



# Take Note...

**October 29, 2009**

## **Attendance and Routine Matters**

## **Expanded Education and Learning Services Contract with Lapeer County Intermediate School District Approved**

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

Since the 2007-08 school year, the board has approved education and learning services contracts to form partnerships to provide education and learning consultant services with four state ISDs/RESAs, including Lapeer County Intermediate School District. Additionally, the board approved English as a second language services agreements with 17 Genesee County school districts and two public school academies.

Currently, GISD has a contract with Lapeer County Intermediate School District to provide curriculum coordination services. Lapeer County Intermediate School District Superintendent Joseph Keena worked with GISD's Education and Learning department to expand the shared education and learning services and, specifically, add instructional services coordination. A contract was submitted to the Lapeer County Intermediate School District, and Mr. Keena has returned the signed contract.

At its October 13 meeting, the board approved the contract for GISD to provide expanded education and learning services for the Lapeer County Intermediate School District. Further, it also authorized the superintendent to define the working relationship with the district as outlined in the agreement.

At its October 13 meeting, the board reappointed Kristie Gross, representing Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools, to the GISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee. At its meeting on October 27, the board reappointed Tracey Fowler, representing Davison Community Schools, and Jay Hewitt, representing Genesee School District. Additionally, the board appointed Natalie Dennings, representing Swartz Creek Community Schools, to the committee.

## **PAC Members Appointed**

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

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

**Plans for Potential  
Addition/Renovation at  
Elmer A. Knopf Learning  
Center Presented**

Over the summer months, GISD has experienced several changes in the Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services department as a result of shifts in funding. After discussions with Linden Community Schools Superintendent Ed Koledo, it was agreed that GISD would 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. 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 October 13, the board reviewed the documentation, approved the agreement, and authorized the superintendent/designee to hire appropriate personnel to deliver the services.

On January 22, 2008, the board of education approved the updated GISD Long-Range Capital Improvement Plan which includes the ongoing renovation and repair of GISD facilities, including the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center (EKLC). In keeping with the capital improvement plan, GISD administration and EKLC staff worked with THA Architects and Engineers to develop plans to repurpose the 67,235 square feet of existing space at EKLC. However, it soon became evident that a more pressing issue was the shortage of classroom space.

Subsequent to this planning, federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dollars were made available for construction of special education facilities. The continuing uncertainty in district revenues and the availability of ARRA funds provide an opportunity to construct more classroom space to deal with EKLC's immediate needs at a minimal net cost to the district, an opportunity that may not present itself in the future. Therefore, GISD applied to the state of Michigan to use ARRA money to fund the construction of the additional classroom space, some 15,008 square feet which, if approved, would be the first phase of the project.

At the October 13 board meeting, representatives of THA Architects and Engineers and Wolgast Corporation were in attendance to present plans and timelines for a multi-phased project at EKLC that includes the addition of classroom space and, when funds allow, the renovation of the existing building space over multiple fiscal years. Deputy Superintendent Michael Moorman, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education Services Jan Russell and Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Cynthia McCain were also available to answer questions about the design process, scope of the project, timelines, finances, and the ARRA funding process.

Approval of the application for ARRA funds at \$1.4 million is expected soon. When GISD is certain the funding is in place, board approval will be requested to move forward with bidding on phase one of the project. The estimated base cost of phase one is \$2,461,800. If the project is approved by the board, the balance of the cost would come from the Special Education Capital Projects Fund budget. The board accepted the presentation.

**Newaygo County RESA  
Requests for Support of  
MASB Delegate Assembly  
Resolutions Approved**

The board of education has designated Vice President Jerry Ragsdale to serve as a voting delegate to the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Delegate Assembly, which was held on October 22 in Lansing. Prior to the Delegate Assembly, GISD received a request from the Newaygo County RESA asking for the GISD Board of Education's support for two resolutions to be voted on at the Delegate Assembly. The first resolution was entitled "5.50 Post Secondary and Career Readiness (Rev. 2009)". This resolution updates the "Employability Skills" resolution that was last updated in 1996. Their consideration of a second resolution entitled "9.65 School Construction" was also requested. This is a new resolution and would be included in the Health, Safety, and School Facilities section of the MASB 2009 Resolutions & Bylaws Handbook.

After reviewing the resolutions, GISD administration is not opposed to either position. Over the past year, the Superintendents Association Curriculum Committee of the Whole has been working with the GASC Technology Center staff and GISD's Career Technical Education department, along with Assistant Superintendent for Education and Learning Mary Behm, to develop career technical education crosswalks with academic credit. The superintendents have reached consensus on which career technical education classes will be available for credit in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and visual arts. The school construction resolution incorporates a great many elements of GISD's current practice. As a result of review of the resolutions and GISD administrative input, the board provided guidance to its delegate for a vote of support for both resolutions.

**Genesee Early College  
Student Handbook and  
Mott Middle College  
Student Handbook  
Adopted**

At its September 22 meeting, the board of education approved a first reading of revisions to the Genesee Early College Student Handbook and Mott Middle College Student Handbook, as recommended by the staff at Genesee Early College and Mott Middle College. These revisions reflect changes in law and provide updates to current terminology, changes in staff names and the missions, learner outcomes, and graduation requirements. The Policy Committee met and made amendments to the recommended revisions, which were discussed at the September 22 meeting.

At its October 13 meeting, the board conducted a second reading and adopted the Genesee Early College Student Handbook and Mott Middle College Student Handbook.

**Michigan Special Needs  
Team Safety Rodeo  
Winners Recognized**

On September 26, 2009, Genesee Intermediate School District hosted the 3rd Annual Michigan Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo at the Erwin L. Davis Education Center. Sixteen bus teams representing seven districts participated in the event. The first and second place winners for 2009 were GISD transportation teams. Jamie Magness, driver, and Andrea Gerth, transportation aide, were awarded first place. Dawn Wineman, driver, and Karolyn Habbershaw, transportation aide, were awarded second place. Each two-person team participated in six events, including a written test, pre-check, wheelchair loading and securement, safety seat securement, special needs emergency, and a driving course. The first place team from GISD will participate in the 13th National Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo on March 5, 2010, in Orlando, Florida. The event is sponsored by the Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation, Special Needs Transportation Committee. At its October 27 meeting, the board recognized GISD's 2009 Michigan Special Needs Team Safety Rodeo winners.

## **Donations Accepted**

Generous donations to Early Childhood Programs and Services, the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center, and the Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center were received by the board. Donations included adaptive equipment, student hygiene products, nutritional supplements, and books for use by students.

## **2008-09 Donations Report Received**

At its October 27 meeting, the board received a report that summarized donations made to GISD during the 2008-09 school year. The board accepted 154 donations with a total value of \$88,523.17. Donations ranged from cash and services for the Community Baby Shower to adaptive devices and instructional aids and were received from parents, staff members, organizations, businesses, and community members. All GISD special education center programs, as well as Education and Learning; Genesee Early College; Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services; Ligon Outdoor Center; and Mott Middle College received donations during the 2008-09 school year. After receipt of the donations report, the board expressed its sincerest thanks to all who have contributed to its programs.

## **Leaves of Absence Approved**

Leaves of absence were considered and approved for: Monica Heicher, Transportation Services; Jamie Lamke, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; Susan Meyer, Early Childhood Programs and Services; Christine Shinavier, Transportation Services; Christine Emmendorfer, Transportation Services; and Tina Mullins, Technology and Media Services.

## **Resignations Accepted**

A resignation was accepted from Erin Lamb, Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services. Resignations for the purpose of retirement were accepted from Alan Houtaling, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center and Michael Riley, Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center.

## **Accelerated Return from Leave Approved**

At its October 13 meeting, the board considered and approved an accelerated return from leave of absence for Chanda Cleaves, Business Services.

Note: This document based on unofficial minutes of the GISD Board Meetings — October 13 & 27, 2009.



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