

INNERViews

PUBLISHED FOR THE STAFF OF GENESSEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
WITH ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND FRIENDS.

Congratulations to GISD Holiday Card Design Winner!

Genesee Intermediate School District congratulates Nicole Soulia, Flushing High School senior, for winning the 2007 GISD Holiday Card Design Contest. Nicole's artwork was selected from dozens of entries and printed as the graphic on the cover of the 2007 cards.

At the December 7, 2007, Flushing Board of Education meeting, GISD Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich presented Nicole with her original artwork in a custom frame and a gift



card to Michael's Arts and Crafts as the contest prize. Special thanks go to the Flushing, GASC Technology Center, Westwood Heights and Mt. Morris high school students who participated in this year's contest, as well as their art instructors, who encouraged their talent and participation. They all did a great job!

Featured is the GISD Holiday Card 2007, as designed by Nicole Soulia.

review of the accounting practices and procedures utilized in GISD's Business Services department. Lewis & Knopf is an excellent auditing firm, and each year, makes suggestions which help GISD increase efficiency.

GISD board members were pleased to learn that the overall 2006-07 audit is rated as excellent. Fund balances meet or exceed the expected fund equities identified in the 2006-07 budget. GISD remains financially healthy and stable for the current fiscal year. The GISD board commended Business Services staff for their attention to quality financial management; and administrators were also recognized for doing an excellent job managing their budgets.

Education and Learning Services Contract with Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District Approved

At the December 11, 2007 meeting, the GISD Board of Education authorized the superintendent to execute an agreement to provide educational learning consultant services for Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District. For the most part, consultant services will be provided by current GISD employees. The board also authorized the superintendent to employ necessary additional staff to fulfill any additional need for consultant services, as defined by the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District, and work with them to fully define the working relationship, as outlined in the agreement.

2006-2007 Audit Report Received

During the past several months, Lewis & Knopf, Certified Public Accountants, has been involved in an annual audit of GISD financial records. The audit was very comprehensive and included in-depth tests of various federal programs managed by the district, as well as the normal tests conducted as standard audit practice.

Mr. Kim Lindsay of Lewis & Knopf attended the December 11, 2007, meeting to present an overview of Lewis and Knopf's





Another Amazing Year

Dear Staff,

Last year, on December 12, 2006, the board of education sponsored a wall breaking ceremony at the GISD's new Transition Center. Almost one year later on December 3, 2007, the board of education sponsored an open house for the community celebrating the completion of the GISD Transition Center. Civic leaders, community members, representatives of the business community, staff and, most importantly, students and their parents/caregivers took part in the ribbon cutting ceremony. With a flourish, we all shared in opening the doors of the Transition Center to generations of Genesee County students. On behalf of the board of education and our entire school community, we want to thank all of our staff who have been involved in this project. We also particularly want to thank Deputy Superintendent Michael Moorman and Assistant Superintendent Jan Russell for working with the board of education to bring this project to completion. Both THA Architects Engineers and Wolgast Corporation construction managers were outstanding in developing a quality facility for our students.

This past year was also filled with many other exciting GISD projects. Phase II of the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center renovation project has been completed. We are well on our way to accomplish our goal of offering a state of the art educational facility for our MCIC students. The Genesee Early College is now operational. Our first class of students is enrolled, and we are in the process of transforming this grant-funded pilot into a fully functional school. Thanks to our partners in the health community, particularly Genesys Health Systems and the University of Michigan-Flint, I know this school will become a national model. Further, we used the GenNET/FANET system for the first time. College classes are being taught in our high schools by professors using the instructional television (ITV) system. As an example from the first semester, students in Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools, Fenton Area Public Schools, Flushing Community Schools and Grand Blanc Community Schools took a Kettering University Calculus II class in local high school GenNET rooms during the school day. Another new and exciting program is called PENut. PENut is an acronym for Physical Education and Nutrition. This \$3.55 million grant will provide nutrition, healthy eating and physical activity experiences for our pre-K-12 population. On top of all of these new programs, we are continuing to expand our shared services programs. Both shared technical services and shared business services have expanded program offerings to districts during the last year. These programs, and many more, highlight GISD's commitment to be a responsive and agile regional educational service agency.

December and the wrap-up of a calendar year is always a time to look back and celebrate accomplishments and plan for the future. Certainly, we at GISD have much to celebrate as we continue to expand our services and improve instruction for our students. As you know, December was also a time to celebrate the holiday season with many outstanding traditions. One of our greatest gifts to our school community is our commitment to giving. I know that staff in all of our locations took on special projects. Toys for Tots, giving to families in need and many

other charitable contributions brought completeness to our holiday celebrations. GISD is certainly known for what its staff gives to our students and our community. On behalf of the board of education, thank you for our generosity and support of the members of our community.

On behalf of the GISD Board of Education, all of our students and constituents, I wish to thank you for your hard work and commitment. As we start the new year, we will continue to expand services, help with cost cutting efforts throughout the county and provide outstanding programs. Many of our projects have already been recognized with state and national awards, and I am certain that we will be recognized again for our on-going excellence and service to our constituents. Working together, we will continue to grow new services, maintaining GISD's tradition of outstanding performance and quality. As we look ahead to this new year, I wish prosperity, health and happiness for each of you.

Sincerely,

Consolidation of Services Legislation (Public Act 63) Presentation Received

A new law, Public Act 63, requires each intermediate school district to complete a report detailing the cost of various services provided by local school districts. Information in the report is to address possibilities for sharing the following noninstructional services: pupil transportation; human resources administration; procurement of supplies and other purchasing; technology support services, including information technology; professional development; accounting and other financial services; legal services; food and child nutritional services; event management; production printing and graphics; shipping and receiving services; as well as all other services as described in the school code.

At the December 11, 2007 meeting, Jerry Johnson, Executive Director for Communications and Development, presented information about how GISD is preparing to comply with Public Act 63. He has attended statewide meetings to discuss the process for collecting the required data. Further, the Genesee Area School Business Officials will be working with GISD staff and local superintendents to fulfill the requirements of the law.

Staff believes that GISD is a step ahead of this process in Genesee County, since the district is already involved in many shared programs, along with many longstanding initiatives, which have decreased costs for local districts. The Superintendents Association is also engaged in the cost effectiveness process with two active committees. One focuses on transportation, and the other has been charged with the following areas: county bids; purchasing vendor service contracts; insurance consolidation; and energy contracts.

Resolution for Summer Tax Collection Adopted

The GISD Board of Education has previously authorized a summer tax levy. In order to continue with that authorization for 2008, the board must take action by adopting a resolution and filing a copy of that resolution with each city and/or township within the Genesee Intermediate School District prior to January 1, 2008. The Genesee Intermediate School District will only levy summer taxes when the local school district is also levying a summer property tax levy. At the December 11, 2007 meeting, the board adopted a resolution to levy summer taxes in 2008 and provide proper notice to the taxing units.

Annual Website Reporting Update Received

Public Act 413 of 2004 amended the Revised School Code by adding Section 620, which requires every intermediate school district to post special information on its website by December 31 of each year. At the December 11, 2007 meeting, Communications and Development Executive Director Jerry Johnson presented the board with a preview of the GISD information to be posted. He noted that the posted information begins with an introduction centering on the GISD Teaching, Learning and Service Plan. The report is required to include general district information; information about contracts; contract modifications; compensation; fiber optic and cable equipment; public relations, polling, lobbying and legal services; IRS 1099; travel; certain ISD expenditures; and motor vehicles.

GISD's report information will be available by December 31, 2007, in the Publications area of its website at: www.geneseeisid.org.

Genesee County Common School Calendar Recommendations Approved

Genesee County districts have had a long history of supporting a common calendar. The county superintendents have traditionally approved a common calendar to minimize interruptions of instruction in student programs. The common calendar has always been a goal of Genesee County to improve educational opportunities for students and to facilitate family holiday planning and vacations. The common calendar has benefitted students enrolled in shared programs between districts and increased efficiencies, which have led to savings and overall improvement of student programs. As an example, the implementation of a common calendar has minimized lost instructional time at the Genesee Area Skill Center and other program such as GenNET ITV classes, special education Project CHOICE classes and center-based special education. GISD Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich also met with Genesee County charter school administrators to outline the common calendar recommendation.

Consistent with Public Act 101, and following the recommendation of the Genesee County Superintendents Association, the board of education adopted the common school calendar. A full copy of the common calendar is available on GISD's website at www.geneseeisid.org in the Highlights and Events section, and copies have been distributed to all local

districts. Specific questions about dates, other than those required by law, should be verified by the local school district.

Board Policy Revisions Adopted

At its November 13, 2007 meeting, the board of education 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. These policies included: Policy 2421 (Career-Technical Education Program); Policy 5136 (Cell Phones and Electronic Communication Devices); Policy 5540 (Interrogation of Students); Policy 7440 (Plant Security); and Policy 8500 (Child Nutrition Services). The Policy Committee reviewed the recommendations, and concurred with the revisions recommended by NEOLA and the GISD administration. Since the first reading, Mr. Paul Newman suggested a change to the title for Policy 7440 from Plant Security to District Security and Video Surveillance for better consistency between the title and content of the policy. At the December 11 meeting, the board authorized the title change of Policy 7440 and adopted the recommended revisions.

December Bills Payable

Since the board had only one scheduled meeting in early December, it was recommended and approved that the administration office, upon review of the board treasurer, is authorized to process December bills payable and issue checks. The full board will approve December financial reports in January.

Donations Accepted

On behalf of the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center, the board accepted the donation of a Rifton Dynamic Stander and disposable briefs.



Employee Hired

At the December 11, 2007 meeting, the board approved the employment of Tonia A. Jennings, Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center.

Leaves of Absence Approved

At the December 11, 2007 meeting, leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Fanny Birtsas, Special Education Services; Becky S. Finkle, Early Childhood Programs and Services; and Jennifer L. Smith, Transportation Services.

Resignation Accepted

A resignation for the purpose of retirement was accepted from David A. Krupa.

January Birthdays

3	Sandra Mann	MCIC
3	Sandra Wheeler	Transportation
4	James Gazso	EKLC/CHOICE
4	Mary Howell	Reading Recovery
4	Tamara Morrow	SESC-N
6	Jacqueline Mark	EKLC
7	Ashley Livingston	Davis Ed. Center
7	Patrick McHugh	MMC
7	Cindy Verbeke	ECPS
8	Adrienne Hardimon	SESC-N
8	Judith Pannick	EKLC/CHOICE
9	Denice Lepczyk	Transportation
9	Dwayne Odneal	EKLC
9	Regina Ondovcsik	Transportation
9	Julie Salim	MCIC
10	Juliet Hardwick	EKLC/CHOICE
10	Major Harper	EKLC
10	Lori McLean	Transition Center
10	Teresa Olson	Transportation
11	Pamela Marsack	EKLC
11	Tracey Tortorice	EKLC/CHOICE
12	Christopher Comb	Day Treatment
12	Charlotte Gambrel	Transition Center
12	Karl Lang	EKLC
12	Camille Timmons	MCIC
13	Michelle Grifka	EKLC
13	Susan Meyer	ECPS
14	Judith Fulkerson	EKLC
14	Rhoda Read	Davis Ed. Center
15	Allison Emmerling	SESC
15	Stacy Hodges	Davis Ed. Center
16	Donna Dean	EKLC/CHOICE
17	Karen Dutil	Transportation
17	Marisa Ulmer	HSNS
18	Joan Mondeau	Transportation
19	Ida Allen	MCIC
19	LuSinda Johnston	MCIC
19	Kimberly Latoni	MCIC
19	Debra Marien	ECPS
19	Linda Phillips	EKLC/CHOICE
20	Matthew Osmon	MMC
20	Mandy Thomas	ECPS
21	Christine Emmendorfer	Transportation
21	Stephanie Gay-Strawsburg	EKLC
21	Gus Jefferson	Transportation
21	Randy Wilson	Transportation
22	Kimberly Drury	EKLC
22	Deborah Isham	MCIC
23	Tomiko Fisher	Davis Ed. Center
23	Patricia Pillen	Transportation
24	Kathleen Dinnan	Transportation
24	Bradley Norman	Transportation
25	Harvey Porter	EKLC/CHOICE
25	Candice Wagner	EKLC
25	Dawn Wineman	Transportation
26	Sheila Gafney	EKLC
26	Patrick Maul	Transportation
26	David Skinner	Transportation
28	Valerie LaCarter	Transportation
29	Joanne Blimka	MCIC
30	Deborah Baird	Transportation

30	Stacy Dowd	Transportation
30	Ruth Rosenberger	Day Treatment
30	Donald Vanhorn	MMC
31	Deborah Washburn	ECPS

February Birthdays

1	Kathy St. James	Transportation
2	Diane Burt	Davis Ed. Center
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
4	Genevieve Weber	EKLC
5	Kathleen Bell	ECPS
5	Annette Harden	Transportation
5	April Miller	HSNS

GISD Jobs

The Human Resources and Operations department at Genesee Intermediate School District is accepting applications for numerous positions. **To view openings and complete an online application, visit the "employment" link at:**

www.geneseeisd.org.

If you need additional information, please contact Cindy Workman at (810) 591-4404.

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