

Board Briefs



District earns “clean audit”

For the 12th 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 of Yeo & Yeo CPAs and Business Consultants conducted the audit and shared his findings at Monday night’s Board of Education meeting. Auditors annually assess the District’s financial risk and test internal controls.

Frawley found that the District’s financial statements were fairly presented and no accounting records needed adjustment. His company focuses on key controls including disbursements, payroll and receipts (PaySchools, Athletics, Food Services and DCER).

Frawley noted that the district did dip into its fund equity to the tune of \$1.8 million—or 20 percent—for the 2011-12 school year.

“One reason for that is the large reduction in federal revenues,” Frawley said, referring to dissipating funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and EduJobs. “Basically these have been used for back filling (to make up for shrinking) state aid. Federal funding is now back to 2008 levels.”

Expenditures were also up to the tune of \$1.5 million in the areas of instruction and instructional support.

“But that is putting money right back where it should be—in the classrooms,” Frawley said. “the whole budget process is an ongoing thing—always anticipating what the state is doing and what is coming. I think you did a very good job this year.”

Frawley said dipping into reserves was planned for and intentional, as the district had been preparing for a “funding cliff.”

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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:

- **The Safari Club International** donated \$1,000 to the Hahn Fishing and Outdoor Club to help students connect and develop an appreciation and respect for nature.
- Davison resident **Andrea Baxter** donated books, art supplies, classroom materials, toys, CDs, pillows, decorations, dolls and a radio to the Cardinal’s Nest.
- Davison parent **Shawn Mawhinney** donated office supplies, children’s books and videos to Thomson Elementary.
- **Laurel and Donald Miller** from Westerville, Ohio, donated \$100 to the high school wrestling team in memory and honor of Chase Metcalf.

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

GenNET pioneer and Hahn teacher makes presentation

As part of the Genesee Intermediate School District's GenNET Pioneers program last school year, Hahn Intermediate Teacher **Theresa Jones** was allowed to borrow an iPad for five months to explore ways she could use it in the classroom.

"For those of us who haven't had one before, it was quite exciting," Jones told Board of Education members Monday night.

Jones took advantage of the time she had with the new technology and soon discovered it offered benefits such as immediate feedback. Students could Google questions immediately and she could make adaptations to lessons quickly. Jones said the iPad also helped her to monitor student understanding and find gaps as well as allowed students to take advantage of the interactive lessons offered by student textbook publishers online.

With the iPads purchased by the district this year, Jones said her students are preparing to make short videos to go along with an anti-bullying script they will be writing next week. The District purchased mobile iPad labs for every school building this school year with the exception of Davison Alternative Education where students there are using Google Chromebooks.

"I think there is so much potential with this new technology," said Trustee **Doug Theodoroff**. "It was exciting to hear about these in the curriculum committee meetings. Our children are so much more technology advanced than most of us and this offers our teachers so much."

Board views updated Cardinal Code videos

An anti-bullying component has been added to new Cardinal Code videos produced by DTV. The videos are shown to all students throughout the year to help remind kids how to follow the Cardinal Code.

This year, DTV produced a new video just for fifth and sixth grade. In the past, only two had been offered: one for grades K-6 and one for grades 7-12.

"When we first started the PBS (Positive Behavior Support) initiative several years ago, we didn't have a clue as to where we were going to go with this," said **Donna Whitley**, Executive Director of Student Services. "I think it is just absolutely fabulous that, now, according to our parent satisfaction surveys, 97 percent of our kids and families know what the Cardinal Code is."

The Cardinal Code videos are online and can be viewed by clicking the links below:

Grades K-4 Cardinal Code Video: <http://www.mhsaa.tv/davison/events/38672>

Grades 5-6 Cardinal Code Video: <http://www.mhsaa.tv/davison/events/38673>

Grades 7-12 Cardinal Code Video: <http://www.mhsaa.tv/davison/events/38674>



Leading the Pledge

Members of the Davison High School Varsity Football Team led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance at Monday night's Board of Education meeting.

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“We are still down \$300-plus a student in state aid due to state cuts so this funding cliff is not over,” said Superintendent **Eric Lieske**. “It will continue to be a challenge as I don’t see the per pupil foundation getting increased anytime soon. Instead, it looks like it will be more of the same with the state dangling a carrot in front of us and schools trying to figure out how to get the carrot. It is a difficult way to budget but we are fortunate that we have qualified for some of the student achievement incentive dollars because of the high performance of our kids under the guidance of a high performing staff and principals.”

Lieske 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.

“This is one of the reasons why this is such a good school district,” said Trustee **Doug Theodoroff**. “We deliver great instruction but our fiscal house is also in good order.”