



Take Note...

September 27, 2006

Attendance and Routine Matters

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

MCIC Renovation Plan Approved

In May 2004, the GISD Board of Education approved a capital improvement plan after careful study. The plan included a description of work to be done at each GISD facility, and the Capital Improvement Long-Range Plan was also included in the GISD Teaching, Learning and Service Plan. Since that time, meetings were held with building principals to review student enrollment data, history, trends, graduation rates and long-range growth projections. Following the Teaching, Learning and Service Plan, and utilizing the demographic information, as well as the energy study, the district has worked with architects and construction managers to initiate the process to implement the renovation projects outlined in the plan.

At the September 12, 2006 meeting, Jan Russell reviewed the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center renovation project. Proposed renovations incorporate the addition of new classrooms, therapy rooms and several specialty areas, including leisure, productivity, cooking, dining, sensory and life skills, as well as completely new state-of-the-art systems for heating, cooling, lighting and technology. Renovations are planned to be completed in six phases over a three-year period with a total projected cost of \$7.33 million. Prior to the board meeting, the Building and Grounds Committee examined the renovation plan in detail. The board approved the recommended renovation plans for the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center.

Purchase Approved for Mobile Teacher Stations

On August 1, 2006, the Genesee Intermediate School District submitted a request for bids for the purchase and installation of nine (9) Mobile Teacher Stations for the Mott Middle College program. The specifications were sent to five (5) vendors who specialize in this equipment. On August 15, 2006, the District received two (2) responses. At the September 26, 2006 meeting, the board voted to award the bid to City Animation, based on their low bid of \$22,500.00.

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.

Public Affairs Debates Sponsorship Approved

Shared Technical Services Agreements Approved

PAC Member Appointed

Proposal 5 Resolution Approved

Genesee Intermediate School District has been a co-sponsor of the Flint Area Public Affairs Debates since 1986. At the September 12, 2006 meeting, the board voted to continue co-sponsorship of the Flint Area Public Affairs Debates in the amount of \$500.

This school year, the board has approved technical services agreements to form partnerships to provide technical support with Beecher, Atherton, Kearsley, Davison and Lake Fenton. Details for customized technical support services have also been worked out and agreements finalized for Bendle, Bentley, Goodrich and Linden. The agreements have been approved by their respective boards of education. At the September 12, 2006 meeting, the GISD board approved the shared technical services agreements with Bendle, Bentley, Goodrich and Linden and authorized the superintendent to employ necessary staff and fully define the working relationship with the districts, as outlined in the agreements.

At the September 26, 2006 meeting, the board appointed Kristie Gross, representing Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools, to serve on the GISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee.

At the September 26, 2006 meeting, President Peggy Tortorice presented for the board's consideration a K-16 School Funding Resolution seeking voter support of Proposal 5.

Proposal 5 will be on the November ballot. The proposal includes the following important education funding elements:

- Increases current funding and requires the State to provide annual funding increases equal to the rate of inflation for public schools, intermediate school districts, community colleges and higher education (includes state universities and financial aid/grant programs).
- Requires the State to fund any deficiencies in the School Aid Fund from General Fund.
- Bases funding for school districts with a declining enrollment on the district's three-year student enrollment average.
- Caps the retirement fund contribution for public schools, community colleges and state universities and requires the state to pay the remaining portion.
- Reduces the funding gap between school districts receiving the basic per-pupil foundation allowance and those receiving the maximum foundation allowance.

In addition, Proposal 5 provides some financial stability for GISD's general education fund. Proposal 5 guarantees that Section 81 (the ISD foundation grant) will be increased at the rate of inflation consistent with K-12 foundation allowance increases.

After review and consideration, the GISD Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Office Max Property Purchased for Special Education Transition Center

Over the last several years, the GISD Board of Education has been actively engaged with the school community to develop and implement GISD's Teaching, Learning and Service Plan, the Facilities Study and other planning tools. Through this process of study, the board has researched documented reports outlining the need for a transition center to provide services for older special education students preparing them to move into the next phase of their lives.

To identify a center site, the board utilized a search process to explore a variety of options. As a result, it was concluded that an existing facility in close proximity to actual work experiences for students would be most appropriate. After intensive review, the former Office Max building, located at 3136 South Linden Road was identified as the preferred site. At the July 19, 2006 meeting, the board authorized the superintendent to execute a purchase agreement.

All documents for the purchase of the site were evaluated by the Thrun Law Firm, and a thorough review of the physical characteristics of the building and site by THA Architects and Wolgast Corporation has taken place. At the September 26, 2006 board meeting, Jeff Bennett of THA Architects, Tim Johnson of Wolgast Corporation, Deputy Superintendent Michael Moorman and Assistant Superintendent Jan Russell presented a plan for renovating the building. As a result, the board authorized the purchase of the Office Max building and site for \$800,000 and further authorized the superintendent to execute the necessary purchase documents as well as expedite continued planning for the renovation project.

Hurricane Katrina Relief Donations Accepted

GISD's Katrina Relief Activities included support for the Relocation Center where our staff represented the Genesee County education community and assisted with the school registration function for Katrina victims coming to Genesee County. Other Katrina-related activities included the costs for transporting Katrina victims from New Orleans to Genesee County and supplies to support victims in this transition process. Subsequent applications to FEMA for reimbursement of expenses incurred were denied, even after attempts to gain political support for special consideration. As a last resort, GISD staff and related organizations were asked to help, and GISD received an outstanding response.

Seventy-two individual donations from staff members, community members, businesses and philanthropic organizations totaled \$9,860.85. As stated when the donations were solicited, if GISD received more than the requested amount to fund the Katrina Relief Activities, the balance would be distributed to the Genesee County Educational Foundation. Following is the exact distribution:

Katrina Relief Activities Total Expenses	\$ 6,638.30
Genesee County Educational Foundation:	
Ligon Outdoor Center	\$805.64
Mott Middle College Student Scholarships	\$805.64
Project S.K.I.P.	\$805.64
Edward F. Gwiazdowski Scholarship	<u>\$805.63</u>
Total	\$9,860.85

At the September 26 meeting, the GISD Board of Education accepted the donations and extended its thanks to each individual and organization for contributing to this worthwhile cause.

Employees Hired

At the September 12, 2006 meeting, the board approved the hiring of: Sally A. Gill, Teacher of the Severely Multiply Impaired; Lisa A. Kotarski, Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders; Jaimi E. Smith, Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders; Stephanie L. Solberg, Teacher of Students with Cognitive Impairment; Shannon Y. White, School Nurse; Kara A. Deschler, School Psychologist; and Pamela K. Korb, Transition Coordinator. At the September 26, 2006 meeting, the board approved the hiring of: Tamara A. Morrow, School Social Worker; Theresa R. Flange, Occupational Therapist; James C. Yake, School and Community Liaison; and Michele D. Bradley, Teacher of Physical Education and Health.

Donations Accepted

Generous donations to the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center (MCIC) and the Office of Education and Learning were received by the board. The donations were given by family, friends, the Flushing Rotary Club and WJRT-TV12 for the 2006 Spelling Bee. Ruth's Harvest, a charity organization, contributed \$10,000 to enhance technology for student use at MCIC.

Leaves of Absence Approved

Leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Teresa L. Olson, Bus Driver, Transportation Services; Dalberta J. McField, Transportation Aide; Kimberly A. Levander, Paraprofessional; and Melinda S. DeWyse, Bus Driver.

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

Note: This document based on unofficial minutes of the GISD Board Meeting s— Sept. 12 & 26, 2006.



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