



Take Note...

March 30, 2009

Attendance and Routine Matters

Parent Advisory Committee Member Appointed

Donations Accepted

GISD Transportation Services Safety Rodeo National Teams Recognized

Lawrence Ford, president; Jerry Ragsdale, vice president; Dale Green, secretary; Paul Newman, treasurer; and Cindy Gansen, trustee.

At its meeting on March 10, the GISD Board of Education appointed Tracey Fowler, representing Davison Community Schools, to serve on the GISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee.

Generous donations to Early Childhood Programs and Services and the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center were received by the board. The donations included student hygiene supplies, a walker, food items, kitchenware, and sewing supplies.

GISD had a bus team place first and another bus team place third in the State of Michigan Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo competition held at the Erwin L. Davis Education Center last fall. Ms. Jamie Magness and Ms. Andrea Gerth were first place winners of the state competition, while Ms. Dawn Wineman and Ms. Karolyn Habbershaw placed third.

On February 28, 2009, both teams competed at the 12th Annual National Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo in Indianapolis, Indiana. This national event represents the *best of the best* in special needs bus teams. The competitions tested their skills in student management, wheelchair loading and securement, and proper placement and securement of car seats. The teams also demonstrated proper pre-trip inspections, managing a real-life emergency event, and maneuvering through a driving course replicating unique situations that may be encountered when driving a bus with students aboard. Further, each team completed an extensive, written take-home test.

This year's national competition hosted teams from Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas. This is only the second year Michigan has sent a delegation to the national competition. The GISD team of Ms. Magness and Ms. Gerth placed fourth, while Ms. Wineman and Ms. Habbershaw placed fifth in the nation. GISD is very proud of these dedicated staff members and their accomplishment, bringing significant recognition to the GISD Transportation Services department and to the Genesee Intermediate School District.

At its meeting on March 10, the board recognized the GISD teams for their accomplishments at the 12th Annual National Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Lawrence P. Ford	President
Jerry G. Ragsdale	Vice President
Dale A. Green	Secretary
Paul D. Newman	Treasurer
Cindy A. Gansen	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.

General Enrollment Information Received

The Business Services staff prepared general enrollment information, including live-birth data and five-year enrollment projections for 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. Executive Director of Business Services Cynthia McCain was present at the March 10, 2009, meeting to summarize the report and answer any questions. The GISD Board of Education accepted the report.

Collaborative Schools of Choice Program for 2009-10 Endorsed

The Genesee County Superintendents Association took action at its meeting on March 4, 2009, to continue the Collaborative Schools of Choice Program for the 2009-10 school year with a 1% factor for students transferring in and out of districts. Also, a maximum transfer number of 15 students has been established for districts with enrollments of less than 1,150 students. At its meeting on March 10, 2009, the GISD Board of Education endorsed the Genesee Intermediate School District Collaborative Schools of Choice Program for 2009-10.

Summer Programs Approved

Elmer Knopf Learning Center (EKLC)

For many years, GISD has successfully operated a summer recreational day camp program at EKLC. The program has provided activities for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Moderate Cognitive Impairments (MoCI). The EKLC summer program will run three days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., beginning July 7, 2009 through August 6, 2009. 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. A hot lunch program will be available through the Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools food service program. Additionally, Grand Blanc Community Schools has again requested that GISD provide a program for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders who attend GISD's ASD Project CHOICE classrooms in Grand Blanc. This 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., for six weeks. Transportation will be provided by GISD's Transportation Services department and lunches will be provided by the parents of the registered students.

Early Childhood Programs and Services (ECPS)

Early Childhood Programs and Services has proposed a 2009 Summer Enrichment Program for birth to seven-year-old children that are enrolled in the program during the current school year. A program for students ages three to seven years of age is proposed for five weeks, three days per week for two hours and 45 minutes from July 7, 2009 through August 6, 2009. Staffing will be determined by student enrollment. GISD will provide transportation, and daily snacks will be provided by the parents of the registered students. A parent/child program for students birth-to-36 months of age will be offered again for five weeks, one day per week for two-hour sessions and will include adaptive, cognitive, physical, social, and communication activities.

At its meeting on March 10, the board approved the summer programs for EKLC and ECPS.

April Board Meeting Location Changed

As has been the tradition for many years, the superintendent and members of the Lakeville Community School District Board of Education cordially extended an invitation to the Genesee Intermediate School District Board of Education to conduct its April 28, 2009, meeting in the Lakeville Community School District, followed by their annual end-of-maple-syrup-season pancake supper and the Lakeville Board of Education meeting. The GISD Board of Education accepted the invitation and approved moving the location of the April 28 meeting to Lakeville Middle School.

GISD Budget Hearing Evaluation Results Received

Each year, at the end of the annual Budget Hearing, constituent district board members and the audience are asked to complete an evaluation form. GISD's practice is to use the results of the evaluation to tailor the presentation and make improvements. GISD staff members are very proud of the evaluation results. Of the 29 total respondents, 97% gave an overall grade of A. In addition to the grades and comments included on the actual evaluations, GISD received many positive telephone calls and messages complimenting the high quality of the Budget Hearing presentation. This year, the evaluation contained a new question regarding the implementation of a paperless Budget Hearing. The results were two-to-one in favor of moving forward with that concept. Staff will evaluate the results and begin working on a pilot. Options may include providing next year's budget hearing delegates with a choice of how to receive materials and/or offering a hybrid version of the presentation.

Superintendent Dr. Thomas Svitkovich extended his thanks to staff and members of the board of education for their work to make this year's Budget Hearing a great success. The board accepted the evaluation results.

Resolution Adopted to Support Genesee County Rotary Clubs Literacy Initiative

Increasing literacy is a major focus of Rotary International. This is the third year that the eight Rotary Clubs of Genesee County have engaged in a cooperative effort to provide resources to enhance literacy skills in the children in Genesee County. In 2007, the clubs purchased sets of ten books for each third grade classroom in the 21 Genesee County school districts. In 2008, the clubs provided 6,000 DVD's entitled, *Language is the Key*, to local childcare providers and Project SKIP to a Great Start programs. This year, the Rotary Clubs will provide each elementary building with a set of ten character education books that teachers can use to help children build important character traits necessary to be productive participating members of society.

In order to support this program for students and acknowledge the importance of the Rotary Clubs of Genesee County, the GISD Board of Education approved a resolution that thanks and recognizes the work of Genesee County's Rotary Clubs in support of literacy.

Shared Business Services and Human Resources Contract with Howell Public Schools Approved

Since the 2006-07 school year, the GISD Board of Education has approved shared business services contracts with 12 Genesee County school districts. Since the 2007-08 school year, the GISD Board of Education has approved shared human resources contracts with one Genesee County school district, as well as Lapeer Public Schools. Recently, Howell Public Schools requested the first joint shared services agreement to include business services and human resources. Also, this is the first out-of-county shared services contract for GISD's Business Services department. The board authorized the superintendent to continue to take the necessary actions to address requests for services as these relationships are expanded and further defined. The services being defined are customized based on the request of the local district.

Business Services worked with the Thrun Law Firm, P.C., to develop a standard contract, including options for defining the specific details of customized services and payments in the contract attachments. Howell Public Schools Associate Superintendent, Richard Terres, worked with Business Services to customize business- and human resources-related services for Howell. The contract will include management and oversight of payroll functions, payroll processing, administration of the section 125 cafeteria plan, open enrollment processing, and coordination of COBRA and FMLA requirements. One of the reasons GISD is able to provide this service is due to the fact that Howell utilizes SchoolsOPEN software, the same software package that is used in Genesee County. A contract was submitted to Howell Public Schools and has been signed and returned. At its meeting on March 24, 2009, the GISD Board of Education approved the contract for GISD to provide business and human resources services for Howell Public Schools through the 2008-09 fiscal year. Further, the board authorized the superintendent to employ necessary staff and fully define the working relationship with the district as outlined in the agreement.

Biennial Election Date Set

The Revised School Code specifies procedures for the election of ISD board members. The election, which is conducted biennially, is designated for the first Monday in June. A body comprised of one member from each constituent district board is responsible for electing the ISD board members. Not earlier than 21 days before the date of the biennial election, each local constituent board of education must adopt a resolution designating its representative for the biennial meeting and identifying the candidates the board supports for each position. The Revised School Code also provides that the ISD secretary shall provide notice of the biennial election to each constituent district board by certified mail at least ten days before the meeting. It has been the practice of GISD to send notice to the districts of the election and terms to be filled by the end of March. This year, there will be two positions on the ballot. There is one six-year term, currently held by Dale Green, which expires June 30, 2009, and there is one partial term to fill the balance (four years) of the full term created by Mrs. Peggy Tortorice's resignation. This partial term will expire on June 30, 2013. The board secretary and superintendent will complete details of notifying the constituent districts of the election. At its meeting on March 24, the GISD Board of Education set the biennial election for June 1, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Area ABCD of the Erwin L. Davis Education Center.

Student Discipline

At its meeting on March 24, the board took action to expel a Mott Middle College student for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Employees Hired

At its meeting on March 24, the board approved the employment of: Shannon L. Reynolds, Teacher, Early Childhood Special Education; Crystal J. Sprague, Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders; and Keri M. Stafford, Teacher, Early Childhood Special Education.

Accelerated Return

At its meeting on March 24, the board considered and approved an accelerated return from leave of absence for Lisa A. Whitson.

Leaves of Absence Approved

Leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Dawn L. Carlson, Transportation Services; Cheryl A. Klinert, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; Lisa A. Kotarski, EKLC – Flint Durant-Tuuri-Mott Classroom; Susan C. Ireland, Transportation Services; Amy L. Scherrer, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; and David L. Skinner, Transportation Services.

Note: This document based on unofficial minutes of the GISD board meetings - March 10 and 24, 2009.



GENESEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
2413 West Maple Avenue
Flint, Michigan 48507-3493
www.geneseeisd.org