



Take Note...

August 28, 2009

Attendance and Routine Matters

Application for Statewide Seat Time Waiver Authorized

MASB Board of Directors Region 5 Candidate Supported

Expanded Business Services Contract with Goodrich Area Schools Approved

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

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

The Genesee Intermediate School District has been granted an opportunity to prepare a seat time waiver request for every K-12 school district in Michigan as a GenNET partner. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Michael Flanagan has announced a process to be followed for districts to utilize the Genesee County waiver. School districts outside of Genesee County interested in the waiver must sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU), along with their respective ISD/RESA.

A waiver for all Genesee County K-12 school districts was granted last year, and a first-year report and request for continuance of the waiver for the 2009-2010 school year will be submitted. Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Media Services Beverly Knox-Pipes and Technology and Media Services staff completed the extension application, which includes all GenNET partner ISDs and K-12 districts that have submitted a signed MOU. After review and discussion of the report and application at its August 11 meeting, the board authorized the application for the statewide seat time waiver.

The GISD Board of Education recently received information from the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) concerning the election of one Region 5 candidate for a one-year term as a member of the MASB Board of Directors. At its August 11 meeting, the board cast its ballot for Stephanie Robb-Martin, Flint Community Schools.

Since the 2006-07 school year, the GISD Board of Education has approved shared business services contracts with 11 Genesee County school districts, including Goodrich Area Schools. Currently, GISD has a contract with the Goodrich Area Schools for various business-related services. Recently, Goodrich Area Schools Superintendent John Fazer worked with GISD's Business Services to expand its shared business-related services for Goodrich to include payroll services. A contract was submitted to Goodrich Area Schools, and Mr. Fazer has returned the signed contract. At its meeting on August 25, the GISD Board of Education approved the contract to provide expanded shared business services for Goodrich Area Schools through the 2009-2010 fiscal year.



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.

Shared Special Education Services Contracts with Atherton, Linden, and Westwood Heights Approved

Administrative Contracts Approved

Board Committee Assignments Made

Last year, the GISD Board of Education approved shared special education services contracts with four local districts. During the spring and summer months, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services Jan Russell received requests from three other districts interested in a shared services agreement for the coordination of special education. Contracts executed by Superintendents Mark Madden, Ed Koledo, and Deborah Hunter-Harvill, on behalf of their districts, have been received. At its meeting on August 25, the GISD Board of Education authorized the superintendent to execute the agreements.

As part of the expansion of the collaborative programs supported by GISD and consistent with our Teaching, Learning, and Service Plan, the development of shared services with local districts continues. Two positions for shared-time director of special services administration were posted to begin in the 2009-2010 school year to serve the Linden Community School District, the Atherton Community School District, and Westwood Heights Schools. Kathryn Wurdock was the candidate recommended for the Linden position, and Douglas Haseley was the candidate recommended for the shared Atherton/Westwood Heights position. At its meeting on August 25, the board approved both administrative contracts.

At the August 11 meeting, Board President Lawrence Ford proposed, and the board accepted, the following list of 2009-2010 committee assignments:

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

MASB Assembly Delegates Appointed

The Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) will hold its annual Fall Conference from October 22 through 25, 2009. 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 August 11 meeting, the board appointed Jerry Ragsdale as its voting delegate and Lawrence Ford as its alternate to the Delegate Assembly.

High Priority Schools Project Presentation Received

During the summer of 2007, GISD was awarded a Regional Title I Assistance grant from the Michigan Department of Education as part of the statewide system of support for Title I schools that did not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) for at least two consecutive years. This marked the first time that ISDs were given funding to help specific at-risk schools.

The state requires that the grant funds be used to provide direct services to targeted schools including a leadership coach for the building principal, professional development based upon a local model or need, project management, and a person to lead process mentoring.

At the August 25 meeting, Dr. Jo Ann Pastor, who has been leading the project since the fall of 2007, presented the board with information focusing on key factors related to becoming a High Priority School, GISD's efforts in helping the schools make AYP, and a summary of results to date. The board accepted the presentation.

School Bus Inspection Report Received

Each year, school buses in the GISD fleet are inspected by the Michigan State Police (MSP) as part of their School Bus Inspection Program. In 2007-2008, the GISD fleet had a total of 26 red tags out of 124 buses inspected.

Inspections for 2008-2009 were recently conducted, and results indicated that the GISD fleet had a total of 12 red tags and 4 yellow tags out of 134 buses inspected. All red- and yellow-tagged buses were quickly repaired and returned to service.

There was significant improvement in the recent inspection at many of the eight garages where the GISD fleet is maintained. Considerable time was invested in meeting with each local district superintendent and transportation personnel to institute the Michigan Model for School Bus Maintenance Standards at each garage and to assign buses to permanent mechanical homes. At GISD's request, the MSP commander of the Bus Inspection Unit coordinated several meetings with transportation staff in all local districts to educate mechanics and transportation directors on inspection criteria and to create positive working relationships. Safety for students and staff is GISD's highest priority and it will continue to work to that end.

At the meeting on August 25, Deputy Superintendent Michael Moorman reviewed the inspection data with the board and briefly described the system he developed to improve GISD's rating. The board accepted the report.

Resolution in Support of a Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Pool for Public Employees Approved

Recently, GISD Board of Education Vice President Jerry Ragsdale requested that the board consider approving a resolution focusing on House Speaker Andy Dillon's plan to create a statewide health insurance pool for public employees. The MASB leadership asked boards of education across the state to adopt a resolution supporting the investigation and exploration of a statewide health insurance benefits pool for all public employees. As a result, MASB developed a sample resolution.

The Personnel Committee reviewed the sample resolution and made adjustments and decided that a resolution would be brought before the board for consideration. At its meeting on August 25, the board adopted the amended resolution supporting the investigation and exploration of a statewide health insurance benefit pool.

GISD Awards/Recognition/ Honors Report Received

During the 2008-2009 school year, the various awards received by the district over the last several years were summarized. This past school year, board members and specific programs were recognized 15 times. Most recently, GISD has been recognized for the work of its board of education members, as well as its Technology and Media Services, Transportation Services, and Communications and Development departments. Several individual staff members were also recognized. At the August 25 meeting, Superintendent Thomas Svitkovich presented the report and acknowledged the board for the many awards it received for participation in National School Board Association programs, as well as state certification classes. The board accepted the report and acknowledged the outstanding work that is done on a daily basis at GISD to provide quality education for students.

Genesee Area Cooperative 2009-2010 Dairy and Bakery Bids Approved

The Genesee Area Cooperative involves food service operations from seven counties. The annual bid process was conducted on August 12, 2009. 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 25, Health, Safety, and Nutrition Services Director Gloria Bourdon reviewed the bids with the board. As a result, the board approved the bids.

Employees Hired

At its meeting on August 25, the board approved the employment of Daniel Calhoun, School Social Worker, and Mary Erickson, Teacher of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Donations Accepted

Generous donations for use by the Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center and Marion D. Crouse Instructional Center were received by the board. Donations included classroom supplies; hygiene products; videotapes; craft supplies; \$312.56 from the Knights of Columbus, Council 10170; and \$312.56 from the Knights of Columbus, Holy Redeemer Church.

Leaves of Absence Approved

Leaves of absence were considered and approved for Tracee L. Shaw, Transportation Services; Donald T. Gauthier, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center; Melissa Graves, EKLC – Grand Blanc East Middle School; and Theresa Woods, Transportation Services.

Resignations Accepted

Resignations were accepted from Mary Ann Kost, Genesee Early College; Cynthia A. Ruddy; Early Childhood Programs and Services (for the purpose of retirement); Lauren A. Victor, Day Treatment Program; and Jennifer R. Preston, Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center.

Note: This document based on unofficial minutes of the GISD Board Meetings — August 11 & 25, 2009.



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