



Take Note...

January 28, 2005

Attendance and Routine Matters

Board Policy Revisions Approved

SKIP to a Great Start Report Received

Gender Equity Program Update Received

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Paul D. Newman	President
Peggy J. Tortorice	Vice President
Robert E. Mark	Secretary
Jerry G. Ragsdale	Treasurer
Lawrence P. Ford	Trustee



GENESEED ISD
Thomas Svitkovich, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Paul Newman, president; Peggy Tortorice, vice president; Robert Mark, secretary; Jerry Ragsdale, treasurer; and Lawrence Ford, trustee, attended.

At the December 14, 2004 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 or additions needed for legal compliance and to maintain quality and usefulness of the board policies. At the January 10, 2005 meeting, the board approved the second reading and adopted the policy revisions. The revised policies will become part of GISD's electronic policy manual accessible through the GISD website.

Since its inception four years ago, the SKIP to a Great Start program has served 2,500 children from birth through kindergarten entry per year. SKIP has become a critical link to encourage parent participation with schools; reinforce effective parenting practices; inform parents and work with children on school readiness in literacy, math and science; and to provide health screenings and referrals for additional services.

At the January 10th board meeting, Beth Hackett, health consultant, and Catrina Wiskur, parenting education facilitator, presented updated results of the project's impact. Local program coordinators were also present to answer any questions from the board members. The board accepted the report.

Bringing Relevancy to Education has been a team effort among GISD's Career Technical Education and Communications and Development departments, the Genesee Area Mathematics/Science Center and eight business/higher education partners. Throughout calendar year 2004, 91 young women in grades eight through eleven from Genesee County participated in nontraditional hands-on activities tied to career options in the fields of math, science, technology and other high-skill occupations. Successful female role models from our community and Detroit were integral to the design and delivery of the project. At the January 10th board meeting, Gary Tower, director of Career Technical Education, presented a six-minute DVD that highlighted the successful accomplishments of the program. Gary also reported that the year-long initiative complemented local district efforts to encourage girls and young women to pursue a course of nontraditional academics, training and career opportunities. He indicated that Genesee ISD's web-based Educational Development Plan was used to identify female

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Plante & Moran Services Authorized

students interested in typically male-dominated occupational areas, and will assist with monitoring and review to gauge the project's impact over time. The board accepted the update.

During the past several months, laws have been passed related to the reporting of revenue and expenditures and posting such information on the district web site. Several of the changes in legislation have immediate impact; however, the majority of the changes must be in place by July 1, 2006 and will impact the way we will be required to do business in the future. At the board meeting on November 23, 2004, Mr. Kim Lindsay, CPA, Lewis & Knopf, reviewed GISD's audit report and recommended GISD utilize a separate accounting firm on a consultant basis to assist with developing policy and procedures that would ensure compliance with these new laws.

As a result, board representatives discussed this recommendation with representatives from Plante & Moran, PLLC. The district utilized the services of Plante & Moran in 2002 for the reorganization and subsequent reduction of administrative staff and the creation of the Communications and Development Department. Plante & Moran will assist district administrators in meeting the requirements of the new legislation by reviewing current laws and procedures and helping to improve GISD's system for monitoring grant subrecipients, including accounting procedures related to such monitoring. Representatives of Plante & Moran will work with staff to review current projects and grants to assist in developing a business office model that meets the requirements of the new laws. This model will also be transferable to local school districts and will reduce their cost for implementation.

After careful consideration at the January 10, 2005 meeting, the board authorized the superintendent and appropriate staff to work with representatives from Plante & Moran as a consultant to assist in meeting the requirements of the new laws. The authorization was made with the understanding that the cost for the services of Plante & Moran be reviewed by the board treasurer and all expenses be approved by the board at regular board meetings.

Mott Middle College Furniture Bid Approved

At the beginning of the 2004-05 school year, Mott Middle College staff created additional office space for the main office. This space was necessary because of the increased enrollment and the need to have a work area for the teaching staff. The new office space houses the principal, secretaries, dean of students and curriculum coordinator. It also serves as an area to meet with parents and students.

On December 2, 2004, specifications were mailed to 22 vendors. The specifications were developed for furniture that is compatible with furniture currently in use in the district and to utilize existing furniture and panels that are currently in storage. Bids were due on December 15, 2004, and four (4) companies responded as summarized below. All bids met the specifications.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>	<u>Installation</u>	<u>Total</u>
Creative Office Concepts Cedar Springs, MI Interior Environments	\$35,085.73	\$2,850.00	\$37,935.73
Southfield, MI Adams Office Furniture	\$39,814.18	\$3,865.00	\$43,679.18
Fruitport, MI Hospital Purchasing Service	\$41,267.63	\$3,670.00	\$44,937.63
Middleville, MI	No Bid		

Upon review of the bids with the Building & Grounds Committee at the January 10, 2005 meeting, the board voted to award the bid to Creative Office Concepts of Cedar Springs in the amount of \$37,935.73.

School Election Coordinating Committee Representative Designated

“Ready, Set, Grow!” Passport Initiative Support Approved

Employee Combined Campaign Report Received

PAC Member Appointed

Over the past year, GISD has been attempting to work with County Clerk Michael Carr’s office to resolve issues resulting from the new election consolidation law. The clerk’s plan will create split precincts and add to the confusion of the electorate, while increasing costs to local districts.

Under Michigan’s Constitution, school districts in Michigan are established as independent governmental units. The fiscal year for schools is different and board/school elections have always followed school precinct designations. Therefore, it is believed that the current school precinct structure serves school districts well and should continue. The new election consolidation law allows for this option, with some adjustment. However, County Clerk Mike Carr does not agree with this logic and is insisting his plan be accepted and followed. This decision means Genesee County school districts face increased costs associated with more precincts.

Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich suggested that all GISD board members attend the Election Coordinating Committee meeting on January 11, 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, in the County Commission Auditorium on the third floor of the Genesee County Administration Building, and voice strong opposition. Further, Mr. Jerry Ragsdale moved the board designate Secretary Robert Mark as GISD’s official delegate to the Election Coordinating Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich reported that the Genesee County Superintendents Association continues to endorse this program that identifies children upon birth in local hospitals. This concept helps Genesee County school districts develop a closer relationship with new parents, as well as increase the health and learning levels of incoming preschool and kindergarten students. Local district superintendents support the program at \$.75/student for operation costs in partnership with the health and business communities, and the GISD superintendent currently serves on the Passport Board of Directors, providing leadership and coordination for “Ready, Set, Grow!” Passport activities.

At its January 25, 2005 meeting, the board of education approved financial support of \$3,000 to the “Ready, Set, Grow!” Passport Initiative. This amount is in addition to the in-kind support the district is currently giving to the program.

Diane Burt, accountant, Business Services, and Stephanie Resky, teacher of the cognitively impaired, Project CHOICE, served this year as co-chairs of the GISD Employee Combined Campaign. Last year, GISD collected \$38,987.30 and surpassed its goal of \$38,000. This year’s goal was to collect \$39,000. At the January 25, 2005 meeting, the superintendent reported that a total of \$41,214.94 was pledged by GISD staff. Diane Burt commented that over the 18 years of GISD’s participation in the United Way Campaign, staff have given a combined total of \$464,414! The board accepted the report and thanked the co-chairs and building representatives Barb Eliason, Davis Education Center; Denice Westervelt, Health, Safety and Nutrition Services; Andrea Peters, Special Services-North; Dotty Freathy, Early Childhood Programs and Services; Larry Williams and Ida Green, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; Major Harper and Karen Seeley, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; Stephanie Resky, Project CHOICE; Barb Diegel, Transportation; and Marcia Clark, Mott Middle College.

This year 20 organizations were included in the campaign, and GISD staff designated their contributions to all 20 of the organizations.

At the January 25, 2005 meeting, the board approved the nomination of Rachel Schubert to serve on the GISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee. She will represent Linden Community Schools on the committee.

Donations Accepted

On behalf of several GISD programs, the board accepted numerous donations from generous parents, grandparents and staff members. Donations included: bowling trophies, school store items, staff inservice refreshments, toys and pull ups for use at the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center (\$530.69 total value); an Amazon.com gift certificate for use at Early Childhood Programs and Services (\$100.00 total value); a cash donation of \$100.00 for Mott Middle College's Steel Drum Band; and a sofa, loveseat, dining room table and six chairs for use at Health, Safety and Nutrition Service's Evenstart program (\$1,600.00 total value).

Additional donations included a check for \$582.06 from the Knights of Columbus Clio Council #4285 to help expand Early Childhood Programs & Service's Outdoor Learning and Activity Center. The Mervyn's/Target Corporation donated \$2,000 toward books for preschool children in the SKIP to a Great Start program.

Employee Hired

Due to the increase in student enrollment for the 2004-05 school year at Mott Middle College, an additional teaching position was approved. At its January 10th meeting, the board approved hiring Laura A. Rainey to fill a science position.

Leaves of Absence Approved

Leaves of absence were considered and approved for Judith R. Frantz, Paraprofessional, Early Childhood Programs and Services; Erin E. Boillat, Health and Safety Facilitator, Health, Safety and Nutrition Services; Gwindia B. Jefferson, Paraprofessional, Early Childhood Programs and Services; Shirley M. Licquia, Transportation Aide, Transportation Services; Kimberly A. Ryder, Paraprofessional, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; and Denise L. Witte, Transportation Aide, Transportation Services.

Resignations Accepted

Resignation for the purpose of retirement was accepted from Janice L. Callison, Information Systems Administrator, Technology and Media Services.

Visit GISD's web site at:
www.geneseeisd.org

This document based on unofficial minutes of the GISD Board Meetings — January 10 and 25, 2005.



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