

Board Briefs

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

December



The regularly scheduled meeting for December 6 was cancelled due to a power outage at Davison Middle School. The meeting was rescheduled for Tuesday, December 14. Board Policy requires that the Board of Education meets monthly. The following action items were approved by the Davison Board of Education at its December 14 meeting:

- **Approval of DHS Band Trip:** Davison High School Teacher **James Schuster** received the Board's authorization to plan a spring trip to Nashville, Tennessee, for band students April 20-24, 2022. In addition to attending the Grand Ole Opry and sightseeing, instrumental music students will participate in a music clinic at Vanderbilt University.
- **Approval of Special COVID-19 Payment:** Because of the additional duties and responsibilities that staff have had to take on over the last two years due to the pandemic, Board of Education members approved spending Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds for all DCS employees. The payments will be made in December and June for the 2021-22 and 2022-2023 school years. The payment amounts include: \$1,500 for administrators, \$1,200 for supervisors, \$1,000 for teachers, \$800 for Central Office staff, secretaries, custodians, bus drivers and cooks, \$700 for full-time hourly staff and paraprofessionals and \$350 for part-time hourly employees.

Policy Updates for the First Reading: Superintendent Kevin Brown provided board members with updates to the following policies based on recommendations from NEOLA of Michigan. The Board contracts with NEOLA to provide policy manual reviews so board policies are always in line with the latest legislative requirements. The Board's Policy and Planning Committee meets prior to the readings to revise, review and create the policies before they head to the full board for approval. The following policies were approved for their first reading at the December board meeting:

0100—Definitions

0167.3—Public Participation at Board Meetings: This policy will require those wanting to address the board to sign in prior to the meeting. It will also allow speakers to address the board once each meeting.

3120—Employment of Professional Staff: This removes the No Child Left Behind term "highly qualified staff" and replaces it with "appropriately certified."

5722—School Sponsored Publications and Productions.

6114—Cost Principles; Spending Federal Funds

6152—Student Fees, Fines and Supplies: This will now include verbiage that holds homeless students harmless if they are unable to pay a fee.

7450—Property Inventory

8310—Public Records

8320—Personnel Files

8330—Student Records



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- **Approval of County-Wide Safety Plan**

In December of 2018 the Michigan legislature passed a package of laws in order to facilitate greater school safety state-wide. As a part of those new laws, by January 1, 2022, a school district "shall develop an emergency operations plan (EOP) for each school building operated by the school district." Genesee County has been very proactive in emergency planning. Working with the Genesee County Sheriff's Department and the GISD, Davison Community Schools has had a county-wide safety plan in place for years that has been reviewed and updated annually. The Board first approved the District's Emergency Operations Plan in July of 2019.

- **Superintendent's Annual Performance Evaluation**

Superintendent Kevin Brown received an overall rating of "Highly Effective" following his evaluation held in November. Based on the results, board members voted to extend the superintendent's employment contract one year to cover the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2025.

- **Acceptance of Contributions:** The following contributions have been offered to the district:

Ken and Sharon Duetsch donated 16 desks and 14 chairs to Gates Elementary for teachers, paraprofessionals and Watch Dogs to use while helping students.

Kristen Machuk donated a box of children's books to the Siple Elementary Media Center to expand their collection in the library.

Michael Henson donated "The Secret Life of Bees" children's book to each of our elementary school buildings.

Matthew Gunn, Union Prescription Center, made a monetary donation to Gates Elementary as a prize from a drawing to be used by students and or staff as needed.

Quilters at Trinity Lutheran Church donated 12 handmade quilts to be given to students in need during the cold weather season.

The Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 126 donated \$1,000 to the Davison Community Schools to be used by students selected to "Shop With a Hero."

Nancy and Skip Davis donated **\$100** to the Davison Community Schools to be used by students selected to "Shop With a Hero."

Kendra Landry donated hand-knitted hats and gloves to Siple Elementary to be given to students who are in need of these items.

- **Censure of Trustee Matthew Smith:** Board members voted 4-2 to censure Trustee **Matthew Smith**, citing Mr. Smith has violated Board Policies 0144.2 Board Member Ethics and 0145 Discriminatory Harassment, as well as his duty to maintain public confidence in the board, create an environment that fosters the respect and dignity of each person and maintain an environment free of harassment and intimidation. Trustee **Nick Goyette** and Smith voted against the measure. Trustee **Stefanie Pickell** was absent from the meeting. Due to the censure, Smith is now removed from all committee assignments and is not eligible to serve in the future in an officer role on the board.

Presentations



Leading the Pledge

Students from the Davison High School Student Council, accompanied by Principal Ron Jacobs and DHS Teacher and Student Council Sponsor Karlee Pins, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at the December Board of Education meeting. This group of elected students work together with their school advisors (Mrs. Pins and Mrs. Linda Martin) within the framework of a constitution of bylaws to provide a means for student expression and assistance in school affairs and activities, give opportunities for students to experience a leadership role within the school and encourage student engagement.



Presentations



All-State Student Athletes

Brady McArdle and Kenneth Minto Jr. were finalists in the Michigan High School Athletic Association State Cross Country competition held on November 6 at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, MI. The Boys' Cross Country team took 13th place overall, which is the best team finish in school history. The Girls' Cross Country Team also had one runner, Paige McArdle, qualify to compete in the state finals. At its December meeting, the Board of Education recognized Brady and Kenneth for their dedication and hard work and acknowledged their status as All-State runners. Pictured above are Kenneth, Davison High School Principal Ron Jacobs, Superintendent Kevin Brown, Board Vice President Granger Stefanko and Brady.

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Central teacher earns special Kids First hero award for saving life of her student

Board members recognized Central Elementary Teacher Ms. **Michelle Murphy** with a very special Kids First “Hero” award.

On October 20, third grade teacher Michelle Murphy recognized one of her students was choking. Michelle acted quickly asking a student to notify the office while performing the Heimlich maneuver on the choking student. It took repeated attempts to dislodge what the student was choking on, but Michelle was eventually successful and dislodged the object.

For her efforts, Michelle received a \$100 Visa gift card thanks to Mark Owen, owner of MEEMIC insurance agencies in Davison and Flint Township, and a certificate.

“Teachers are charged with more than just educating children,” wrote Central Elementary Mrs. **Christine Kuzinski** in her nomination. “Their biggest and most important responsibility is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their students. Michelle Murphy exemplifies what it means to be Kids First and wore the title of “hero” today at Central Elementary. One of Michelle’s students choked on a piece of hard candy he had brought from home. Michelle jumped into action and gave the student the Heimlich maneuver while also walking her students through calling the office for help, getting a neighboring teacher to assist and moving her students away from the situation.

“Michelle remained in control of the emergency situation the entire time. She continued to offer calm and kind words to the student who was choking while performing life-saving care for him. There is a happy ending to this story as Michelle was able to dislodge the candy and the student is doing well.

“Teachers teach, but they also do so much more every single day. Those things deserve celebration and recognition too. I am thankful for Michelle and it is my honor to nominate her for the Kids First Award!”



Above, left to right: Central Elementary Principal Christine Kuzinski, Board Vice President Granger Stefanko, Superintendent Kevin Brown and Michelle Murphy.

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