

Board Briefs



Board takes oath, earns praise

For the 22nd year, the Honorable Judge **John Conover** administered the oath of office to Board of Education members at their annual organizational meeting held Monday night.

"It's been a great run, folks," Judge Conover told board members before the swearing in ceremony. "I've enjoyed coming here once a year and telling you and the administration what a good job you are doing."

Conover vacated his longtime seat as a 67th District Court judge when age limitations prohibited him from running for re-election.

"Despite the limping economy, belt tightening and avalanche of school regulations, the level of excellence for our students increases every year," he said. "...our schools are consistently graded in the top tier, number one at all levels ... and I hate to admit that our own community sometimes misses the crucial role played by the school board. It's why Davison is the best place to live and best place to raise our children ... it's been a privilege for me all of these years to come and recognize you and remind everyone that your job is critical and you execute it with wisdom."

After board members were sworn into office, several presentations were held to recognize School Board Appreciation Month.

"You are the unsung heroes in our community," said Superintendent **Eric Lieske**. "The way you lead the district is certainly behind the scenes but very impressive, we continue to raise the bar because of your leadership. The idea of putting kids first is something you always do and I'm pleased to be a part of that."

On behalf of administrators, Assistant Principals **Jerry Piger, Julie Malenich, Josie Paquette, Verle Gilbert**, Davison Alternative Education Dean of Students **Chris Wilson** and Athletic Director **Dave Beamer** presented board members with a short

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



Board gratefully accepts contributions

The following contributions have been offered to the district:

The Davison High School Athletic Department received an **anonymous donation** of \$1,000 to be split evenly between the girls' and boys' basketball teams. The money will be used to help pay for equipment, supplies and video equipment for the winter season.

Todd Wenzel Buick GMC of Davison donated \$2,000 to Davison Middle School's new robotics team. This generous donation will serve as the team's start-up fund.

Charles Valentine donated his time and craftsmanship to build six benches for Hill Elementary. The benches will be used by students when preparing for recess and dismissal times.

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

Presentations

Recipients show impact DEF mini grants are having in classrooms

From measuring gravity in a high school physics class to engaging in digital dialogue at the elementary level, projects purchased with mini grants awarded by the Davison Educational Foundation are having an impact in classrooms throughout the district.

In June, the DEF awarded more than \$8,200 to 23 teachers and staff members. Since 1995, the DEF has awarded more than \$106,000 to nearly 260 teachers.

At Monday night's board meeting, several teachers happily demonstrated how they are using purchases made with DEF grants in their classrooms.

Davison High School physics and physical science teachers **Brent Prim**, **Mary Ignatowski**, **Pat Herriman** and **Blake Smith** received a grant to purchase "GoPro Hero 3 Cameras." The \$936.46 grant provided two small, lightweight durable "Go Pro" cameras that are being used in nearly every experiment students perform – very much like they do on Mythbusters. Prim showed how students are using the camera's capability of slowing down videos to 1/30th of a second and then viewing frame by frame to analyze and graph the motions of objects, such as a 2-liter pop bottle rocketing into the air, or getting an up-close look of how inertia and gravity work.

"We're still finding new ways to use it," Prim said. "Thanks a lot for giving us the grant and making a lot of kids interested in physics."

Central Elementary teachers **Brenda Smith** and **Tricia Smith** brought students with them to demonstrate how the iPads they purchased with their DEF grant are being used in their classrooms. Both of them, along with teachers **Lindsey Lane**, **Chelsea Long** and **Mindy Parrott** submitted a \$3,000 grant application to purchase one iPad and four headphones for each first grade classroom. The iPads are being used by students in Reader's Workshop, Math Workshop and to aid students in fluency practice and phonics and reading assessments.



Central Elementary teacher **Brenda Smith** gets some help from first grader **Jack Kitsko** in explaining to board members how students are using the iPads in class.



Davison High School teacher **Brent Prim** demonstrates the Go Pro camera's ability to break down videos into 1/30th of a second time frames.

For the final presentation, Central Elementary second grade teachers **Christine Kuzinski**, **Ben Montgomery**, **Jacque Przybylski**, **Melissa Baraco**, **Ashley Romine** and **Melissa Jones** presented a video showing how the Chrome Books that they received for each second grade classroom is allowing teachers to integrate technology into daily lessons. The video included student interviews and clips about how they are using the Chrome Books for daily activities including the Listening Center, guided reading and math, small groups and writer's workshop. Students in Montgomery's class use the Chrome Books for digital dialogue. Once a student is finished with his/her



Central Elementary teacher Tricia Smith listens as student Justin Reardon explains how he uses the iPad to strengthen his reading skills.

writing, the teacher and fellow classmates can make comments to help them become a better writer.

“Being a DEF board member, it’s really neat to see the final product,” said **Kim Lindsay**, board Treasurer. “It’s pretty amazing, there is so much to be tapped into and we are barely scratching the surface. I’m really happy to see how you embraced your mini grants and even happier to be a small part of it.”

Other recipients of DEF mini grants awarded for the 2014-15 school year include:

- “Weather Center” submitted by Davison Middle School Science Teachers **Michelle McKinnon**, **Chris Talcott** and **Jody Kosiara**. This \$531 grant will allow students to collect weather data such as rainfall amount, wind direction, wind chill, wind speed, indoor/outdoor temperature, relative humidity and barometric pressure.
- “Life Cycles Bird/Chicken Hatchery” submitted by

Rachel Wheaton at Thomson Elementary. This \$185 grant will allow Rachel’s class to continue to incubate eggs of chickens and other types of birds in the classroom. Students learn about the Life Cycle and the responsibilities of taking care of an animal.

- “Redcat All in One Audio System” submitted by **Susie McCatty** and the Davison Middle School Science Department. This \$985 grant will be used to purchase a portable all-in-one light speed audio system that can be attached to an iPod or iPhone to transmit sound as well. The objective is to improve opportunities for students to focus, attend and listen more efficiently.

- “Using Technology in the Classroom” submitted by Hahn Intermediate Teacher **Amie Hicks**. This \$500 grant will be used to purchase an iPad for Amie, who just completed the Tech2Teach program through the GISD. The iPad will be used in the classroom to communicate with students via Edmodo and Goodreads as well as Google Drive.

- “Gross Motor Development Mat” submitted by **Maria Hill** at Davison Alternative Ed. This \$572 grant will be used to expand gross motor development opportunities for infants and toddlers attending the childcare program at Davison Alternative Education.

In addition to the mini grant demonstrations, board members also heard from Siple Elementary teacher **Julie Crockett**, who was selected as the DEF’s Professional Scholar. Each year, the DEF awards a \$1,000 grant to a staff member seeking a unique professional development opportunity. Crockett attended the Michigan Council for Teachers in Mathematics conference over the summer where she learned new techniques in engaging students in math.

“And because the DEF grant could pay for the hotel and travel, our principal was able to pay for three more of us to go to the conference,” Crockett said, adding that it was helpful to have teachers Christy Turner, Nancy Kerr and Alicia Eaton at the conference with her. As a result of the conference, Crockett said there have been numerous changes in how math instruction is being delivered at Siple.

“There are a lot of changes that happen in your thinking when you realize math is not just a memorization of formulas,” she said. “Kids need an opportunity to play with math and discover patterns.”

Crockett said she’s even changed her worksheets so students can show how to solve problems in multiple ways so she can zero in on where kids need help. The changes prompted one student to write a thank you note after she discovered she had learned how to master division after struggling with it for some time.

“The kids feel proud and successful and that is why the DEF sends teachers to conferences,” she said.

Lindsay encouraged teachers to apply for the award, which is given out each June.

“For those teachers who haven’t applied, there are a lot of great things that can happen with just a small amount of money,” he said.

Action items

BPA students to attend trade show

Board of Education members approved an overnight trip for 20 students belonging to Business Professionals of America to participate in the Virtual Enterprise International's Great Lakes Trade Show Feb. 18-20 in Rosemont, Ill., near Chicago.

Assistant Superintendent **Kevin Brown** said BPA students, advised by Career Technical Education teacher Amy Fanning, have created virtual online businesses. They created their companies from scratch, from choosing a name and logo to selecting what products to sell, interviewing for positions and writing a business plan. By attending the trade show, students will now have the opportunity to do face to face business with other students and get hands-on learning at a trade show.

Board approves policy revisions for graduation requirements

Monday night's board meeting included a second and final reading of a new board policy that revises graduation requirements for students beginning with the Class of 2016. Requirements are based on state guidelines.

The biggest changes include the following:

- Students in the graduating classes of 2016 through 2020 will now have the option of replacing one credit of the World Language requirement with a one credit state-approved Career Technical Education (CTE) course or an additional credit of Visual, Performing or Applied Arts.
- Beginning with the graduating class of 2016, the .5 credit physical education requirement may be fulfilled by participation on a school sanctioned freshmen, junior varsity or varsity athletic team, marching band, pom pon or dance team. Students looking to use participation on these teams to fulfill this graduation requirement must begin as a member of the team on the first day of the season and be a member in good standing on the last day of the season. A maximum of .5 credit can be granted for participation. Davison High School administration must approve of any school sanctioned extracurricular activity used to fulfill this requirement.

Board appoints newcomer Hall to hearing and county committee

Board of Education members approved the designation of new school board member Andrew Hall to represent the district at the Genesee Intermediate School District's annual budget hearing March 25. Board Secretary Karen Conover will serve as the alternate.

Hall was also appointed as the district's liaison to the Genesee County Association of School Board Members Executive Committee, which typically meets monthly at the GISD. Treasurer Kim Lindsay will serve as alternate to the committee.



Leading the Pledge

Members of the very talented Varsity Choir led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at Monday night's board meeting. The students were accompanied by Choral Director Jennifer Orkisz. After reciting the Pledge, students then sang the national anthem. You can view the performance by visiting our website or clicking on the following link: <http://www.davisonschools.org/videos.cfm?vID=15703>

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video, a district calendar and gift certificates to a local restaurant paid for by contributions from the administrators. To view the video, produced by DTV, please click on this link: <http://www.nfhsnetwork.com/events/davison-high-school-davison-mi/229e0e746b>

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Kristin Slattery, vice president of the Davison Education Association, also recognized the board for their commitment to the students and staff, and announced that the teacher's union was making a \$100 contribution to Outreach East in honor of the board.

Student board representatives **Amanda George** and **Ryan Myers** were also recognized for their service.



Judge John Conover swears in Davison Board of Education members **Mark McGlashen**, **Karen Conover**, **Kathy Sudia**, **Andrew Hall**, **Dale Green** and **Kim Lindsay**. McGlashen and Sudia were re-elected and Hall was elected by voters in the November general election.