

INNERViews

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

Officers Elected

The following officers of the board were elected for the 2009-10 school year: Lawrence P. Ford, president; Jerry G. Ragsdale, vice president; Paul D. Newman, secretary; and Cindy A. Gansen, treasurer.



Pictured are GISD Board of Education members (l to r): Dale A. Green, trustee; Cindy A. Gansen, treasurer; Jerry G. Ragsdale, vice president; Paul D. Newman, secretary; and Lawrence P. Ford, president.

Bank Depositories Selected

Bank of America, Citizens Bank, and JPMorgan Chase were designated as depositories for GISD savings and checking accounts. JPMorgan Chase Bank was also selected for safekeeping of documents through its Safety Deposit department. Additionally, the Michigan Liquid Asset Fund Plus investment program was designated as an investment alternative and depository.

Legal Counsel Retained

The Thrun Law Firm, P.C. was retained as legal agent for the district. The board also approved the utilization of legal services from Jim Delaney of Thomas & Delaney, P.C.; Collins & Blaha, P.C.; Clark Hill, P.L.C.; Dean & Fulkerson, P.C.; as well as LaPointe & Butler, P.C. on an individual basis depending upon issues and circumstances.

Labor Relations Firm Retained

Alan Luce of Luce, Basil and Collins, Inc. was retained as chief negotiator for the district for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

GISD Four-Day Work Week

The Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD) has implemented a four-day work week that will help reduce energy costs for the district and transportation costs for its staff.

GISD is committed to serving the needs of its constituents and the four-day work week will not result in any reduction of services.

Effective June 15 through August 21, 2009, all GISD facilities will be closed on Fridays and the following business hours will be in effect:

**Monday through Thursday
7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**



Expanding Opportunities in the New School Year

For the first time, GISD was identified this past month as the service agency to deliver one of its programs statewide. The Genesee County Seat Time Waiver was expanded by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Michael Flannigan to include every school district in the state, pending approval of a waiver application as a GenNET partner. During the next week, all school districts working through their ISD/RESA may initiate a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to follow GenNET procedures and policies related to online learning. Via Genesee County's Seat Time Waiver, this partnership agreement will allow their students to take up to 100% of their high school classes online. The number of students is limited to 10% of the district's student enrollment. However, exceptions can be made as long as the countywide total enrollment for online learning does not exceed 10% and a single district's enrollment does not exceed 25% of the students taking online courses. This is a great opportunity for GenNET to leverage costs and reduce online-learning tuition fees, since we will be increasing student participation dramatically. In addition, we are also proud to announce that all costs related to implementing this program will be covered by a grant from the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators.

On behalf of our entire school community, I want to extend my sincerest congratulations to Beverly Knox-Pipes, assistant superintendent for Technology and Media Services, and her staff for the wonderful work that has been done to deliver this quality program. This product has been outstanding, beginning with the initial work to obtain GISD's Seat Time Waiver, through the expansion of a statewide system. Superintendent Michael Flannigan joins me in recognizing the excellent program that has been developed here at GISD, using GenNET technology and resources. I also want to express my appreciation to other staff from constituent districts and our offices that were involved in the local development and implementation process. This program is a single example of the outstanding work that is done in this service agency on an ongoing basis. We have earned our reputation as a premier regional educational service agency many times over. We know that the days ahead will be challenging, but our capacity and agility will enable us to continue our important role as a leader in providing services to students in constituent districts.

Traditionally, summer is a time for rest, relaxation, and rejuvenation for the educational community. It is a time to lower stress, enjoy the beautiful weather, spend time with family and friends, pursuing activities of the season, and enjoying the down time from hectic assignments. However, for many of us, summer is truly different, particularly this year. The condition of the state budget is causing great concern throughout the district. Cuts from the state are forthcoming, as we have indicated in the past, and we will use many strategies to mitigate the inevitable negative outcomes. We will continue to strengthen our team and work collaboratively to develop the very best approaches.

Shortly, each GISD staff member will receive GISD's traditional August letter, including details of the Fall Workshop, which will be held on August 31 at the Genesys Conference and Banquet Center, located at 805 Health Park Boulevard in Grand Blanc. Because of the size of our staff, we will continue to hold two sessions. Transportation staff will meet at 11:30 a.m., and all other staff will meet at 8:00 a.m. We will have a great program and discuss some of the important details related to the continued improvement and expansion of our programs.

Hopefully, you are enjoying the summer. The weather has been outstanding and we still have a few weeks left before the 2009-2010 school year officially begins. I know many of you have been engaged in preparing our schools for the new academic year, working in summer programs, and continuing with many GISD activities. As always, I appreciate your efforts and recognize your commitment and dedication as a member of the GISD school community.

Sincerely,



Board of Education Meeting Schedule Approved for 2009-10

The GISD Board of Education approved the following meeting schedule for the 2009-10 school year:

August 11, 2009	Special Meeting/Work Session	5:00 p.m.
August 25	Regular Meeting	5:00 p.m.
September 8	Special Meeting/Work Session	5:00 p.m.
September 22	Regular Meeting	5:00 p.m.
October 13	Special Meeting/Work Session	5:00 p.m.
October 27	Regular Meeting	5:00 p.m.
November 10	Special Meeting/Work Session	5:00 p.m.
November 24	Regular Meeting	5:00 p.m.
December 8	Regular Meeting	5:00 p.m.
January 12, 2010	Special Meeting/Work Session	5:00 p.m.
January 26	Regular Meeting	5:00 p.m.
February 9	Special Meeting/Work Session	5:00 p.m.
February 23	Regular Meeting	5:00 p.m.
March 9	Special Meeting/Work Session	5:00 p.m.
March 10	Budget Hearing	7:00 p.m.
March 23	Regular Meeting	5:00 p.m.
April 27	Regular Meeting	5:00 p.m.
May 11	Special Meeting/Work Session	5:00 p.m.
May 25	Regular Meeting	5:00 p.m.
June 8	Special Meeting/Work Session	5:00 p.m.
June 22	Regular Meeting	5:00 p.m.
July 12	2010-11 Organizational Meeting	5:00 p.m.



Auditors Selected

The board designated Lewis & Knopf, CPAs, P.C. as auditors for the district for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

Memberships Approved

The GISD Board of Education authorized the following memberships: Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB); the MASB Legal Trust Fund; the National School Boards Association Direct Affiliate Program and Technology Leadership Network; the Metropolitan Detroit Bureau of School Studies, Inc.; Priority Children; the Greater Flint Health Coalition; the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce; and Automation Alley.

Official Newspaper Designated

The Flint Journal was designated as the official newspaper for the posting of all GISD official notices. If *The Flint Journal* is unable to provide this service,

then notices, advertisements, and required postings will be placed in the various publications of the Detroit newspapers and the *Oakland Press*.

Electronic Transaction Officer Designated

The board appointed Cynthia McCain, GISD’s Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, as the electronic transaction officer for the district. The officer is responsible for implementing the district’s Automated Clearing House (ACH) agreements, including payment approval, accounting, reporting, oversight, and compliance with board policy.

Unemployment Compensation Consulting Firm Retained

The consulting contract for unemployment compensation with the TALX Corporation of St. Louis, Missouri, was approved for GISD’s participation with a consortium of districts, including: Atherton, Beecher, Bendle, Bentley, Carman-Ainsworth, Clio, Davison, Flushing, Genesee, Goodrich, Grand Blanc, Kearsley, Lake Fenton, Lakeville, Linden, Montrose, Mt. Morris, and Westwood Heights.

July Bills Payable

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

Community Foundation of Greater Flint Resolution Adopted

The Community Foundation of Greater Flint requires that the governing body of an eligible applicant authorize the submission of any request for financial support. The board adopted a blanket resolution for the 2009-10 school year authorizing the superintendent to submit grant applications to the Community Foundation on behalf of GISD.

GCASBM Officer Votes Cast

The district recently received a communication from the Genesee County Association of School Board Members (GCASBM) concerning the election of association officers and bylaws for the 2009-2010 school year. At the July 13 meeting, the GISD board cast its official ballot for the following officers: Patrice Hatcher, vice president; Debbie Hancock, secretary; and Jerry Ragsdale, treasurer.

Digital Content Bid Approved

On behalf of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), GISD submitted a request for bids for the purchase of digital content (online course content) to support the Michigan High School Content Expectations and the Michigan Merit Curriculum. The district received three compliant bid responses. Representatives from MDE and GISD's Technology and Media Services department evaluated the bids. As a result of the bid analysis and recommendations, the GISD board awarded the bid to Smart Solutions VSO, Inc., representing Florida Virtual School, in the amount of \$650,000.

Board Committees Established

The following board committees were established for the 2009-10 school year:

- Building and Grounds Committee
- Education Advisory Group
- Finance Committee
- GASC Technology Center Administrative Council
- GCASBM Executive Board
- GCASBM Working Committee
- Genesee County Educational Foundation
- Genesee Early College Advisory Committee
- Genesee/Shiawassee Workforce Development Board
- Liaison to Local Boards
- Michigan Association of School Boards Liaison/LRN Member
- Mott Middle College Advisory Committee
- Personnel/Salary/Labor Relations Committee
- Policy Committee
- Wellness Committee

The board also authorized the president to designate committee assignments for approval at the August meeting.

Expanded Shared Education and Learning Services Contract with Goodrich Area Schools Approved

Since the 2007-08 school year, the board has approved education and learning services contracts to form partnerships to provide education and learning consultant services with Bay-Arenac Intermediate School District, Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District, Lapeer County Intermediate School District, and St. Clair County Regional Education Service Agency. Additionally, the board approved English as a second language services agreements with 17 Genesee County school districts and two public school academies. Currently, GISD has a contract with Goodrich Area Schools to provide English as a second language tutor services. Goodrich Area Schools Acting Superintendent Larry Allen worked with GISD's Education and Learning department to expand the shared education and learning services and specifically add Reading Recovery consultant services. A contract was submitted to the Goodrich Area Schools, and Mr. Allen has returned the signed contract. At its meeting on July 13, the board approved the contract for GISD to provide expanded education and learning services for Goodrich Area Schools. Further, it also authorized the superintendent to define the working relationship with the district as outlined in the agreement.

Seat Time Waiver Report Received

Recently, GISD and its constituent districts received a Seat Time Waiver for its online program that allows for ten percent of Genesee County's high school population to take all of their courses online. At the recent Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators (MAISA) Summer Conference, Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Media Services Beverly Knox-Pipes and Superintendent Dr. Thomas Svitkovich presented a program describing the details and operation of the seat time waiver. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Michael Flanagan was in the audience and announced that all GISD partner districts, to include every district in the state, will be eligible to utilize the waiver when it is renewed next month. In order to implement this program, GISD has submitted a request for support to MAISA to help with management costs related to the program. At the July 13 board meeting, Beverly Knox-Pipes delivered a short presentation that provided GISD board members with an overview of the waiver.

Board Policy Revisions Adopted

At its meeting on June 23, the board of education approved a first reading of revised GISD Board Policies 3231 (Outside Activities of Staff), 3430.01 (Family Medical Leave Act), 7217 (Weapons), 8310 (Public Records), and 8330 (Student Records). Additionally, board members received the following recommended new policies 7530.01 (Staff Use of Wireless Communication Devices) and 8470 (Students – Sex Offender Registry, Criminal Records). At its meeting on July 13, the board conducted a second reading and adopted the aforementioned revised and new policies.

Donations Accepted

Generous donations for use by Early Childhood Programs and Services (ECPS), Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center (EKLC), and the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center (MCIC) were accepted by the board. Donations included a lift chair, cash contributions to the ECPS Outdoor Learning Activity Center, as well as cash donations to EKLC and MCIC from the Davison Knights of Columbus Council 4090.



Resignation Accepted

A resignation for the purpose of retirement was accepted from Linda L. Jaworski, Special Education Services Center-North.

Leaves of Absence Approved

Leaves of Absence were considered and approved for: Carly A. Adams, Early Childhood Programs and Services; Jacqueline B. Chapman, Transportation Services; and Jamie M. McClelland, Transportation Services.

Employment Rights Terminated

Provisions in the agreement with the Genesee Intermediate Educational Support Personnel Association (GIESPA) allow that employees remaining on medical leave for the third contractual year may lose all employment rights at the discretion of the board. Disability benefits, if appropriate, would continue subject to the limitations of the carrier and in accordance with the master agreement. At its meeting on July 13, the GISD board acted to terminate the employment rights of one employee, in accordance with the provisions in the GIESPA contract.



Genesee Intermediate School District



The Crim Festival of Races will be held on Saturday, August 22, 2009. All GISD employees participating in a Crim race are eligible to receive a GISD Crim Team 2009 shirt, and GISD will reimburse one-half of the cost of one event for which staff members are registered. Staff are not required to train or run as a team. The Crim Festival of Races registration form is accessible online, and you can also register online at www.crim.org.

To obtain your GISD Crim Team 2009 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, or to schedule a time to drop off your paperwork and pick up a shirt, contact Eileen Jackson at 810-591-4425.

Remember, when registering for a Crim event, you can make a designation or donation to Area 13 Special Olympics at the same time. This is important because Special Olympics only receives funds from this event through your generous designation. This is an easy way to support local programs that benefit many of GISD's students.



Congratulations Graduates!

Lauren Wing, daughter of Melissa Wing, Education and Learning, graduated from Fenton High School on June 7, 2009. Lauren received the Ivan Williams Award, which reflects a combination of athletic ability, academic excellence, leadership, and citizenship. Lauren was also awarded the Presidential Scholarship from Alma College where she will be attending in the fall to study business and accounting. Great job, Lauren!

Renea Timmons, daughter of Camille Timmons, MCIC, graduated with high honors from Carman-Ainsworth High School on June 4, 2009. Renea will be attending Michigan State University in the fall, majoring in pre-med. Congratulations, Renea!

Free Vision and Hearing Screening

Michigan Law PA 399 of 1996 requires students entering school at kindergarten level to present a statement confirming that they have received the Michigan Department of Community Health Vision Screening, or an eye examination by a doctor, prior to entering school. In an effort to assist parents and local school districts with the change in screening schedules, the Genesee County Health Department will offer comprehensive hearing and vision screenings during July and August.

Free Vision and Hearing Screening

for Children Entering Kindergarten,
Preschool, and Headstart

Monday through Friday
Now through August 28, 2009

8:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Genesee County Health Department
McCree North Health Center
115 East Pierson Road, Flint

To schedule an appointment or for additional information, call the Genesee County Health Department at 810-257-3193.

Burt Family Honored

Congratulations to GISD's David Burt, Human Resources and Operations, and Diane Burt, Business Services, and their children Sara, Charlie, and Chris, who were recently honored with the James A. Littell Award. This award is given annually by the Flint Olympian Games Executive Committee to a family in honor of their outstanding participation in the Flint Olympian and CANUSA games. David coaches a softball team in the Flint Olympian league and will be coaching one of Flint's softball teams when they visit Canada for the CANUSA games in August. Diane, well-known in the Swartz Creek area as an enthusiastic cheerleader for her children and their teammates, works the concession stand, assists with the registration process, and helps wherever needed. As many GISD staff already know, sports are a big deal in the Burt family. David and Diane have coached



various teams over the years, and all of their children have participated and excelled in a variety of different sports throughout their school years. Congratulations to the Burt family for receiving this honor!

New Grandchild

Congratulations to Kim Warren, HSNS, and husband Doug, on the birth of their sixth grandchild. Grandson Rylan Kenn Warren was born June 16 in Montgomery, Alabama, weighing 6 lbs., 15 oz. The Warren's son, Staff Sergeant Kurt Warren of the U.S. Air Force and his wife, Riva, are the proud parents. Congratulations to the Warren family!

NOTICE TO GISD STAFF

Starting with the September 2009 issue, GISD will begin to implement paperless distribution of the *InnerViews* newsletter, which will help increase efficiency and eliminate costs associated with printing and mailing.

Each month, staff will receive *InnerViews* via email. GISD staff can also access the electronic version of *InnerViews* by visiting GISD's website, located at www.geneseeisd.org. Select the Publications tab, and then choose the Newsletters option.

If you are a GISD staff member that does not have a GISD email address or Internet access, please contact Eileen Jackson, Communications and Development, at 810-591-4425, to receive a printed version of the *InnerViews* newsletter.



August Birthdays

1	Kelli Horner	Project CHOICE
2	Kim Putney	Transition Center
2	Kimberly Slezsak	HSNS
3	Susan Fulton	Project CHOICE
3	Erin Lamb	HSNS
3	Andrea Peters	SESC-N
4	Lori Hitchcock	TMS
6	Susan Hall	Transportation Services
6	Denise Wilder	MCIC
7	Cynthia Farrow	Transportation Services
7	Jaimi Scrivener	Project CHOICE
7	Regina Taylor	Transportation Services
7	Carol Vassler	ECPS
8	Debra Hartman	Business Services
9	John Crandon	TMS
9	Annette McDaniel-Fox	EKLC
10	Monica Heicher	Transportation Services
11	Anissa Allen	EKLC
11	Rachael Greene	EKLC
11	Barbara Purman	Project CHOICE
11	Toyonna Robbins	ECPS
12	Daisy Morton	MCIC
12	David Wilson	EKLC
13	Sarah Crespo	EKLC
13	Darla Jackson	SESC-N
13	Sharon O'Neill	Transportation Services
15	Betsy Curtis	EKLC
15	Catherine Fruhner	Transportation Services
16	Melissa Ayre	SESC-N
16	Mary Cripps	Project CHOICE
16	Debra Hux	ECPS
16	Rachel Johnson	MCIC
17	Kenneth Duncan	Transportation Services
17	Kay Hartl	MCIC
17	Susan O'Brien	MCIC
18	Luther Brown	Business Services
18	Terese McGuire	Business Services
19	Jimmy Colley	SESC-N
19	Dawn Fults	ECPS
19	Lauren Victor	Day Treatment
19	Matthew Weiss	TMS
19	Kenneth Wilson	EKLC
20	Robin Allman	Human Resources

20	Timothy Brock	Transportation Services
21	Rebecca Downing	SESC-N
21	Sally Gill	MCIC
21	Tiffany Hassett	Transportation Services
21	Julia Legrow	EKLC
21	Diana Powell	Transportation Services
21	Sharon Vigna	SESC-N
22	Rita Bullard	Project CHOICE
22	Dana Medelis	ECPS
23	Krista Coppersmith	EKLC
24	Mary Titus	MCIC
25	Katherine Carr	MMC
25	Judy Fridline	HSNS
25	Jerry Johnson	Comm. & Development
25	David Pearson	Transportation Services
25	Tasha Skoczylas	Transportation Services
26	Kathryn Bartlett	EKLC
26	Rebecca Boos	EKLC
26	Jacalyn Mann	Human Resources
27	Darlene Ryan	Transportation Services
28	Jennifer Nelson	EKLC
28	Matthew Stark	TMS
29	Yvette Bentley	Project CHOICE
29	Donna Burmeister	Career Technical Ed.
29	Elizabeth Denny	ECPS
29	JaMise Wash-Lang	Business Services
30	Arick Gray	Business Services
30	Susan Himes	EKLC
31	Larry Rickard	Transition Center

September Birthdays

1	Barbara Abdella	Project CHOICE
3	Diane Sikora	Transition Center
4	Ida Green	MCIC
4	Heather Hamilton	EKLC
4	Robert Stacey	EKLC
4	Sheila Welch	Project CHOICE
5	Dewonna Balknight	Transportation Services
5	Chanda Cleaves	Business Services
5	Brianna Furze	Transportation Services
5	Michael Moorman	Human Resources



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www.geneseeisd.org



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

**A Publication of Genesee Intermediate
School District's Communications
and Development Department**

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