

Board Briefs

Thank a school board member It's Board Appreciation Month!

Board of Education members were honored for their commitment and dedication as part of Board of Education Appreciation Month.

"It really doesn't do it justice that just the month of January is School Board Appreciation Month because we should be appreciating the work you do all the time," said Superintendent **Eric Lieske**, noting that, collectively, the current board represents more than 100 years of service. "The longevity of a school board is a direct correlation to a good school district. The decisions you have had to make in the last decade have been more challenging because tough decisions have needed to be made. But through that process, we are a better, stronger and more kids first district than we ever have been."

Board members were presented with an official Davison Community Schools 12-month calendar and treated to dinner just prior to the meeting, paid for with contributions from the administrators.

Kristin Slattery, vice president of the Davison Education Association, also recognized the board for their commitment to the students and staff, and announced that the teacher's union was making a contribution to Outreach East in honor of the board.

Student board representatives senior **Ryan Myers** and junior **Samantha Hunsinger**, who were not in attendance because of the weather that had prompted the cancellation of school earlier that day, have also been recognized for their service.

Board re-elects officers

The first official act of business for the new year was the election of officers. Board members voted to re-elect **Kathleen Sudia** as President; **Dale Green**, Vice President; **Karen Conover**, Secretary; and **Kim Lindsay**, Treasurer. **Larry Finkbeiner**, **Mark McGlashen** and **Andrew Hall** remain as Trustees.



Board gratefully accepts contributions

The following contributions have been offered to the district:

J.G.M. Machinery Movers donated time and resources to move two Bridgeport Mills, a Marvel band saw and tool storage containers on site from the GM Flint Northern American Tool Center to the Davison High School campus.

Richard DuCharme donated \$500 to Davison High School for the First Robotics Competition Team 3534, House of Cards.

DCC Construction donated \$3,500 to the Davison Athletic Department; \$2,500 was earmarked for the football program and \$1,000 to the wrestling program.

The **Davison Education Association (DEA)** donated \$500 in books for distribution to new kindergarten students who register at this year's Kindergarten Round-Up.

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**

Where Kids Come First and Futures Begin

Connections ♦ Curriculum ♦ Opportunities

Presentations

State releases M-STEP scores, leaving many with questions

Since the recent release of the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) taken by students last spring, the results are leaving many with more questions than answers.

The test was introduced last year, replacing the 44-year-old Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP). An online test, M-STEP has fewer multiple choice questions and more questions that require problem solving and critical thinking skills than the previous MEAP pencil and paper assessment.

“You are going to see a different type of presentation because it has been a long time since our students have taken a new state test,” Assistant Superintendent **Kevin Brown** told board members as District Assessment Coordinator **Eric Chorley** readied to give his annual state assessment update. “It is difficult to compare the new M-STEP to the MEAP. We will also be transitioning this year to the SAT from the ACT and we thought it would be good to look back over the past eight years and provide insight regarding how our students have performed on the ACT.”

Unfortunately, the scores are about the only information educators have received about last year’s M-STEP tests, leaving many wondering what they really mean. For example, when looking at statewide percentile rankings, Davison students ranged from the high (82nd to 92nd percentile) in the areas of English Language Arts in fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades but dropped to the 56th percentile at 11th grade.

“It doesn’t make sense that our kids are in the 80th and 90th percentiles all along and when they get to 11th grade they fall off the map,” Chorley said.

Chorley noted that the M-STEP results offer no explanation into the areas students are being tested on making it even more difficult for educators to address specific areas where students are struggling.

“We literally have nothing to go on,” he said. “We have student scores but without specific information on areas of strengths and weaknesses, it is hard to know what to work on.”

In math, students scores ranged from the 59th to 79th percentiles in the state rankings.

“We do know that math is an area we have been struggling in the last few years,” Brown said. “We have some very good math programs going on right now to try and address those issues but it is going to take some time for those things to pay off. We are very hopeful that we will see math scores climb throughout the next several years ... basically we are continuing to move forward but we are just not sure the assessment that our kids took last spring provides any direction on where we need to go.”

For the last time in nearly a decade, Chorley shared the results of the student’s ACT scores. The test, historically taken by 11th graders in the spring, is being replaced this year with the SAT.

“We had a good run with the ACT and saw a lot of improvement over the years,” Chorley said.

The SAT that will be given to juniors is a new, redesigned test that has never been administered.

Assistant Principal **Jerry Piger** said staff is busy preparing students for the test. Teachers have received training on using the Khan Academy website, which has partnered with the SAT, and are becoming more familiar with the College Board and practice testing sites.

“We are being proactive,” Piger said. “Students will have a Khan Academy log in and we will be collecting data so when March rolls around we will know where their strengths and weaknesses are. We will offer after-school study sessions and students will know exactly what area they need help in.”

In addition, students will be encouraged to download an app that provides a daily practice SAT prompt.

M-STEP Statewide Percentile Rankings

M-STEP Subject	Spring 2015							
	Grade:	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	11 th
Math		72 nd	65 th	72 nd	59 th	77 th	79 th	68 th
ELA		71 st	67 th	82 nd	89 th	92 nd	88 th	56 th
Science			75 th			90 th		73 rd
Soc Study				83 rd			92 nd	71 st

ACT Historical Statewide Percentile Rankings

ACT Subject	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
English	83 rd	88 th	87 th	80 th	80 th	90 th
Math	82 nd	91 st	84 th	81 st	87 th	79 th
Reading	87 th	86 th	90 th	85 th	88 th	89 th
Science	84 th	90 th	87 th	85 th	92 nd	93 rd
Writing	93 rd	92 nd	92 nd	90 th	93 rd	-
Composite		91 st	89 th	84 th	88 th	87 th

Action items

BMA class trip set for Feb 4-5

Board of Education members approved an overnight trip for 21 Business Management students to attend the Great Lakes Virtual Enterprise Trade Show Feb. 4-5 in Holland, Michigan. The request was made by Davison High School CTE Teacher **Amy Fanning**.

Virtual Enterprise International is an international organization where students create a virtual business and do business with other VEI businesses all over the world. Students have created the companies from scratch from choosing a name and logo to what products to sell. They started by interviewing for positions and then as a class wrote a business plan for their virtual business. The businesses are now open through their websites and virtual sales have been completed. The students have the opportunity to go to the Great Lakes Trade Show for VEI businesses to do face to face business and get a hands-on learning experience.

Board approves student trip for French students

Board members approved a request by Davison High School French Teacher **Veronique Hungerford** to plan a summer trip. Davison High School students who participate in the French program will be invited to travel to Quebec City and Montreal, Canada, June 22-28.

Students will not only experience the language, culture and history of a French-Speaking Province, but they will also apply the knowledge acquired while studying at Davison High School. Additionally, they will be exposed to a variety of traditions (old and new), accents and customs. Learning objectives include connecting France and Quebec cultures and history, the historical significance of Quebec and its art/architecture/civilization through the times.

Board makes appointments to annual hearing, GCASBM

The following appointments were approved at the January meeting:

- Trustee **Andrew Hall** was named as the Davison board's voting representative for the annual Genesee Intermediate School District's budget hearing. The hearing is scheduled for March 23. Trustee **Mark McGlashen** was named as the alternate.
- Secretary **Karen Conover** was appointed as the board's representative to serve as liaison to the Genesee County Association of School Board Members (GCASBM) Executive Committee. The committee typically meets monthly at the GISD's Davis Center. Trustee **Andrew Hall** was named as alternate.



Leading the Pledge

Members of the Davison Middle School Robotics Team, along with Teacher Sponsor Kirk Hansen and Principal Shelly Fenner-Krasny lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at the January Board of Education meeting.