

# Board Briefs



## March



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

- **Resolution Supporting Full Funding of IDEA:** Board members voted to approve a resolution advocating for full funding of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). The IDEA bill, which was approved in 1975, called for the federal government to reimburse districts at 40 percent of what it cost to educate special education students, explained Superintendent Kevin Brown. Currently, it is funded at 14 percent. The resolution approved by the Davison Board of Education will be included with resolutions approved by multiple other districts within a five-county K-12 Alliance and presented at a Department of Education meeting in Washington, D.C. later this month.
- **Approval of Bids for Bond Project:** The following bids were approved at the March meeting:
  - ◇ New Technology Cabling for Davison High School. This bid was awarded to Weinstein Electric in the amount of \$105,899. This work is slated for the new Performing Arts Center.
  - ◇ District-wide LED Lighting upgrades. This bid of \$352,360 was awarded to Walker Electric for exterior building, parking lot and gymnasium lighting at every building within the district except Davison High School, where lighting upgrades will take place after construction on the Performing Arts Center and new site parking is complete. The Board, however, did approve an alternate bid of \$65,850 for LED lighting in the high school gym so that project can be completed this summer.
  - ◇ Davison High School Summer Abatement. Certified Abatement was awarded the low bid of \$608,000 to continue the process of removing asbestos. All of the asbestos in the building needs to be removed before other upgrades included in the bond, such as running wires for technology and a new fire alarm, can take place. The asbestos is contained in insulation above the hard ceilings and was an acceptable building material when the high school was constructed in the early 1970s. The asbestos poses no threat to those inside the building as long as it remains undisturbed. The work will take place during the summer.
  - ◇ High School and Performing Arts Center, Wi-Fi Installation and upgrades. This \$82,441 bid was awarded to Vector Tech Group and includes an option for optical interfaces.
- **Approval of Overnight Trip to Puerto Rico for Spanish Program:** Spanish students

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will be able to get a firsthand look and taste of the culture they've studied as part of a trip to Puerto Rico planned for February 2023. DHS Spanish teacher Mrs. **Lindsay Gokey** sought approval of the trip, which will be open for 16-24 students with priority going to those students in AP Spanish and Spanish 4.

- **Approval of Overnight Trip to Houston for the Robotics Team:** Board members approved a request from House of Cards FRC Team 3534 Coach **Chris Purdy** for the robotics team to attend the FRC World Championship at George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas, April 20-23. The team will not have confirmed qualification for Worlds until the conclusion of the FRC MI State Championship on Saturday April 16. If they are eligible to compete, they must be in Houston on Wednesday, April 20.
- **Approval of ACC Materials:** After a nearly two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Advisory Curriculum Council decided it would be in the best interest of students and teachers to use allocations to provide materials and resources to as many grade levels/content areas as possible. Board of Education members agreed and approved spending approximately \$860,000 in materials for the following subjects:

- ◆ Grades K-4: Math, Science and English Language Arts
- ◆ Grades 5-6: Math, Instrumental Music, STEM, English Language Arts, Physical Education
- ◆ Grades 7-8: Math, Choir, Theater, Visual Arts, Broadcasting, Health, Physical Education
- ◆ Davison High School: Chemistry, Math, Instrumental Music, Visual Arts, Biology, Human Development, Environmental Science, AP Language, AP Micro/Macro Economics, AP US and Comparative Government, AP US History, Psychology and AP Psychology, Astronomy, World Languages—French and Spanish, Health
- ◆ Davison Alternative Education: Art, Math, Chemistry, Biology, Health

Some of the costs will be paid for using ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds earmarked to address learning loss in the subjects of math and English language arts.

- **Acceptance of Contributions:** The following contributions have been offered to the district:
  - ◇ **Mark Owen MEEMIC Insurance** donated three \$100 VISA gift cards in support of the Kids First program.
  - ◇ **Davison Education Association (DEA)** donated \$500 to Thomson Elementary to purchase books for incoming kindergarten students.

# Presentations



## *Leading the Pledge*

Preschool students from the Cardinal's Nest and Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at the March Board of Education meeting.



# Thomson counselor is March Kids First recipient

Board members recognized Thomson Elementary Counselor Mrs. **Abigail Ganabathi** as the March 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. Ganabathi was nominated by Thomson Elementary Principal Mrs. **Natalie Miller** who wrote:

“**W**hile Abby has only been with Davison Community Schools since the fall of 2020, she has proven time and time again that she is a Kids First employee. As the counselor at Thomson Elementary, she interacts with students, families and staff all with the goal of improving the lives of our young students. Abby is one of the most caring individuals I have had the pleasure of working with. Many of the students that she works with come to us with life traumas that most adults have not faced. This often leads to students acting out behaviorally or shutting down. However, she works diligently with these little ones and their families to meet their individual needs so that they are able to cope and function, not only in the school setting, but in life.



Above, left to right: Superintendent Kevin Brown , Counselor Abigail Ganabathi, Thomson Elementary Principal Natalie Miller and Board President Karen Conover.

“Additionally, Abby is a wonderful resource for teachers and staff. Her calm and caring demeanor allows her to help staff without adding to the emotion of difficult situations. She willingly creates resources for teachers and thinks ‘outside the box’ when sharing ideas. Abby is a valuable member of our building behavior team and has her eyes on students throughout the building. It is not uncommon for Abby to rearrange her entire schedule to meet the classroom needs of a student.

“Working as a school counselor can be emotionally draining, but Abby comes to work every single day with a smile on her face and a positive ‘can do’ attitude. She is a problem solver. Often when she comes to me with a problem or concern, she has already worked to identify possible solutions. She is a team player in every sense of the word and always does so in the service of kids.

“Whether it is providing a break for a child, holding small group or one-on-one sessions, providing resources for a teacher or parent, completing school programs, or intervening in a crisis, Abby’s entire day is spent putting kids first. It is for these reasons and so many more that I could list, that Abby is truly a Kids First employee and so deserving of this recognition.”

