

# DAVISON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## Board of Education

Monday, September 14, 2020

7:00 p.m.

DTV Live Stream

### MINUTES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Karen Conover  
Eric Lieske\* (joined meeting following appointment)  
Mark McGlashen  
Diane Rhines  
Matthew Smith  
Granger Stefanko  
Kathleen Sudia

**ADMINISTRATION:** Kevin Brown, Superintendent  
Matt Lobban, Assistant Superintendent  
Phil Thom, Executive Director of Operations  
Leslie Young, Director of Business Services

**OTHER GUESTS:** Elizabeth Latchana, Eric Lieske, Sharon Wilson, Jacob Sopczynski

### ORDER OF BUSINESS:

**CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Davison Board of Education was called to order by President Kathleen Sudia at 7:00 pm in the Davison High School Auditorium.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President Kathleen Sudia.

**ROLL CALL:** Robin Ricica read the roll. Members present: Karen Conover, Mark McGlashen, Diane Rhines, Matthew Smith, Granger Stefanko, and Kathleen Sudia.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Moved by Matthew Smith, supported by Mark McGlashen, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was carried with a vote of 6-yes, 0-no.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Moved by Karen Conover, supported by Matthew Smith, to approve the consent agenda included items 1-4 below:

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Approval of the open session minutes for the previous regular meeting of August 3, 2020. Approval of the minutes for committee meetings held since August 3, 2020.
2. **Presentation of Bills for Payment:** Approval of payment of bills through August 31:

*AP-Pooled Cash: General Fund, DCER Fund, DTV Fund,  
Food Service Fund, and Student Activity Fund*

\$ 938,513.06

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3. **Treasurer's Report:** Approval of the Treasurer's Report for the month of August.
4. **Monthly Personnel Report:** Approval of personnel activity for the period of July 30, 2020 through September 9, 2020.

The motion was carried with a vote of 6-yes, 0-no.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

#### **Special Presentations:**

- Executive Director of Operations presented an update on the 2020 Bond Projects.
- Jacob Sopczynski of Yeo and Yeo presented an overview of the recent audit of our school district's financial records and practices.

**From the Public:** Visitors were welcomed and invited to address the Board.

Assistant Superintendent Matt Lobban read a letter submitted by Stephanie Thomas who applied for the open Board seat position. Ms. Thomas requested the names of the 24 applicants from the district through the Freedom of Information Act and posted the names on her personal Facebook page. Ms. Thomas has voiced her concerns over a conflict of interest with one of the applicants who is the CEO of a charter school and received an interview. She also said in her letter that we need people that care about our children to sit on the board, people that want to retain the best staff and make us a destination school district, not people who sit on the board for recognition.

Superintendent Brown responded to the letter written by Stephanie Thomas. Mr. Brown has contacted the district's legal counsel, Thrun Law Firm, and was assured that there would be no conflict of interest if Eric Lieske was chosen to serve on Davison's Board of Education nor a state law or board policy that would prevent him from doing so. Mr. Brown also took issue with Ms. Thomas' statement that "we need people that care about or children to sit on the school board" and he stated that the current board members all care deeply about the children in the Davison Community Schools and every decision they make is based on what's best for our kids.

Brian Hennessey, who also applied for the open seat position, submitted a letter to be read during public comment. Mr. Hennessey stated he was displeased with the thought of having a CEO of another school sit on our Board and felt this should not be allowed.

#### **Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence to be read.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

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**ACCEPTANCE OF AUDIT REPORT:** Moved by Granger Stefanko, supported by Mark McGlashen, to accept the 2019-2020 independent audit report conducted by the firm of Yeo and Yeo as presented earlier in the evening. The district was given a clean unmodified audit report, the highest rating obtainable. The motion was carried with a vote of 6-yes, 0-no.

**OPEN BOARD POSITION INTERVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATION:** The Board interviewed Elizabeth Latchana, Sharon Wilson and Eric Lieske who were recommended to move forward by the Personnel Committee to fill the open position on the Davison Community Schools Board of Education as defined in Davison School Board Policy 0142.5 and Section 310 of the Election Code. Moved by Granger Stefanko, supported by Karen Conover, to appoint Eric Lieske\* to the position of Board Trustee recently vacated by John Hair. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried with a vote of 5-yes, 1-no (Matthew Smith).

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER:** The Revised School Code provides that the oath of office may be administered by notaries, judges, clerks of the court, or members of the legislature. Notary Robin Ricca administered the OATH OF OFFICE to Eric Lieske, our newly appointed board member.

**GRADUATION CEREMONY DATES AND TIMES:** The administrative staff proposed that Davison High School 2020/2021 graduation be held on Monday, June 7, 2021, 7:00 p.m. at the Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center and that Alternative Education graduation be held on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 7:00 p.m. in the Ude Auditorium. Moved by Matthew Smith, supported by Granger Stefanko, to approve the dates and locations for graduation as recommended. There was discussion and questions were answered. The motion was carried with a vote of 7-yes, 0-no.

**APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY MEMBER TO DAVISON COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT AND RECREATION:** Each year Davison Township, the City of Davison, and Davison Community Schools are asked to appoint a representative to the Davison Community Enrichment and Recreation program advisory board. Moved by Karen Conover, supported by Mark McGlashen, to appoint Skip Konkle to serve as the representative for the 2020/2021 school year. There was discussion and questions were answered. The motion was carried with a vote of 7-yes, 0-no.

**DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATIONS FOR 2020 MASB DELEGATE ASSEMBLY:** The annual MASB Delegate Assembly is scheduled for Thursday, November 5. Given the current environment, it will be held virtually instead of in person just as the rest of the Annual Leadership Conference. At this session MASB will affirm the organization's official positions on a variety of issues affecting education. Based on our district's enrollment, we are entitled to send four voting delegates and four alternates to the Delegate Assembly. Moved by Matthew Smith, supported by Granger Stefanko, that any Davison Board member planning to attend the November 5-8 MASB Annual Fall Conference be designated as a delegate for the 2020 Delegate Assembly. There was discussion and questions were answered. The motion was carried with a vote of 7-yes, 0-no.

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**APPROVAL OF THE DISTRICT'S "EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN:"**

On August 24, 2020 Governor Whitmer signed into law House Bills 5911, 5912 and 5913, commonly referred to as the Return to Learn bills. One of the requirements of this new legislation for the 2020/2021 school year is that the Board acts to approve the District's "Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan" every 30 days. The District's Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan for the 2020/2021 school year was previously provided to all Board Members for review. Moved by Karen Conover, supported by Diane Rhines to accept the district's "Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan. There was discussion and questions were answered. The motion carried with a vote of 7-yes, 0-no.

**APPROVAL OF POLICIES FOR THE FIRST READING:** In February 2014, the Board approved entering into an agreement with Neola of Michigan to provide a policy manual review of the current Board of Education policies. The Board Policy and Planning Committee reviewed the following policies (distributed previously for review). Moved by Matthew Smith, supported by Mark McGlashen, to approve the policies below for the first reading. The motion was carried with a vote of 7-yes, 0-no.

- 2266 Non Discrimination on the Basis of Sex in District Programs or Activities
- 4362.01 Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members
- 5610 Emergency Removal, Suspension, and Expulsion of Students
- 5611 Due Process Rights
- 7440 Facility Security

The motion was carried with a vote of 7-yes, 0-no.

**ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS:** Moved by Mark McGlashen, supported by Karen Conover, to gratefully accept the following contributions and to direct the superintendent to express the Board's gratitude in writing:

- Anne Kelley on behalf of the Davison Optimists Club donated \$10,000 to assist in the purchase of Chromebooks for each Davison student.
- Maria Bratton donated homemade masks to be used by students and staff as needed.
- Nancy Davis donated 77 homemade masks in various sizes for students in need of masks.
- Davison Free Methodist Church donated face masks for staff members at Thomson Elementary.
- Myrna Lamb donated another 44 homemade masks to the school district to be used by students and staff as needed.
- Leslie McCrea donated 35 homemade masks for both students and staff.

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- Wojo's Garden Splendors donated flower pots for the front entrance of Thomson Elementary for beautification of their school grounds.
- K & S Ventures donated the fabric and Jenny Balabon made 30 children's masks for students at Gates Elementary.
- Pat Flaim donated 60 homemade masks for students and staff.

The motion was carried with a vote of 7-yes, 0-no.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**From our Superintendent:**

- It's been a good start to the school year. Superintendent Brown stated there were a couple of bumps in the road, but all in all it's been a very good beginning and it's great to have the kids back in school. The energy among students and staff is undeniable.

**Special Board Meeting Monday, November 18, 2019:**

- Discussion of the superintendent's pre-evaluation and evaluation is scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2020, 7:00 p.m. in the Cardinal Center Board Room. As usual, the superintendent will request that the pre-evaluation portion of this meeting be conducted in closed session as permitted under Section 8(a) of P.A. 267 of 1976.

**Other Matters Which May Properly Come Before the Board (From Board members):**


- Trustee Smith requested he be considered to fill the position of Chair of the Policy Committee and be appointed to the Buildings, Grounds & Transportation Committee positions previously held by former Board Member John Hair. President Sudia stated she would take his request under consideration.

**Future Meeting Date:**

Monday, October 5, 2020  
7:00 p.m. (location to be determined)

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Karen Conover, supported by Granger Stefanko, to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 pm. The motion was carried with a vote of 6-yes, 1-no (Matthew Smith).

Respectfully submitted:

  
Karen Conover, Secretary  
Davison Board of Education