

# Board Briefs



## Auditor praises District for continuing to earn “clean audit”

For the 14th consecutive year, Davison Community Schools has received a “clean” financial audit, which means the final budget figures provided in June to the Board of Education by Director of Business Services **Leslie Young** and her staff did not change once the audit was completed.

**Mike Frawley**, certified public accountant with Yeo & Yeo CPAs and Business Consultants, conducted the audit and shared his findings at Monday night’s Board of Education meeting. Auditors annually assess the District’s financial risk and test internal controls.

The auditors found that the District’s financial statements were fairly presented and no accounting records needed adjustment. They focused on key controls including disbursements, payroll and receipts (PaySchools, Athletics, Food Services and DCER). The firm also audits the 2013 Capital Project Fund (Central Elementary bond) and the Sinking Fund annually.

Frawley noted that 99 percent of the district’s revenues are tied to enrollment—84 percent from the state per pupil foundation allowance and 15 percent from grants.

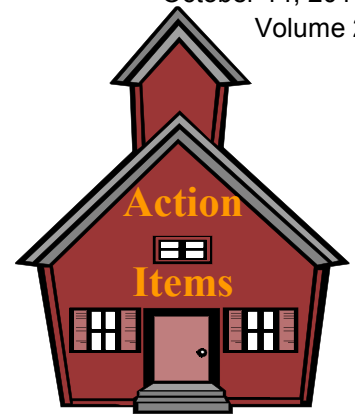
“Basically what you are seeing in the audit report is what you saw in June and that is a testament to Leslie and her crew,” Frawley said.

In addition to Young, the Business Office staff includes Purchasing Secretary **Linda Corkins**, Business Office Secretary **Robin Ricica**, Payroll Specialist **Sue Seymour** and Accountant **Justin Weston** for their hard work in the district achieving the clean audit status.

**“Basically what you are seeing in the audit report is what you saw in June and that is a testament to Leslie and her crew.”**

Mike Frawley  
CPA with Yeo & Yeo

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



### Donations accepted

The following contributions have been accepted:

- An **anonymous donor** contributed \$4,300 to the high school athletic department to purchase new radio headsets for the Davison Football program.
  - **Kroger of Davison** donated 32 boxes of school supply kits purchased by their customers to assist students in need of school supplies.
  - An **anonymous donor** contributed \$300 to the high school athletic department to be used as needed for the DHS Swim Program.
  - Davison parent **Tina Faris**, on behalf of Spartan Stores Foundation, donated \$13.93 to the DHS athletic department to benefit the Pom Pon Team.
  - The congregation, teen and youth groups from **Davison Missionary Church** donated their
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Board Briefs is a monthly newsletter published the day after Board of Education meetings. For additional information, please contact the Communications Department at 591-0852.

# Presentations

## Watch D.O.G.S. program puts dads in the classroom

When Gates Elementary parent **Jason Escue** was a student, it wasn't necessarily a "good thing" when his father showed up at school. He wanted to change that perception—and certainly has by becoming a member of the school's Watch D.O.G.S. program.

D.O.G.S., which stands for Dads of Great Students, launched earlier this year after Principal **Theresa Wendt** and Gates Literacy Specialist **Kelly Ryckaert** decided to give the program a try and got the word out at parent teacher conferences inviting dads, grandpas and uncles to an informational meeting. The two were taken aback and pleasantly surprised when 300 men showed up to learn more about the program.

"It's a wonderful program," said Principal Wendt. "Kids absolutely love it and to see the fathers playing on the playground with the kids, well, it's just an awesome thing to see."

But don't think the program is all play. It's actually a lot of work, according to Escue.

"It's a full day commitment," Escue told Board of Education members Monday night.

"It starts in the morning greeting students and getting them out of their cars and walking hallways to make sure kids get to where they need to be. When you walk into the classroom, the teacher is ready for you. She has a plan of what she wants and who she wants you to work with. It's interactive. You're not going to get sent off to a corner to grade papers. The teachers have done a great job making sure the dads are encompassed into the class. And it's a busy day."

The volunteers, who are required to wear their Watch D.O.G.S. T-shirt to identify them, also have lunch with the kids.

The Watch D.O.G.S program has been implemented in more than 4,000 schools across the country. In addition to fostering positive male role model relationships, the program has also proven to help reduce discipline issues and increase student sense of safety.

"This helps to build a stronger bridge between home and schools," Escue said. "What do the dads get out of it? We get to be Michael Jordan on the playground because we're bigger than everyone and Superman in the hallways."

In order to become a member of Watch D.O.G.S., participants must commit to spending one full day at school, wearing a T-shirt that identifies them as a member of Watch D.O.G.S. and eating lunch with the students. School officials from Thomson Elementary, Hill Elementary and Hahn Intermediate are also considering implementing the Watch D.O.G.S. program in those school buildings.



**Watch D.O.G.S. volunteer Darrell House works with students in Mrs. Tanya Meinburg's classroom at Gates Elementary on Tuesday.**

# Presentations

## Student mentoring program builds lifelong skills at Hill

**Rebekah Hall's** experiences last year as a fourth grade student mentor at Hill Elementary have proven helpful even as a fifth grader at Hahn Intermediate.

"It was an amazing experience that still impacts me," Rebekah said. "It taught me to be more patient and understanding of other kids who may be having trouble. I sit next to a boy in class and I have begun helping him now, too."

The student mentoring program is now in its fifth year at Hill. Teachers work together to carefully match fourth grade students with younger students for one-on-one help from their peers. The students work on handwriting, spelling, math, reviewing the Cardinal Code, organizational skills—anything to meet the needs of the younger students, said **Lisa DuPrey**, music and computer teacher at Hill.

"I think the key part of this program is the collaboration of the families," DuPrey said.

**Elizabeth Hall**, Rebekah's mom, said while her daughter was very excited to be chosen as a mentor, she was a bit nervous about the program. Those fears quickly subsided.

"I really feel like the mentor program helps students who are struggling because it makes them feel important," Mrs. Hall said. "We can't overestimate the value of students helping each other."

Fifth grader **Ryan Bougie** also served as a mentor last year at Hill Elementary. One of the ideas he came up with to help his mentee was a "stop and think" bracelet. The two made matching bracelets to remind them of the importance of stopping and thinking before acting.

"I knew he could be my friend and I could help him but there was a time to stop and be serious," Ryan said of the idea behind the bracelet.

Ryan's mom, **Dana Bougie**, said her son's experience as a mentor was powerful.

"I saw him grow a lot in being a role model for another child and realizing that you are being looked up to," Mrs. Bougie said. "It led to some great conversations in the car when he was frustrated and that led to coming up with ideas. I think there is something powerful that happens when it's peer to peer. Like the stop and think bracelet; Ryan knew that even as a fourth grader, he needed to remember that, too. They had the matching bracelets, wore the same kind of shoes and I know they are buds for life. What's more it connected me to my son and helped me to realize what goes on in his day at school."

**Sarah DuCap** admits she was a bit apprehensive when she was asked if her first grade son, Aiden, could be matched up with a mentor. The experience, however, was worthwhile.

"A mentor was more than just someone showing him the ropes," Mrs. DuCap said. "There was also someone there to model behaviors and help with organizational skills. Thanks to Rebekah, with the long winter we had, he only lost one mitten all winter."

Mrs. DuCap said when she asked Aiden what his favorite thing about the mentor program was, he replied: "I get to learn how to be a leader so when I'm in fourth grade, I can be a mentor and help someone like me."

"As you can see this is a great program that empowers our students in academic and social success," said Principal **Jennifer Torok**. "It's a beautiful thing to walk down the hallway and be the ears listening to the conversations going on."



**Peyton Spodney (standing) and Abbie Britten help Aiden DuCap as part of the student mentoring program at Hill Elementary.**



## Action Items

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### Board approves student trips

The following student trips were approved:

- **Summer 2015 Marching Band Camp:** Next year's camp is scheduled for August 2-7, 2015, at Echo Grove Camp in Leonard, Mich.
- **DHS Band and Orchestra Spring Trip:** This student trip will be held April 15-19, 2015, when students will travel New Orleans, LA., to participate in an instrumental music clinic.
- **DHS Symphonic Band Trip:** Students will travel to Grand Rapids January 22-23, 2015, to participate in the 2015 Michigan Music Conference.
- **Eighth Grade Washington, D.C. Trip:** Interested eighth graders will take this trip during Memorial Day weekend 2015.
- **DHS Varsity Dance Team Trip:** The team competed regionally and qualified to attend the national competition at Walt Disney World's ESPN Wide World of Sports and Disney's Hollywood Studios January 30-February 3, 2015, in Orlando, Fla.



### Leading the Pledge

*Gates Elementary Watch D.O.G.S. and their students led the Pledge of Allegiance at the October Board of Education meeting. The students were accompanied by Literacy Specialist Mrs. Kelly Ryckaert and Principal Mrs. Theresa Wendt.*

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## Donations/Continued from Page 1

time and provided trash bags to pick up the trash in Cardinal Stadium following the homecoming football game.

- Retired Gates Elementary music teacher **Susan Hough** donated a French Horn for students to use in the Davison Middle School Band program.
- **Mary Treder Lang** donated children's books to Hill Elementary to enhance the reading experience of kindergarten through second grade students in their Readers' Workshop.