

Board Briefs



MEAP scores: Results are in; changes coming for state test

While there are a few dips in MEAP scores this year, school officials are mindful of the fact that students performed in the 90th percentile of the state in seven of 18 assessments.

Overall, Davison ranked third among school districts in Genesee County based on the average of all MEAP tests taken by students in grades 3-9. The district missed ranking second by three-tenths of a point.

"At the end of the day our staff and kids are doing very, very well and you can be proud of the academics that are taking place in the district," Superintendent **Eric Lieske** told Board of Education members.

While there were setbacks in some math scores, reading scores increased or remained steady throughout the district.

"The time and effort put into reading intervention has really, really been paying off," noted District Assessment Coordinator **Eric Chorley**.

Once Chorley and Math/Science Coordinator **Matt Lobban** began investigating the math scores, they soon realized that some students may have missed some lesson objectives as a result of the district beginning to align its curriculum with the state's Common Core State Standards. The Michigan Department of Education adopted the Career and College Ready Common Core State Standards (CCR-CCSS) as the new standards for K-12 Mathematics and English Language Arts in 2010. The "common core" was designed to be a national set of standards for students in the areas of math and English language arts (reading and writing).

"The idea behind it was that a student should be able to go from state to state to state and expect the same kind of education, or at least the same kind of topics, in each grade level," Chorley explained.

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The mission of the Davison Community Schools is to develop individuals who demonstrate skills necessary for lifelong success in a changing, global society.



Contributions accepted

Board members gratefully accepted the following donations:

- Davison parent **Jennifer Ward** donated new sweat pants, gloves and hats to Gates Elementary for students to use when in need.
- Davison Band and Orchestra Booster **Susan Hough** and her husband, **Bruce**, donated \$300 to the Davison High School Student Assistance Fund to provide help for students in need.

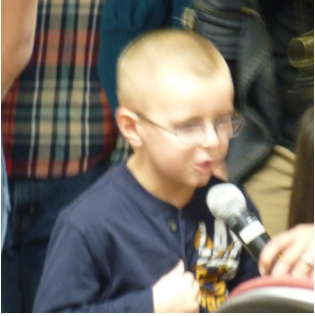
Board authorizes refunding of bonds

Board members gave the OK for the district to proceed with refunding 2003 school building site funds as interest rates continue to reach historical lows. The process, which is similar to a homeowner refinancing a home for a better mortgage interest rate, is expected to save taxpayers more than \$200,000 cumulatively.

Board Briefs is a monthly newsletter published after Board of Education meetings. For additional information, please contact the Communications Department at 591-0852.

Leading the Pledge

Students from Thomson Elementary building's Great Start Readiness Pre-school program led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at Monday night's Board of Education meeting.



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The district moved forward in implementing the Common Core standards but, unfortunately, that meant some objectives didn't align with what is still being tested on the MEAP exams. For example, 79% of students answered incorrectly the fifth Grade Level Content Expectation: "know that angles on a straight line add up to 180° and angles surrounding a point add up to 360° ; justify informally by "surrounding" a point with angles." This objective has been moved into fourth grade common core expectations, so there are portions of this objective that the fifth grade students were not exposed to.

According to a letter from MDE, districts following the Common Core program should not be penalized on those types of questions.

In the meantime, Chorley said Lobban is putting together a list for teachers so they are aware of objectives that students may be missing as a result of moving to the Common Core. The list could prove helpful for at least one more year as the final MEAP test will be administered in the fall 2013.

As a result of the state adopting the Common Core standards, Michigan signed on as a governing

state with the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium, which applied for and received federal funds to develop a series of formative, interim, and summative assessments based on the Common Core State Standards. That means, beginning in 2015, the MEAP will be replaced with the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) assessments. Davison students will be piloting the test, which currently only tests the subjects of math and English language arts, in the spring of this year and next year.

Another test, called the MDE Interim Assessments, will test students statewide in science and social studies.

While Chorley believes the state will also eventually replace the MME/ACT test now given to juniors every March with the SBAC, no one is for certain if the ACT will remain as part of the state assessment process. ACT recently announced plans for its ACT Aspire tests, which would provide assessments for students as young as second grade and predict how the student would score on his/her college ACT entrance exam.

The final MEAP test will be administered in the fall 2013.

Presentations

March is Music Month

Board of Education members recognized music students, teachers and the Davison Band and Orchestra Boosters in celebration of "March is Music Month" at Monday night's meeting.

Right, the Instrumental Music Quintet of Russell Matthews, Taylor Eisenman, Kelsey Bees, David Martin and Tia Hodges perform Sonatina in F by Ludwig van Beethoven. Below, Varsity Choir students, led by DHS Music Teacher Jennifer Orkisz.



Above, Music Teachers Jim Schuster, Susan McMartin, John Marttila, Lisa DuPrey and Matt DuPrey give the Davison Band and Orchestra Boosters a standing ovation.

The Davison Band and Orchestra Boosters were recognized for the significant contributions the groups makes to the music program. The non-profit group was chartered in 1989 and has raised more than \$60,000 for the music program.

Right, Superintendent Eric Lieske and Board President Kathleen Sudia present Booster President Susan Hough and DBOB members with a plaque for their years of support.

