

October 4, 2023
Volume 2

Board Briefs



October



The following action items were approved by the Davison Board of Education at its October 2 meeting:

- **Recognition of Principals:** Board members recognized the month of October as National Principals Month. The district is fortunate to have a dedicated group of principals, assistant principals and deans of students leading our school buildings.
- **Approval of 8th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip:** Once again, eighth graders will have the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. during the Memorial Day weekend. The 2024 trip is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, through Sunday, May 26, 2024. The trip will allow students a firsthand look at the Nation's capital and chance to see the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, U.S. Capitol, White House, Mount Vernon and Gettysburg and other historical points of interest. Davison Middle School Teacher Ms. **Janet Green** has been the organizer of the trip for the past 13 years.
- **Approval of the Hail Damage Roof Replacement Projects:** Bids for the replacement of 39 outbuilding roofs, bundled into six projects across the District, were approved by the Board. All of the bids were reviewed by the Buildings, Grounds and Transportation committee on September 29. Christine Kuzinski, Director of Human Resources and Operations, said the roofs include storage barns, concession stands and dugouts. The work will be completed by SmartComm, LLC in the amount of \$117,699 and DiMar Contracting, Inc. for \$65,805. Money from the hail damage insurance claim will be used to fund the projects.
- **Approval of Continued Rooftop Units and Ductwork Removal and Re-installation Due to Hail Damage:** In order to continue emergency roof repairs from the July 20 hail storm, additional rooftop units and ductwork were identified as in need of removal, replacement and/or lifted and reinstalled. Quotes from district-preferred vendor Goyette Mechanical were approved to make the needed repairs at Davison Middle School, Hill Elementary and Siple Elementary in the amount of \$169,393. The work will be paid with funds from the hail damage insurance claim.
- **Acceptance of Donations:** The following donations were gratefully acknowledged:
 - ♦ **Danielle Hawley** from Susan's Hallmark in Davison donated classroom supplies to Hill Elementary for staff and students.
 - ♦ **Aaron Wilson** donated a set of men's golf clubs and golf bag to the Boys' Golf program.
 - ♦ **McKee Chiropractic Unlimited** donated \$1,000 to the Girls' Varsity Swim team to help with the cost of team jackets.

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

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Presentations



Leading the Pledge

Siple Elementary fourth grade students who help kindergarten students get safely to the Parent Pick-up line and GSRP shuttle buses were selected to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. The students were accompanied by Principal Mrs. Christy Flowers.



Thomson Teacher named Kids First recipient

Thomson Elementary Teacher Mrs. **Karla Ruzicka** has been named as the October recipient of the Kids First award.

Each month, administrators nominate a DCS employee or contracted staff member 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.

Karla was nominated by Thomson Elementary Principal Mr. **Andrew Criswell**, who wrote:

“Since coming to us from another district, Karla has demonstrated what a true Kids First teacher looks and acts like. She is tireless in her work to make school a positive place for kids and it shows in all that she does.

From a curricular standpoint, Karla has not only set up a classroom learning environment that incorporates high quality hands-on learning activities for her students, but she has also pushed her DK colleagues to do the same. When entering her classroom, it is evident right away that students love to be in her classroom. They are engaged in the work of developing their social, emotional and academic skills and there are rarely your typical behavioral incidents. However, one area that Karla excels in is working with students and families that have a student that would be considered outside the norm.

While Karla is willing to implement any strategy given to her, she also is creative in her approach with each student, working to find the thing that will have a positive impact and not ‘set the child off’ while trying to reach her intended goal. Her calm demeanor also has a profound impact. Not only has she worked to collect the necessary data to move forward with interventions, but she has also worked to develop honest, trusting relationships with parents.

Additionally, it should be noted that Karla starts every day ‘new.’ She does not let the previous day’s challenges deter her from genuinely welcoming students into her room each morning. Karla is a team player and well respected by her colleagues. It is for these reasons and so many more that I could list, that Karla is truly a Kids First employee and so deserving of this recognition.”



From left: Thomson Elementary Principal Andrew Criswell, Superintendent Matt Lobban, Thomson Elementary Teacher Karla Ruzicka and Board President Karen Conover.



DHS student earns national recognition

Sydney Hall may have just started her senior year at Davison High School but she has already proven she is a force to contend with when it comes to competing at HOSA—Future Health Professionals events.

In February, Sydney placed in the top 10 in veterinary science in the state HOSA competition, which earned her the chance to compete at the next level in April at Traverse City. She placed second in the state and was able to advance to the international competition. So, at the end of June, when other students were wrapping up their school year, Sydney was competing at the International HOSA competition in Dallas, Texas. Competing against students from all over the world, Sydney once again placed in the Top 10 in the category of Veterinary Science.

At the October Board of Education meeting, Sydney was recognized for her accomplishment.

Sydney is the third student from her family to go through the health science program at Davison High School and the second medical assistant to come from it. Sydney is also involved in club and school soccer, mentors youth soccer, is an AP student, a member of Key Club, and the secretary for the school's National Honor Society chapter.



Superintendent **Matt Lobban**, DHS student **Sydney Hall** and Board of Education President **Karen Conover**.

“All of this while maintaining a 4.222 grade point average,” said Superintendent **Matt Lobban**.

Supt. Lobban said Sydney's teacher, Mrs. **Laurie Heath**, describes Sydney as hardworking, assertive and a go-getter.

“Mrs. Heath believes we will see even more success coming from Sydney this year,” Supt. Lobban continued. “Until then, we wanted to recognize Sydney for this tremendous accomplishment, congratulate her on her success in the program, and thank her for representing the Health Science Program, Davison High School, and the Davison community so well.”



Hahn teacher earns Hero award

Shelli Hester Hyde, a teacher at Hahn Intermediate, was recognized with a special Kids First “Hero Award” for performing the Heimlich Maneuver on a student who was choking on a piece of candy in her classroom. Mrs. Hester Hyde received a certificate and a \$100 gift card from Mark Owen MEEMIC Agency for her heroic actions. Pictured at left are Hahn Intermediate Principal **Verle Gilbert**, Superintendent **Matt Lobban**, Mrs. Hester Hyde and Board President **Karen Conover**.

M-STEP, PSAT/SAT scores: “one piece of the story”

School districts across the state now have two years of state testing data since COVID interrupted the assessment cycle in 2020 and 2021. And while Davison students once again ranked at the top of the pack when averaging all M-STEP, SAT scores and free and reduced lunch rates across the county, one thing remains the same: it is only one piece of the story.

“Remember, this is just one piece of data that helps us to make up the whole data story,” said Dr. **Angie Hards**, Director of Curriculum. “It’s an important piece of but does not tell the whole story.”

In the spring, students across the state in third through eighth grades and high school juniors take the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress, more commonly known as the M-STEP, and/or the PSAT or SAT. Students are tested in math and English language arts while eighth and 11th graders are also tested in social studies and science. Davison also administers the PSAT to freshmen and sophomores but test results are not required by the state. The PSAT is a predictor of student success at the college level.

In addition to averaging all scores and free and reduced lunch rates to compare with schools within the county, District Assessment Coordinator **Eric Chorley** also ranks Davison’s scores with schools across the state similar in size and free and reduced lunch rates. Again, Davison rose to the top.

“We have been very consistent,” Chorley said. “We seem to do well with our students in poverty. This number (free and reduced lunch rate) has crept up over the years. When I first started this position it was in the 30 (percentile) and now we are over 50 percent.”

“It is not a secret that poverty is an educational disadvantage,” said Dr. Hards. “I am very proud of the work our teachers and principals have done in recognizing our students’ needs and meeting students where they are and getting them where they need to be.”

