

INNERViews

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

GISD Staff Participate in National Wear Red Day

Over 50 Erwin L. Davis Education Center employees participated in National Wear Red Day on February 6, 2009. The day kicked off with a heart-healthy breakfast, sponsored by the Erwin L. Davis Education Center Wellness Team. Staff members wearing red to help raise awareness about heart disease



Pictured are Erwin L. Davis Education Center staff members (top photo) and Special Education Services Center-North staff members (bottom photo) that participated in National Wear Red Day.

and stroke were invited to attend the breakfast. The first 50 participants also received a red dress pin to wear.

To commemorate National Wear Red Day at Special Education Services Center-South, staff members wearing red received a healthy treat. At the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center, participants received stickers and magnets. Similar celebrations were also sponsored by building wellness committees at the Transition Center; Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services; and the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center.

2009-10 Act 18 Payments Authorized

Annually, GISD calculates the Act 18 reimbursement which is paid to local school districts as partial reimbursement for their unreimbursed costs as reported to the Michigan Department of Education.

The Superintendents Association Cost Containment Committee established a base payment of \$3.8 million in 1996-97 to stabilize fund equity and minimize the potential for bill backs. GISD continues to maintain the base payment.

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 2008-09 budget. At its February 24, 2009 meeting, the GISD Board of Education authorized the total 2008-09 Act 18 disbursement of \$5,477,443.



Financial Challenges and Opportunities

Dear Staff,

Last year at this time, I wrote to you about our financial situation. I told you that we have been utilizing our General Education Fund balance, which is our savings account, to continue to operate a wide variety of GISD programs. We also explained that the General Education Fund supports many of our most needed programs, such as technology and improving instruction. In addition, we have implemented a host of cost-saving initiatives, including staff reductions and departmental reorganization. All of these measures have helped bring our funds into a cash neutral position. In other words the cash we spend equals the cash we receive. Recently, we implemented Employee Web to process electronic payroll statements for all employees. This innovation saves personnel costs, our use of paper, and postage.

We will continue to use technology to reduce the use of paper throughout the organization. One example is the electronic board meeting that was implemented earlier this year. Here again, we are saving money while increasing overall efficiency. We are sharing this concept with local districts to enhance countywide savings. All of this is possible because our staff was able to use existing software and convert it into an electronic process for GISD Board of Education meetings. We were the first district in the nation to use Blackboard software for electronic board documents, and several local districts are now implementing it as well. Our partnership with Energy Education will also result in considerable cost savings as we learn how to be better consumers of energy and change our daily energy consumption habits. Your support and cooperation in this process is extremely important. As I have said in previous communications, all of these efficiencies result in saving programs for students and the corresponding jobs for those programs.

Even though we have made many adjustments in our operations to save resources, we still face a difficult road ahead given the decreases in property tax revenues, budget cuts from Lansing, and an overall uncertain financial future. We are hopeful that the stimulus package will breathe new life into school aid revenues, and I know we will all be more certain of our direction when we begin to see the full impact on the economy. Our goal is to maintain a fund equity savings account which can be used from time-to-time to maintain a stable cash flow and avoid borrowing. This

is especially important because it allows us to expand our grant-funded programs by providing a financial base for these programs until they are reimbursed by our grant funders. Our savings account will also allow us to get through some short-range budget challenges without over reacting and decimating much needed student programs.

In the midst of all of these financial changes, we are required by law to gain local district board of education approval of our budget. Currently, we are moving forward with our budget process and our staff has prepared the initial budget documents. Special presentations have been made to superintendent committees. All of the detail has been reviewed and approved by the Genesee County Superintendents Association. At a meeting on February 4, 2009, the superintendents recommended that the budgets be presented at the annual budget hearing scheduled for March 11, 2009. They also recommended approval of the budget by the constituent district board member representatives at the annual budget hearing. On February 24, 2009, the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education carefully reviewed budget documents. They approved budget amendments to the 2008-09 budget, and they authorized the presentation of the 2009-10 budget to the constituent district board member representatives at the annual budget hearing. Following the budget hearing, individual boards of education will be asked to approve resolutions endorsing all of GISD's budgets. Following that process, a final budget will be presented to the GISD Board of Education for action in June. Our goal is to be fully prepared to recommend the approval of a balanced budget for the Genesee Intermediate School District with full support of the programs outlined by our Teaching, Learning, and Service Plan. We must have this task completed before July 1, 2009.

I am thankful for your work over the last several months to fulfill our promise to constituent districts that was made at the budget hearing last year. This promise was to bring all of our programs closer to a revenue neutral position by matching expenditures to incoming revenue on an annual basis. In order to make this partnership work, we are certainly going to need your help. The outcomes of our realignment/reorganization process, belt-tightening, and expansion of services to gain additional revenue have been successful. We have been able to effectively navigate in this difficult time. We will continue to monitor our budget situation very closely. As you know, the State of Michigan continues to have serious financial problems. We lead the country

in unemployment. We have a growing number of homes in foreclosure, and we continue to lose population. All of these factors are not positive for our budget situation. However, we are providing outstanding programs, and you can be assured that we, collectively, will do our best to maintain this excellent level of quality programming for our constituent districts. I believe that this will help our county maintain its positive image. We are indeed an asset in the economic development efforts designed to rebuild our fiscal stability in this county and state. I cannot thank you enough for your cooperation, your input, and your efforts. I am most appreciative of the superior services each of you provides for students and families.

Sincerely,



Shared Technical Services Contract with Flushing Community Schools Approved

Since the 2006-07 school year, the GISD Board of Education has approved technical services agreements to form partnerships to provide technical support with Atherton, Beecher, Bendle, Bentley, Davison, Flint, Goodrich, Kearsley, Lake Fenton, Lakeville, and Linden. The board authorized the superintendent to continue to take the necessary actions to address the requests as relationships are defined. The services being defined are customized based on the request of the local districts. Business Services worked with Thrun Law Firm, P.C., to develop a standard contract, including options for defining the specific details of customized services and payments in the contract attachments.

Flushing Community Schools Superintendent Barbara Goebel worked with Technology and Media Services to finalize the customized, shared technical services provided to Flushing. A contract was submitted to Flushing Community Schools, and Ms. Goebel has returned the signed contract. At its meeting on February 24, 2009, the GISD Board of Education approved the contract for GISD to provide technical services for Flushing Community Schools through the 2008-09 fiscal year. Further, it authorized the superintendent to employ necessary staff and fully define the working relationship with the district as outlined in the agreement.

Amendment #1 to the 2008-09 Budgets Approved

The board adopted the budget for the 2008-09 school year in June of 2008. Since the development of the budget begins several months prior to the current fiscal year-end, several assumptions are made in forecasting. These assumptions include 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 by fund.

GENERAL EDUCATION FUND

Overall, the General Education Fund revenue will be increased by approximately \$7.2 million. The General Education Fund expenditures reflect an increase of \$6.5 million. Several adjustments were made for grants on both the expenditures and revenues to budget the appropriate dollars allocated within the current fiscal year. A significant portion of the increase is related to federally funded grant programs with corresponding expenditures.

The projected revenue for the 2008-09 year for the General Education Fund will be approximately \$26,739,465, with anticipated expenditures of \$26,739,543. The beginning balance was \$7,629,979. The General Education Fund estimated ending balance is approximately \$7,629,901 with additional reserves for Mott Middle College and Genesee Early College of \$505,738.

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND

The Special Education Fund revenue will be increased by approximately \$1.7 million. The change is a result of grant allocations increasing in the current fiscal year. Overall expenditures, as approved for

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Amendment #1 in the Special Education Fund, will decrease by the net amount of \$224,000.

The Special Education Fund projected revenue for the 2008-09 school year will be approximately \$72,127,991, with estimated expenditures in the amount of \$75,965,201. The beginning balance was \$15,804,130. The Special Education Fund estimated balance is approximately \$11,966,920.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION FUND

Revenue projected for this fund will be increased by approximately \$77,000. The increases are a result of new grant awards and increases in allocations for the current fiscal year. It is anticipated that the total expenditures will decrease approximately \$369,000 from the adopted budget to Amendment #1. The decrease is a result of program changes that will be implemented in the next fiscal year.

The projected revenue for the 2008-09 year for the Career Technical Education Fund will be approximately \$16,045,702 with estimated expenditures of \$16,030,457. The beginning balance was \$4,364,184. The Career Technical Education Fund estimated balance is approximately \$2,379,429, with an additional reserve of \$2 million as continued support of the electronic Educational Development Plan (EDP).

ENTERPRISE FUND

The projected revenue for the 2008-09 year for the Enterprise Fund will be approximately \$14,888,284, with estimated expenditures of \$18,266,097. The beginning balance was \$6,631,085. The Enterprise Fund estimated balance is approximately \$3,253,272.

OTHER FUNDS

The remaining funds include Capital Projects, Special Education Capital Projects, Durant Settlement Fund, Debt Retirement Fund, and School Lunch Services Fund. The majority of the revenue generated in each of these funds is a result of transfer from other funds.

At its meeting on February 24, 2009, the GISD Board of Education approved Amendment #1 to the 2008-09 budgets and adopted a resolution amending the budget in accordance with the Uniform Budgeting Act.

2009-10 Budgets Authorized for Presentation

At its meeting on February 24, 2009, the GISD Board of Education authorized the presentation of the budgets at the annual budget hearing. The local district superintendents endorsed the budgets and amendments at their monthly association meeting held on February 4, 2009. The annual budget hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2009. Following the budget hearing, individual boards of education will be asked to approve resolutions endorsing all of GISD's budgets. A final budget will be presented to the board for action in June.

Donations Accepted



Generous donations on behalf of the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center, and Mott Middle College were received by the board. The donations included equipment for classroom and student use, cash and gift certificates, and a magazine subscription.

A Message About Infant Sleep Related Deaths

In 2008, 14 infants died in Genesee County due to confirmed or probable suffocation either by soft bedding, sleeping face down, or overlay by another person. Although these deaths are sudden and unexpected they should not be confused with Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The deaths are the highest number in five years and occurred in all areas of the county including Flint, Flushing, Grand Blanc, Davison, Burton, and Swartz Creek. In each of these cases, the Medical Examiner's office did a thorough investigation, including an autopsy, toxicology, and death scene investigation, as well as a death scene re-enactment to determine the cause of death.

The incidence of sudden infant death dramatically decreased by over 50% since the Back to Sleep campaign of the early 1990s. Despite these gains, some

infants are still placed in unsafe sleep environments. The risk of a sudden unexpected infant death can be reduced by following safe sleep practices as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics at all times.

- Infants should be placed on their back to sleep. Stomach and side sleeping are never recommended.
- A firm mattress covered by a tight-fitting sheet is the recommended sleeping surface. Soft materials or objects such as pillows, quilts, or comforters should not be placed under a sleeping infant.
- Keep soft objects and loose bedding out of the crib. Soft objects such as pillows, quilts, comforters, stuffed toys, bumper pads, and other soft objects should be kept out of an infant's sleeping environment.
- Never sleep in the same bed with an infant. Studies of bed sharing have shown it to be dangerous, especially if there is more than one person in the bed, the person is overly tired, or has used alcohol or other drugs. It is particularly dangerous to sleep with an infant on a couch.
- Avoid overheating. Over-bundling should be avoided and the room temperature should be kept comfortable for a lightly clothed adult.
- Do not smoke during pregnancy or expose the infant to secondhand smoke. This has been a major risk factor in almost every study of sudden infant death.
- Consider using a pacifier at nap time and bedtime. Although the reason is not known, pacifier use has been shown to reduce the risk of sudden infant death. If you are breastfeeding, discuss the use of a pacifier with your pediatric provider.
- Avoid products that promise to reduce sudden infant death. Products like sleep positioners or other specially designed items for the crib are not recommended. They have not been tested enough to see if they work or are safe.

Make sure everyone who watches your baby knows and follows these important strategies for reducing the risk of sudden infant death. Approximately one in five sudden infant deaths happen when someone other than the parent is caring for the infant.

Reducing the risk of sudden infant death is not difficult or expensive. If you do not have a safe place to

put your baby to sleep, resources for cribs or other safe alternatives are available in Genesee County. For more information or for resources in the community, call the Maternal-Infant Health and Mortality programs at the Genesee County Health Department at (810) 257-3134 or go to www.gchd.us.

GISD Staff Help Keep Kids Warm

A suggestion was brought to a monthly Technology and Media Services (TMS) Morale and Welfare Committee meeting to conduct a Keeping Kids Warm hat and mitten drive during the month of January. The committee decided to adopt a class from Flint's Potter Elementary School, and after speaking with the school's leadership, Ms. Schmuck's kindergarten class was chosen to be the recipients. Information about the hat and mitten drive was shared among the TMS department for implementation and a collection box was placed for employees to donate new items. TMS, as well as other staff in the Erwin L. Davis Education Center, contributed generously. The donations were delivered by TMS staff on January 29 in decorative bags to each of the 26 students in Ms. Schmuck's class.

Staff members that made the delivery reported that it was very rewarding to see how excited the kids became when they received the new hats and mittens. The kids were all very polite, saying "thank you," and even passing out hugs to the TMS representatives. Thanks to everyone who helped make Keeping Kids Warm a success!



Pictured are Technology and Media Services staff members with students from Potter Elementary School.

VSA Arts Fundraiser

VSA Arts Michigan – Genesee County (VSAMI-GC) is holding a fundraiser to help pay for festivals and art workshops that are offered to students in GISD’s special education programs.



The fundraiser will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2009, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at bd's mongolian barbeque on Miller Road in Flint. Given Six, an alternative rock band formed by GISD retiree Kathy Cole's sons, will be on hand to provide musical entertainment. There will also be a Silent Auction of kooky sculptures. Come out and support the arts, hear great music, and have fun with your friends!

Nutrition News: Make Time for Breakfast

March is National Nutrition Month and kicking off the first week is School Breakfast Week. We all do better at work, school, play, and sports if we “break” the fast in the morning. Breakfast doesn’t have to be difficult. Whole grain cereal, fresh fruit (or 100% fruit juice) eaten with low fat or fat free milk, yogurt, or cheese will help you “seize the day.” Not a breakfast person? Try other easy solutions such as heated leftover cheese pizza, tomato soup made with milk and crackers, or even cheese and crackers with orange slices.

Teachers, physicians, and health professionals agree that eating breakfast increases mental and physical alertness. As a bonus, eating breakfast helps prevent overeating later in the day. If you skip a meal, you spend all day trying to catch up. Breakfast is easy (and essential) anywhere -- home, school, work, or drive-thru!

Make this delicious recipe ahead of time for a quick breakfast in the morning:

Cranberry Oatmeal Snack Bars

(makes 24 servings)

- 1 cup dried cranberries, raisins, or cran-raisins
- ¼ cup fruit juice (orange, pineapple, apple, or cranberry)
- 1 ½ cup all purpose flour
- 1 ½ cup quick cooking oats (if you use whole

- rolled oats, increase fruit juice to ½ cup)
- 1 teaspoon of baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon of salt (optional)
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 2/3 cup of butter or margarine, softened
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup chopped pecans or walnuts (optional)

Directions:

Wash hands. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat a 13x9x2 baking pan with cooking spray and set aside. Combine the cranberries with juice in a microwaveable bowl and microwave on high for 30 seconds. Set aside for 10 minutes. Combine the flour, oats, and baking powder and set aside. Beat the brown sugar and butter together with an electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating until well blended (beating the eggs adds lightness and volume to the bars). Gradually stir in flour mixture and mix well. Stir in cranberry mixture and nuts (if desired). Spread the dough evenly in prepared pan. Bake for 20-22 minutes or until the center is set. Cool completely on wire rack before cutting.

Academic Success

Congratulations to Joshua Dippold, son of Bob Dippold, para-educator at MCIC, and Loretta Dippold, transportation aide, for being named to the Dean’s List at Mott Community College for the 2008 spring and fall semesters. Joshua has been accepted at Central Michigan University, where he will be transferring for the 2009 fall semester. Nice job, Josh!



Leaves of Absence Approved

Leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Gail Kern, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; Traci Kita, Special Education Services-North; April Miller, Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services; Tamara Morrow, Special Education Services-North; Mary Rankins, Transportation Services; Sherri Schopieray, Transportation Services; Michelle Shaw, Transportation Services; Brian Vanderkarr, Transportation Services; and Lori Warner, Transportation Services.

Employee Appreciation 2009

Employee Appreciation 2009 will be celebrated during late April and early May this year. Below are the dates for building/program events.

EKLC	April 22	2:15-4:00 p.m.
EKLC Project CHOICE	April 22	4:30-6:00 p.m.
MCIC	April 23	12:00-2:00 p.m.
ECPS	April 24	1:00-3:00 p.m.
Transition Center	April 27	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Erwin L. Davis Ed. Center	April 28	2:30-4:30 p.m.
HSNS	April 29	2:30-4:30 p.m.
Transportation Services	May 1	8:00-11:00 a.m.
SESC-N	May 1	2:00-4:00 p.m.
GEC/MMC	May 6	2:30-4:00 p.m.

Resignation Accepted

A resignation for the purpose of retirement was accepted from Diane Scrimger, EKLC Project CHOICE.



March Birthdays

1	Thomas Norton	Transportation Services
1	Melissa Sears	ECPS
2	Andrea Gerth	Transportation Services
2	Ramanda Moody	Transportation Services
2	Hayley Moore	Transportation Services
4	Rebecca Klobucar	HSNS
4	Judy Linderman	Transportation Services
4	Kimberley Madorski	TMS
5	Sheila Maclin	Transportation Services
5	Patricia Morris	EKLC
6	Denise Lewis	Transportation Services
6	David Treder	Education and Learning
7	Ronnie Lee	Transportation Services
7	Howard Wilson	Business Services
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-N
10	Denise Williams	MCIC

12	Leila Rivard	Mott Middle College
13	Erik Meyer	EKLC
13	David Tennant	EKLC
14	Sharon Gehringer	MCIC
14	Lisa Kotarski	Project CHOICE
14	Mary Skitz	EKLC
15	Susan Irelan	Transportation Services
15	Jane Slayton	MCIC
16	Gloria Bourdon	HSNS
16	Marlene Gilbert	EKLC
16	Kathryn MacAinsh	MCIC
16	Wendolyn Moore	Project CHOICE
16	Marcia Reska Hadden	Transition Center
17	Kathleen Brenner	Education and Learning
17	Misty Mercier	Project CHOICE
17	Patricia Peters	Project CHOICE
17	Regina Zofchak	Transportation Services
20	Margene David	Transportation Services
20	Gail Taft	MCIC
21	Pamela Kitchen	EKLC
21	Margaret Smithwick	Transition Center
22	Karen Carpenter	ECPS
23	Carol Snyder	ECPS
24	Karen Higgins	EKLC
24	Cynthia Thurlow	Career Tech. Education
26	Michele Shaw	Transportation Services
27	Katie Rogalla	MCIC
28	Michelle Heider	SESC-N
28	Deborah Martin	Human Resources
29	Dotty Freathy	ECPS
29	Lora Gibson	Transportation Services
29	Julie Howie	Transportation Services
30	Cynthia McCain	Business Services
31	Rose Marie Benford	TMS
31	Laura Lenze	ECPS
31	Gwendolyn Ringwelski	EKLC
31	Karen Seeley	Transportation Services

April Birthdays

1	Eric Brugger	Genesee Early College
1	Deborah Driskill	Transportation Services
2	Denise Evert	Project CHOICE
2	Deborah Hooper	SESC-N
2	Sharlene Howe	EKLC
3	Susan Adkins	Transportation Services
4	April McNally	ECPS
4	Robin Somers	Project CHOICE
5	Bobby Caldwell	Transportation Services
5	Walter Demell	Transportation Services
5	Lisa Hook	Education and Learning
5	Janice Shumaker	Project CHOICE



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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.

InnerViews Submissions

InnerViews is published for the staff of Genesee Intermediate School District with additional distribution to community partners and friends.

Please submit articles and information to Eileen Jackson, Communications and Development, by mail, fax at (810) 591-7570 or email: ejackson@geneseeisd.org. Be sure to include your name and contact information.

Articles will be reviewed for information that is appropriate for the publication, timeliness, as well as relevance to the InnerViews newsletter audience.

INNERViews

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