



Take Note...

May 25, 2005

Attendance and Routine Matters

Michigan Association of School Boards Awards Accepted

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

At the May 10, 2005 meeting, the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education proudly accepted the following awards presented by the Michigan Association of School Boards:

- Honor Board Award
- Standard of Excellence Award
- Distinguished Achievement Award

The GISD Board of Education earned these awards for its participation in the MASB Certified Board Member Awards program and leadership at the local, state and national levels. The GISD Board was honored as one of two boards of education in the state of Michigan to earn the Distinguished Achievement Award. This award was granted because each member has achieved the Master Board Member level by completing certification/award levels 1, 2 and 3, plus a total of nine 200-level CBA classes and a minimum of 368 education credits.

Congratulatory letters were also received from MASB indicating that the GISD Board is one of eighteen boards across the state to receive the Honor Board Award (each board member must reach level 1 certification) and one of nine boards to achieve the Standard of Excellence Award (each board member must reach level 2 certification).

President Paul Newman was also recognized for his contributions by receiving his Advocacy Skills Specialist certification. This certification is also held by **Treasurer Jerry Ragsdale**. Service, leadership, certification, classes, presentations and other board activities are criteria for this prestigious honor.

On Friday, April 22, 2005, Genesee Intermediate School District's SKIP to a Great Start program was honored at the 4C Child Care Unlimited Advocacy Awards Breakfast. Gloria Bourdon, director of Health, Safety and Nutrition Services, accepted the award on behalf of the program. Also in attendance was staff from GISD, as well as Flint, Genesee, Beecher and Carman-Ainsworth who all contributed to SKIP to a Great Start's success. The award was for Child Care Advocacy-Academic Excellence.

At the May 10 meeting, the board acknowledged the award and recognized Gloria Bourdon and her staff for receiving this award.

4C Child Care Unlimited Award 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



GENESEE ISD
Thomas Svitkovich, Ed.D.
Superintendent

To keep you informed of actions and information from the GISD Board of Education Meeting.
Questions? Call Communications and Development, 591-4541.

State of GISD Technology Report Presented

The GenNET system is approaching its 10th Birthday. In preparation for the upcoming celebration, Beverly Knox-Pipes, assistant superintendent, Technology, presented a technology status report to the board highlighting GenNET programming. Over the last ten years, 385 miles of fiber optic cable have connected 179 K-12 school buildings in Genesee County. This powerful voice, video and data system was developed to serve GISD and its constituent districts.

Beverly Knox-Pipes also reported that in 1998-99, 624 students enrolled in 61 sections of interactive television classes. Today, 731 students are enrolled in 68 class sections, including classes such as the Civil War, 1960s and the Vietnam War, Money and Banking and Criminal Justice. Beginning in 2001, 73 students enrolled in 45 online courses. Today 160 students are enrolled in 283 courses such as Civics, Creative Writing, U.S. History and Trigonometry. Since starting last year, 95 virtual conferences have been held, as well as 60 virtual field trips.

The report also included information about the latest initiative: GenNET Pioneers, a staff development and training initiative to explore the ways that boundaries of student learning can be expanded. This initiative involves 120 Genesee County teachers. Participants in the program will pilot and demonstrate the expanded use of technology to support academic achievement. This initiative is consistent with the GISD Teaching, Learning & Service Plan which has been unanimously approved by the GenNET Governing Board. Also, this high tech staff development program focuses on the curriculum issues identified in the accountability study. Additional topics discussed included the technology audit, videos on demand and the use of Blackboard. The board unanimously accepted the report.

Genesee County MEAP Results Received

The GISD board received the 2004-05 MEAP results for Genesee County students at the May 24 meeting. Dr. Mary Lavengood and Dr. David Treder shared the following with the board:

- A summary of the scores
- The efforts taken by the Office of Education and Learning to assist local districts to improve their scores
- The disparity in the writing test scores
- An update on the status of the 2005-06 MEAP testing program

Dr. Treder also demonstrated the methods that he has provided for the districts to evaluate their results.

Resolution Seeking Changes to NCLB Act Adopted

The National School Boards Association requested that the Genesee Intermediate School District consider approval of a resolution supporting the National Education Association's public campaign seeking changes to the *No Child Left Behind Act*. The administration recommended the board adopt a resolution which supports the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Improvements Act of 2005* developed by the National School Boards Association. This act calls for the following changes/improvements:

- 1) Improving the accuracy by which NCLB defines adequate yearly progress (AYP)
- 2) Strengthening the alignment between the required sanctions (remedies) and the educational needs of the individual students;
- 3) Granting the Secretary of Education greater flexibility to approve effective and innovative state accountability systems.

An approved exception to the existing 1% cap on students using alternate proficiency standards has been applied to Genesee Intermediate School District's AYP status for special education programs. After review and consideration of the resolution at the May 10 meeting, the GISD board unanimously adopted the resolution.

Jim Lee Fine Arts Camp Contribution Approved

For the past 16 summers, Mott Community College has conducted its Summer Fine Arts Camp on the MCC campus for approximately 200 Genesee County area students in seventh through ninth grades. Maintaining the district's practice established in 1991, the board authorized a \$500 contribution to the Mott Community College Jim Lee Fine Arts Camp.

Ligon Unrestricted Funds Transferred to Community Foundation of Greater Flint

Bid for Ligon Lodge Renovations Approved

Since its inception in 1985, the Genesee County Educational Foundation (GCEF) has maintained its funds under the GISD accounting system. These funds included both unrestricted and restricted accounts. In order to help grow Foundation funds at a greater rate, the GCEF at its meeting on May 16 approved moving \$10,500 of the Ligon unrestricted fund to the Community Foundation of Greater Flint (CFGF). This action would: make giving more appealing to prospective donors because of CFGF's name familiarity and encourage new givers to contribute for long-term goals at Ligon Outdoor Center; provide a more attractive depository for Foundation funds where interest earning potential is far greater; qualify donors to receive both a federal deduction *and* state tax credit for their gifts; enable GISD Communications and Development staff that support the GCEF to have access to CFGF promotional materials and participate in broader marketing/community foundation publicity efforts; reduce annual audit costs (charge would be ½% of year-end balance); and retain a balance beginning July 1, 2005 at GISD (inclusive of current encumbrances) of approximately \$7,500 for emergency or special project purposes.

At the May 24 meeting, the board approved the transfer of \$10,500 of the (Genesee County Educational Foundation) Ligon unrestricted fund to the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

On May 25, 2004, the board approved the long-range capital improvement plan for the district. Included in the plan was the need to replace exterior logs for the Ligon lodge that have disintegrated over time because of moisture and dry rot. On August 24, 2004, the board received a donation of \$10,500 from Robert Ligon to be used toward the renovation of the lodge. Since that time, GISD has been working with representatives from Wolgast to do an assessment of the facility, research the availability of replacement logs and determine the scope of the project. Staff from Wolgast developed drawings and specifications and have been in contact with the State of Michigan Plan Review and Building Inspection Division as it relates to designation of the lodge as an historical building and assuring that we are in compliance with the School Code for renovating the lodge.

Invitations to bid were advertised on the state web site and in the newspaper; and Wolgast provided the specifications to 20 potential contractors, including log home builders, as well as contractors that the district has utilized in the past several years. Five contractors responded and indicated that they would bid on the project. Bids for the project were due on May 3, 2005 and are summarized as follows:

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Met Specifications</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>
RL White Development of of Grand Blanc	Yes	\$24,120.00
Unity Construction of Burton	Yes	\$23,333.00

The Building & Grounds Committee met prior to the May 24 board meeting to review the drawings, the scope of the project and the bids. As a result, the Building & Grounds committee made a recommendation to award the project to Unity Construction of Burton in the amount of \$23,333.00. The bid does not include the cost of the logs, which have been purchased separately by the district from Heartwood Cedar Products of Boyne Falls in the amount of \$7,994.80. Delivery is expected by June 1. The construction management/daily supervision fee with Wolgast is \$5,025.00 for a total construction cost, including the logs, of \$36,349.80. On May 17, 2005, the Genesee County Educational Foundation met and recommended that the foundation contribute \$10,000 toward the cost of the project. This \$10,000 along with the \$10,500 donated by Robert Ligon will result in a net cost for the district of \$15,849.80.

The board voted to award the bid to Unity Construction of Burton for the Ligon Lodge renovations.

Montrose Downtown Development Authority Supported

Parent Advisory Committee Members Appointed

Donations Accepted

Leaves of Absence Approved

Resignation Accepted

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

The City of Montrose has asked the Montrose Board of Education and the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education to respond to a survey regarding the city's Downtown Development Authority. Specifically, they have asked whether each will support or oppose the expansion of the City of Montrose Downtown Development Authority boundaries.

Prior to the May 24 board meeting, Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich discussed this request with Montrose Superintendent Mark Kleinhans who stated that his administration and the Montrose Board actively support the expansion of the Downtown Development Authority. Based on the recommendations of the Montrose and GISD superintendents, the board voted to support the City of Montrose Downtown Development Authority boundary expansion.

At the May 24 meeting, the following nominees were presented for board approval for reappointment on the GISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee: Kathy Pabst, representing Fenton Area Public Schools; and Cynthia Alvado, representing Grand Blanc Community Schools. The board approved the appointment of both nominees to the committee.

On behalf of several GISD programs, the board accepted numerous donations from parents, grandparents, volunteers and community organizations. Donations included: cash from friends, families and the Knights of Columbus Council #6694, a wheelchair, diaper packs and a computer (total value \$927.00) for use at the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; 11 prom dresses, toys, games and clothing (total value \$835.00) for use at the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; and a triplet stroller for use at Early Childhood Programs and Services (\$300.00 total value).

Leaves of Absence were considered and approved for: Judith K. Purdy, Principal, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; Christine E. Ballinger, Paraprofessional, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; and Denise L. Witte, Transportation Aide, Transportation Services.

Resignation for the purpose of retirement was accepted from Maria E. Gonzalez, Coordinator, English as a Second Language; Education and Learning.

This document based on unofficial minutes of the GISD Board Meetings — May 10 and 24, 2005.



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