



Board Briefs

Business Office does it again: Another clean audit on the books!

For the 17th year in a row, 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.

In fact, the DCS Business Department was within 1.68 percent when it came to projecting revenues for the district’s nearly \$55 million budget.

“The business office does an amazing job to make sure things are done appropriately and that makes our job easy,” said Jacob Sopczynski, certified public accountant with Yeo & Yeo CPAs and Business Consultants.

Sopczynski shared his findings at Monday night’s Board of Education meeting. Auditors annually assess the District’s financial risk and test internal controls.

In addition to Young, the Business Office staff includes Payroll Specialist **Sue Seymour**, Business Office Secretary **Shawn Hoover**, Purchasing/Payroll Support Secretary **Caitlin Bentoski**, and Accountant **Joshua Evans**. They all played key roles in the district achieving the clean audit status.

Board approves merit pay and one-time payment to employees

Michigan law requires school districts to establish a method annually of compensating administrators and teachers based on performance. On Monday, the Board of Education complied with the law by voting to pay administrators receiving an effective or highly effective evaluation rating with merit pay of \$1,000 and teachers receiving an effective or highly effective evaluation rating with merit pay of \$600. The payments are one-time and off-scale.

In keeping with the spirit of encouraging high performance for all Davison school employees, the Board

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Davison Community Schools

Where Kids Come First and Futures Begin

Connections ♦ Curriculum ♦ Opportunities

Graduation dates set

Board of Education members approved the following commencement ceremony dates for the Class of 2018:

- **Davison High School**, 7 p.m. June 11, 2018, at the Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center
- **Davison Alternative Education**, 7 p.m. June 13, 2018, in the Ude Auditorium at Davison High School.

Konkle reappointed to DCER Advisory Board

Board members last night voted to reappoint Skip Konkle as the school district’s representative on the Davison Community Enrichment and Recreation Advisory Board.

Donations accepted

The following contributions were graciously accepted:

- Monetary donations were made by **Child’s Veterinary**, **John’s Pizzeria** and **Mumford Funeral Home** to the Davison Varsity Team.

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

Presentations

Gates teacher Brad Fuson named “Kids First” September recipient

Gates Elementary Teacher **Brad Fuson** is the September recipient of the “Kids First” Award.

Each month, administrators nominate a DCS employee who best exemplifies what it means to be “Kids First.” Winners receive a \$100 Visa gift card thanks to Mark Owen, owner of MEEMIC insurance agencies in Davison and Flint Township, and a certificate. The winner is chosen at random.

Mr. Fuson, who teaches fourth grade, was nominated by Gates Elementary Principal **Theresa Wendt**, who wrote:

“Brad recently completed his second year as a fourth grade teacher at Gates. He has proven to have a passion for students and for their success. He develops relationships with his students from the first day of school and builds upon those relationships throughout the school year.

“Each day begins with Brad greeting his students at the door and checking in with them regarding the completion of their homework. A positive word and a smile is shared with each and every student before the day begins.

“Throughout the day and school year Brad works to instill confidence, motivation and a passion for learning with each of his students. He works to help students own their learning and struggle as necessary to make the learning their own. Students leave with respect (using ma’am and sir in all conversations), confidence and an excitement to monitor their own progress. Brad’s passion for students, relationships and teaching is exciting to see. To know that one of his biggest inspirations is Ron Clark and that he will have the opportunity to work with him this year is amazing. I believe his kids first attitude is shown throughout the day in all that he does.”

Other great DCS staff members who were nominated this month include: **Ann Curatti**, Literacy Specialist at Hahn Intermediate; **Kim Dowrie**, Caregiver at the Cardinal’s Nest; **Patty Galea**, Secretary at Davison Middle School; **Ellen Meinecke**, Teacher at Central Elementary; **Ernie Siple**, Teacher at Siple Elementary; **Susan Vamos**, Early Childhood Learning Coordinator; and **Joe Whitman**, Teacher at Hill Elementary.



Left to right, Superintendent Eric Lieske, Teacher Brad Fuson, Gates Elementary Principal Theresa Wendt and Board of Education President Kathy Sudia.



Welcome new teachers!

Board members had the opportunity to meet and mingle with new teachers at a brief reception held prior to the September 11 Board of Education meeting. This year, 19 teachers have joined the Davison school family. Right, Hahn Principal Verle Gilbert hangs out with his Hahn crew of Stephanie Owens, Katie Bohms and Gabriel Whiteley.



Above, comparing notes are new music teachers Elizabeth Green and Robin Odglen. Elizabeth is teaching at Gates Elementary and Robin is teaching at Siple Elementary. Below, Sara Ward, left, is teaching GSRP and Tiffany Casteel is a speech and language pathologist at Central.



Above, new Middle School teachers B. Allisoy Johnson and Mandy Gilbert pose with Principal Shelly Fenner-Krasny. Below, Board of Education Secretary Karen Conover chats with Davison High School Principal Sue Kenkel, left, and student board representatives Megan Duncan (center) and Denaë' Howard. Megan joins the board as a junior this year.



New kindergarten teacher Faith Weidenhammer, left, and Thomson Elementary Principal Natalie Miller with Director of Operations Phil Thom.



Leading the Pledge

Members of the Hill Elementary Safety Patrol, along with teacher sponsors Mrs. Lisa DuPrey and Mrs. Kristine White and Principal Ms. Jennifer Torok, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Students also sang a patriotic song.



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also voted to offer a one-time off-scale payment of \$400 to all regular, hourly employees working five or more hours. District level supervisors will receive an \$800 payment and hourly employees working less than five hours will receive \$200.

"Everyone here makes a difference," said Super-

intendent **Eric Lieske**, who added that because of intentional underspending in last year's budget, the district was able to increase the amount of merit pay from last year. "Honestly, the work is getting twice as hard and our staff has worked with us over the past several years to make sure our budget stayed solid when we didn't have this kind of underspending."

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- **Smith & Smith Carpet** donated an area rug to a fourth grade classroom at Hill Elementary.
- A rocker/glider was donated to Thomson Elementary by **Melissa Cates**.
- Gifts and collectibles were donated by **Pat O'Dell** to support Hill, Gates and Siple elementary Santa's Gift Shops.
- **Wojo's Garden Splendors** donated flower barrels to Thomson Elementary for beautification

efforts.

- Visa gift cards were donated by the **Mark Owen MEEMIC Insurance Agency** to the Kids First Awards Program for staff recognition.
- **Davison Kiwanis Club** made a monetary donation to the Boys' Lacrosse program to help purchase equipment for the team.
- The customers and staff of **Davison Family Dollar** donated a considerable amount of various school supplies for Davison students who are in need of assistance.