

# Board Briefs



## School staff preparing for renewal of district accreditation

Nearly five years ago Davison Community Schools was one of the first districts in Michigan to become fully accredited. The district will seek renewal of its accreditation in May when representatives from AdvancED, the world's largest education accreditation company, visit for an external review.

"It's very clear that our district takes accreditation very seriously," said **Angie Hards**, District School Improvement Co-Chair. "We have been very willing to take a long, hard look in the mirror to see what is working and what is not working as far as what is best for kids."

Parents and community members will also take part in the accreditation process when the AdvancED team visits May 4-7, 2014. The team will interview stakeholders, visit classrooms and examine supporting documentation before making a recommendation on the district's accreditation status.

The district will need to meet five standards in order for its accreditation to be renewed. They include:

- Purpose and Direction
- Governance and Leadership
- Teaching and Assessing for Learning
- Resources and Support Systems
- Using Results for Continuous Improvement

In order to prepare for the visit, staff will review results from surveys administered by AdvancED and completed by parents, students and staff over the past two months. School staff will also continue to implement school improvement plans and share best practices through its "mini QAR (quality assurance review) process."

"School improvement is not just something we do this month and put on a shelf," Hards said. "It's a continuous process. Our staff works diligently to do what is right and good for our students. Our school improvement plans are what drives our actions."

***The mission of the Davison Community Schools is to develop individuals who demonstrate skills necessary for lifelong success in a changing, global society.***



### District meets Best Practices incentive

The district has met all eight of the state's "Best Practices" measures and is eligible to receive a \$52 per pupil incentive through the School Aid Act.

The "Best Practices" incentives include designating the district as the policy holder for medical benefit plans, obtaining competitive bids on non-instructional services, participating in a state schools of choice program, offering opportunities to students for postsecondary credit, offering online courses and physical education classes and providing a link on the district home page for the Michigan School Data portal.

Even with the one-time monetary incentive, the base foundation for state per pupil funding remains at nearly \$300 less per student compared to funding levels from the 2008/09 school year.

The Board approved a resolution Monday night confirming that the District has met the Best Practices criteria. The resolution will be sent to state officials.

Board Briefs is a monthly newsletter published after Board of Education meetings. For additional information, please contact the Communications Department at 591-0852.

# Presentations

## CAP students, teacher demonstrate technology in the classroom

Within the first 20 minutes of each school day, Central Elementary teacher **Ben Montgomery** can tell which of his students are ready to learn, who completed their 20 minutes of reading the night before and who might just need to talk. And he does it all from a spreadsheet.

Montgomery, who teaches second grade students in the CAP (Challenging Academic Potential) program, is able to retrieve this information by having students simply fill out a short survey on their Nexus 7 tablets each morning. Students answer questions such as “What is your goal today?” “Did you get your 20 minutes of reading in last night?” “Do you need re-teaching on any subject?” “Are you ready to learn today?” and “Do you need to talk today?” via an interactive program called Socrative Response System.

“It’s invaluable to me as a teacher,” Montgomery said at Monday night’s Board of Education meeting. “We did the math—to learn all of this it would take me three hours to spend five minutes with each student. By using this, I can accomplish this in about seven minutes of time. Twenty minutes into my day, I get a spreadsheet that gives me a quick temperature check of how my students are feeling.”

While the technology is still new — Montgomery and his students have only been using it for nearly three weeks — the class is utilizing programs such as Nearpod, an interactive presentation system, and Google Docs, on a daily basis. Students can write stories and poetry while Montgomery can view, edit and even comment while the students are working online.

District Technology Supervisor **Chris Lesko** said the online programs and tablets that Montgomery is using in his classroom are part of a beta (testing) program in about 50 school districts throughout the country.

“I hope this exposure will make these students innovators in technology,” Montgomery said.



Central students show Board of Education members how they use technology in the classroom.

## Board recognizes district championship Volleyball Team

Board members recognized the Varsity Volleyball Team on its winning season and fourth consecutive district championship at last night’s Board of Education meeting.

The girls, along with Varsity Coach **Tiffany Burghdorf** and Assistant Coach **Janet Green**, were given certificates of recognition. Also pictured is Athletic Director **Josh Wallberg**.





# Action items

## Donations approved

The following contributions were accepted at Monday night's Board meeting:

- Community member **Susan Smith** donated \$5,872.20 to Hill Elementary for use toward the funding of the school's intersessions.
- Gates Elementary parent **Maureen Dormire** donated 20 gently used and new children's paperback and hard cover books to Gates Elementary for student use in the classroom.
- **Davison Eagle Riders #3589** donated \$250 to the Davison Schools' Cardinals Care account. The money will be used to assist a family in need through the Holiday Assistance Program.
- **Care2Share Baking Company** and **Bear Soup Deli** donated \$30 to Davison Community Schools in support of the district's anti-bullying efforts.
- **April Eckles** donated \$250 to Hill Elementary to assist with field trip funding during the school's intersession. The donation enabled students to attend an off-site campus experience at Covenant Hills Camp in Otisville.

## Sale of tractor approved

Board members approved the sale of a 2000 New Holland tractor with mowers and a snow blade. The tractor, which has been in storage for several years, was sold to the highest bidder at a cost of \$26,500.



### Leading the Pledge

*Student members of the Davison Alternative Education Student Advisory Council led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. The students were accompanied by Dean of Students Dave Beamer. The Student Advisory Council meets monthly to plan fundraisers, team building activities and other events. This year the group has also started a recycling program at DAE for paper, plastic and other recyclable material.*