support they

need to provide high-quality educational programs for our students. I encourage you to be active in the political process also, so that you fully understand the issues and are able to cast your votes wisely in the months ahead. Your knowledge of the political landscape will be a beacon to your family, friends and neighbors as they work to sort out the issues, too.

As we look forward to the next school year, I extend my sincerest thanks to you for a great year. I hope that each and every one of you will have a wonderful summer spent with family and friends. September will be here before we know it!

Sincerely,

Tom

Budget Hearing Conducted

Public Act 43 of 1963 requires that intermediate school districts hold a public hearing before adoption of its budget and give notice of the hearing by publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the ISD at least six days before the hearing. GISD conducted its budget hearing at the June 13, 2006 board meeting. Notice of the public hearing was published in the *Flint Journal* on June 6, 2006. A truth-in-taxation hearing was not required, as the district held the budget hearing in accordance with Public Act 43 of 1963.

2006-07 Budgets Adopted

At its June 13 meeting, the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education approved the 2006-07 GISD budget. This budget has been adjusted to reflect changes that have occurred since constituent districts endorsed the budgets at the annual budget hearing held on March 16, 2006, and during the time that local districts were considering the recommended budgets for approval.

(Continued on page 3)

INNERVIEWS

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Most recently, GISD received information that adjusts revenues and expenditures in certain funds. The budget, as endorsed by budget representatives at the hearing on March 16 and approved by every constituent district board of education, was \$113,874,276. The budget approved on June 13 by the GISD Board of Education was \$115,091,156. Adjustments were made due to grants that GISD has received since the March date, portions of grants that will be deferred to 2006-07 and updated state aid adjustments. Given these changes, the board is confident it is able to maintain fund balances within acceptable levels and continue the financial support promised to constituent districts at the March hearing. However, GISD is planning to use \$8,317,450 of fund equity to guarantee this support.

As the budget was reviewed for final adoption on June 13, GISD's administrative staff reported that over 90% of GISD's comprehensive budget is linked to direct student support services for its constituent districts. Further, 92% of GISD's personnel costs are also linked to direct student support services in your districts.

As all districts continue to move through difficult financial times, GISD is using its fund equity to maintain support of local districts in addition to maintaining GISD financial stability.

Project CHOICE Update Received

The Genesee Intermediate School District recently received recognition from the Michigan Association of School Boards with an Education Excellence Award for Project CHOICE (Children's Options for Integration into Community Environments). Project CHOICE was originally developed in response to parent concerns regarding the need for more options for student placements in addition to center programs.

At the June 13 board meeting, Jan Russell, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education Services, presented the board with a Project CHOICE update. During the presentation, he noted that the program has grown from a single classroom in 1986 to over 30 classrooms today, involving 300 students and over 90 staff. He also mentioned the importance of the numerous disability awareness activities conducted by GISD staff every day in general education classrooms. The board accepted the update.

Board Policy Revisions Adopted

At the June 13, 2006 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 and additions needed for legal compliance and to maintain quality and usefulness of the board policies. At the June 27 meeting, the board held a second reading and approved the recommended policy changes. The revised policies will now become part of GISD's electronic policy manual accessible through the GISD website at: www.geneseeisd.org.



Calendar Recommendation Approved

On October 11, 2005, the board of education approved three-year contract extensions for the Genesee Intermediate Education Association (GIEA) and the Genesee Intermediate Educational Support Personnel Association (GIESPA). Since that time, we received information from the Michigan Department of Education that indicates our calendars are in conflict with the ACT/ Michigan Merit Examination makeup test dates scheduled for the last week in March each year, the same time as spring recess. As a result, the Genesee County Negotiators and the Genesee County Superintendents Association recommended changing the common school calendar spring recess dates so that they do not conflict with the test dates.

Both bargaining units concurred with the recommendations to move spring recess to the traditional Easter recess, the Friday before Easter Sunday (Good Friday) and the week following Easter Sunday. In 2007-08, Easter Recess would be the Friday before Easter Sunday, March 21, 2008, and the week of March 31 through April 4, 2008. This allows for Mott Middle College students to be in school the full week of March 24, 2008, to take the makeup tests if needed. In 2008-09 and thereafter, GISD will be on the traditional Easter recess, the Friday before Easter Sunday (Good Friday) and the week following Easter Sunday.

At the June 27 meeting, the board approved the revised calendars for the 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 school years.

Boiler Replacement at SESC-North Approved

On May 25, 2004, the board approved a long-range capital improvement plan for the district. The plan included the replacement of the boiler at Special Education Services Center-North during the summer of 2006. As a result, specifications were developed with the assistance of Clark Trombley Randers Consulting Engineers; and a request for bids was advertised in the newspaper and posted on the state website. Five bids were received for the project and all bidders met the specifications.

Following a review of the bids, representatives from Clark Trombley Randers recommended that GISD award the bid to William E. Walter, Inc., based on their low bid of \$63,778. At the June 13 meeting, the board approved the bid from William E. Walter, Inc.

GASC Technology Center Budget Approved

The Flint Board approved its 2006-07 budget, along with the GASC Technology Center budget, on Wednesday, June 21, 2006. Flint Community Schools anticipate that the Genesee Intermediate School District will provide \$10,299,006 derived from 90% collection of .9628 mill levied in all school districts. The necessary balance must come from earmarked state revenue, miscellaneous sources and fund balances. Total revenue in 2006-07 is projected at \$12,461,101, whereas total expenditures are appropriated at \$12,369,315. The undesignated fund balance for the GASC Technology Center after the 2006-07 school year is expected to be \$719,668.

Upon review at the June 27 meeting, the GISD Board of Education approved the GASC Technology Center 2006-07 budget.

Health Reimbursement Arrangement Adopted

On April 25, 2006, the board of education approved one-year contract extensions for administrators and salary schedules for supervisory staff. Included with the approval was a provision whereby administrators and supervisors would have the opportunity to enroll in health insurance coverage under the

Flexible Blue Plan 2 (PPO) instead of MESSA Super Care I. Since that time, Cindy McCain, Executive Director for Finance, has been working with Attorney Janet Lanyon of Dean & Fulkerson, P.C., to ensure compliance with the Internal Revenue Code for offering a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) to reimburse co-payments, deductibles, co-insurance and prescription drug expenses which are not covered by the Flexible Blue Plan 2 (PPO), up to a maximum of \$1,250 for single coverage and \$2,500 for two-party and family coverage. Wells Fargo Health Benefit Services will be the third party administrator for the HRA handling the payment of claims for reimbursement made to the HRA.

Based upon the review and recommendations of the Personnel Committee, the board approved the arrangement and authorized the Executive Director for Finance to take the actions necessary to implement the HRA for participating administrators and supervisory staff.

Business Services Contract with Westwood Heights 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 are customized based on the request of the local district.

Business Services worked with the Thrun Law Firm, P.C., to develop a standard contract, including options for defining the specific details of customized services and payments in the attachments. On November 8, 2005, the GISD Board of Education approved a contract for GISD to manage the business office of the Westwood Heights School District for the remainder of the 2005-06 school year. Superintendent Jerri Lynn Williams worked with Business Services to develop a contract for the 2006-07 school year. This contract will continue in full force until such time that the parties terminate the agreement per the conditions described in the agreement. A continuing contract was submitted to Westwood Heights, and Superintendent Williams returned the signed contract.

At the June 27 meeting, the board approved continuing contract for GISD to provide payroll services, human resources and online attendance for the Westwood Heights School District.

Shared Technical Services with Beecher Approved

Over the last several months, Beecher Superintendent Forrest Gunderson, GISD Superintendent Thomas Svtkovich and GISD Technology and Media Services staff have discussed the possibility of forming a partnership with the Beecher Community Schools to provide technical support for all of Beecher's technology. Details have been considered and a formalized agreement was presented to the GISD board for consideration. At the June 7, 2006 meeting of the Beecher Board of Education, the agreement was approved by the Beecher board.

At the June 27 meeting, the GISD board approved the agreement and authorized the superintendent to employ necessary staff and fully define the working relationship with Beecher Community Schools as outlined in the agreement.

This is a new concept developed by Technology and Media Services. It is patterned after GISD's very successful Shared Business Services program. It is anticipated that GISD will expand this service over the next months to several other constituent districts. At the current time, GISD staff is discussing the concept with five other districts and hope to be able to bring additional agreements to the board for approval.

Membership in GFEC Approved

The Greater Flint Educational Consortium has been in place in Genesee County for over 20 years. Membership includes the CEOs of the University of Michigan-Flint, Baker College, Mott Community College, Kettering University, Genesee Intermediate School District, Flint Community Schools and two K-12 superintendents. Dr. Robert Burek, former superintendent of Fenton Area Public Schools, serves as the executive director. The mission of the organization is fulfilled by many unique projects. The GFEC sponsors the following programs which are acknowledged for their impact on student learning and performance: K-16 Writing Committee, K-16 Math Committee, Beyond High School Program, Senior Year in Crisis, Administrative Leadership Academy, Institute for Beginning Administrators, New Superintendent Cohort Group and the High School Exit Survey.

At the June 27 meeting, the board voted to continue its active support of the Greater Flint Educational Consortium and approved the membership fee

of \$8,607 for the 2005-06 school year. In addition to the annual dues, which have not increased for several years, GISD also provides in-kind support, including technology, as well as secretarial and office support.

Genesee County Transportation Millage Endorsed

Mr. Michael Zelle, President of the Disability Network, has asked the GISD Board of Education to support the renewal of the upcoming public transportation millage. GISD students in all of our programs benefit from MTA services. The community is also a direct recipient of these special services which allow residents to obtain transportation for jobs, medical appointments, school attendance, family visits and many other important activities. These services are extremely important to our community. At the June 27 meeting, the board approved support for the renewal of the transportation millage and authorized completion of the endorsement authorization form.

Strategic Planning Report

At the June 27 board meeting, GISD Superintendent Thomas Svtkovich presented a brief report outlining GISD staff involvement in the Montrose Community Schools strategic planning process. He reported that GISD Advisory Council members facilitated the process in Montrose. As a result, the GISD team received an outstanding evaluation from the participants.

Donations Accepted

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

Resignation Accepted

A resignation for the purpose of retirement was accepted from Beverly A. Kelly, Teacher of the Emotionally Impaired, Davison Day Treatment Program.



Congratulations Graduates!

Zachary Witham, son of Rick and Rose Oseguera-Witham, ECPS social worker, is proud to announce his graduation from Clio High School. Zach has been very involved in his high school and church youth group activities. He was on the King's Court in the fall, won "Most Involved" in symphonic band and recently helped to plan a local benefit for an international children's group. Zach will be attending Saginaw Valley State University in the fall. He has chosen music as his major.

Mike and Theresa Kelly (School Social Worker assigned to Lake Fenton) would like to announce the graduation of their son, Chris, from Grand Blanc High School on May 31. He received the "Presidential Award for Academic Excellence" and has been actively involved in band programs at Grand Blanc, going to the State Finals with them twice. He also participated in the Homeland Security program at GASC Technology Center and plans to study law enforcement at the University of Michigan-Flint in the fall.

Daniel Connor Durkin, son of Dave and Catherine Durkin, teacher at MCIC, graduated from Davison High School with high honors. Daniel will be attending Central Michigan University in the fall, majoring in Broadcast Journalism and Cinematic Arts.



GISD Employees Receive Attendance Incentives

Attendance incentives are awarded to GIESPA employees who use only one to four sick days during the 2005-2006 school year. This year, 32 employees will receive a \$200 award for using no more than two days during the year, and 21 employees will receive a \$100 award for using no more than four sick days. Congratulations to employees who earned attendance incentives for the 2005-06 school year!

Employee Hired

At the June 13, 2006 meeting, the board approved the hiring of Allison G. Emmerling as an Occupational Therapist for Special Education Services. Welcome to GISD, Allison!

Something Good to Watch on TV

Channel 20 out of Detroit, a PBS affiliate, filmed Chet Kuskowski, rehab wheelchairs and seating specialist from Wright and Filippis, for a program called Community Cornerstones. Chet has been recognized for his work in *The Athletes with Disabilities Hall of Fame*. The crew filmed Chet during his work day, and part of his work brings him to MCIC weekly. He was videotaped working with an MCIC student on his wheelchair on May 19. The piece may also include footage of the MCIC Outdoor Learning Center.

The documentary will be shown on Channel 20 out of Detroit, 2:30 p.m. on July 23. Tune in and check out this great story!

ECPS Celebrates Another Year of Success

Early Childhood Programs and Services (ECPS) has 66 students that will be transitioning from ECPS to programs within their local districts or to one of the GISD programs.

Students participated in a celebration on June 1 for out-center classrooms and on June 6 for in-center classrooms. Parents, extended family members and others attended the celebrations. After the celebrations, family members and staff had the opportunity to share the great experiences each child had while at ECPS.



Early Childhood Programs and Services students, staff and families celebrate their experiences and achievements!

Fun on a Sunny Day at EKLC

On May 22, students at EKLC were excited when area high school students from the Resource Center's Greater Flint Youth Leadership (GFYL) program visited their school. The high school students planned and brought ma-



terials for art, music and recreational activities. It was a fun-filled morning for all students. The resource center is a local non-profit organization dedicated to mobilizing people and resources to creatively solve community problems.

Students from area high schools and EKLC participate in a basketball game as part of the recreational activities planned by the Greater Flint Youth Leadership group during their visit to EKLC.

Leave of Absence Approved

A leave of absence was considered and approved for Lisa M. Hocutt, Paraprofessional, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center, Project CHOICE, Otisville Elementary.



July Birthdays

1	Lynn Bengelink	EKLC
1	Susan Boegner	Transportation
1	Carol Rumminger	EKLC/CHOICE
1	Karen Seeley	EKLC
1	Stephanie Williams	EKLC
2	Andrea Camero	EKLC
2	Heather Sandrik	MMC
4	Gail Jahn	EKLC
4	Melva Kaiser	SESC
5	Paula Meredith-Faris	ECPS
5	Beverly Nelson	MCIC
5	Joan Lynn Olsen	EKLC/CHOICE
6	Nell LePard	EKLC
6	Stacy Mead	ECPS
7	Mary Jo Cardinal	Transportation
7	Mark Fisher	SESC

8	Melinda McGraw	Davis Ed. Center
9	Charles Beresford	MCIC
9	Helen Gwisdalla	MMC
10	Sheila Birdsall	Transportation
10	Charlotte Byrd	EKLC/CHOICE
10	Linda Scheffler	SESC
12	June Downey	Health
12	Cynthia Harris	EKLC
12	Denice Westervelt	Health
13	Laura Walthers	SESC
14	Mathew Krantz	Transportation
14	Rose Lawson	Health
14	Bonnie Massoud	EKLC
14	Sharon Reinhart	EKLC
14	Lillian Yuncker	MCIC
15	Allen Ford	Transportation
16	Ana Frazee	Davis Ed. Center
16	Jatasha Haralson	Davis Ed. Center
16	Bonnie Mariucci	Health
17	Elizabeth Bethune	MCIC
17	Laura Norton	Transportation
18	Angela Ethridge-Jones	ECPS
18	Holly Martin	Transportation
18	LuAnn Murray	Davis Ed. Center
18	Simone Thomas	Transportation
19	Tawana Bingham	Transportation
20	Sheri Mykietiuk	EKLC
20	Barbara Stewart	Davis Ed. Center
21	Melinda Dewyse	Transportation
21	Susan Hayes	Transportation
21	William Lewis	MCIC
21	Anthony Lewis	MCIC
22	Michelle Dowdall	Davis Ed Center
22	Treasa Gill	Transportation
22	Diane Hamilton	MCIC
22	Sara Rainwater	Davis Ed. Center
22	Cherie Snyder	SESC
23	Gwyn Condon	Transportation
24	Michael Riley	MCIC
24	Tracee Shaw	Transportation
25	Gregory Burley	MCIC
25	Catherine Durkin	MCIC
25	Wendy Eaglen	EKLC/CHOICE
25	Giuseppe Finateri	EKLC/CHOICE
26	Vickie Buckley	Transportation
26	Traci Kita	SESC
26	Sharon Royce	Transportation
26	Denise Trantham	MCIC
27	Demetrius Davis	Transportation
27	Denise Dorland	ECPS
27	Robert Gazso	EKLC
29	Suzanne Reed	Transportation
29	Charles Richards	MCIC

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29	Brenda Wilson	ECPS
30	Jason Bentley	Davis Ed. Center
30	Jamie Johnson	Mott Middle College
30	Joselyn Johnson	EKLC
30	Randee Pieper	EKLC/CHOICE
30	Jenny Thompson	MCIC

online application, visit the "employment" link at www.geneseeisd.org. If you need additional information, call Cindy Workman at (810) 591-4404.

GISD Crim Team 2006

The Crim Festival of Races will be held on Saturday, August 26, 2006. All GISD employees participating in a Crim race will receive a GISD Crim Team shirt, and GISD will pay one-half of the cost of one event for which staff members are registered. You are not required to train or run as a team. Crim registration forms are available in all buildings/programs. You can also register online at www.crim.org.

To obtain your GISD Crim Team 2006 shirt and reimbursement, you must submit a copy of your Crim event registration form *and receipt* to GISD's Communications and Development department. For more information, call Glenda Letavis at 591-4541.

August Birthdays

1	Kelli Horner	ECPS
2	Melissa Gillett	Transportation
2	Kim Putney	EKLC/CHOICE
3	Susan Fulton	EKLC/CHOICE
3	Andrea Peters	SESC
4	Lori Hitchcock	Davis Ed. Center
5	Darlene White	Transportation

GISD Jobs

GISD's Human Resources and Operations department at GISD is accepting applications for numerous positions. To view current openings and complete an