

BOARD BRIEFS



Balanced year calendar proponents attend meeting

About a dozen parents, students and community members showed up at Monday's Board of Education meeting to show their support of the district moving to a K-12 balanced year school calendar.

"Davison is an amazing school district and there are ways any school district can be better and we think this is one of them," said **Beth Latchana**, who has three children attending Hill Elementary, which has operated on a balanced year calendar since August 1999.

"Based on watching my two daughters go through the balanced year calendar at Hill, the research is far from inconclusive," said parent and Davison Township Police Chief **Rick Freeman**. "They both have all As and I attribute that to their years at Hill and the foundation that was set in their learning experience ... I hope you guys take a serious look at (implementing a district balanced calendar)."

Freeman joked, saying that the program even saved him and his wife "a ton" in day care because his kids always chose to attend the intersessions held three times a year.

"My kids couldn't wait to go to intersession," he said. "It was a fun learning environment, so much so that they looked forward to it."

Freeman's daughter, **Morgan**, now a high school junior, told board members she remembered learning how astronauts ate in space and building teepees on the playground from past intersessions. "It was a really good experience for me."

Morgan added that at the high school level, intersession breaks would provide older students a chance to re-charge with a break, pursue some career readiness opportunities or just simply have time to get caught up with school work.

Earlier in the evening, Superintendent **Eric Lieske** also shared the presentation he has shown at parent groups, staff meetings and three community forums held last week to discuss the possibility of implementing a district balanced year school calendar in 2016-17.

Lieske told board members that once he believes he has heard from the majority of parents in the dis-

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Board gratefully accepts contributions

The following contributions have been offered to the district:

Davison residents **Brian and Sharon Jacobs** donated miscellaneous athletic clothing to Davison High School.

Lisa Kamischke of Whitmore Lake donated two clarinets, one wooden Selmer Signet and one plastic Bundy to the DHS Instrumental Music Department for student use.

Parent **Karrie Worthing** donated six winter coats, three to Central Elementary and three to Thomson Elementary, for any child to receive who needs one.

Kenneth Minto Jr. of Davison, on behalf of his company's Good Works Employee Giving Campaign, donated \$100 to Davison Middle School. The money will be placed in the school's Student Activities account, which provides funding for various activities that involve students.

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

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



Action Items

Schools of Choice resolutions approved

Davison Community Schools will be accepting applications for non-resident students under Sections 105 and 105c Schools of Choice for the 2015/2016 school year. Please note that acceptance under either plan will be based on limited availability and elementary students will be placed in school buildings according to equalized space available in all classrooms.

The application period for each program is as follows:

- 105c Schools of Choice, May 1 – May 15, 2015: The District will accept applications from pupils whose district of residency is *outside of Genesee County* in districts within the following bordering counties: Lapeer, Livingston, Oakland, Saginaw, Shiawassee and Tuscola.
- 105 Schools of Choice, May 1 – May 15, 2015: The District will accept applications from pupils whose district of residency is *in Genesee County*.

Applications can be completed Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Superintendent's Office located in the district's administrative offices (Cardinal Center), 1490 N. Oak Road. Applications will not be distributed or accepted outside the application periods listed above for each program.

Applicants will need to bring a valid driver's license or some other proof of their non-resident residency. Also, a copy of the student's behavior report for the past two years must be submitted with each application (for enrollment in grades 1 through 12). Without a copy of a behavior report or a document from the school(s) attended in the 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 school years indicating there was no behavior history, the application will not be accepted.

Students who have been suspended, expelled or withdrawn in lieu of expulsion within the last two years may be denied enrollment in the district under the 105 and 105c Schools of Choice guidelines.

Parents of Schools of Choice students are responsible for transporting their children to/from school.

For further information, please call the Superintendent's Office at (810) 591-0801.

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trict, he will make a recommendation on how the district should proceed.

"The more people learn what a balanced calendar is, rather than what it isn't, the more people seem to be supportive," Lieske said.

Lieske has responded to numerous emails and calls and met with nearly 200 parents and community members who attended three community forums last week to answer questions about the balanced calendar year concept.

"With some of the concerns that have been voiced, it has been nice to have the opportunity to say, 'You know, I think we can work with that,'" he said.

For example, some parents are concerned their kids will not be able to participate in activities such as the Genesee County Fair, the main event of the year for 4-H kids.

"Kids have lots of learning experiences outside the traditional classroom walls," Lieske said. "If there are opportunities for children to participate in 4-H that last week in August, well, I think we can find ways to work with them missing a few days of school while they are participating in another educational opportunity such as 4-H."

The District will send out surveys later this month to the nearly 4,000 families in the district. Parents will be asked to check a box on a pre-stamped postcard indicating whether or not they are in favor of a district wide balanced calendar and place it in the mail.

"The majority of the members on this board go back prior to when Hill went to a balanced calendar," said Board Secretary **Karen Conover**. "We've been watching this right along and having this conversation. It didn't come out of the blue or is the latest thing in education."

Those with questions or comments about the balanced calendar concept are encouraged to contact Superintendent Lieske at elieske@davisonschools.org or (810) 591-0801.

Presentations



They saved the day!

Board of Education members recognized Bus Monitor Andrew Ogden and Bus Driver Josh Rhinebolt for their quick actions on January 16 when their bus began experiencing mechanical problems. After pulling into a gas station to inspect the vehicle, Rhinebolt quickly grabbed a fire extinguisher when he noticed smoke coming out from under the bus after a transmission line broke, spilling fluid onto the hot manifold. Thankfully, there were no students on the bus at the time of the incident. Left to right, Superintendent Eric Lieske, Andrew, Josh and Board President Kathy Sudia.



Crossing guards recognized

Four Davison crossing guards and City Police Chief Donny Harris were recognized at Monday's board meeting for their ongoing dedication in ensuring student safety across busy highways and intersections. Each crossing guard and the chief were given a new, flashing STOP sign to use at their crossings. Pictured left to right are Superintendent Eric Lieske, Amy Tranchida, Mike Christopherson, Chief Donny Harris, Barbara Starr, Linda Lemcool and Board President Kathy Sudia.

Action Items

Bids for new tennis, soccer, marching band complex approved

It's been nearly a two-year process but when it comes to installing new tennis courts this summer, the District can finally say game, set and match.

"We took the project out to bid last year and my excitement over the project turned to sadness when the costs came in approximately 60 percent over budget," said Director of Operations **Phil Thom**.

Thom, along with members of the board's Buildings and Grounds Committee, went back to the drawing board. Literally.

"We took a pair of scissors to the old plan and cut out the designs and placed them how we wanted them on a new set of blueprints," Thom said.

The result?

"We came up with a new design that I'm confident is not only equal to but better than our original plan," Thom said.

The plan calls for a new 10-court tennis facility, upgrades to the existing soccer building and plans for a renovated and permanent marching band practice field. Board members awarded the \$1.1 million low bid to DCC Construction of Davison.

The work will include the grinding and rebuilding of the existing tennis courts, which will be turned into student parking. A new fenced in area will contain 10 new tennis courts as well as a half court practice area. The existing soccer building will be renovated and restrooms will be upgraded to accommodate both soccer and tennis spectators.

Work on the project will begin in the spring and is expected to be completed by mid-August. The project will be funded by the voter-approved Building and Site Sinking Fund.

Alternate bids were also received for a soccer announcer's booth, a tennis concession building and covered area and lighting for the tennis courts. Depending on the project contingency plans and any opportunities to save money through value engineering, the district may be able to include some of the alternate work in the project.

Trustee **Larry Finkbeiner**, who has been very involved with AYSO and school soccer programs, was especially pleased that the project will eliminate some drainage issues that have plagued the soccer fields.

Board votes to place two renewals on May ballot

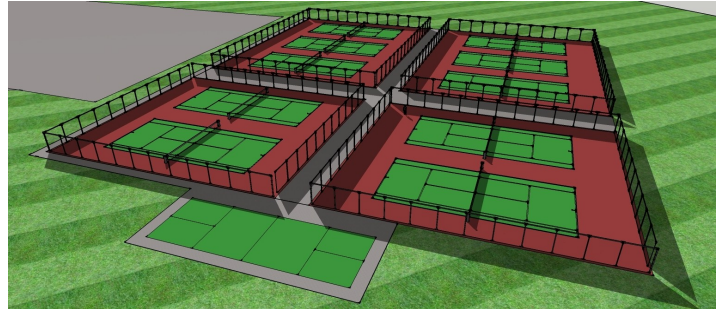
Voters will be asked to renew the District's Non-Homestead and Building and Site Sinking Fund on the May 5 ballot. **Neither ballot will increase taxes.** Both ballots are for a period of 10 years.

The Non-Homestead levy does not affect homeowners/taxpayers with Davison as their primary residence. This renewal applies to businesses and second homes only. This levy generates about \$3.8 million for the district and is critical to the district's operational budget.

Due to the community's continued support, facilities in Davison Community Schools have remained a priority for nearly two decades due to the Building and Site Sinking Fund. The Building and Site Sinking Fund generates about \$1 million each year to address facility needs such as the new tennis courts as well as replace outdated heating systems with more efficient and cleaner heating and cooling systems, renovate buildings, replace roofs and install infrastructure for updated technology.

If approved, the Sinking Fund would pay for upcoming scheduled facility needs projects such as the replacement of the middle school gymnasium floor, addressing parking needs at elementary buildings and needed renovations at the high school including a new boiler system.

Please watch for more information about these two proposals soon.



A conceptual drawing of the tennis courts by architects Kingscott Associates, Inc.

Action Items

DECA trip to state conference approved

Seventy Davison High School students from the Marketing DECA Club have qualified to attend the state DECA Conference March 12-15 in Grand Rapids.

The following students will be attending:

Davison's DECA President **Shane Heddy** and Vice Presidents **Dillon Welliver** and **Joe Renner** will represent their chapter in the Chapter Activities Program event.

Tina Caterina, **Cyleigh Clifford** and **Gabby Moorhouse** will present the chapter's Public Relations Project "Don't Text and Drive" campaign.

Emma Kemp and **Haley Novak** will be presenting the chapter's Public Relations Project "Fireworks Safety" campaign.

Katie Church and **Emma Osterholzer** will present a Community Service Project—Outreach East campaign including the Cool to Care Food Drive.

Summer Stefanko and **Rachel Swanson** will present the chapter's Financial Literacy Campaign.

DJ Harrington and **Ashley Hardacre** will present the chapter's Cardinal Card—Learn and Earn Project.

Jackson McKague will present the chapter's Creative Marketing Project on the Davison Farmer's Market Campaign.

Samantha Haw and **Haley McDowell** will present the School Based Enterprise Project on The Cardinal Shop.

The following students will also represent Davison in various occupational events: **Jarreen Ankton**, **Jordan Arnold**, **Mycaela Barden**, **Mike Boonstra**, **Lauren Burkhardt**, **Kristina Button**, **Paige Carpenter**, **Lauren Chwojnicky**, **Elise Close**, **Emma Crandell**, **Cole Davis**, **Brenden Fridline**, **Morgan Freeman**, **Jacob Fuson**, **Courtney Gifford**, **Lucy Gould**, **Morgan Graham**, **Caleb Gullede**, **Nick Haglund**, **Mitchell Hards**, **Lindsey Isaacs**, **Cassie Jenkinson**, **Joseph Luna**, **Nicole Martinbianco**, **Monet McCoy**, **Keagan McQueen**, **Ariel Miller**, **Derek Miller**, **Nathan Mudge**, **Brandon Orth**, **Luis Perez**, **Jacob Robart**, **Nick Robinson**, **Jacob Rose**, **Alex Rucker**, **Garrett Sigourney**, **Alyson Skalecki**, **Logan Seely**, **Kyle Seybold**, **Matt Smith**, **Austin Spishak**, **Gabby Stephens**, **Kayla Tear**, **Christian Thwing**, **Lauren Tucker**, **Chase VanWormer**, **Joe Walker**, **Caleb Wills**, **Valerie Wojciechowski**, **Brendan Woodward** and **Summer Varner**.

BPA students qualify for state conference

More than 10 students have qualified to compete in the state Business Professionals of America state conference March 19-22 in Grand Rapids. This is the ninth Davison team to compete at the state event.

Students and the events they will be competing in include: **Haleigh Seidell**, Presentation Management Individual; **Raquel Spence**, Entrepreneurship; **Katelyn Smiles**, Entrepreneurship; **Meredith Benedict**, Administrative Support Individual; **Michael Dotson**, Banking and Finance Accounting; **Noah Nagy**, Network Administration Using Microsoft; **Jack Frazier**, Network Administration Using Microsoft; **Matt Wangler**, Fundamental Accounting; **Brandon McDonald**, Fundamental Accounting; **Jordyn Hunt-Groce**, Basic Office Systems and Procedures; and **Alana Wise**, Human Resource Management.