



Take Note...

August 27, 2008

Attendance and Routine Matters

GISD Awards/ Recognitions/Honors Report Received

Paperless Board Meeting

MASB Assembly Delegates Appointed

Genesee Area Cooperative 2008-09 Dairy and Bakery Bids Approved

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

During the 2007-08 school year, various awards were received by the district. GISD staff, board members and specific programs were recognized nine times. Most recently, the work of board of education members was recognized, as well as the Health, Safety and Nutrition Services Bridges to the Future program and the GASC Technology Center Forensic Science program. The GISD Board of Education members were honored for their participation in national school board association programs, as well as state certification classes. At its meeting on August 12, the board accepted the report and acknowledged GISD staff for the outstanding work that is done on a daily basis to provide quality education for students.

The GISD Board of Education reviewed the utilization of Blackboard software to create a paperless board meeting. Since GISD utilizes the Blackboard software suite for instructional and staff development programs, there will be no additional costs to use this resource. The board expects to implement the paperless format to save resources. This format is available to all school districts in the region.

The Michigan Association of School Boards will hold its fall conference at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme on October 30 – November 2, 2008. As a part of the conference, the MASB Delegate Assembly will meet and decide MASB's positions on a wide variety of issues affecting education. Intermediate school districts are entitled to one voting delegate and one alternate.

At its meeting on August 12, the board appointed Jerry Ragsdale as its voting delegate and Lawrence Ford as its alternate to the Delegate Assembly.

The Genesee Area Cooperative involves food service operations from seven counties. The annual bid process was conducted on August 5, 2008. The USDA procurement standards suggest that the coordinating agency approve each bid on behalf of the participating districts. From this process, the local districts will have completed the necessary legal steps to adopt their dairy and bakery bids. At the meeting on August 12, Health, Safety and Nutrition Services Director Gloria Bourdon was in attendance to review the bids and answer any questions. The Finance Committee met to review the bids prior to the board meeting. As a result, the board approved the Genesee Area Cooperative 2008-09 dairy and bakery bids.

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.

Board Committee Assignments Made

At the August 12 meeting, Board President Lawrence Ford proposed, and the board accepted, the following list of 2008-09 committee assignments:

Building & Grounds Committee	Dale Green, chairperson Paul Newman Jerry Ragsdale (alternate)
Finance Committee	Paul Newman, chairperson Dale Green Lawrence Ford (alternate)
Personnel/Salary/Labor Relations Committee	Lawrence Ford, chairperson Paul Newman Dale Green (alternate)
Policy Committee	Jerry Ragsdale, chairperson Cindy Gansen Paul Newman (alternate)
Genesee Early College Advisory Committee	Cindy Gansen Lawrence Ford (alternate)
Mott Middle College Advisory Committee	Cindy Gansen Paul Newman (alternate)
Wellness Committee	Cindy Gansen Lawrence Ford (alternate)
Education Advisory Group (EAG)	Lawrence Ford Paul Newman (alternate)
GASC Technology Center Administrative Council	Paul Newman Jerry Ragsdale (alternate)
Genesee County Association of School Board Members Executive Committee	Lawrence Ford Jerry Ragsdale (alternate)
Genesee County Association of School Board Members Working Committee	Jerry Ragsdale Dale Green (alternate)
Genesee County Educational Foundation	Jerry Ragsdale Cindy Gansen (alternate)
Genesee/Shiawassee Workforce Development Board	Jerry Ragsdale Cindy Gansen (alternate)
Liaison to Local Boards	Dale Green Cindy Gansen (alternate)
MASB Liaison/LRN Member	Lawrence Ford Jerry Ragsdale (alternate)

MASB Board of Directors Region 5 Candidate Supported

MASB Bylaws Article VIII, Section 8 states, "If any nomination for the Board of Directors is unopposed, the Board of Directors shall declare the unopposed candidate elected without conducting an election for the uncontested group or region. Since this year's Region 5 candidate, Ms. Janice Holz, is running without opposition, the Genesee Intermediate School District is not required to cast a ballot for the Region 5 Director for a three-year term. At its meeting on August 12, the board publicly acknowledged its support of the MASB Board of Directors Region 5 candidate, Ms. Janice Holz.

Third Party Administrator for Tax-Sheltered Annuities Approved

With the changes in Internal Revenue Code 403(b) for tax-sheltered annuities, additional administrative requirements are necessary for employers. The requirements are technical and require legal knowledge to properly administer the plan. In October of 2007, the Genesee Area School Business Officials developed a steering committee comprised of school business officials and Attorney Janet Lanyon, of Dean & Fulkerson, P.C., to study options and recommend a third party administrator (TPA). A request for proposals was developed and issued to each tax-sheltered annuity vendor utilized by all of the districts in the county.

Business Services Contract with Goodrich Area Schools Approved

Over several months, an analysis of the proposals was conducted, including analysis of the bid documents, clarification of critical area responses, completion of reference checks and review of financial statements of the vendors. The final recommendation of Great American Plan Administrators as the third party administrators for Genesee County and the other consortium members was approved by the Superintendent's Association. Attorney Lanyon has been negotiating an agreement with the Great American Plan to ensure the participating districts are protected to the highest degree possible.

Representatives of the Great American Plan have expressed in interest in allowing the plan to be offered statewide and nationwide through GISD. They are very positive that there will be interest from districts that have yet to begin to consider the ramifications of the new requirements. Approving this concept upon review of attorney Janet Lanyon would provide a very expedient way to address the tax-sheltered annuity regulations. Moreover, the concept would allow other districts to more expediently comply with the federal requirements.

The Personnel Committee met prior to the board meeting to review the contract. As a result of the committee's recommendation, the board approved the contract for Great American Plan as the third party administrator, at no cost to local districts or employees, for the tax-sheltered annuity plan.

Since the 2006-07 school year, the GISD Board of Education has approved shared business services contracts with ten Genesee County school districts. 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 attachments. Goodrich Area Schools Superintendent Larry Allen worked with Business Services to customize business-related services. A contract was submitted to the Goodrich Area Schools, and Mr. Allen has returned the signed contract. At its August 12 meeting, the board approved the contract for GISD to provide business services for the Goodrich Area Schools through the 2008-09 fiscal year.

Shared Special Education Services Contract with Goodrich Approved

Since the 2006-07 school year, the GISD Board of Education has approved shared business, human resources and technical services contracts, as well as transportation contracts with the majority of constituent districts. The board authorized the superintendent to continue to take necessary actions to address the requests, as expanded relationships are defined. The services being defined are customized based on the requests of local 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 contract appendix. Currently, GISD has contracts with Goodrich Area Schools to provide business services (pending approval of the GISD Board of Education), special education transportation services and career technical education transportation services. Goodrich Area Schools Superintendent Larry Allen approached GISD's Special Education Services department to develop our first shared special education agreement. A contract executed by Superintendent Larry Allen has been received from the Goodrich Area Schools.

At its meeting on August 12, the board authorized the superintendent to execute the agreement to provide customized special education services for the Goodrich Area Schools. Further, it is also recommended that the board authorize the superintendent to fully define the working relationship with the district, as outlined in the agreement.

Technical Services Contract with Boyne City High School Approved

Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Media Services Beverly Knox-Pipes, along with GISD staff, has developed a new program to provide shared technical services. Since GISD has a license with Blackboard, Inc. through the Regional Education Media Center (REMC) association, it can expand its services. In a 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 and other consortia. Using current technology, GISD can reduce its costs and share these savings with constituent districts, as well as other ISDs and organizations. GISD currently has similar technical services contract agreements with the Calhoun Intermediate School District, Gratiot-Isabella Intermediate School District and the Michigan Institute for Educational Management. It is expected that this program will grow throughout the state and, eventually, decrease GISD's Blackboard server cost to zero. At its meeting on August 12, the board approved the technical services contract for the Boyne City High School.

Special Education Parent Advisory Committee Member Appointed

At its meeting on August 12, the GISD Board of Education appointed Lisa Pyman, representing Clio Area Schools, to the GISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee.

Donations Accepted

Generous donations on behalf of Early Childhood Programs and Services were accepted by the board. Donations included DVDs and CDs for instructional use.

Employees Hired

At its meetings on August 12 and 26, the GISD Board of Education approved the hiring of: Caroline E. Fechik, Teacher of Students with Cognitive Impairment; Ulysses Tara McNeal, Teacher of Students with Cognitive Impairment; Amy J. Rathsburg, Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders; Rebecca M. Sioma, Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders; Sherry A. Smeltzer, School Psychologist; and Aimee T. Phillips, School and Community Liaison.

Leaves of Absence Approved

At its meetings on August 12 and 26, leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Rachel L. Hairston, Accountant; Monica Heicher, Transportation Aide; Timothy J. Brock, Bus Driver-GASC; Wanda Buchler, Transportation Aide; Debbie S. Crawford, Bus Driver; Melinda S. DeWyse, Bus Driver; Barbara A. Gould, Para-Educator; Jamie L. Lamke, Para-Educator; and Lori K. Linton, Bus Driver.

Resignations Accepted

At its meeting on August 12, the GISD Board of Education accepted the resignation of Stacy L. Mead, Teacher of Students with Cognitive Impairments and the retirement of Wanda L. Timmons, Bus Driver.

Note: This document based on unofficial minutes of the GISD Board Meetings — Aug. 12 & 26, 2008.



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