

# Board Briefs

## District earns “clean audit”

For the 13th consecutive year, Davison Community Schools has received a “clean” financial audit, which means the final budget figures provided in July to the Board of Education by Director of Business Services **Leslie Young** and her staff did not change once the audit was completed.

**Mike Frawley** and **Jacob Sopczynski**, certified public accountants with Yeo & Yeo CPAs and Business Consultants, conducted the audit and shared their findings at Monday 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 auditors agreed that the district is “healthy” when Trustee **Mark McGlashen** asked how Davison compared with other school districts when it comes to finances.

“We are a base foundation district—no other school district in the state gets less money per student than we do,” said Superintendent **Eric Lieske**. “I think we’re delivering pretty well ... but that is intentional. You always have to be looking down the road. There are areas where we have not been able to do what we would like to do—like purchase buses—but with what’s going on in the classrooms, we’ve really tried to stay solid. In all areas, you see all staff doing more with less.”

“What is really hard in school finance is you don’t know what’s going to happen next or what is around the corner,” agreed Sopczynski.

The auditors complimented Young and Business Office staffers **Linda Corkins**, **Michelle Maya**, **Robin Ricica** and **Sue Seymour** for their hard work in the district achieving the clean audit status.

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



### Donations accepted

The following contributions have been accepted:

- **Anonymous donors** contributed \$300 to the high school athletic department to support the girls’ swim team.
- Members of the **Davison Country Club**, through proceeds from their Mens’ Fall Classic, donated \$630 to purchase distance measuring devices for the girls’ golf team.
- **Living Grace Church** donated 32 backpacks filled with school supplies to Gates Elementary and seven to Davison High School for students in need of assistance.
- Davison parents **Dan** and **Michelle Traynor** donated a variety of young adult and children’s books for use throughout the district.
- Grand Blanc resident **Kevin Eisenbeis** donated three filing cabinets to Siple Elementary for teachers’ use.

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.

# Presentations

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## Teachers share about “Tech to Teach” program

As part of the Genesee Intermediate School District’s “Tech to Teach” (formerly called GenNET Pioneers) program last school year, Davison teachers **Jayne Shiflett** and **Leandra Lints** were allowed to borrow an iPad for five months to explore ways they could use it in the classroom.

“With all the push for technology, I was excited to have the opportunity because it can be intimidating,” admitted Shiflett, a teacher at Gates Elementary. “I found out quickly once we got into the Tech to Teach program that there was a wealth of things out there that I had no idea were there.”

In fact, Shiflett uses some of that technology she learned about every day in her classroom with an application called Xtra Math. While she’s teaching the day’s math lesson, students take turns working on three to five minutes of math facts on the iPad before rejoining the lesson.

Both Shiflett and Lints also use Animoto, an application used to create videos, in their classrooms.

“I have used this a lot to increase student engagement in my classroom and I would definitely say it’s been successful,” Shiflett said.

Lints showed board members an application she uses called Edmodo. She demonstrated how she recorded a student reading a book and then re-telling the story. The post is then shared with the parent who can use the same techniques when the child is reading at home.

“It’s like Facebook but it’s only for teachers, students and parents,” Lints, a kindergarten teacher at Thomson Elementary, said. “I use mine mostly for parent support. I wouldn’t have known anything about this if I hadn’t gone to Tech to Teach.”

“It’s nice for parents to have these resources,” said Superintendent Eric Lieske. “The more tools we can give our parents, the better.”

## Board approves student trips

The following student trips were approved:

- **Summer 2014 Marching Band Camp:** Next year’s camp is scheduled for Aug. 3-8, 2014, at Echo Grove Camp in Leonard, Mich.
- **DHS Band and Orchestra Spring Trip:** This student trip will be held March 26-30, 2014, when students will travel to Memphis and Nashville, Tenn., to participate in an instrumental music clinic.
- **Eighth Grade Washington, D.C. Trip:** Interested eighth graders will take this trip during Memorial Day weekend 2014.



### Leading the Pledge

*Gates Elementary students who were the top readers in their school’s Summer Reading Challenge led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The students were accompanied by teacher and Reading Challenge coordinator Mrs. Tammy Trombley and Principal Mrs. Theresa Wendt.*