



Take Note...

June 30, 2008

Attendance and Routine Matters

Lawrence P. Ford, president; Jerry G. Ragsdale, vice president; Dale A. Green, secretary; Paul D. Newman, treasurer; and Mrs. Peggy J. Tortorice, trustee, attended.

Resignation of GISD Board Member Accepted

At the June 24, 2008 meeting, Peggy J. Tortorice announced her retirement from the GISD Board of Education after 31 years of dedicated service to the county's students and schools.

Mrs. Tortorice was first elected to the GISD Board in 1977. She led the board as president for eight terms and also held the offices of vice president, secretary and treasurer for most of her tenure. She was active in many board leadership functions, including extensive committee work. During her last term as president, the Genesee Intermediate School District was recognized with a Board Visionary Leadership Award from the Michigan Association of School Boards.

In addition to her board responsibilities, Mrs. Tortorice spent countless hours as an active member of the Genesee County Association of School Board Members, Michigan Association of School Boards, and the National School Boards Association. She has been a presenter at many local, state, and national education conferences, focusing on the GISD's many excellent programs.

The GISD Board of Education accepted her resignation, thanked Mrs. Tortorice for her years of service, and acknowledged her leadership as a member of the board of education. She was also recognized for dedicating time and effort on behalf of the students of Genesee County.

2007-2008 Budget Amendment #3 Approved

The GISD business office must present a final budget amendment to the board of education in accordance with the State of Michigan Budget Act. Amendment #3 represents the anticipated revenue and expenditures for the 2007-08 school year for the delivery of the GISD Teaching, Learning and Service Plan, as adopted by the board of education. Adjustments were made within the specific funds to account for items such as, but not limited to, new grants, staff turnover, line item adjustments, special projects, the utilization of deferred revenue and pilot programs. The district will be finishing the year in a very strong financial position. The board approved Amendment #3 to the 2007-08 budget and adopted a resolution amending the budget in accordance with the Uniform Budgeting Act.

Budget Hearing Conducted

Public Act 43 of 1963 requires that intermediate school districts hold a public hearing before adoption of its budget and give notice of the hearing by publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the ISD at least six days before the hearing. Notice of the public hearing was published in *The Flint Journal* on June 15, 2008. A truth-in-taxation hearing was not required, as the intermediate school district holds a budget hearing in accordance with Public Act 43 of 1963.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Lawrence P. Ford	President
Jerry G. Ragsdale	Vice President
Dale A. Green	Secretary
Paul D. Newman	Treasurer
Peggy J. Tortorice	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, (810) 591-4541.

2008-09 Budget Adopted

At its meeting on June 24, 2008, the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education approved the 2008-09 GISD budget. This budget has been adjusted to reflect changes that have occurred since constituent districts endorsed the budgets at the annual budget hearing held on March 12, 2008, and during the time that local districts were considering the recommended budgets for approval.

GISD has received information that adjusts revenues and expenditures in certain funds. The budget, as endorsed by constituent district representatives at the hearing on March 12 and approved by every constituent district board of education, was \$128,979,148. The budget approved on June 24 by the GISD Board of Education was \$131,508,323. Adjustments were made to reflect the deferral of local, federal and state grant dollars received in the 2007-08 fiscal year. Adjustments also include grants that have been awarded that will impact the 2008-09 budgets. Grant adjustments will have a net impact of zero on fund equity. The 2008 taxable value for Genesee County came in lower than originally estimated, as a result of the lowering of assessments on property in the community. Revenue decreases were made in Local Sources. Revenues collected were decreased in the General Education Fund by \$66,000; the Special Education Fund by \$970,000; and the Career Technical Education Fund by \$388,000 to reflect the 2008 taxable value. The anticipated beginning balances have also been adjusted to reflect the Amendment #3 estimated ending balances. Given these changes, the board is confident it is able to maintain fund balances within acceptable levels and continue the financial support promised to constituent districts at the March budget hearing.

As the budget was reviewed for final adoption, GISD's administrative staff reported that over 90% of GISD's comprehensive budget is linked to direct student services for its constituent districts. Further, 92% of GISD's personnel costs are also linked to direct student support services. As all districts continue to move through difficult financial times, GISD is using its fund equity to maintain support of local districts in addition to maintaining GISD's financial stability.

GASC Forensic Science Program Award Acknowledged

Mr. Clyde Bell, principal of the GASC Technology Center, was at the June 10, 2008 meeting to present the 2008 Excellence in Practice Award to GISD Board Vice President Jerry Ragsdale. The GASC Technology Center was honored by the Michigan Department of Education for its Forensic Science program. Mr. Ragsdale serves as the employer advisory board chairperson for this GASC Technology Center program. The GISD Board of Education congratulated the GASC Technology Center and Vice President Jerry Ragsdale for their receipt of the award and their excellent service to students and families in Genesee County.

Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center Principal Appointed

At its meeting on September 11, 2007, the GISD Board of Education appointed Ms. Jeanne Quinlan as interim principal for the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center. Based on her success in the 2007-08 school year and the need for continued consistency in administrative leadership, the board appointed Ms. Jeanne Quinlan as principal of the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center at its June 10, 2008 meeting.

Bids for Capital Improvement Projects Awarded

On January 22, 2008, the board of education approved the updated GISD Capital Improvement Long-Range Plan, which includes the ongoing renovation and repair of GISD facilities. THA Architects Engineers, serving as general contractor for each project, assembled the bid documents on behalf of GISD and followed all guidelines for advertising and bidding procedures for the following:

Storage Facility at Special Education Services Center-South

Bids were opened at the public meeting on May 20, 2008. The Building and Grounds Committee met on May 27, 2008 to review the bids, as well as the building design and plans. Based on the recommendations of the Building and Grounds Committee and administration, the board awarded the bid to Builder's, Inc., of Clarkston as the low bidder in the amount of \$142,850.

Summer Paving Projects

Bids were opened at a public meeting on May 20, 2008. Bidding the GISD projects together with paving projects for the GASC Technology Center resulted in excellent bid results that may not have been realized if the projects had been bid separately. The GISD Building and Grounds Committee met on May 27, 2008 to review the bids and the bid results have been shared with Flint Community Schools. Flint will make a separate decision on the award for its paving. Based on the recommendations of the Building and Grounds Committee and administration, the board awarded the bid to Ace Asphalt, Inc., of Flint as low bidder in the amount of \$239,967.

Comparability Adjustments Approved

Bid Approved for Summer Youth Career Exploration Program

Board Policy Revisions Adopted

GASC Technology Center Budget Approved

PAC Member Appointed

Student Discipline

Roof Replacement

The capital improvement plan calls for the replacement of the roof over the conference center and connecting offices at the Erwin L. Davis Education Center and Special Education Services Center-South. Bids were opened at a public meeting at the Davis Education Center on June 19, 2008. The Building and Grounds Committee met prior to the June 24, 2008 board meeting to review the bid results. Based on the recommendations of the Building and Grounds Committee and administration, the board awarded the bid to the low bidder, Quality Roofing of Ann Arbor, in the amount of \$258,845.

It has been the district's practice to review administrative positions periodically and to make adjustments, if needed. The following factors are considered: comparability to teacher hourly wages and like positions; managerial and supervisory responsibility; independence of action; responsibility for operations and service; position education and experience requirements; communications and personal skills; responsibility for community/district relations; and responsibility for financial results. This year, a \$2,000 adjustment was recommended for various administrative positions. The Personnel Committee met prior to the board meeting to review the information, and as a result of their recommendations, the board approved the comparability adjustments effective July 1, 2008 on a one-time basis for the 2008-09 school year.

GISD is the recipient of a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) grant from Career Alliance, Inc. for a summer youth career exploration program that provides students, ages 14-18, with an opportunity to explore at least four career pathways. Employability skills, leadership and team building activities are also included as a part of the program. Career Alliance, Inc.'s procurement policy requires that services utilized for this program be formally bid. A request for proposals (RFP) was issued on May 8, 2008. The RFP was posted on GISD's website, and a notice was published in *The Flint Journal*. The GASC Technology Center was the only respondent. The proposal was reviewed, and it was determined that the GASC Technology Center meets all of the criteria specified in the RFP and was awarded the bid.

GISD's contract with NEOLA includes a policy update service to keep the district abreast of changes needed to ensure compliance with recent legislation and to maintain quality and usefulness of the board policies. NEOLA has provided drafts of recommended policy revisions for consideration by the board of education. Administration has reviewed NEOLA's recommendations, as well as submitted revisions.

At the June 10, 2008 meeting, board members reviewed revisions to the following GISD Board Policies: 3430.01 (Revised Family Medical Leave Act), 6520 (Payroll Deductions), 8210 (School Calendar), and 9500 (Relations with Educational Institutions and Organizations). The Policy Committee met prior to the board meeting to review the revisions and make recommendations to the board. As a result, the board approved the first reading of the board policy revisions.

At its meeting on June 24, 2008, the board held a second reading and approved the recommended policy changes. The revised policies will now become part of GISD's electronic policy manual and will be accessible through the GISD website at www.geneseeisd.org.

The Flint Board of Education approved its 2008-09 budget, along with the GASC Technology Center budget, on April 16, 2008. Flint Community Schools anticipates that the Genesee Intermediate School District will provide \$10,752,767 derived from 90% collection of .9628 mill levied in all school districts. The necessary balance must come from earmarked state revenue, miscellaneous sources, and fund balances. Total revenue in 2008-09 is projected at \$12,607,175, and total expenditures for the GASC Technology Center for the 2008-09 school year are appropriated at \$13,021,417. The undesignated fund balance for the GASC Technology Center after the 2007-08 school year is expected to be 2,031,358. At its meeting on June 24, 2008, the GISD Board of Education approved the GASC Technology Center 2008-09 budget.

At its meeting on June 24, 2008, the GISD Board of Education appointed LaShawnda Williams, representing the Academy of Flint, to serve on the GISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee.

At its meeting on June 24, 2008, the board approved the expulsion of two Mott Middle College students for violation of the Student Code of Conduct and applicable Michigan law.

Michigan Department of Education Compiled Report Received

Mass Transportation Authority Millage Renewal Supported

Donations Accepted

Energy Consortium Contract Approved

Employees Hired

Leaves of Absence Approved

Employment Rights Terminated

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

On March 11, 2008, the board of education received GISD's consolidation of services report, as required by Public Act 63 of 2007, and approved the submission of the consolidation of services report to the Michigan Department of Education. At the meeting on June 24, 2008, Executive Director of Communications and Development Jerry Johnson provided a brief update focusing on the comprehensive statewide report that includes comparison data issued by the Michigan Department of Education.

GISD received a communication from the Friends of Public Transportation asking for its endorsement of the Mass Transportation Authority (MTA) millage renewal. On August 5, 2008, the MTA will ask for a renewal millage for four-tenths (.04 or 4/10) of one mill, which supports retention of the countywide public transportation. According to the Friends of Public Transportation, the renewal millage will result in no new taxes. At its meeting on June 24, 2008, the board endorsed its support of the millage renewal, which authorizes the Friends of Public Transportation to include GISD's name as a supporter for the renewal of the transportation millage.

Generous donations for use by Early Childhood Programs and Services, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center, and the Special Education Services Center were received by the board. The donations included various adaptive equipment items and supplies for classroom and student use.

Members of the GISD Board of Education, along with representatives of local school district energy consortium partners, recently attended a session describing the details of an energy savings initiative. Flushing Superintendent Barbara Goebel presented the impressive results of the Flushing Community Schools' program with Energy Education, Inc. Over the last nine months, Flushing realized a \$232,099.50 cost savings (cost avoidance), which represents a 24.74% cost avoidance. This level of savings has also been experienced by other local districts involved in this program.

After several months of study, GISD has arranged a contract with Energy Education, Inc., so that smaller constituent districts can form a consortium and begin to realize the same level of savings that Flushing Community Schools and other larger districts are currently experiencing. GISD will also be one of the districts in this consortium, and will act as the official contract holder and fiscal agent. The process involves collecting district energy consumption data and employing part-time energy educators to work with staff to implement energy saving techniques. The success of this program will reduce consumption, save energy dollars, and allow these funds to be directed toward the instruction of students.

The contract was carefully reviewed by David Olmstead of Thrun Law Firm, P.C.; and the Superintendents Association Cost Effectiveness/ Efficiency Team studied and recommended implementation to the Superintendents Association.

After discussion and review at its meeting on June 24, 2008, the GISD Board of Education authorized the superintendent to execute the contract with Energy Education, Inc. so the consortium can be formed and the following districts can begin Energy Education's program: Atherton, Beecher, Bendle, Bentley, Genesee, Lake Fenton, Montrose, and Westwood Heights. Each participating district will be expected to executive a consortium agreement with GISD.

The GISD Board of Education approved the hiring of: Laura E. Lenze, Teacher of the Speech and Language Impaired; and Kara A. Montgomery, Teacher of Students with Cognitive Impairment.

Leaves of absence were considered and approve for: Marisa M. Ulmer, Health, Safety and Nutrition Services; Kristie A. Wilson, Transportation Services; Melissa M. Ayre, Special Education Services Center – North; Amy L. Chorley, Special Education Services Center – North; and Laurie M. Potter, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center.

Provisions in the agreement with the Genesee Intermediate Educational Support Personnel Association (GIESPA) allow that employees remaining on medical leave for the third contractual year may lose all employment rights at the discretion of the board. At its meeting on June 24, 2008, the GISD board acted to terminate the employment rights of one employee, in accordance with the provisions in the GIESPA contract.

Note: This document based on unofficial minutes of the GISD Board Meetings — June 10 and 24, 2008.