



# Take Note...

**January 25, 2007**

## **Attendance and Routine Matters**

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

## **American Cancer Society Five Star Investor Award Accepted**

The Genesee Intermediate School District received a Five-Star Investor award from the Great Lakes Division of the American Cancer Society. This award was made in recognition of GISD's efforts dedicated to fighting cancer on multiple fronts through the American Cancer Society's "Workplace Solutions" program. Elements of the program include involvement in the American Cancer Society Health and Wellness Communication program, qualifying for the American Cancer Society Prevention and Early Detection/Patient Navigation initiative, and participating in Active For Life activities. GISD also qualified by sponsoring employee wellness activities, including cancer related screenings and tobacco cessation programs. Most importantly, all of GISD's working environments are smoke free.

At the January 9, 2007 meeting, Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich thanked the board for its support of the staff and community activities and in making GISD's environment 100% smoke free, and he also noted that the American Cancer Society receives support from Genesee Intermediate School District through the Employee Combined Campaign. The board accepted the American Cancer Society Five Star Investor Award.

## **"Ready, Set, Grow!" Passport Initiative Support Approved**

The Genesee County Superintendents Association continues to endorse this program that identifies children as they are born in our local hospitals. This concept helps us develop a closer relationship with our newest parents, as well as increase the health and learning levels of our 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. GISD Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich currently serves on the Passport Board of Directors, providing leadership and coordination for "Ready, Set, Grow!" Passport activities. At the January 23, 2007 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.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Peggy J. Tortorice	President
Lawrence P. Ford	Vice President
Jerry G. Ragsdale	Secretary
Dale A. Green	Treasurer
Paul D. Newman	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.

## **GISD Board Members Recognized**

## **2006-2007 Employee Combined Campaign Report Received**

Each January, School Board Recognition Month is celebrated as a great opportunity to thank the men and women who make the time to share their vision about the future of Michigan's children. This year's theme was *School Boards Make A World of Difference*. In honor of School Board Recognition Month, the board members of the Genesee Intermediate School District were recognized at the January 23, 2007 meeting for their vision and dedication to the district.

Diane Burt, accountant, Business Services, and Stephanie Resky, teacher consultant for students with disabilities, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center, served this year as co-chairs of the GISD Employee Combined Campaign.

At the January 9, 2007 meeting, it was reported that last year, Genesee Intermediate School District collected \$44,032.65. This year's goal was to collect \$46,500. A total of \$49,113.48 was pledged making this year's pledge total the most generous amount given by Genesee Intermediate School District employees.

At the January 9, 2007 meeting, special thanks were given to the co-chairs and building representatives Diane Burt and Barb Eliason, Erwin L. Davis Education Center; Denice Westervelt, Health, Safety and Nutrition Services; Andrea Peters, Special Education 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 and Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center; Barb Diegel, Transportation; and Diane Kirvan, Mott Middle College.

This year, monies were donated to 24 organizations participating in the campaign:

United Way of Genesee County	\$18,145.08
United Way of Lapeer County	\$102.00
United Negro College Fund	\$477.00
Community Health Charities	\$1,835.70
Genesee County 4-H Horsepower	\$166.00
Edward F. Gwiazdowski Scholarship	\$1,886.66
Project SKIP	\$1,947.91
Mott Middle College	\$2,091.40
Very Special Arts of Genesee County	\$4,135.74
Special Olympics	\$3,474.71
Hurley Foundation	\$1,058.00
Genesee County Educational Foundation-Ligon	\$2,630.58
Consortium on Child Abuse	\$1,689.26
Genesee County Free Medical Clinic	\$1,374.25
American Cancer Society	\$2,114.30
Black United Fund	\$279.00
EarthShare of Michigan	\$723.50
Catholic Charities	\$0.00
Crim Fitness	\$130.00
Easter Seals	\$1,392.27
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,773.12
Michigan Association for United Way	\$981.00
Special Needs Vision Clinic	\$556.00
Salem Housing	\$150.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,113.48</b>

## **GISD Transition Center Update Received**

On December 12, 2006, the Building and Grounds Committee received an update on the design and projected costs for the GISD Transition Center renovation project. After a great deal of input from staff, the final design has an additional 1,144 square feet of program space as compared to the September proposal.

At the January 9, 2007 meeting, Deputy Superintendent Michael Moorman presented updated information and led a discussion regarding the proposed renovations to the site. The increase in square footage being renovated includes additional space in the serving kitchen that will provide the opportunity for training more students at one time, larger staff work areas that lend themselves to multiple shifts should they be needed, increased size of group training rooms, increased size of restrooms and a general reorganization of the space that will result in a better flow of traffic and instruction. Renovations in regard to transportation will decrease the distance from the bus to the door, allow more spacing for buses and provide safer bus turnarounds. The building will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and follow-up work will occur to ensure that the site has adequate drinking fountains.

The updated total cost for the site is \$3,698,546. This new total represents an estimated savings of \$914,454 when compared to the cost of new construction. Mr. Moorman also provided the board with the following updated schedule: pre-bid meeting at the GISD Transition Center on February 15, 2007; bids opened at Davis Education Center on March 1, 2007; and award bids at GISD board meeting on March 13, 2007. The board accepted the Transition Center update.

## **Balanced Leadership Report Accepted**

GISD has been working with local districts to encourage principals, central office administrators and superintendents to become involved in the balanced leadership program supported by the research of the Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning (McRel) organization. At the Association for Educational Service Agencies (AESAs) CEO conference, Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich learned about balanced leadership from one of the primary researchers, Dr. Timothy Waters. Dr. Waters gave special permission to use parts of his presentation to encourage principals, central office administrators and superintendents to change their leadership styles and focus on elements which are directly related to student achievement. It is important that boards of education also understand and support efforts for balanced leadership and, as a result, change student achievement in all Genesee County schools. At the January 23, 2007 meeting, Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich shared information on balanced leadership that was previously presented to GISD and local district administrators. Additionally, Assistant Superintendent Mary Lavengood, who is also engaged in working to change leadership behaviors and improve student achievement, was available to answer questions. The board accepted the presentation on balanced leadership.

## **Bid Approved for Phase I of MCIC Construction and Renovation**

On May 25, 2004, the board adopted the Capital Improvement Long-Range Plan. The complete renovation of the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center was scheduled for 2006 as part of the plan. On September 12, 2006, the board approved the design and cost estimates for the actual project beginning with Phase I, construction of a 9,860-square-foot addition housing five classrooms, a changing room, music room, and boys and girls restroom facilities. Phase II involves renovation of the existing 49,552-square-foot structure to be completed in increments over two and one-half years.

Wolgast Corporation, GISD's construction manager, solicited 2,698 contractors to participate in the bid process. Requests for Bids were posted in

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## **Donations Accepted**

## **Leaves of Absence Approved**

## **Resignations Accepted**

Visit GISD's web site at:  
[www.geneseeisd.org](http://www.geneseeisd.org)

the newspaper and on the state website. On January 3, 2007, the pre-bid meeting was held at MCIC and attracted over 50 interested contractors. On January 16, 2007, bids from 110 separate contractors were opened and read.

Wolgast Corporation recommended, and GISD administration concurred, that the bids for GISD Phase I MCIC construction be awarded to the low bidders in each of 13 categories of construction, for a total cost of \$1,559,710. Of the construction work to take place, 77% of the work is being completed by union companies, and nine of the companies are located within Genesee County.

At the January 23, 2007 meeting, the GISD board approved the bid recommendation, and the project is scheduled to begin on February 12, 2007.

Generous donations for use at Early Childhood Programs and Services; Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; and Health, Safety and Nutrition Services were received by the board at the January 23, 2007 meeting. The donations included cash, computer equipment, as well as books from Macy's Department Stores for the Project SKIP program. Additionally, Target Community Relations donated seasonal decorations and support for the Project SKIP Music Experience partnership.

At the January 23, 2007 meeting, leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Dana Jones-Shaw, Business Services; Joseph Johnson IV, Transportation Services; and Melinda DeWyse, Transportation Services.

Resignations for the purpose of retirement were accepted from; Mary Lavengood, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Education and Learning; and Judith A. McAllister, Paraprofessional, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center.

Note: This document based on unofficial minutes of the GISD Board Meeting — January 9 & 23, 2007.



GENESEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
2413 West Maple Avenue  
Flint, Michigan 48507-3493