

Board Briefs

DECA/DTV students to coordinate Cool to Care

This year's annual Cool to Care campaign will be coordinated by Davison High School seniors **Susanna Oganosoba, Shawn Bednard** and **Chris Jared**.

All three students are members of DECA and DTV.

"This is the first year all of us are in DECA," Chris told board members at Monday night's Board of Education meeting. "One of the projects we can do is a community service project and we thought it would be really cool if we could be a part of Cool to Care."

The trio has assisted in the past with delivering the canned goods collected by students and staff throughout the district to Outreach East, a non-denominational agency that provides assistance to families struggling financially.

Susanna, Chris and Shawn believe that personal experience, as well as their affiliation with DTV, can help them exceed last year's collection, which totaled more than 20,500 cans and \$2,100.

"We saw firsthand the need that (Outreach) was in," Chris said. "We also witnessed the amount of expired canned foods that had to be thrown away. So, we wanted to take action and create even more of a success than last year because not everyone is given a meal, let alone a home, to look forward to."

The students plan to promote the campaign by attending school staff meetings, visiting schools and holding a "Can the Newscast" where students will be encouraged to bring in enough cans to fill the DTV studio to the point where news anchors will have to look over them when broadcasting the daily announcements.

This year's Cool to Care campaign will be held November 18 through December 9. During that time, all school buildings, including the Cardinal's Nest, will be collecting canned goods, non-perishable items and money.



Graduation dates set

Graduation dates have been set for the Davison High School and Davison



Alternative Education classes of 2014.

Commencement ceremonies for Davison Alternative Education will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 4, 2014, in the Davison High School Auditorium.

Davison High School graduation ceremonies will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, June 9, 2014, at Perani's Arena and Event Center.

Board approves trip

Board members approved a trip for the Varsity Dance Team to compete at the National Dance Team Championship Feb. 3, 2014, at Walt Disney World's ESPN Wide World of Sports and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Orlando, Fla. This is the first Davison dance team to compete and qualify for this nationally recognized competition, which will be televised on ESPN. The team is coached by Kathleen Slezak.

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.

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



Presentations

Staff shows off tools purchased with DEF mini grants

Elementary counselors, music teachers and the third grade teaching staff from Gates Elementary were on hand at Monday night's meeting to demonstrate how they are implementing technology and programs through classroom mini grants awarded to them this year by the **Davison Educational Foundation**.

Cory Sturgess, Christine Glann and Carrie Quisenberry, who all serve as elementary counselors, shared how they are using the iPads and apps to assist students with managing anger, improving focus and concentration, reducing anxiety and helping students deal with their feelings.

"We always talk about using your words instead of your hands and the iPads have been very helpful in allowing them to do that," said Glann.

Gates third grade teachers **Katie Gist, Jennifer Lauwers, Kim Macko, Cindy McCollum and Jaynie Shiflett** enlisted the aid of several students to show board members how they are using the iPads they received through a DEF mini grant in their classrooms. The teachers have been using them daily for math, reading and spelling lessons.

"They are constantly being used and are a great resource for us," said McCollum, who uses an app that allows her to input the spelling words for the week and students take turns by accessing the app, which allows them to practice and unscramble the words as well as self-test themselves.

Elementary music teachers **Gretchen Coles, Nikki DeVary and Michael Romanik** also received iPads through a DEF mini grant. While they are taking advantage of the many musical apps that are available, each of the teachers have discovered that the iPad's video recorder is a meaningful teaching tool.

"I like being able to videotape the kids and immediately show them what they're doing and get that feedback so we can make those tweaks right away," DeVary said.

At Hill Elementary, students use the iPad to compose a short musical piece and record it not only for themselves but to take home and share it with their parents.

Ann Curatti, Literacy Specialist at Hahn Intermediate, was one of two staff members named as a DEF Professional Development Scholar this year. Ann shared with board members how the opportunity allowed her to attend the Choice Literacy Workshop in Columbus, Ohio. She has already shared several strategies she learned at the conference to enrich curriculum using additional nonfiction text in reading and writing.

Andy Michalik, auto technology teacher at Davison High School, also was named a Professional Scholar this year and attended the Lincoln College of Technology's Annual High School Instructor Seminar in July. He was unable to attend Monday's meeting because he was teaching a college class.

This year, the Davison Educational Foundation awarded \$8,100 in mini grants. Also receiving grants were:

- The Classics Challenge and Let's Get Literature" submitted by **Annette Shumaker and Stephanie Davis** from Davison Middle School. This \$1,000 grant will provide about 180 seventh and eighth grade Honors Language Arts students with the opportunity to explore classic literature that they might not otherwise experience.
- "iPads for Success" submitted by Hahn Special Education teachers **Jenifer Green, Keri Collins, Amanda Griffith, Amy Renye and Robert Konzman**. This \$500 grant will be used to purchase apps to build an excellent bank of leveled educational opportunities for reading, writing and math for special education students.



A Gates student demonstrates an iPad program to board members Larry Finkbeiner and Doug Theodoroff.

Action items

Board approves budget revision

Director of Business Services **Leslie Young** provided board members with details of a budget revision that incorporates updated student enrollment data and other anticipated changes in funding. The revision, which was approved by Board members, projects a \$1 million shortfall at the end of the school year.

“We will work hard so that doesn’t happen,” said Superintendent **Eric Lieske**, adding that the district is looking at ways to under spend this year’s budget to make up the difference. “More importantly is what the budget looks like for next year. It’s pretty dismal.”

The budget currently reflects an estimated \$2.7 million budget shortfall for the 2014-15 year. Because many factors—including what “best practices” money may be available from the state, student enrollment and financial implications of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act— are unknown, it is difficult to predict next year’s budget.

“Right now the budget shows us using \$2.7 million in fund equity, which, clearly, cannot happen,” Lieske said.

District officials and the Board’s Finance Committee will continue to closely monitor the projected budget.

“Hopefully we will have new information as we get closer (to the 2014-15 budget),” Lieske said. “It’s good to know that if nothing else changes that this is what is at the end of the tunnel for us. We’ve definitely got some work to do.”



Leading the Pledge

National Honor Society students from Davison High School led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. The students were accompanied by teacher and NHS sponsors Mrs. Tammy Heavner and Mr. Wayne Desjarlais and Principal Matt Shanafelt. NHS inducted 36 new members into the club this school year.