

February 8, 2022  
Volume 6

# 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.

## February



The following action items were approved by the Davison Board of Education at its February 7 meeting:

- **Approval of DECA Field Trip:** Approximately 12 high school students from the Davison High School Marketing DECA Club have qualified to attend the State DECA Career Development Conference March 10-12 in Detroit. Students who will be competing include: **Jonathan Barbat, Savanna Duncan, Kylie Eaton, Oliva Gean, Carson Hennessey, Lauryn Henry, Matt Kilmer, Mya Kraut, Jody Nichols, Mason Polmanteer, Luke Stefanko and Scott York.**
- **Approval of DHS Key Club Field Trip:** The DHS Key Club requested Board of Education approval for three students and one advisor/chaperone to attend the Service Leadership Conference March 18-20 in Dearborn. The following students will represent Davison at the State Conference in various occupational events: **Vivian Griffin, Makayla McArthur and Alyssa Stram.**
- **Schools of Choice Resolutions:** Board members approved Schools of Choice resolutions to accept enrollment applications from non-residents in Genesee County and residents living in contiguous county intermediate school districts. Acceptance under either plan will be based on limited availability and elementary students will be placed in school buildings according to equalized space available in all classrooms. The application period for each program will be announced in late February/early March on the district's website.
- **Acceptance of Contributions:** The following contributions have been offered to the district:
  - ◇ **First Baptist Church of Davison** donated winter coats and socks to Siple Elementary to help students in need.
  - ◇ **Renay Ladd** donated handmade scarves and hats to students at Siple Elementary to wear while playing outside at school.
  - ◇ **Joe Madore** from **Davison Sign** donated athletic signs, a gift certificate and various supplies to the DHS Athletic Department.
  - ◇ **Davison Missionary Church** donated backpacks, lunch boxes and various school supplies to Central Elementary.
  - ◇ **Journey Ministries** donated face masks and cleaning wipes to Central Elementary.



**Davison Community Schools**

**Where Kids Come First and Futures Begin**

*Connections ♦ Curriculum ♦ Opportunities*

# Presentations



## Leading the Pledge

Third grade students from Mrs. Jaynie Shiflett's classroom at Gates Elementary, accompanied by Gates Elementary Guest Principal Kay Forsys, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at the February Board of Education meeting. The students also performed sign language to a song about kindness and acceptance, which correlates to the school's participation in the Positivity Project.





# Presentations



## DHS oboist named All-State Musician

Davison High School senior Lily Roof was recognized for being accepted as a first chair in the State Honors Band. Lily plays oboe. Lily performed with the State Honors Band January 29 in Grand Rapids. Pictured are: Superintendent Kevin Brown, Lily and Board President Karen Conover.

## District gives update on Extended Continuation of Learning Plan

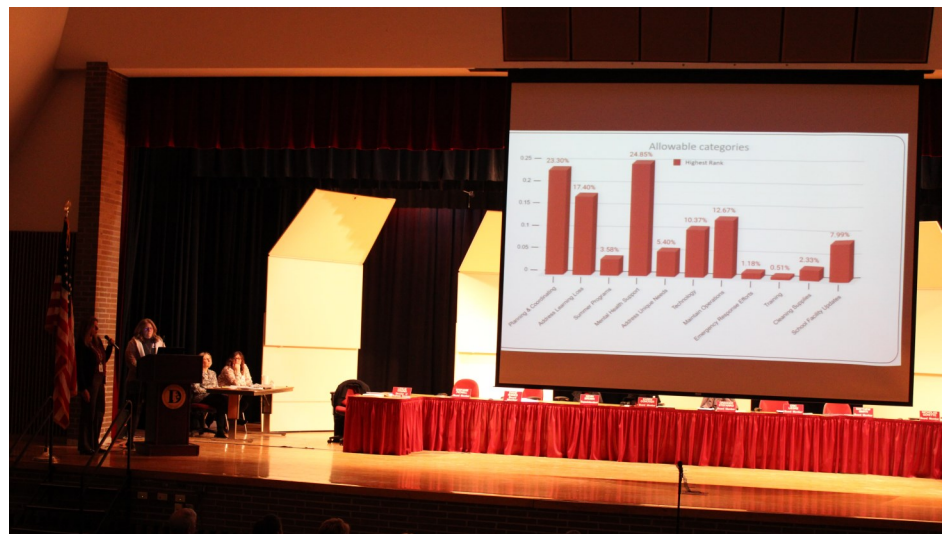
Results of surveys taken by parents, staff and students in November have been used to create the District's Extended Continuation of Learning Plan, a federal requirement in order to spend monies that will be distributed through the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) Act and 11t State Equalization Payments Spending Plan.

While the District's spending plan has not yet been approved, notification is expected sometime this month as the Michigan Department of Education has indicated that plans will be released in March so districts can place them on school websites.

Business Services Director **Leslie Young** and Curriculum Director **Dr. Angie Hards** presented the Learning Plan at the February Board of Education meeting.

Based on survey results, the funds, if approved, will be used in the following four areas: Learning Loss, Mental Health Support, Staff Recruit and Retain and Technology.

According to Dr. Hards, 20 percent of the ESSER III allocation must be spent to address lost learning, specifically in the following areas: Implement evidence-based practices, Need to administer high quality assessments to determine academic needs and Monitor student academic progress to identify students who need more help.



Dr. Angie Hards, Curriculum Director, and Leslie Young, Business Services Director, presented the District's Extended Continuation of Learning Plan at the February Board of Education meeting.

# Presentations

## Board gets “annual report” on student progress and achievement

It's February and that means annual rituals like weather prognosticating by groundhog Punxsutawney Phil, proclamations of love for Valentine's Day and, for schools, mid-year reports on the growth progress for student achievement.

Dr. **Angie Hards**, Director of Curriculum, said all K-12 buildings are required to establish educational goals. At Davison, goals are based on NWEA MAP® assessments, which are designed to target a student's academic performance in mathematics, reading, language usage and science. These tests are tailored to an individual's current achievement level. The computer adjusts the difficulty of the questions so that each student takes a unique test.

“We are looking to see what is the average amount of growth our students have made from fall to winter,” Dr. Hards said. “We want to see at least 50 percent mid-year.”

Dr. Hards said the mid-year data shows that students are exceeding that growth goal in many areas but falling short in some.

“That tells us where we need to dig deeper,” Dr. Hards said. “It is very critical information and as we are taking in valuable points of data we can see where something may be going on.”

The assessment data will help point out critical areas the district can use Elementary and Secondary Schools Relief funds to address curriculum needs and/or areas where additional staff may be needed to help students grow.

The Great Start Readiness Program, preschool offered to 4-year-olds, has a similar process for measuring progress. Like the district, GSRP takes an in-depth look three times a year.

“Instead of looking at growth, they are looking at attainment,” Dr. Hards said.

Overall, students and staff have faced some challenges and obstacles this year, last year and the year before due to COVID-19. In an effort to get back to normal and back on track, the district is completing the following:

- Meeting for Data Days and Child Study Teams where staff is engaged to determine where learning needs are and if there are any additional gaps. Child study is used for to assist individual students with specific needs.
- Reinstatement of curriculum work. “In March 2020, that all came to an end (due to COVID),” Dr. Hards said. “Our ACC (Advisory Curriculum Council) process is up and running again and we have determined some areas where there are some gaps and holes we need to address.”
- Offering multi-tiered supports and interventions, using data to determine what student needs a second dose of instruction and even a third or more.
- Hiring additional support staff to help deliver instruction and provide services.

“We are very proud that we have been able to continue to provide in-person instruction,” Dr. Hards said. “Our students are learning. Our students are growing. And at the end of the year we hope to show even more growth.”

## Central secretary named Feb. Kids First recipient

Board members recognized Central Elementary Secretary Mrs. **Jennifer Leask** as the February 2022 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. Leask was nominated by Central Elementary Principal Mrs. **Christine Kuzinski** who wrote:

“I cannot think of a more deserving staff member to be recognized for exemplifying what it means to be ‘kids first’. Jenni is a secretary at Central Elementary and has recently moved into the role of Secretary to the Principal. Jenni comes to work every day with a smile and a genuine positivity that radiates beyond her and extends to all who have the opportunity to interact with her.

Over the past two years, Jenni has trained new staff members, learned a new position and simultaneously performed multiple job duties while we were short-handed. At any given moment, one could see Jenni answering a phone call from a parent with questions about quarantines, sending out staff emails with the staff changes for the day, greeting a staff member with a smile and caring for a student who wasn’t feeling well all at the same time. She takes multitasking to the next level.

Jenni has competently led our office through the challenges that COVID-19 has thrown our way. She often spends time beyond her work day prepping, making phone calls or organizing in effort to minimize disruptions and inconvenience to our families, students and staff. Jenni goes the extra mile for others.

Jenni is masterful at relating to and connecting with our families and students. She takes the time to listen to parents when they call and to empathize with students when they come to the office. School secretaries have to deal with much more than a typical secretary does. When students are sick, have accidents or are injured, they come to the office. Jenni handles each student and situation with care and compassion that goes beyond what one can learn from training. It is innate for her. Jenni treats every child with respect and dignity no matter what their circumstances are and that is what everyone deserves.

Every student matters, every day at Central and Jenni lives this mission. We are fortunate to have Jenni at Central Elementary and it is my proud honor to nominate her for the Kids First award.”



Above, left to right: Superintendent Kevin Brown , Central Elementary Principal Christine Kuzinski, Secretary Jenni Leask and Board President Karen Conover.

