June 8, 2023
Volume 9

Board Briefs

June 2023

The following action items were approved by the Davison Board of Education at its June 5 meeting:

- **Approval of Special Education Parent Advisory Committee Member:** **Kelly Fritz** was reappointed as the parent representative on the Genesee Intermediate School District's Special Education Parent Advisory Committee. The committee meets periodically to discuss special education topics, provide parent support and plan parent activities. Mrs. Fritz's term expires June 30, 2024.

- **Approval of ACC Materials:** Board members approved the additional request for elementary phonics instructions. The materials were not included in a curriculum request made to the board earlier this year because the program was in its pilot stage. Once the pilot process for the phonics program was completed, members of the district's **Advisory Curriculum Council** (ACC) reviewed and discussed the findings from the practice stage before recommending approval.

- **Approval of District Courses:** The District is required annually by the Michigan Department of Education to authorize courses offered to students. Courses offered for credit at Davison High School can be found in the Davison High School Course catalog, posted on the District's website. In addition, Davison Alternative Education offers the following courses for high school credit: School to Work, Senior Project, Creative Writing, Consumer Math and SAT Prep. A list of all courses offered in grades Developmental Kindergarten (DK) through eighth grade were also shared with board members. All offer curriculum approved and guided by the Advisory Curriculum Council (ACC). Davison Community Schools also offers online courses created and taught by Davison teachers utilizing ACC-approved curriculum aligned to state standards. A small number of students are also enrolled in programs offered by third-party vendors, such as the Genesee Intermediate School District GenNET portal and Oakland County's Virtual Learning Academy Consortium (VLAC).

* **Approval of Board Policies for the Second Reading:** Board members approved the second reading of several policies as recommended by Neola of Michigan. Board members have contracted with Neola since February 2014 to maintain the District policies. The policies include:
    * **2623—Student Assessment**. This adds language that the Superintendent will appoint an individual to act as District Assessment Coordinator and that all staff members who participate in a state assess-

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ment must be fully trained in proper test administrator procedures pertaining to their role in the assessment. These procedures have already been in place at DCS.

* **6325—Procurement, Federal Grants/Funds**. This includes very minor revisions, including the change in wording from "all federally-funded contracts" to "when required by federal legislation," federally-funded contracts in excess of $2,000 related to construction, alteration, repairs, painting, decorating, etc. must comply with Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements.
* **8390—Animals on District property**. This updated language defines the differences between a service animal and a support animal, as well as spells out the requirements (immunizations, documented training, license, etc.) in order for service dogs to be able to visit school grounds.
* **8400—School Safety Information**. This policy was updated to assign a district staff person with duties to ensure continued implementation and compliance with the District's obligations under the statewide School Safety Information Policy.
* **1615—Use of Tobacco by Administrators**. This and the subsequent policies dealing with tobacco below updates language to include vaping in addition to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing, etc. as items that are prohibited for use on District premises, in District vehicles and in all school buildings.
* **3215—Use of Tobacco by Professional Staff**
* **4215—Use of Tobacco by Support Staff**
* **5512—Use of Tobacco by Students**
* **7434—Use of Tobacco on School Premises**
* **9160—Public Attendance at School Events**. Again, this policy update pertains to tobacco and bans the use of all tobacco products—including vape pens and all electronic smoking devices—on school property, buildings and events.
* **7540.02—Web Accessibility, Content, Apps and Services**. Updates to this policy include the prohibition of using District–created content, apps and services for commercial purposes, advertising, political lobbying, or to provide financial gain for any individual. The policy also requires the District's websites, web pages, apps and services to be hosted on Board-owned or District-affiliated servers. Lastly, the policy addresses the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3Cs) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.
* **7540.03—Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety**. This policy updates language to read that students are prohibited from using District Information and Technology Resources to engage in illegal conduct (e.g. libel, slander, vandalism, harassment, theft, plagiarism, inappropriate access, etc.) or conduct that violates the Policy and its related administrative guidelines and the Student Code of Conduct (e.g. making personal attacks or injurious comments, invading a person's privacy, etc.).
* **8305—Information Security**. This policy deals with the security measures put in place to keep data and information secure and requires that staff participate in training in order to be responsible for security protocols.
* **8315—Information Management**. Changes in this policy include updating the definition of "documents" in handling information created, maintained or otherwise stored by the District.
* **9700.01—Advertising and Commercial Activities**. This policy prohibits the advertisement of tobacco products on school grounds, in school or District-sponsored publications and all school or District-sponsored events.

The next Board of Education meeting is set for 6 p.m. Monday, June 19, 2023, at the Davison Middle School Community Room to discuss the budget for next year.

Presentations

Benchmark Assessment Report and Update

Students in grades K-8 have shown fantastic growth this school year, according to Dr. **Angela Hards**, Director of Curriculum.

In her end-of-the-year report as part of Public Act 144, which requires school districts to establish and report on the progress of goals set for the school year, Dr. Hards said the majority of students met growth benchmarks in both reading and math based on NWEA testing data.

“Our teachers and staff should be commended for the work they are doing,” Dr. Hards said, reminding board members that some of these students had gaps in learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While math scores at the eighth grade level did not meet the overall 50 percent level (50 percent means students met growth benchmarks), scores ranged from 41.6 percent to 46.8 percent.

“Even with scoring in the high 40s, there are still a lot of students on track,” Dr. Hards said. “Remember, this is a one-test, one-day snapshot. We don’t live on one data point alone; there is multiple data we look at and this is just one of those reports.”

Still, math scores at the middle school level were an area of concern last year and much work has taken place this year to address that.

“Last year our seventh and eighth grade math was in need of some very big curriculum changes,” Dr. Hards said. “Our seventh through 12th grade math teachers have been working very closely all year. Those professional conversations our teachers have been having this year have been very helpful.”

“This wasn’t a huge surprise or us to see that our 8th grade data was reflecting lower,” added Superintendent **Kevin Brown**. “For the last couple of years, we haven’t had a consistent math resource at the middle school; a lot of teachers were pulling different things from different places. I don’t want to blame it all on COVID, but (middle school math) did get lost in our ACC (Advisory Curriculum Council) cycle.”

Superintendent Brown also pointed out that district staff do not focus on overall percentages. Rather, they look at individual students.

“We identify those kids who have scored below the benchmark so we can address those individual needs,” Brown said.

This work takes place during Data Days and Child Study meetings, which are in place at all school buildings. This is when staff meet to look over data and identify what students and areas are in need of further instruction.

Learning loss is also the focus of curriculum work, which has been reinstated along with a revamped curriculum process. Many times this work takes place when students are dismissed on Early Release days.

The District also has a new framework for academic interventions for students in grades K-6 and additional support staff—including counselors, social workers and instructional coaches—have been hired all in an effort to address learning loss.

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SVL All-Academic Athletes

There are 164 student athletes from Davison High School who have achieved All-Academic status from the Saginaw Valley League. In order to qualify for this recognition, students must be a sophomore, junior or senior, have participated in the sport for two years in a row (one year being on the Varsity team) and have cumulative grade point average of 3.3 or higher. Students earning awards include: **Abigail Anderson, Charlie Armstead, Mia Asraf, Charles M. Banks-Williams, Joshua Barr, Ella Bernard, Ryan Braham, Matthew Brown, Cole Burke, Samuel Burke, Caitlin Byers, Drake Carpenter, Conner Cherney, Natalie Church, Jaxen Clark, Alexis Collick, Remington Cotton, Grant Davis, Avery Dean, Annie Dieterich, Jayden Dixon, Marionna Dixon, Alyssa Dormire, Tyler Dosh, Lucas Dunham, Cheyenne Dunning, Logan Edmonds, Jalen Edwards, Emmersyn Erway, Emily Estes, Lauren Farrer, Madelyn Flynn, Bryce Fortune, Victoria France, Collin Francis, Rylee Fulgham, Gillian Gallagher, Ryan Garrett, Olivia Gartrell, Justin Gates, Emma Gilliam, Tyler Gist, Rachel Glanton, Kail Glennie, Sawyer Glennie, Parker Gordon, Vivian Griffin, Jordynn Grimsley, McKenna Griswold, Evan Hahn, Madison Haldy, Sydney Hall, Emma Harris, Maximus Harwell, Christopher Haynes, Kaitlyn Henson, Carter Herriman, Braylen Himmelein, Colby Hoggard, Mikaila Holleman, Cole Houser, Olivia Hyatt, Kennedy Iddins, Kieley James, Marcus Johnson, Elena Jones, Sawyer Jones, Sydney Joseph, Payton Keelin, Dillon Kielian, Morgann King, Lillian Kish, Payton Kokaly, Cael Kuzinski, Sadie Lamb, Abigail Latchana, Logan Leonard, Grace Little, Ethan Lockhart, Nicolas Lorts, Andrew Marshick, Caydence Massimino, Preston Mata, Dominic Mauro, Paige McArdle, Quincy McLean, Sidney McLean, Cameron McRill, Joseph Merz, Lily Meyer, Skyler Miller, Taylor Miller, Lydia Minto, Isabella Monk, Carter Monreal, Hunter Moore, Lillian Morey, Landen Mullin, Kayden Nicholson, Isabella Norton, Katie O'Connor, Nadia Oskey, Sydney Panduren, Zachary Pappadakis, Bradyn Parrott, Andrew Pastor, Anna Petrach, Charles Petrach, Brooke Pizzala, Isla Puzjak, Kelsa Puzjak, Elizabeth Rainwater, Owen Reyes, Jackson Rice, Peyton Rich, Josie Rogers, Maya Rogers, Karlie Roseberry, Leilah Russell, Morgan Sammons, Jenna Sayles, Abigail Siekierski, Caleb Simpson, Quinn Sitko, Gavin Smith, Nia Smith, Sydney Smith, Tanner Smith, Merrick Spiewak, Luke Stefanko, Isabella Stephens, Gabriela Stevens, Lucia Stevens, Shelby Stewart, Bryauna Strauel, Shaylynn Summers, Alaina Sutermeister, Dominic Szuch, Sydney Tallman, Barrett Tefft, Kendall Tevault, Kayla Thatcher, Faith Tiggart, Adasyn Tinnin, Bradyn Titsworth, Marcos Torres, Nina Tracy, Monte E Travis, Amanda Turner, Connor Vermilya, Kamden Walworth, Kelsey Whalen, Madelyn Wheat, Allison Widmann, Brooklynn Wilcox, Conner Woodruff, Jenna Woolman, Isabella Workman, Makenzy Workman, Chloe Wright, Gracie Wright, Drew Younkin, Ivan Zhitkov, Kendal Zornes.**

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Board recognizes retiring robotics coach



Superintendent Kevin Brown, Coach Chris Purdy and Board of Education President Karen Conover.

Since launching more than a decade ago, the House of Cards Robotics Team has had at least one constant over the years: **Chris Purdy**. Mr. Purdy has served as a mentor, contributor, volunteer, advocate and, for the past several years, Coach. He's been there for the highs — making the whirlwind trip to Houston and back towing the robot and team equipment after the team qualified for World Championships — and the lows when the team wasn't selected as an alliance or unable to advance. Mr. Purdy was recognized for his dedication and commitment to the students and district by board members. While he is retiring as coach, Mr. Purdy said he does plan to stick around and help out on the Boosters end of the program.

Hahn teacher is lauded for saving student's life



Hahn Assistant Principal Keri Collins, Elizabeth Householder, Board President Karen Conover and Superintendent Kevin Brown.

Ms. **Elizabeth Householder**, a fifth grade teacher at Hahn Intermediate, is being credited for saving a student's life after the student began choking on a marker cap in class. Ms. Household immediately and calmly went into action, performing the Heimlich Maneuver, successfully dislodging the item to clear the student's airway. Because of her actions, Ms. Householder was recognized by the Board of Education with a special "Kids First Hero" award. In addition to a certificate, Elizabeth will be awarded with a $100 gift card from the Mark Owen MEEMIC Insurance Agency.

Student's NJHS scholarship may be first for DCS



DMS Principal Josie Paquette, Assistant Principal Cayla Dowdall, Katherine Shorkey, Board President Karen Conover and Superintendent Kevin Brown.

Davison Middle School student **Katherine Shorkey** has been selected for the National Junior Honor Society Outstanding Achievement Award—which the district believes is the first time a student from Davison has earned this award. Recipients are chosen based on their demonstrated work to support the five pillars of NJHS: scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship. Katherine will receive $500 toward a college savings account to use toward her higher education.



Leading the Pledge

The June Pledge of Allegiance was led by members of the Central Elementary Safety Patrol. The students were accompanied by Principal Mrs. **Christine Kuzinski** and Teacher/Safety Patrol Sponsor Mrs. **Lauren Rhoads.** The Safety Patrol is made up of fourth grade students who have exhibited good Cardinal Code and leadership skills. Safety Patrol members serve as role models for younger students and assist in keeping students safe at arrival and dismissal times. They also help lead the "kinder-cardinals" to and from their transfer buses each day.







Hahn Teacher named Kids First recipient

Hahn Intermediate Teacher Ms. **Jordan Flores** has been named as the June 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.

Jordan was nominated by Hahn Intermediate Assistant Principal Mrs. **Keri Collins**, who wrote:

"Jordan loves her kiddos and always puts them first. She is a 6th grade ELA teacher at Hahn. Jordan also leads our Hahn's Student Council team. As the Student Council Representative, Jordan goes above and beyond to ensure that students have leadership opportunities and a voice in our school. After three years, she brought back our student fun night and filled our hallways with laughter and smiles as our kids roamed "Main Street" at Hahn, Main Street is our main hallway where she utilized those classrooms to run activities like games and dancing



Left to right: Hahn Intermediate Principal Verle Gilbert, Assistant Principal Keri Collins, Teacher Jordan Flores Superintendent Kevin Brown and Board President Karen Conover.

They also held a beautification day to spruce up our two courtyards. Students were up to their elbows in dirt, weeds, and finally flowers. As a result our courtyards look terrific! We are proud of the leadership skills Jordan instills in our students.

Ella, a 6th grade student council member says, "Miss Flores cares for you and if you need something she will talk to you about it and will do something about it. She makes learning fun and is super nice."

Miss Flores' students have nothing but nice words to say about her.

When asked, "How does Miss Flores put kids first?", Ellie Rogers replies, "Whenever you need someone she is there. ALWAYS! She will explain everything even if it is hard and it makes me feel welcomed and appreciated. She makes me feel like I am somebody."

Emma Unger states, "Miss Flores puts us first because she knows that we all make mistakes and she listens to our words. It doesn't matter what you say, she is there to listen and help. She also makes teaching fun (even if it is not your favorite subject)."

Carter Knopf says, "Miss Flores is always nice even when things are super-serious. She just has a soothing way to listen and help. She is nice and sarcastic (in a funny way). She usually finds time to get us an extra recess a couple times a week. She will help anyone that is struggling in any subject."

Hahn teachers teach in teams of two and spend many moments planning and discussing student achievement and growth. Mr. Jarrod Chapman is Jordan's team teacher and he says, "Jordan is very deserving of this award. He also said, "Jordan is the type of educator that I strive to be. She has been the best partner during the past two years at Hahn. Her number one priority has been, and continues to be the students. She has even helped my children Nora and Ezra with strategies that my wife and I can utilize at home with reading."

Jordan has a natural helpful attitude and she brings about a positive outlook that infuses success here at Hahn. We are proud to have Jordan on our team here at Hahn."