



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.

Hip Hop Showcase Visits MCIC

Three young gentlemen appeared at the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center (MCIC) to bring the culture of hip hop to life for students and staff. What an experience. Students heard rap music, watched and participated in break dancing, and experienced the art of the DJ. This highly interactive and culturally diverse group made a big impact on the school audience with their respectful and sensitive presentation of Hip Hop, an urban musical form. Students were invited to try various dance moves and to "scratch" with the DJ's turntable. After the show, the visitors received a grand tour of the school from Mister C (aka Charlie Richards) and interacted with students in their classrooms.

This event was part of the Performing Artist Series planned and organized by music therapist Carolyn Vierkorn. The assembly was booked through Academic Entertainment, Inc. and is one of several that are available from them. The group tours the country educating



students about the Hip Hop culture, music, dance and art. It was a great prelude to Black History Month.

An MCIC student enjoys her turn at the DJ booth during the Hip Hop Showcase at MCIC.

Biennial Election Date Set

The School Code specifies procedures for the election of ISD board members. The election, which is conducted biennially, is designated for the first Monday in June. A body comprised of one member from each constituent district board is responsible for electing the ISD board members. Not earlier than 21 days before the date of the biennial election, each local constituent board of education must adopt a resolution designating its representative for the biennial meeting and identifying the candidates the board supports for each position. The School Code also provides that the ISD secretary shall provide notice of the biennial election to each constituent district board by certified mail at least ten days before the meeting. It has been the practice of the ISD to send notice to the districts of the election and terms to be filled by the end of March. This year, there are two six-year terms, currently held by Lawrence Ford and Peggy Tortorice, which expire. Additionally, Dale Green was appointed to fill the vacancy created by Robert Mark's resignation. Therefore, the law requires that a vote be conducted to fill the balance (2 years) of this full term that will end in 2009.

The board secretary and superintendent will complete details of notifying the constituent districts of the election. At the February 27 meeting, the board set the biennial election for June 4, 2007, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Area of the Erwin L. Davis Education Center.

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Financial Challenges

Dear Staff,

Michigan's economic condition is disappointing to those of us that value education. The challenge for all of us is how to move forward in both the short and the long term.

The state faces significant shortfalls in both the School Aid Fund and the General Fund and "one time" fixes don't exist anymore! Until now, legislators have lacked the will to fix the structural deficit. During these difficult times the stability of our schools must remain a top priority, as a well-educated work force is critical to Michigan's prosperity.

Cuts to any programs and services will be very challenging, considering Michigan's General Fund deficit. However, a \$224 cut more than mid-way through the school year would devastate school budgets, forcing many of Michigan's schools into deficit. The current process of funding schools must be fixed.

At a minimum, we need a system that provides annual cost of living increases beyond the increases in retirement obligations. We need timely and dependable commitments from the state when we are making staffing and spending decisions for the school year. That means we need to know by early June (at the latest) what funding can be expected each year. Understood, there is no easy fix. However, with no increase in the Foundation Allowance for three years and the threat of a cut that would surpass the recently promised increase of \$210, Michigan's Legislature must act now. Certainly, the current financial situation provides the motivation needed to do what should have been done years ago: make systemic changes that ensure a long-term solution. That means controlling retirement and health insurance costs, and broadening Michigan's tax base. In this regard, I support the Governor's plan.

Our situation at GISD is very similar. As I have stated in previous communications, we have systemic problems with our General Education Fund. This fund supports many of our most needed programs such as technology and improving instruction. Hopefully the state budget will be able to stabilize and provide necessary funding for our General Education programs.

Even if this happens, we will still need to restructure at GISD and make cuts in order to meet the challenges of the new High School Graduation Requirements, No Child Left Behind and other mandates at the state and federal level. We must end our school year with a balanced budget and we are currently discussing this situation with employee leadership groups through the CAPSC process.

As many of you know, we have been utilizing our General Education fund balance, which is our savings account. We are quickly reaching the point where we will exhaust this one-time source of revenue. We must take action now to realign our service delivery mechanisms and still meet our mandated requirements and the outcomes of our Teaching, Learning and Service Plan.

The outcomes of this realignment process are tentative at best, since at this point we are not completely sure what to expect from the State of Michigan. We will continue to keep you posted as we move through the process. You can be assured that we will do our best to maintain our excellent level of quality programming for our constituent districts. Thank you, once again, for your superior service to students and families.

Sincerely,

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Amendment 1 to the 2006-07 Budgets Approved

The board adopted the budget for the 2006-07 school year in June of 2006. Since the budget development for the new year begins several months prior to the end of the current fiscal year, several assumptions are made in forecasting, including 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. The amendment provides an opportunity to make the necessary adjustments based on the known information at this time. In addition, grants that have been awarded since the development of the budget are being added through the amendment process. After administrative discussion, as well as review of the revenue estimates, budget expenditures and projected fund equities, it was determined to recommend the following adjustments as summarized below by fund.

GENERAL EDUCATION FUND—Revenue originally projected for the General Education Fund has been adjusted in Amendment 1 to reflect increased grant funding and grant carry-over revenue received since the adoption of the 2006-07 budget. The General Education Fund revenue will be increased by \$2.1 million. Expenditures, as originally budgeted for the General Education Fund, have been revised to reflect the various revenue changes as outlined above. After forecasting fund equities through the 2007-08 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 in Current Property Taxes, Delinquent Taxes, Interest & Penalties, Payments in Lieu of Taxes, Income from Deposits and

Investments, Medicaid Fee-For-Service, Intermediate State Aid, Special Education Foundation-Section 51.a.2, Special Education-Section 56, I.D.E.I.A., Infant and Toddler Early Intervention and Medicaid-Administrative Outreach. Some of the adjustments were made to reflect carryover dollars on federal grants and to correspond to the current year funding levels. Decreases were made in Miscellaneous and Work Force Investment Act categories. The Special Education Fund revenue will be increased by \$5.4 million. 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.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION FUND—Revenue for the Career Technical Education Fund has been adjusted to reflect increases in Current Property Taxes, Delinquent Taxes, Interest & Penalties, Income from Deposits and Investments and Special Grants. The state aid line items have been adjusted from the proposed budget figures to the current anticipated amounts. The Career Technical Education Fund revenue will be increased by \$518,000. Expenditures for the basic Career Technical Education Fund budget have been adjusted to refine the original budget assumptions. Outgoing Transfers to Local School Districts has been increased to reflect the additional amount due to the Flint Community Schools for the operation of the Genesee Area Skill Center based on the projected property tax collection. Expenditures in grants correspond directly to the projected revenue.

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, Special Education Transportation Capital Projects, Vocational Education Transportation and Vocational Education Capital Projects.

OTHER FUNDS—The remaining funds include Capital Projects, Special 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 also reviewed with the superintendent subcommittees and endorsed by the superintendents at their monthly association meeting held on February 7, 2007. 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. At the February 13, 2007 meeting, the GISD board approved adopting Amendment 1 to the 2006-07 Budget and adopted a resolution amending the budget in accordance with the Uniform Budgeting Act.

2007-08 Budgets Authorized for Presentation

At the February 13, 2007 meeting, the 2007-08 proposed budgets were presented along with the 2006-07 amendment. The board authorized the presentation of the budgets at the annual budget hearing on March 15, 2007. Formal adoption of the budgets will occur prior to June 30, 2007.

Act 18 Payments Authorized

Annually, the ISD calculates the Act 18 reimbursement that 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. This year's payment reflects the base payment of \$3.8 million, \$677,433 revenue sharing and an additional \$1 million payment as adopted in the 2006-07 budget. The total 2006-07 Act 18 disbursement will be \$5,477,443. At the February 13, 2007 meeting, the board approved the 2006-07 Act 18 reimbursement as presented.

Purchase of Replacement Vehicle Approved

At the February 13 meeting, the board reviewed two quotes received for a replacement vehicle. The lowest bid of \$45,500 was accepted by the board and awarded to Patsy Lou Williamson Buick/GMC. This amount may actually decrease when all applicable rebates are included in the final price.

GenNET/FANET Presentation Accepted

Over the last several months, the Greater Flint Educational Consortium (GFEC) has worked with Genesee County higher education institutions and the GenNET Board. As a result of the efforts, a program has been prepared to offer college classes to students attending five pilot high schools in Carman-Ainsworth, Davison, Flushing, Grand Blanc and Mt. Morris. The long-range goal is to expand this program to every high school in our county. This virtual university program has been made possible through the diligent work of GFEC members as well as local district leadership and GISD's Technology and Media Services staff. The delivery of courses is possible because of the GenNET/FANET fiber connection which was strongly supported by the GISD Board of Education. At the February 27, 2007 meeting the board accepted the report.

MASB Award Nomination Approved

The GISD Board of Education may be qualified to receive MASB's Board Visionary Leadership Award. This is MASB's highest award for whole boards and signifies exemplary achievement in all aspects of governance. It honors those whose leadership accomplishes the ultimate goal of team governance (i.e., improved student achievement.) This award, now in its fourth year, will be presented at the 2007 Annual Fall Leadership Conference to each board/superintendent team that qualifies.

The GISD Board of Education received this award in 2005. That year, only two school districts in the state received this prestigious award, and GISD is one of only two intermediate school district boards of education to receive this award. MASB has established six award eligibility criteria for intermediate school district boards of education to meet in order to be considered for the Board Visionary Leadership Award. The nomination criteria include: Leadership for Student Achievement; Client Satisfaction and Service Usage; Resource Efficiency; Board Development/Leadership Effectiveness; Board Conduct, Operations & Ethics; and Communication and Community Relations.

At the February 27, 2007 meeting, the board approved the submission of the necessary nomination information for MASB's Board Visionary Leadership Award.

First Reading of Board Policy Revisions Approved

GISD's contract with NEOLA includes a policy update service to keep the districts abreast of changes needed to ensure compliance with recent legislation and to maintain quality and usefulness of the board policies.

Recently, NEOLA provided drafts of recommended new or revised policies for consideration by the board. The Policy Committee met prior to the February 27 board meeting to review revisions and make recommendations to the board. As a result, the board approved the first reading of the board policy revisions.

Donations Accepted



Generous donations for use at the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; and Special Education Services Center were received by the board. The donations included money, disposable diapers and videos/DVDs, and were given by staff, family and friends.

School Bus Purchasing Program Resolution Approved

The Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO) and the Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation (MAPT) have established a bus purchasing program for school districts. The program was established to allow districts to enter into a cooperative agreement for the purposes of leveraging lower costs for new school buses while still meeting bid requirements under the law. The sole responsibility of MSBO/MAPT's "Bus Purchasing Program" is to solicit bids, inform the district of the bid results and to coordinate aggregate purchase of buses.

With the new resolution, GISD will continue to review bids, as in the past, and acquire buses that meet GISD's specifications through the program, if bids remain competitive.

At the February 27 meeting, the board adopted the resolution approving participation in the MSBO/MAPT Bus Purchasing Program.

Resolution Supporting Other Boards in a Challenging Economic Environment Approved

Just about every school district in Genesee County is facing a challenging economic environment. Over the years, GISD has worked collaboratively with Genesee County districts to save costs, increase efficiency and improve instructional programs for students. Examples of cost-saving efforts include GenNET, specialized transportation consortium, GASC transportation consortium, shared business services and shared technical services.

However, even with all of these collective efforts, school districts still face difficult financial situations. Therefore, at the February 27 meeting, the GISD board reviewed and approved a resolution proposed by the Michigan Association of School Boards.

In the resolution, the GISD board expressed its support for local boards of education during these difficult financial times. GISD board members also expressed their desire to continue to work collaboratively with local boards to develop cooperative programs like the existing successful programs that have already saved resources for Genesee County school districts.

Leaves of Absence Approved

At the February 13, 2007 meeting, leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Jessica McCallum, School Social Worker; and Amy Wilson, Paraprofessional.

At the February 27, 2007 meeting, leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Tasha Vaara-Suydam, Teacher; Tiffany Hassett, Transportation Aide; and Pauline Coleman, Paraprofessional.

Resignation Accepted

At the February 13, 2007 meeting, a resignation for the purpose of retirement was accepted from Elizabeth C. Dickens, Teacher, Mott Middle College.



Congratulations to Sharon Armstrong

GISD's Sharon Armstrong, Coordinator for Instruction-Language Arts in the Education and Learning department has been selected as the Creative Writing Educator of the Year for this year's Michigan Youth Arts Festival.

The festival will be held on the campus of Western Michigan University in mid-May, and Sharon will receive her honor at a special luncheon to be held on Friday, May 11. Congratulations on this great honor, Sharon!

Baby News

Pam Prior, teacher at EKLC, would like to announce the birth of her first grandchild. Her daughter, Jennifer, gave birth to Jaelynn Ann on January 17. The baby weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. Proud grandma states, "She is beautiful, and mom and baby are doing great!"

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.



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
6	Denise Lewis	Transportation
6	David Treder	Davis Ed. Center
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
11	Michele Pfeiffer	Transportation
12	Kathleen Cole	EKLC
12	Leila Rivard	Mott Middle College
12	Brian Watson	Transportation
13	Erik Meyer	EKLC
13	David Tennant	EKLC
14	Sharon Gehringer	MCIC
14	Lisa Kotarski	EKLC
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 Zofchak	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
23	Carol Snyder	ECPS
24	Karen Higgins	EKLC
24	Cynthia Thurlow	Davis Ed. Center
26	Michele Shaw	Transportation
27	Michelle Alanis	Davis Ed. Center
27	Kelly Wagner	Mott Middle College
27	Katie Yuncker	MCIC
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

April Birthdays

1	Deborah Driskill	Transportation
2	Denise Evert	EKLC/CHOICE
2	Deborah Hooper	SESC
2	Sharlene Howe	EKLC
3	Susan Lauritzen	Transportation
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

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