

Board Briefs



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

For the 19th 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.

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

“When we start the audit process we look over the financial statements,” Sopczynski explained. “We look at policies and procedures and we take those and test them to make sure those controls are in place. We want to be unpredictable in our procedure because we don’t want the business office to predict what we will be looking for.”

Accountants also pick one program each year to take a “deep dive into” to ensure that 99 different compliance areas are satisfied. Sopczynski said Food Services was the selected program this year and all requirements were met.

Sopczynski said future challenges for school finances include eroding state revenue, projected downward enrollment trends and new accounting rules that take effect next year that govern how student activity funds are recorded.

“I want to thank Leslie and the Business Office staff who helped us along the way by being prepared and honest with us,” Sopczynski said.

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.

“Congratulations on another great job,” Board President **Kathy Sudia** told Young. “And another great year with no findings.”



Graduation dates set

Board of Education members approved the following commencement ceremony dates for the Class of 2020:

- **Davison High School**, 7 p.m. June 8, 2020, at the Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center
- **Davison Alternative Education**, 7 p.m. June 10, 2020, 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

Where Kids Come First and Futures Begin

Connections ♦ Curriculum ♦ Opportunities

Presentations

Counselor Dr. Jason Vannest named “Kids First” September recipient

Hill and Thomson Elementary Counselor **Dr. Jason Vannest** 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.

Vannest was nominated by Hill Elementary Principal **Jennifer Torok**, who wrote:

“As a counselor, Dr. Jason Vannest wears many hats and is often a liaison between family and community to assist in providing necessary information/services. Jason goes the distance for students and families. Many of our families are impacted with financial barriers that prohibit them from getting the help that they need. Jason’s expertise, experience and persistence in making the appropriate contacts recently afforded us the opportunity to provide a family with the assistance that they needed for their child. This is one of the many acts that epitomizes the lengths that Jason goes through to advocate for our students and families. He is professional, knowledgeable, and empathetic to the students, staff, and parents that we serve. We are fortunate to have Dr. Vannest as a member of our Hill School family and Davison Community Schools. Jason Vannest is an excellent example of having a Kids First Attitude.”



Left to right, Hill Elementary Principal Jennifer Torok, Hill/Thomson Elementary Counselor Dr. Jason Vannest, Superintendent Kevin Brown and Board of Education President Kathy Sudia.

Other great DCS staff members who were nominated this month include: Thomson Elementary Literacy Coach **Megan Campbell**, ELA/Social Studies Coordinator **Dena Downey**, Siple Elementary Speech Pathologist **Nicole Illig**, Central Elementary Success Coordinator **Tracy Loomis**, Special Education Paraprofessional **Dodie Marzi**, Hahn Intermediate Paraprofessional **David Quintanilla**, Payroll Specialist **Sue Seymour**, Davison Middle School Paraprofessional **Judy Smith** and Davison High School Secretary **Tammy Warden**.



Presentations

New SafeCards app for students shared with Board members

Board of Education members had the opportunity to view the district's new SafeCards app Monday night. Technology Supervisor **Chris Lesko** demonstrated the app, which was developed for students as another way to report incidents of bullying, conflict or unsafe behavior.

"For many years, we have had a form on our website to report bullying," Lesko said. "We felt with the times changing the way they are and the devices that are in the kids' hands, it was time to put an app right on their phones. It's just a new way for kids to report unsafe behavior."

It has taken more than a year to develop the app and follow the necessary guidelines in order for it to be included in the Google Play and Apple App stores. The app was developed by former Davison Schools' technology staff member Dave Marchbanks.

To use the app, students will need to log in with their Google or Facebook account. Once logged in, they can select their school building and report an incident, very much like the Report Bullying link on the district's website. Once the submit button is selected, the report is sent to the administrators of the building selected.

It should be noted that the app is not monitored 24/7 and should not be used to report emergencies. As always, those who have an emergency or urgent matter should call 911.

"This is something we are very proud," Lesko said. "We are very lucky to have the resources in our technology and communication departments to be able to offer this."

Students and parents can also continue to use the online Report Bullying link found on the district's home page or the Attorney General's OK2SAY reporting program.



Scott named Innovative Educator

DTV Teacher Randy Scott has been recognized as a member of the Michigan Innovative Educator Program for providing hands-on, real-world learning opportunities for students. As an Innovative Educator, Mr. Scott received a \$5,000 stipend and \$5,000 for his program.

Board accepts donations with gratitude

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

- **Ross Medical Education Center** donated children's books to the DCS Traveling Library Bus.
- **Tim and Candy Betts** donated school supplies and backpacks to students in need at Hill Elementary and Davison Middle School.
- **Davison Optimist Club** donated approximately 90 backpacks filled with school supplies to assist students in need.
- **Richfield United Methodist Church** donated school supplies and snacks to Siple Elementary for students in need.
- **Ashley Musser** donated a side-by-side refrigerator to the Davison Football program to help keep drinking water, Gatorade and popsicles cold for players' hydration in the football locker room.

Welcome new teachers!

Board members had the opportunity to meet and mingle with new teachers at a brief reception held prior to the September 9 Board of Education meeting. Right, Board President Kathy Sudia, Treasurer Diane Rhines and Director of Business Services Leslie Young talk with several new teachers. Below, Board Trustee Granger Stefanko gets to know new Gates Elementary teacher Chloe Kring.



Above, Central Elementary Principal Christine Kuzinski chats with new staff member Daniyle Weir while Executive Director of Student Services Holly Halabicky has a conversation with Ali Schaibly. Below new high school teachers Christina Oskey, Kristin Baker and Sara Sider are all smiles.

Above, new high school Spanish teacher James Woods shakes hands with Board Trustee Matthew Smith while Assistant Superintendent Matt Lobban looks on. Below, Board Secretary Karen Conover meets teacher Rachel Meinberg, who teaches preschool classes for both the Cardinal's Nest and the Great Start Readiness Program.





Leading the Pledge

Fourth grade Safety Patrol members from Hill Elementary, along with teacher sponsors Mrs. Lisa DuPrey and Mrs. Kristine White and Principal Ms. Jennifer To-rok, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

