



Take Note...

March 30, 2007

Attendance and Routine Matters

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

General Enrollment Information Accepted

GISD's Business Services staff prepared general enrollment information, including live birth data and five-year enrollment projections for the GISD. The enrollment information was generated from the Single Record Student Database (SRSD). In addition, specific trend data on adult education, special education and career technical education have been developed. As in the past, detailed enrollment projections for each local school district were developed and distributed to the superintendents for their use. At the March 13, 2007 board meeting, Cynthia McCain, Executive Director – Finance, presented the GISD board with a summary of the report. The board accepted the report.

Priority Children Board of Directors Representative Appointed

On March 31, 2007, Dr. Thomas Svitkovich's one-year term on the Priority Children Board of Directors will expire. Priority Children is an organization dedicated to supporting children in our county. Members of the organization have also been partners in many GISD activities, including the early childhood initiatives and health-related programs. Priority Children has also recognized GISD for the outstanding work in the Health, Safety and Nutrition Services department. The mission of Priority Children explains that the organization is dedicated "to improve the quality of life for children and families in Genesee County through Assessment, Public Awareness and Advocacy." At the March 13, 2007 meeting, the board designated Dr. Svitkovich as Genesee Intermediate School District's representative for the next one-year term that will run from April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008.

Board Policy Revisions Adopted

At the February 27, 2007 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 and additions needed for legal compliance and to maintain quality and usefulness of the board policies. At the March 13, 2007 meeting, the board held a second reading and approved the recommended policy changes. The revised policies will now become a part of GISD's electronic policy manual accessible through the GISD website at: www.geneseeisd.org.

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.

Collaborative Schools of Choice Program Endorsed for 2007-08

Summer Programs Approved

Project CHOICE Report Received

The Genesee County Superintendents Association took action at its retreat on March 1, 2007 to continue the Collaborative Schools of Choice Program for the 2007-08 school year with a new 1% factor. At its March 13, 2007 meeting, the GISD board endorsed the Genesee Intermediate School District Collaborative Schools of Choice Program for 2007-08.

Elmer Knopf Learning Center (EKLC)

For many years, GISD has successfully operated a summer recreational day camp program. The program has provided activities for students with moderate cognitive impairments (MoCI) and autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The EKLC summer program will run three days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The duration of the program will be five weeks. Staffing will be determined by student enrollment, and transportation will be provided for students whose resident district participates in GISD transportation services.

In addition, at the request of Grand Blanc Community Schools, GISD will provide a pilot program for students with autism spectrum disorders who attend GISD's ASD Project CHOICE classrooms in Grand Blanc. The program will serve up to 16 students currently enrolled in the Perry Center and Brendel GISD Project CHOICE ASD classrooms. The program will run four days a week, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The duration of the program will be six weeks. Transportation and lunches will be provided by the parents of the registrants.

Early Childhood Programs and Services (ECPS)

Early Childhood Programs and Services has proposed a 2007 Summer Enrichment Program for birth to seven-year-old children who are enrolled in the program during the school year. A program for students ages three to seven years is proposed for five weeks, three days per week, for two hours and 45 minutes. The program will operate from July 10, 2007 through August 9, 2007. The total number of staff will be determined by student enrollment. GISD will provide transportation, and daily snacks will be provided by the families. A parent/child program for students birth to 36 months of age will be offered again for five weeks, one day per week, up to two-hour sessions per week and may include music, literacy and language, gross motor sensory, and fine motor activities. Program options will be determined on student enrollment.

At the March 13, 2007 meeting, the GISD board approved the summer programs for EKLC and ECPS.

Project CHOICE has three components, including awareness activities for general education students, interactive experiences between students in our Center programs and students from local schools, and classroom alternatives for students with severe disabilities. Social interaction is an integral aspect of functioning within the family and the community. Since 1986, GISD has had many special events and ongoing activities that bring together center-based students and students without disabilities. At the March 27, 2007 meeting, staff from the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center presented examples of some of the interactive experiences.

This year, there are three new community partners that participate with GISD students at the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center (MCIC), including Mt. Morris Alternative Education Basketball Team, GenNET Pioneers Project, and peer buddies. Representatives, including staff, students and parents from each of the partners, were present at the March 27, 2007 board meeting to provide information on their interactive experiences with MCIC students. They were joined by Jan Russell, assistant superintendent, Special Education Services, who answered questions regarding Project CHOICE.

GISD Transition Center Renovation Bids Accepted

On May 25, 2004, the Board adopted a Long-Range Capital Improvement Plan, which was updated in February 2006. The purchase of property to house a transition program and related construction and renovation was scheduled as part of that plan. In September 2007, the Board purchased the vacant 23,174 square foot Office Max building located at 3136 S. Linden Road to house the GISD Transition Center.

On January 9, 2007, the Board approved the design and estimated costs totaling \$159.59 per square foot, or \$3,698,546, including the cost of the building and the roof replacement. After significant input from staff and community, the cost estimate was higher than the original proposal due to design changes that added an additional 1,100 square feet of space being renovated.

Wolgast Corporation, GISD's construction manager, solicited 1,098 contractors to participate in the bidding process. Requests for Bids were posted in the newspaper and on the state website. On February 22, 2007, a pre-bid meeting was held at the site of the GISD Transition Center at 2:00 p.m., and over 40 interested contractors attended. Eighty-eight (88) contractors submitted bids. On March 7, 2007, bids were opened and read aloud at the GISD Transition Center in front of many interested contractors and others. 50% of the low bids came from local contractors; and 79% of the low bidders are union contractors.

At the March 13, 2007 meeting, based on Wolgast Corporation recommendations and concurrence by GISD administration, the GISD board awarded the Transition Center projects to the low bidders at a total cost of \$2,078,174.

100 District Leaders Network Presentation Received

Michael Thorp, Goodrich Board of Education member, attended the AASA National Conference on Education in New Orleans on February 28, 2007. As a member of the 100 District Leaders for Citizenship and Service-Learning Network, Mr. Thorp will represent Goodrich Area Schools, Genesee County and the State of Michigan. State and district policymakers, as well as education leaders, will identify, develop and implement policies to support student academic and civic achievement through this initiative. GISD is honored to have a local board member representing this region and the state as a member of this network. At the March 27, 2007 meeting, the GISD board accepted a presentation by Mr. Thorp regarding this nationwide effort to support citizenship education and service-learning projects for students.

School Bus Purchases Approved

On March 6, 2007, the Board approved district participation in the Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO) and the Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation (MAPT) bus purchasing program for school districts. At that time, the board reviewed and approved the sample resolution and the bid documents. The program was established in 1994 when Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO) joined with Michigan Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) to initiate a group bus purchasing program to save their members time, money and concern. With cooperation from school bus vendors, the MSBO Bus Specifications Committee combined to design a program in which all districts could take advantage of group purchasing, regardless of the size of their order.

The Building and Grounds Committee met prior to the March 27, 2007 board meeting to review the bids. Following that review, it was recommended that the board of education adopt the resolution authorizing participation in the MSBO/MAPT School Bus Purchasing Program for the purposes of purchasing ten school buses for the GISD Special Education Transportation Consortium. They will be purchased from the low bidder, Capital City Bus Sales out of Lansing, at a total cost of \$923,380.00.

Location Changed for April 24 GISD Board Meeting

As has been the tradition for many years, the superintendent and members of the LakeVille Board of Education cordially extended an invitation to the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education to conduct its April 24, 2007 meeting in the LakeVille Community School District, followed by the annual end-of-maple-syrup-season pancake supper and the LakeVille Board of Education meeting. As a result of the invitation, the GISD board has changed the location of its April 24, 2007 meeting to LakeVille Middle School.

Donations Accepted

Generous donations for use by GISD's Office of Education and Learning and Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center were received by the board. The donations included Ribbon Drapes for Spelling Bee medals and medical supplies, that were given by friends/family and a local business.

Leaves of Absence Approved

At the March 13, 2007 meeting, leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Jill McCarthy, Transportation Services; Tracey Tortorice, EKLC; and Angelina Skinner, Transportation Services. At the March 27, 2007 meeting, a leave of absence was considered and approved for Margaret Wallace, Transportation Services.

Resignations Accepted

At the March 13, 2007 meeting, resignations for the purpose of retirement were accepted from: Julie H. Cooper, Special Education Services; and Sharon K. Madarasz, Education and Learning.

Visit GISD's website at: www.geneseeisd.org

Note: This document based on unofficial minutes of the GISD Board Meeting — March 13 & 27, 2007.



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