

Board Briefs



Supt. Lieske announces resignation

Superintendent **Eric Lieske** submitted his letter of resignation to the Davison Board of Education Monday night after announcing he has been named Chief Executive Officer of the Flint Cultural Center Academy, effective January 1, 2019.

"Davison Community Schools has been a part of my life since I entered kindergarten," said Lieske, who is serving his ninth year as superintendent. "I have a deep, deep appreciation for this amazing school district and I will always feel proud to have been a part of it. The schools are great because of the amazing staff members and board of education members who continue to make decisions in the best interest of children. Although I will not be working here anymore, I will always be one of the school district's biggest cheerleaders."

Lieske completed his student teaching and was a long-term substitute teacher at Davison before officially beginning his career teaching fifth graders at Hahn Intermediate. He taught for four years before becoming an administrator, serving as assistant principal at Hahn and Davison Middle School and principal at Central Elementary. Lieske also served three years as the Assistant Superintendent before he was named Superintendent in 2010.

"We wish him well, but it's a sad day for Davison Community Schools," said Board President **Kathy Sudia**. "This is a huge loss for us. Superintendent Lieske is the one who was responsible for introducing our "Kids First" mission and he truly lives and breathes that mission every day. I am sure that he will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of all the kids he serves."

"We are very saddened to lose Superintendent Lieske," said **Karen Conover**, Board Secretary and Chairperson of the Board's Personnel Committee. "His vision, his passion for kids and his creative energy have set Davison Schools apart as a dynamic destination school district. He will be greatly missed, but we know that he is stepping onto an even bigger stage where his impact on the field of education and the lives of individual students will continue."

Lieske's resignation is effective December 31.



Graduation dates set

Board of Education members approved the following commencement ceremony dates for the Class of 2019:

- **Davison High School**, 7 p.m. June 10, 2019, at the Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center
- **Davison Alternative Education**, 7 p.m. June 12, 2019, 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.

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

Davison Community Schools

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Presentations

Hahn custodian Jacob Brown named “Kids First” September recipient

Hahn Intermediate Custodian **Jacob Brown** 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.

Jacob was nominated by Central Elementary Principal **Christine Kuzinski**, who wrote:

“Jake is dependable, dedicated and hardworking. Jake comes to work with a positive attitude each day. He is focused on continuously learning and developing best practices to manage routine activities both efficiently and effectively. Jake takes pride in his work. He is conscientious and thorough, ensuring our building is clean and safe for our students and staff.

“Jake is also flexible and able to switch gears quickly. There are times when urgent matters have to be dealt with in the middle of his scheduled duties. He is quick to respond and pleasant, despite the interruption. When staff members need assistance or an event in the building requires set-up, he goes above and beyond to accommodate requests.

“Jake’s impact far surpasses his job description. He has assisted with overseeing community service and restitution opportunities for our students as they learn that choices have consequences. Jake even wore the title of “hero” a couple weeks ago as he used a pry bar to bend a metal bench and free a student’s leg before emergency personnel had to be dispatched. Within the past week, I have overheard staff members, Jake’s colleagues and parents compliment Jake’s attitude and his work, unbeknownst to him.”

Other great DCS staff members who were nominated this month include: **Deanna Campbell**, Siple Elementary Head Cook, **Terry Cline**, Davison Middle School Paraprofessional, **Matt Giguere**, Assistant Security Director, **Rod Hoover**, District Maintenance, **Mike Mimms**, DM Burr Custodian, **Megan Romanik**, Thomson Elementary Teacher, **Diana Rutherford**, Hahn Intermediate Challenge Coordinator, **Kelly Ryckaert**, Gates Elementary Literacy Specialist and **Rachael Suchy**, DCER Interim Supervisor.



Left to right, Central Elementary Principal Christine Kuzinski, Hahn Intermediate Custodian Jacob Brown, Superintendent Eric Lieske 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 10 Board of Education meeting. Right, Executive Director of Student Services Holly Halabicky, Board Treasurer Todd Ferguson, Board Secretary Karen Conover and Siple Principal Christy Flowers pose with new DHS Counselor Tiffany Kincaid.



Above, Charlotte Dotson and Margaret Raspberry are teaching at Davison Middle School. Below, Board Treasurer and new teacher Tim Pizzala, who is teaching at Davison Middle School.



Above, new high school staff members Tiffany Kincaid, Ben Bellinger, Samantha Sny and Lindsey Droblich pose with Davison High School Principal Sue Kenkel. Below, Board of Education Trustees John Hair and Diane Rhines chat with Thomson Elementary teachers Keegan Collins and Jennifer Galbreath and Gates Elementary teachers Dana Johnson and Heather Hundt.



Hahn Assistant Principal Keri Collins talks with new teachers Dee Callan (left) and Melissa Bellinger.



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

For the 18th 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.

“That is the highest level of assurance we can give on an audit,” 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.

“We are very fortunate in having Leslie lead our business office,” said Superintendent Eric Lieske. “I would publicly like to thank Leslie and her staff for the incredible job they do.”

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 \$500 and teachers receiving an effective or highly effective evaluation rating with merit pay of \$300. The payments are one-time and off-scale.

In keeping with the spirit of encouraging high performance for all Davison school employees, the Board also voted to offer a one-time off-scale payment of \$200 to all regular, hourly employees working five or more hours. District level supervisors will receive a \$400 payment and hourly employees working less than five hours will receive \$100.

Board accepts donations with gratitude

The following contributions were accepted at last night’s meeting:

- Visa gift cards were donated by **Mark Owen MEEMIC Insurance** agency to the Kids First Award Program for staff recognition.
- **Biggby Coffee** donated coffee to the DCS staff for District Professional Day and staff trainings to show their appreciation.
- **Davison Optimist Club** donated approximately 75 backpacks filled with school supplies to assist students in need.
- Mr. **Kenneth Pethers** donated equipment and tools for constructing solar conductors to enhance design, engineering and renewable energy for middle/high school students.
- **Davison Eagle Riders #3859** made a monetary donation to the Davison Area Youth Safety program to help purchase bicycle helmets for all Davison kindergarten students.
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- **Davison Free Methodist Church** donated school supplies to each classroom, office supplies to the main office, snacks for students and Tim Horton’s gift cards to staff at Hill Elementary.
- **Davison Assembly of God** donated backpacks filled with school supplies to Hill Elementary.
- **United Way of Genesee County** donated \$1,000 for early literacy.
- **Davison Knights of Columbus** donated \$1,110.68 to support students with special needs.

Leading the Pledge

Third and fourth graders from Hill Elementary who exhibit leadership in various roles as members of the Safety Patrol, Peer Links, 4th Grade Mentors, Bus Buddies, Blueberry Ambassadors, Honors Choir, Student Council and the Ukelele Club, along with teacher sponsors Mrs. Lisa DuPrey and Mrs. Linda Strine and Principal Ms. Jennifer Torok, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

