

Board Briefs

Business office staff deliver another “clean audit” for DCS

For the 16th consecutive year, Davison Community Schools has received a “clean” financial audit, which means the final budget figures provided in June to the Board of Education by Director of Business Services **Leslie Young** and her staff did not change once the audit was completed.

In fact, the DCS Business Department was within 1.42 percent when it came to projecting revenues for the district’s actual \$51 million budget and 2.49 percent within expenditures.

“That is very, very close,” said **Jacob Sopczynski**, certified public accountant with Yeo & Yeo CPAs and Business Consultants.

Sopczynski shared his findings at last night’s Board of Education meeting. Auditors annually assess the District’s financial risk and test internal controls.

The auditors found that the District’s financial statements were fairly presented and no accounting records needed adjustment. They focused on key controls including disbursements, payroll and receipts (PaySchools, Athletics, Food Services and DCER). The firm also audits the 2013 Capital Project Fund (Central Elementary bond) and the Sinking Fund annually.

The accountants also perform a single audit over federal programs and this year selected Food Services spending.

“We tested 69 different areas of the (Food Services) budget and out of all 69 areas, we had zero findings; so well done,” Sopczynski said.

In addition to Young, the Business Office staff includes Purchasing/Payroll Support Secretary **Shawn Hoover**, Business Office Secretary **Robin Ricica**, Payroll Specialist **Sue Seymour** and Accountant **Joshua Evans**. They all played a key role in the district achieving the clean audit status.



Donations accepted

The following contributions have gratefully been accepted:

- ◆ Members of the **Richfield United Methodist Church** donated a very large collection of school supplies to Siple Elementary. The supplies will be available and distributed to those students that may not have what they need for their classroom participation.
- ◆ Davison Community Schools’ retiree **Sharon Hammer** donated \$100 to Davison Middle School’s new Mezzo Voce club. This generous donation will be used wherever needed by the club’s sponsors.

Meeting date set

The Board of Education’s annual Organizational Meeting has been set for 7 p.m. Monday, January 9, 2017. The meeting will take place in the Athletic Meeting Room at Davison High School.

Board Briefs is a monthly newsletter published the day 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

Presentation Items

Staff motivated to solve mysteries of M-STEP

Less than thrilled would be one way to explain how school officials are feeling about the recent release of state M-STEP results.

“Our scores were lower than we’ve seen traditionally,” said Assistant Superintendent **Kevin Brown**. “This is not what we want, not what we expect.”

Unfortunately, there has been little feedback available from the M-STEP assessment, which makes it tough for educators to pinpoint potential shortfalls in the curriculum or its delivery. Just in its second year, the M-STEP replaced the 40-year-old pencil and paper Michigan Educational Assessment Program, commonly known as the MEAP. The test is administered online and this year was also computer adaptive, meaning the questions on the test adapted to the student’s ability level. Also called tailored testing, the next set of questions students are asked to answer depends on the correctness of the test taker’s responses from the previous question.

“It’s hard to compare the one to the other,” Brown said. “In 2015, the assessment was online but not computer adaptive. In 2016, the test became computer adaptive.”

Brown said despite the lack of feedback from the test and a myriad of other possibilities that may be a factor in the test results—such as a lack of technology education so students are comfortable using the tools for online testing and alignment of curriculum to state standards—staff are wasting no time in order to identify the issues and come up with a solution. Tomorrow, for example, all third grade teachers from across the district will meet as part of a Professional Learning Community (PLC) to discuss math and English language art standards. District level PLCs, which had been eliminated a couple of years ago, allow teachers to become more “intimately involved with the process of curriculum alignment to the common core state standards assessed on the test,” according to Brown.

“All of our teachers will be meeting to dig deeper into those common core state standards by grade level and looking closer at what kids are expected to know and be able to do,” Brown said. “Then they will work on implementing best instructional practices to get them there.”

Math/Science Curriculum Coordinator **Matt Lobban** will also be developing online assessments in math so students are actually using Chromebooks and technology tools similar to what they will be using on the M-STEP.

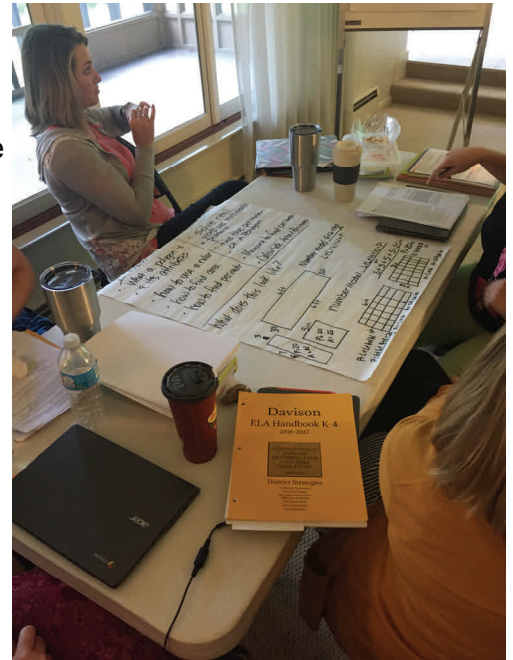
“For the first year, we put a lot of effort in teaching kids the technology,” Brown said. “We didn’t do that as much last year. I think other schools may have done a better job of getting technology into the kids’ hands and preparing them for the state assessment.”

There was some good news following the state’s release of assessment scores. Nearly 70 percent of all Davison High School juniors who completed the EBRW (Evidence Based Reading and Writing) portion of the SAT are college ready, according to the test standards. This was the first year the SAT was administered to juniors across the state, replacing the ACT.

“Seventy percent is pretty impressive,” said **Eric Chorley**, District Assessment Coordinator.

Unlike the M-STEP, the SAT assessment does provide educators with data and feedback based on a student performances.

“Assessment feedback that includes item analysis is like gold to a teacher,” Chorley said. “You can really dig into that information to make well informed decisions in the classroom.”



Gates Elementary Teacher Jaynie Shiflett participates in the Third Grade PLC meeting Tuesday.

Action Items

Board approves request for Summer 2017 Band Camp

Board members approved a request from Instrumental Music Director **James Schuster** for students to attend the 2017 Summer Marching Band Camp July 30-August 4, 2017, at Echo Grove Camp in Leonard, Mich. The request was approved.

Eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C. gets nod of approval

Eighth graders will once again have the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. in the spring.

This year's trip is planned for May 19-23, 2017, for any interested 8th grade student. The trip is planned to take place during Intersession III so the students will not miss a day of classroom instruction.

The trip is being coordinated by Davison Middle School History Teacher Ms. **Janet Green**.



Leading the Pledge

Members of Hill Elementary Safety Patrol led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at the October Board of Education meeting. The students were accompanied by Teachers Mrs. Linda Strine and Mrs. Lisa DuPrey and Principal Ms. Jennifer Torok.

