

Board Briefs



October



The following action items were approved by the Davison Board of Education at its October 4 meeting:

- **Resolution Requesting the Rescission of the Genesee County Health Department's Emergency Health Orders Requiring all Students and Staff to Wear Face Masks in a School Setting:** The resolution asks that the Genesee County Health Department immediately rescind its K-12th grade mask mandate for all students and staff consistent with Senate Bill 82, which was approved as part of the budget signed last week by the Governor. While the bill prohibits local health departments from issuing mask mandates for minors and requires local health departments with mask mandates in place to rescind them, Senate Bill 82 does not give schools the ability to disregard the emergency health orders from local health departments. In addition, Governor Whitmer also signed a statement stating that Senate Bill 82 is unconstitutional and, therefore, unenforceable.

The resolution approved by the Davison Board of Education last night reads that if the health department rescinds its mask mandate, the Board will recommend, but not require, that students, staff and other individuals in school settings wear a face mask to control the spread of COVID-19. The resolution was approved 6-0; Trustee Stefanie Pickell was absent.

"I'm happy to see the board take action on this, to put our stance in black and white for members of the public to see," said Trustee **Matthew Smith, Jr.** "I hope the Genesee County Board of Commissioners and Board of Public Health hear the voices of the seven board members on this board. Say what you want politically about this, but it's the parents' choice."

The resolution will now be sent on to Dr. Pamela Hackert, Genesee County Director of Public Health, and the Genesee County Board of Commissioners.

In the meantime, students, staff and visitors inside all K-12th grade buildings within Genesee County must continue to wear a mask while inside a learning institution. The District is required to follow the order issued by the Genesee County Health Department until the mandate is rescinded.

- **Resolution to Clarify Use of the Phrase "In a Timely Fashion" in Regard to Board Policy 0166:** Board members voted 4-2 to clarify language in its board policy that addresses when board members can ask to have items added to the agenda. The resolution comes on the heels of the Sep-

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tember 20 Board of Education meeting where Trustee **Matthew Smith, Jr.** placed a proposed resolution requesting the rescission of the face mask mandate at the seat of each board member minutes before the board meeting was to begin. When Smith requested that the resolution be placed on that evening's agenda, the only other board member to support the motion was Trustee **Nicholas Goyette**.

Board Policy 0166 reads that the *"Board agenda shall be compiled by the Superintendent, in cooperation with the Board President, and shall include a period of time when the public may speak to the Board. Any Board member may request items to be placed on the agenda except at special meetings of the Board. If two (2) Board members so request in a timely fashion, the item will automatically be placed on the agenda."*

At last night's meeting, Superintendent **Kevin Brown** said the resolution to clarify the phrase "in a timely manner" was to "recodify our current practice of not adding items last minute to the agenda" as well as to maintain transparency.

"If we are going to act as a board on something, the public has a right to know what we're voting on," Brown said.

The resolution approved last night defines "in a timely fashion" as prior to the Superintendent and Board President meeting to set the agenda and the agenda being published." Board agendas are traditionally published on the Friday before the board meeting.

Goyette called the resolution ludicrous. "I'm not in favor of it," he said.

- **Recognition of Principals:** Board members voted to recognize October as National Principals Month. The District is extremely fortunate to have an amazing group of principals, assistant principals and deans of students leading our schools. These individuals include Davison High School Principal **Ron Jacobs**, Davison Middle School Principal **Josie Paquette**, Davison Alternative Education Principal **Jerry Piger**, Hahn Intermediate Principal **Verle Gilbert**, Central Elementary Principal **Christine Kuzinski**, Gates Elementary Principal **Theresa Wendt**, Hill Elementary Principal **Jennifer Burke**, Siple Elementary Principal **Christy Flowers** and Thomson Elementary Principal **Natalie Miller**; Davison High School Assistant Principals **Julie Malenich** and **TJ Fischhaber**, Davison Middle School Assistant Principal **Andrea Ferguson**, Hahn Intermediate Assistant Principal **Keri Collins**; and Deans of Students **Chris Wilson** (Davison Middle School), **Jesse Szatkowski** (Hahn Intermediate) and **C. Michael Williams** (Davison High School).
- **Approval of Special Education Parent Advisory Committee Member:** **Dana Austin** was appointed to this committee, which meets pursuant to the Genesee Intermediate School District Special Education Mandatory Plan. The committee meets periodically to discuss special education topics, provide parent support and plan parent activities. Dana also works as a paraprofessional in the district.

The next Board of Education meeting is set for 7 p.m. Monday, November 1, at the Davison Middle School cafeteria.



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Presentations



Leading the Pledge

Students from the Davison Alternative Education Principal's Advisory Committee (affectionately known as the Alpaca's (Alt. PACa's) led the audience at the October Board of Education meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DAE Principal **Jerry Piger** said this group of students represent their classmates in daily advisory classes. They meet with Mr. Piger monthly for a pizza luncheon where they discuss ideas for improvement at DAE along with discussing leadership opportunities. The Principal's Advisory Group is the "Student Council" of DAE along with serving as positive role models to their peers and leaders of their school.

Members of the Principal's Advisory Group include: **Paige Gillen, Courtney Diericks, Jadyann Kreft, Cayden Bailey, Devin Aguilar-Hall, Nicole Kilburn, Silvania Yossef, Lucas Wilson, Keilya Jeffries, Leigha Sargent, Harlie Wasserman, Spencer King, Kennedy Kieffer, Connor Dinnan, Nathan Cetrone and Hailey Mcalpine.**



Presentations

Two DHS students named Commended Scholars

Lucas Daunt and **Cy Stavros**, both seniors at Davison High School, have been recognized as Commended Student Scholars by the National Merit® Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and scholarships. Approximately 1.5 million high school students enter the program each year.

Lucas is the son of Laurie and Matt Daunt. Lucas was a member of the 2021-2022 Homecoming Court and is a talented student musician participating in Varsity Choir, Concert Band, Chamber Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and is the Senior Drum Major for the Davison High School Marching Band.

Lucas has achieved a 4.272 GPA and he scored a 1490 on his SAT. He hopes to attend the University of Michigan Ann Arbor next fall.

Cy is the son of Amy and Jonathan Stavros. He is currently challenging himself with four Advanced Placement courses as well as earning credits in three other AP courses during his years at Davison High School. Cy has achieved a 4.167 GPA and he scored a 1490 on his SAT.

Cy participates in the DHS chapter of the National Honor Society and Powerlifting, where he placed third in the state in his Junior Varsity season. Cy is undecided on which college he wants to attend; however, he plans on studying evolutionary biology and botany in college.

The National Merit® Scholarship Program began in 1955. High school students who meet published program entry and participation requirements enter the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) at the specified time in the high school program, usually as juniors. Each year's PSAT/NMSQT is the qualifying test designated for entry to a particular year's competition. For example, the 2020 PSAT/NMSQT is the qualifying test for entry to the competition for scholarships to be awarded in 2022.



Above, Davison High School Principal Ron Jacobs presents National Merit Commended Student Scholar Cy Stavros with a certificate for his achievement. Inset, Lucas was not in attendance at last night's meeting.



Presentations

After year hiatus, M-STEP, PSAT/SAT scores are back

Despite the many challenges students and staff faced last school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, at least one positive thing has recently become evident despite the “crazy ups and downs” of last year, said Director of Curriculum **Dr. Angela Hards**. Preliminary test scores from the spring 2021 M-STEP, PSAT and SAT testing indicate that students attending face-to-face last year performed pretty well on the state assessments.

“Overall, I think this is a celebration of the successes our students had over the last year of school,” Hards said.

District Assessment Coordinator **Eric Chorley** shared results of the countywide rankings, where Davison students performed first, second or third in the county. This includes third, fourth and eighth grade math; third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh grade English language arts; 11th grade social studies; and fifth and eighth grade science. Overall—taking all grades and all subjects and averaging the scores of the seven schools that offered all 20 of the assessments—Davison students ranked second in the county despite having one of the largest percentages of students on free and reduced lunch.

“It made a huge difference to have our kids in school learning face-to-face.”

Superintendent
Kevin Brown

“Many things were different last year; the state received waivers and virtual students did not have to test,” Dr. Hards said. “There was no accountability if a school didn’t test so, unfortunately, that means some of our data that we would normally have is missing. So, we have an incomplete picture.”

Superintendent **Kevin Brown** said it was worth noting that the four lone Genesee County schools who offered face-to-face instruction for the full year consistently reported the top scores among students.

“It made a huge difference to have our kids in school learning face-to-face,” he said.

Despite the good news, Brown said that sixth, seventh and 11th grade math scores were a bit disappointing, ranking sixth place at each grade level, but staff will be digging much deeper into the data to try and determine a cause for the lackluster performance.

In other positive news, state reporting shows that graduation rates continued to increase for Davison students. In 2020, 88.6 percent of students graduated on time. The drop out rate is 4.2 percent. The remainder of those students are five-year Early College students or those who are in the process of finishing up their high school careers.



Left to right: Davison Middle School Assistant Principal Andrea Ferguson, Principal Josie Paquette, Lorie Smith, Board President Karen Conover and Superintendent Kevin Brown.

Lorie Smith named Kids First recipient

Davison Middle School Teacher **Mrs. Lorie Smith** was named as 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.

Mrs. Smith was nominated by Davison Middle School Principal **Mrs. Josie Paquette** and Assistant Principal **Mrs. Andrea Ferguson** who wrote:

“Lorie Smith puts kids first every day at Davison Middle School. Every decision she makes is based on what is in the best interests of her students and to improve student achievement. For many years, Lorie tirelessly researched the best practices of teaching mathematics to meet the needs of her Algebra students. She implemented small groups in a secondary setting and routinely met with students after school to provide help and re-teaching. Recently, Lorie switched positions and has spent considerable time learning how best to work with at-risk kids. This was quite a change from previously working with honors math students. She then used this information to make significant changes in how she started this year with her students.”



Lorie has long held the reputation as being a highly effective and respected teacher, but she continues to push herself to become even better in order to benefit her students. Students are highly engaged in her classroom and enjoy her impromptu singing or dancing performances. She understands the importance of making connections with students and is dedicated toward building those relationships. Lorie Smith has made significant impacts on her students and all students at Davison Middle School.”

Thank you Lorie for always putting kids first!