



Take Note...

January 29, 2010

Attendance and Routine Matters

Genesee County Common Calendar Adopted

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

Genesee County school districts have had a long history of supporting a common school calendar. The county superintendents, working through the Genesee County Negotiators, a committee of the Superintendents Association, have traditionally approved a common calendar to minimize interruptions of instruction in student programs. Meetings have also been held with Genesee County charter school administrators outlining the common calendar recommendation.

The common school calendar has benefitted students enrolled in shared programs between districts and increased efficiencies, which have led to savings and overall improvement of student programs. As an example, the implementation of a common school calendar has minimized lost instructional time at the GASC Technology Center and other program such as GenNET ITV classes, special education Project CHOICE classes, and center-based special education.

Public Act 101 of 2007 requires that a common school calendar be officially adopted by an intermediate school district board of education for a period of five years. Therefore, the only change from the previously adopted common school calendar is the addition of the 2014-15 school year. Consistent with Public Act 101, and following the recommendation of the Genesee County Superintendents Association, the board adopted the proposed Genesee County common school calendar at its meeting on January 12.

The Genesee County Superintendents Association continues to endorse this program that identifies children as they are born in local hospitals. This concept helps educators develop a closer relationship with the area's newest parents, as well as increase the health and learning levels of incoming preschool and kindergarten students. Local district superintendents support the program at \$.75 per student for operation costs in partnership with the health and business communities. GISD Superintendent Dr. Thomas Svitkovich currently serves on the Passport Board of Directors, providing leadership and coordination for "Ready, Set, Grow!" Passport activities. At its January 26 meeting, the GISD Board of Education approved financial support of \$3,000 to the "Ready, Set, Grow!" Passport Initiative. This amount is in addition to the in-kind support the district is currently giving to the program.

"Ready, Set, Grow!" Passport Initiative Support Approved

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Lawrence P. Ford	President
Jerry G. Ragsdale	Vice President
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To keep you informed of actions and information from the GISD Board of Education Meeting.
Questions? Call Communications and Development, 591-4541.

**Parent Advisory
Committee Members
Appointed**

**Public Schools/Charter
Schools Comparison
Report Received**

**Elmer A. Knopf Learning
Center Construction and
Renovation Project and
Bids Approved**

At its meeting on January 12, the GISD Board of Education appointed the following nominees to the GISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee: Natalie Wright, representing Beecher Community School District; Kris LaNoue, representing LakeVille Community School District; and Margaret Ridley, representing Mt. Morris Consolidated Schools.

At its meeting on January 12, the GISD Board of Education received a report entitled, *A Comparison of Administrative Costs and MEAP Scores among Michigan Public Schools and Charter Schools*. The report also included specific data for Genesee County. This report is produced annually by Dr. David Treder, GISD's research, evaluation, and assessment coordinator. In developing the detail, Dr. Treder utilized information from Michigan Department of Education sources, including Bulletin 1014 databases and MEAP "downloadable data files."

Overall, the report showed that the "cost of administration per pupil of Michigan's charter schools is nearly twice that of Michigan's public school districts. Further, the cost of administration as a percent of expenditures of Michigan's charter schools is twice that of Michigan's public schools." "Michigan's public schools outperformed charter schools on the MEAP math tests (grades 4 and 8) and MEAP English Language Arts tests (grades 4 and 8), over the last 4 years, by 10 to 21 percentage points. Michigan public school students outperformed charter school students on the MEAP math tests (grades 3 through 8) and the MEAP English Language Arts (grades 3 through 8) for both Fall 2007 and Fall 2008 by 8 to 20 percentage points." Genesee County's public school districts outperform Genesee County's charter schools across all subjects and grade levels, as well.

As a point of information, GISD shares the report with governmental bodies, agencies, and schools across the state. Dr. Treder was at the January 12 meeting to present the report and answer questions.

At the October 13 GISD Board of Education meeting, representatives of THA Architects Engineers and Wolgast Corporation presented plans and timelines for a four-phased construction and renovation project for GISD's Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center. The first phase consisted of constructing a 17,060 square foot addition, housing eight classrooms and facilities, along with renovation of existing space to create a music room and daily living skills classroom. Additionally, GISD applied to the state of Michigan and was awarded \$1.4 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for phase I of the project.

GISD's plans call for the remaining three phases for renovation of the existing building space to be bid out separately, budget permitting. A review of the design process, scope of the project, timelines, finance, and the ARRA funding process were all discussed during the presentation at the October 13 meeting. Indirect costs including architectural, engineering and construction project management, tap-in, and contingency funds are estimated at \$560,360. Including the changes in recommended bids for construction, the total direct cost will be \$2,095,357. With these changes, the project cost for Phase 1 is estimated at \$2,655,717. After using ARRA funds, the remaining \$1,255,717 will come from the Special Education Building and Site Fund over a two-year period.

At the January 12, 2010 Board of Education meeting, the recommendation to accept bids for the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center renovation project was tabled. Working with GISD's construction manager, Tim Johnson from Wolgast Corporation, more in-depth information was gathered to assure the board that GISD was making the best recommendation possible in keeping with board policy and in the best interests of its students and the district.

Following the January 12 meeting, GISD reviewed the post-bid interview process for successful bidders with Mr. Johnson. He interviews each low bidder to be assured that they will be able to carry out the work to specification, and that they have the proper bond and insurance. These bidders are also required to provide names of suppliers and sub-contractors

and affirm that they will pay the federal construction minimum wages for the work in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act. Mr. Johnson and his team checked references with area construction administrators, including their own, to be certain that bidders have the capacity to complete the work to specification. It is important to note that on any previous construction project managed by Wolgast for GISD, there has never been a violation or citation by MIOSHA. Wolgast has a strong record of safety on its construction projects, and it is expected that this excellent record will continue with the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center project.

One hundred-forty (140) contractors were invited by Wolgast Corporation to bid on the project. Requests for bids were posted in the newspaper and on the state website. On December 17, 2009, sealed bids were opened at a public meeting with more than 60 people in attendance.

The project is scheduled to begin on or around February 1, 2010, pending the proper state of Michigan plan review approvals. Other issues considered after January 12:

This project does include Davis-Bacon Wages because of the federal funding GISD has received and board policy. The Michigan Prevailing Wage Act Violators List identifies contractors that have not paid proper prevailing wages. Two of the low bidders that were recommended are on this list. Graham Construction is on the list but made the required correction in paying the proper prevailing wages. J & J Construction had not yet agreed with the state of Michigan on this issue.

J & J Construction was not recommended for the masonry work because they are on the Prevailing Wage Act Violators List.

J & C Brick, next low bidder for masonry, was not recommended based upon the reference checks done by Wolgast and previous work performed for Wolgast.

The change to Baker Construction for masonry resulted in an additional direct cost of \$13,708.

Wolgast Corporation has worked with all the recommended contractors before, and all performed well. Wolgast did contact references, and all contractors have successfully completed similar projects.

Representatives from THA Architects Engineers, Wolgast Corporation, and administration were present at the January 26 meeting to answer any questions. Recommended bids, including credits and alternates:

Job	Apparent Low Bidder	Location	Amount
Site Work	Glaeser Dawes Corporation	Flushing	\$84,368
Paving/Surface	Eastern Asphalt Company	Flint	\$28,404
Concrete	Graham Construction	Saginaw	\$97,500
Masonry	Baker Construction	Whitmore Lake	\$398,208
Metals	Cass Erectors & Fabricators	Livonia	\$53,025
Carpentry	Graham Construction	Saginaw	\$217,600
Roofing	Four Seasons Building	Shelby Twp.	\$69,100
Glass/Glazing	Valley Glass Co.	Saginaw	\$72,970
Drywall/Insulation	Central Interiors	Flint	\$49,932
Flooring	Cohn's Commercial Floors	Wixom	\$108,300
Painting	Horizon Brothers Painting	Royal Oak	\$14,750
Mechanical	Dickerson Mechanical	Davison	\$502,000
Electrical	Great Lakes Power & Lighting	Casco, MI	\$399,200
Total Direct Costs			\$2,095,357

At its meeting on January 26, the GISD Board of Education approved Phase I of the GISD Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center construction and renovation project and accepted Wolgast Corporation's recommended bids as indicated above in the amount of \$2,095,357.

Race To The Top Presentation Received

The State of Michigan is submitting a grant to receive national Race To The Top (RTTT) funding. If the state is successful, significant funding for school improvement initiatives will be received by participating local school districts. In order to be eligible for the grant application, school districts must complete a checklist and attain the signatures of the board president, superintendent, and union leadership. At the January 12 meeting, Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich reported that he and Board President Lawrence Ford signed the application form and was pleased to announce that GISD's union leadership signed the application form as well. Assistant Superintendent Mary Behm was present at the January 12 meeting to answer questions about the RTTT grant application, possible outcomes, and GISD's status. In order to ensure that GISD has the authorization of the Board of Education and is able to withdraw its application, if appropriate once all the details of the grant are known, it was recommended and approved that the board approve a resolution developed by Thrun Law Firm, P. C. At the January 12 meeting, the board adopted the Race To The Top resolution and accepted the presentation.

Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services Contract with Linden Community Schools Approved

At its October 13, 2009 meeting, the Board of Education, approved a contract with Linden Community Schools to enter into a shared services contract to provide before and/or after school programming for students in second through fifth grades in the Linden Community Schools during the 2009-10 school year. After further discussions with Linden Community Schools Superintendent Ed Koledo, it was agreed that GISD would enter into another shared services contract to provide before and/or after school programming for students and their families in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grades in the Linden Community Schools during the 2009-10 school year. A youth development professional will be employed by GISD to provide these services, and Linden Community Schools will be billed for the services provided to deliver these programs. At its meeting on January 12, the board approved the agreement and authorized the superintendent/designee to hire appropriate personnel to deliver the services.

Donations Accepted

Generous donations to Early Childhood Programs and Services, the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center, the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center, and the Transition Center were received by the board. Donations included coats, personal care supplies, media supplies, and donations of cash from numerous donors, including the Knights of Columbus Council #4285, the Knights of Columbus –Swartz Creek Council #6694, and THA Architects Engineers.

Leaves of Absence Approved

Leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Andrea Bartholow, Business Services; Carl Cox, Transportation Services; Michelle Grifka, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; Gale Luketich, Transition Center; and Jaimi Scrivener, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center.

Resignations Accepted

A resignation for the purpose of retirement was accepted from Linda Barber, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center.

Note: This document based on unofficial minutes of the GISD Board Meetings — January 12 & 26, 2010.



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