



Take Note...

October 30, 2008

Attendance and Routine Matters

GISD Teaching, Learning, and Service Plan and Annual Report Approved

Board Policy Revisions Adopted

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

During the summer of 2008, the administrative team reviewed the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the 2006-11 GISD Teaching, Learning, and Service Plan. As a result, an annual report was developed. After receiving input from the community, the plan was updated. GISD's Teaching, Learning, and Service Plan exceeds the requirements of current law, accurately integrates the findings of communitywide studies, and incorporates the relevant input of school and community members. GISD's goals focus on providing services for its constituent districts. GISD's commitment to quality programs and services is clearly outlined in the plan.

At the October 14 board meeting, Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich presented the updated plan and highlights of the 2007-08 annual report. Dr. Svitkovich thanked members of the Advisory Council, specifically Assistant Superintendent for Education and Learning Mary Behm and Communications and Development Executive Director Jerry Johnson. The superintendent also thanked Dr. JoAnn Pastor for assisting in the update to the Teaching, Learning and Service Plan. The board of education accepted and approved the 2007-08 Annual Report and the revised GISD Teaching, Learning and Service Plan.

At its meeting on September 23, the board of education approved a first reading of board policy revision recommendations to accommodate transition to a paperless board meeting. These policies included: Policy 166 (Agenda) and Policy 168.1 (Open Meeting). Since that meeting, Paul Newman suggested changes to the order and wording of the policies. Administration concurred with the suggestions since the changes allowed for more logical interpretation of the policies. Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich also recommended a revision regarding notification for special meetings. The suggestions were incorporated into the policies, and board members reviewed the policy revisions prior to the meeting. Further, the Policy Committee met prior to the meeting and discussed the revisions. At its meeting on October 14, the board adopted the board policy revisions. As a result, the system will be changed to a completely electronic format, and all parties that receive board of education documents will be notified.

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.

2007-08 Donations Report Received

At its meeting on October 14, 2008, the GISD Board of Education received a 2007-08 donations report from Tomiko Fisher, executive assistant to the superintendent. She reported that the board accepted 121 donations with a total value of \$81,698.64 during the 2007-08 school year. Donations ranged from cash and services to adaptive devices and textbooks, and were received from parents, staff members, organizations, businesses, and community members. All GISD special education programs, as well as the Genesee Early College, Office of Education and Learning, and Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services received donations during the 2007-08 school year.

Shared Business Services Contract with Atherton Community School District Approved

Since the 2006-07 school year, the GISD Board of Education has approved shared business services contracts with 11 constituent districts. 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 attachments.

Recently, Atherton Community School District Superintendent Mark Madden worked with Business Services to customize business-related services for Atherton. A contract was submitted to Atherton Community School District, and Mr. Madden returned the signed contract. At its meeting on October 14, the board approved the contract for GISD to provide business services for Atherton Community School District through the 2008-09 fiscal year.

Expanded Shared Technical Services Contract with Davison Community Schools Approved

Since the 2006-07 school year, the GISD Board of Education has approved technical services agreements to form partnerships to provide technical support with 11 constituent districts. 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 attachments.

GISD holds a contract with Davison Community Schools to provide hosting of backup services and email/messaging services. Recently, Davison Community Schools Superintendent Clay Perkins worked with Technology and Media Services to expand the shared technical services provided to Davison. A contract was submitted to Davison Community Schools, and Mr. Perkins returned the signed contract. At its meeting on October 14, the GISD Board of Education approved the expanded technical services contract for Davison Community Schools through the 2008-09 fiscal year.

Shared Technical Services Contract with Lapeer Community Schools Approved

Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Media Services Beverly Knox-Pipes, along with GISD staff, developed a new program to provide shared technical services. Since GISD holds a license with Blackboard, Inc. through the Regional Educational Media Center (REMC) association, GISD has been able to expand its services. In the continuing effort to reduce costs and increase efficiencies, it is also possible for GISD to host Blackboard software on its servers for Michigan service agencies, school districts, and other consortia. Using current technology, GISD has reduced its costs and shared the savings with constituent districts, as well as other ISDs and organizations. GISD holds technical services contract agreements with Boyne City High School, Calhoun Intermediate School District, Gratiot-Isabella Intermediate School District, and the Michigan Institute for Educational Management. Most recently, a technical services contract for Lapeer Community Schools has been proposed. At its meeting on October 14, the GISD Board of Education approved the technical services contract for Lapeer Community Schools.

Donations Accepted

Generous donations on behalf of Early Childhood Programs and Services, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center, Ligon Outdoor Center, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center, Office of Education and Learning, and the Transition Center were accepted by the board. Donations included various items for classroom and student use, as well as \$1,500 from the Marathon Petroleum Company and \$2,000 from the Knights of Columbus - Council 6742.

Shared Information Services Contract with Academy of Flint Approved

Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Media Services Beverly Knox-Pipes, along with GISD staff, developed programs to provide shared technical services for many districts in the region. In addition, GISD developed shared technical contracts to deliver services related to the utilization of Blackboard software. The Technology and Media Services department embarked on a new venture to deliver shared information services. Recently, the Academy of Flint expressed an interest in utilizing SchoolsOPEN software and taking advantage of shared information services. An information services contract was developed by Thrun Law Firm, P.C., in concert with GISD staff and was patterned after the technical services contract. At its meeting on October 14, the GISD Board of Education approved the shared information services contract for the Academy of Flint.

English As a Second Language Tutor Services Contract with Bendle Public Schools Approved

The GISD English as a Second Language (ESL) program is a service provided to local districts. Without this service, each district would be responsible for implementing compliance frameworks, including the creation of a districtwide instructional program. GISD took additional steps to help its constituent districts serve English Limited Language students and families and to comply with state and federal laws by offering an additional service to its constituent districts that includes employing ESL tutors as GISD employees. GISD holds contract agreements with sixteen constituent districts, plus two Public School Academies.

Recently, board members reviewed a proposed contract to provide English as a Second Language tutor services for Bendle Public Schools. At its meeting on October 14, the GISD Board of Education authorized the superintendent to execute the agreement, employ necessary staff, and fully define the working relationship with the district, as outlined in the contract.

Energy Management Consortium Update Received and Energy Manager Hired

On June 24, 2008, the board of education authorized the superintendent to execute an agreement with Energy Education, Inc., and to form a consortium of smaller Genesee County school districts to participate in the energy conservation program to realize the savings that other, larger districts are enjoying. Member districts include Atherton, Beecher, Bendle, Bentley, Genesee, Lake Fenton, and Westwood Heights. GISD is considered one of the districts in this consortium, and acts as the official contract holder and fiscal agent, as well as facilitator of the consortium process.

An update received by the board at its October 28 meeting indicated that since June 24, the Energy Management Consortium council has met twice, and that Dr. Michael Bitar and Mervin Reed from Energy Education, Inc., have provided support and have participated in visits to local boards of education and in the interviewing process for one full-time and one part-time position for Energy Manager. The board of education received the report as presented. The corresponding board policies for energy conservation are also being developed, and all districts have executed their consortium documents. It was also reported that GISD continues to search for a part-time Energy Manager, but has identified a recommended candidate for the position of full-time Energy Manager. The recommended candidate, Jill Sheldon, would actually work for the consortium. GISD, as the fiscal agent, would define her employment relationship as that of a contracted employee. After consideration at its October 28 meeting, the board approved the hiring of Jill Sheldon for the position.

Furniture Bid Approved

On September 26, 2008, the Genesee Intermediate School District submitted a request for bids, on behalf of the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center, for the purchase of Phase 4 and Phase 5 furniture. Additional furniture items were also needed for Phases 2 and 3. The specifications were sent to 15 vendors, and the bids were opened on October 13. The Building and Grounds Committee met prior to the October 28 board meeting to review the bids. As a result, the committee recommended that the bid award go to the lowest bidder, Hospital Purchasing, in the total amount of \$22,700.00, and that recommendation was approved by the GISD Board of Education.

Shared Special Education Administrative Services Contracts with Bentley Community School District Approved

In August, the GISD Board of Education approved a shared special education services contract with Goodrich Area Schools. Assistant Superintendent for Special Services Jan Russell has also received requests from three other districts interested in a shared services agreement for the coordination of special education. Last month, the board approved contracts to provide shared special education administrative services for Lake Fenton and Lakeville.

Since then, a contract with Bentley Community School District has been finalized. The agreement for Bentley follows a standard contract developed by Business Services and the Thrun Law Firm, P.C. The contract includes options for defining the specific details of customized services and payments. A contract executed by Superintendent John Schantz, on behalf of the district, has been received. At its October 28 meeting, the GISD board of education authorized the superintendent to execute the agreement to provide customized special education services for Bentley Community School District. Further, it also authorized the superintendent to fully define the working relationship with the district and employ necessary staff, as outlined in the agreement.

Employee Hired

At its meeting on October 14, 2008, the GISD Board of Education approved the employment of: Stacie K. Pearson, occupational therapist, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center.

Leaves of Absence Approved

Leaves of absence were considered and approved for Cheri Owens, Transportation Services; Kim Putney, Transition Center; Kathryn Bartlett, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; Brooke Emerson, Early Childhood Programs and Services; Jane Flanders, Transportation Services; Nannette Simpson, Transportation Services; Dale Spillers, Transportation Services; Regina Taylor, Transportation Services; and Lisa Voydanoff, EKLC – Clio Carter Middle School.



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