

Board Briefs



October

The following action items were approved by the Davison Board of Education at its October 3 meeting:

- **Acceptance of Audit Report:** Thanks to the amazing work of Director of Business Services **Leslie Young** and her crew, Accountant **Josh Evans**, Business Office Secretary **Shawn Hoover**, Payroll Specialist **Caitlin Bentski** and former Purchasing Secretary (and current DHS Secretary to the Principal) **Jacqueline Addison**, the district has once again received a clean audit."

"It has been a clean audit ever since I have been here so congratulations to the Finance Department," finance said Jacob Sopczynski, CPA with Yeo and Yeo. "That means the district is spending funds according to the laws that govern those funds.

"Doing audits for school districts can be very complicated and for decades, Davison has always had a clean audit," said Board President **Karen Conover**. "And it has been like that for decades because we have excellent people like Mrs. Young."

Treasurer **Eric Lieske** noted that the Finance Committee has met twice to review the audit prior to the evening's presentation.

- **Approval of 8th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip:** Davison Middle School Teacher **Janet Green** received the Board's authorization to plan a field trip May 25–28, 2023, to Washington D.C. for any interested 8th grade student. Seats are filled on a first come, first served basis. The trip will allow students to see the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, U.S. Capitol, White House, Mount Vernon and Gettysburg while providing a fun and memorable experience.
- **Approval of High School Music Department Trip:** Davison High School Band and Orchestra and Vocal Music students will be headed to Nashville, Tenn. March 15-18, 2023, following the Board's approval of the trip Monday night. Students will attend a 90-minute clinic/workshop facilitated by music faculty at Vanderbilt University to improve upon their skills as musicians. Students will also have the opportunity to visit and use the recording studio at RCA Records and will work with a professional sound engineer to record and leave with copies of their performance. The trip will also allow students to experience guided tours of some of country music's famous landmarks and museums including the Ryman Theater, Grand Ole Opry and the Country Music Hall of Fame.

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

- **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/Davison Alternative Education Principal **Jerry Piger**, Davison Middle School Principal **Josie Paquette**, Hahn Intermediate Principal **Verle Gilbert**, Central Elementary Principal **Christine Kuzinski**, Gates Elementary Principal **Natalie Miller**, Hill Elementary Principal **Jennifer Burke**, Siple Elementary Principal **Christy Flowers** and Thomson Elementary Principal **Melissa Williams**; Davison High School Assistant Principals **Julie Malenich** and **TJ Fischhaber**, Davison Middle School Assistant Principal **Andrea Ferguson**, Hahn Intermediate Assistant Principal **Keri Collins**, Davison Alternative Education Assistant Principal **Jesse Szatkowski**; and Deans of Students **Chris Wilson** (Davison Middle School), **C. Michael Williams** (Davison High School) and **Heather Hundt** (Hahn Intermediate).
- **Acceptance of Donations:** The following donation was gratefully acknowledged:
 - ♦ **Bob Beckelic** donated more than 100 hardcover books to the District. The books will be used for the Traveling Library Bus for middle school and high school students to check out books during the summer months.

The next regular Board of Education meeting is set for 7 p.m. Monday, November 7, at the Davison High School Auditorium.

DHS Paraprofessional receives \$500 grant

Davison High School Paraprofessional **Christina Wade** has been selected as a Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel (MARSP) grant winner by the Genesee County Association of Retired School Personnel. The \$500 award will be used to purchase a gallery track-style picture hanging system and ladder for the media center to display student art work on a rotating basis. **Trish DeWit** from the GCARSP presented the award to Christina at the October Board of Education meeting. Pictured below are Superintendent Kevin Brown, Trish DeWit, Christina Wade and Board President Karen Conover.



Presentations



Leading the Pledge

The October Pledge of Allegiance was led by members of the Davison High School Key Club, accompanied by Principal Jerry Piger and DHS Teacher/Club Sponsor Mrs. Mary Ann Stedry. Members of Key Club perform acts of service in their communities, such as making blankets for cancer patients, making thank you cards for the police departments, collecting pet supplies for the Humane Society, and organizing food drives for the Eastern Michigan Food Bank. They also learn leadership skills by running meetings, planning projects, and holding elected leadership positions. Key Club is a student-led organization that provides its members with opportunities to provide service, build character and develop leadership. All students are welcome to join in serving and making a positive difference in our community.



Presentations

M-STEP, PSAT/SAT scores: “It’s like starting over”

While school officials are hopeful to see “normalcy” soon returning to scores on the M-STEP, PSAT and SAT, this year’s results are still a bit “wonky,” according to District Assessment Coordinator **Eric Chorley**.

“It has been a weird few years as far as the state testing,” he told Board members and the audience at the October Board of Education meeting. “There was no spring testing in 2020 (due to COVID), and last year, 2021, testing was offered but not required of virtual students. This year (2022) was the first year all students were assessed in the spring.”



In regard to state testing, Chorley said this year feels like “starting over again” with 2022 spring results serving as the baseline data.



Among Genesee County schools, Davison ranked first in sixth grade math, sixth grade English language arts (ELA), eighth grade social studies and eighth grade science, second in seventh grade ELA and third in third and fourth grade math and ELA.

What is most impressive, though, is how Davison student scores compare to other schools across the state that are very similar in size and free and reduced lunch rates. Davison landed at number one on that list.



“If you are on this list, you are beating the odds,” Chorley said.

Director of Curriculum Dr. **Angela Hards** said it was important to remember that the scores indicate “one test on one day.”

“We all use state standards,” she said. “There is not a magic formula and very similar structures are used in all of our schools. Overall, this is just one piece for our data story. It’s something we look at but it ebbs and flows with each year of testing.”

Dr. Hards said the addition of intervention teachers and instructional coaches this school year is an investment that will surely pay off in the future. It surely did last year thanks to the efforts of district math coach, Mrs. Julie Crockett.

“Our math coach met with the sixth grade group for intensive coaching last year,” said Chorley, who pointed out that sixth graders scored first in the county in M-STEP math. “That’s a small glimpse into the future of what the coaches we hired will be able to do.”

“This data is still a little bit wonky, but I like to talk about student growth because growth in my mind is much more important than achievement,” said Superintendent **Kevin Brown**.



Left to right: Davison High School Principal Jerry Piger, Teacher Lindsay Gokey, Superintendent Kevin Brown and Board President Karen Conover.

Lindsay Gokey named Kids First recipient

Davison High School Teacher **Mrs. Lindsay Gokey** was named as the October 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 High School Principal **Mr. Jerry Piger** who wrote:

"There are teachers that teach and then there are teachers that inspire their students to be the best they can be. Lindsay Gokey inspires her students to be the best students they can be in class and the best person they can be outside of school. It's evident that when Lindsay talks with her students that she truly cares about them. Through the students' smiles and laughter as they interact with Mrs. Gokey, it's clear that they also like, respect, and care about her, too. Lindsay teaches her Spanish students with a love for the language that allows her students to interact with each other to help them speak and write Spanish well and learn the Spanish culture.

At the start of the school year, Mrs. Gokey organized the DHS student ambassadors club that she sponsors to have a "new student breakfast" to welcome our students new to Davison. During this breakfast, Lindsay's personality shined bright as she greeted each student, asked them questions, and helped them feel at home in their new school. Lindsay even jumped into some of the 'get to know you' games during the breakfast with the students! Lindsay also organizes the high school student of the month nominations with staff and has coordinated student educational trips abroad to Puerto Rico. Lindsay does all of this while balancing her family time with her husband and three children, and then in any extra spare time she may have, she coaches youth baseball, basketball, and softball in the Davison Community. Lindsay Gokey truly embodies the spirit of Kid's First in all that she does."

Thank you Lindsay for always putting kids first!

