

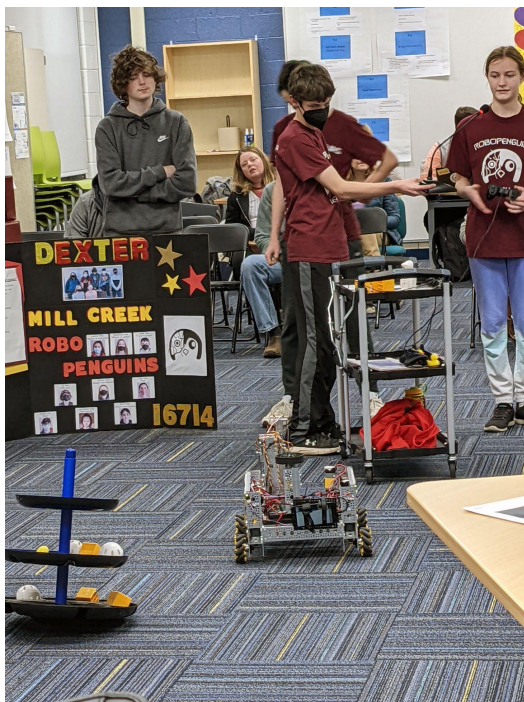


SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

Mill Creek Robotics Team

The Dexter Board of Education was treated to a demonstration by the Mill Creek Robotics Team at their April 11th meeting. The “RoboPenguins” designed, built, and programmed a robot that picks up and drops blocks onto different platforms of a three-tiered, non-stable structure. Using MTC coding software, a block coding version of Java (similar to Scratch), 7th and 8th grade team members explained that they had used trial and error to program their robot to perform the desired functions. The RoboPenguins received build rules in September 2021, and worked until competition in December to create their end product.

Trustees were impressed with the demonstration, asking several pertinent questions about the build process and thanking students for sharing the results of their hard work.



Potential Recreation Millage to Fund Senior Activities and Youth/Adult Recreation

Superintendent Chris Timmis presented information about a possible recreation millage for the Dexter community (presentation can be found on the DCS website [here](#)). Dr. Timmis explained what is a recreation millage and highlighted nearby areas that currently have a millage funding seniors and community recreation (Saline, Lincoln Consolidated, etc.). Detailing how recreation activities are currently funded in Dexter, he shared that the Senior Center has been housed for

the last 25 years at Copeland and their revenue is primarily fundraised and donated (80%). When DCS sold Copeland, the District promised to help the Senior Center find a permanent housing solution. The DCS Community Education department provides fee-based recreation and programming to the Dexter community (which covers 84 square miles), but has limitations and has recently required increased supplemental funding. The DHS Center for the Performing Arts, pools, fields, playgrounds, and courts are operated with the District's per-pupil foundation allowance and are available for community use.

Data from recent community surveys by groups including the Senior Center, Dexter Community Fund, and DCS have shown residents are interested in helping the seniors who have helped build our community. Dexter Schools, as the primary connection for the surrounding townships, is the only entity in the community that can help seniors. These surveys have asked what residents feel the community needs, and three focus areas are consistent: supporting seniors, a community center and supporting community recreation.

The proposal is for the Board of Education to approve adding a recreation millage to an upcoming ballot. This millage can be for no more than 1.0 mill for 20 years; 1.0 mill would generate approximately \$1.4 million in the first year. These funds could be used for:

1. Stable funding for Dexter senior activities and location in a DCS facility (approximately \$300,000 per year)
2. Elimination of participation fees for MC/DHS athletics through millage support of facilities and maintenance to offset cost of operating athletics (approximately \$200,000 per year)
3. Support for youth and adult enrichment through a funded Community Recreation Program (approximately \$500,000 per year), including Fine Arts (Art, Music, Drama), Youth Enrichment and Recreation, & Adult Enrichment and Recreation
4. Support for a potential future DCS Community Center (approximately \$400,000 per year) open to the DCS community during the day and in the evening

This item will be on the April 25th agenda for more in-depth discussion. Timmis noted that if the proposal was included on the August ballot and passed, the first tax dollars could be collected in January 2023.

FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A DHS parent gave kudos to the middle school robotics team and expressed concern that DCS will be in session on Good Friday (April 15), but not on the following Friday (April 22).

Another DCS parent stated that her student will not attend school on Good Friday.

ADMINISTRATIVE & BOARD UPDATES**Superintendent Update**

Dr. Timmis shared that a series of construction projects will be up for approval at the April 25th board meeting including asphalt, a large bid for mechanical equipment, and toilet installation at the Twin Turf fields. This week is state testing week, and federal law mandates students cannot opt out of this testing. In late April or early May, the District will present a summer math/reading program proposal and request for funding. A district-wide social worker was recently hired after a lengthy search.

As a clarification following public comments, Timmis noted that the District cannot legally hold school on July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving & the following Friday, Christmas, New Year's Day or Memorial Day. These laws have been in effect for at least 20 years. Good Friday used to be a paid day off in the collective bargaining agreement, but that day off was negotiated to be changed to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day a few years ago.

Board President Update

No report at this time.

Student Representatives Update

Student Representative Aidan Naughton had no report at this time. Griffin Patel reported that standardized testing is taking place this week and spring sports are underway.

CONSENT ITEMS

The evening's consent items were approved in bulk, including two resignations (Anand Patel, DHS & Elizabeth Kur, DHS) and two requests for leave (Jessica Elkins, Anchor & Becca Lange, Creekside).

ACTION ITEMS

No action items were presented at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Before beginning discussion of the proposed recreation millage, Trustee Jennifer Kangas asked for clarification about whether students who missed school during a state testing day are required to make up the test. Dr. Timmis responded that the District is required by law to test 95% of the student body, so they make every attempt to get students in buildings for testing days, but there are no make-up days. Per the Michigan Department of Education there is no opt out available to students.

Potential Recreation Millage Discussion

Dr. Timmis shared a brief presentation regarding a proposal for a potential recreation millage to fund senior citizen and community recreational activities. The Board had the opportunity to ask questions and comment.

There were questions whether increased community education/recreation programs might impact day-to-day school operations. Timmis explained that the current policy for building and field usage is that school-related activities tied to academics are the first priority, then District athletics, Community Education, and rentals. He also commented that young, developmental athletes should have the opportunity to try out a sport without having to pay substantial fees or travel outside our community to another facility.

There was discussion about how much the Dexter community has grown over the years. There is need for space around the campus for community band/orchestra rehearsals, robotics teams, drama productions, etc. and the District has been purposeful in using construction bond money to expand existing facilities to accommodate multiple groups. A millage would help formalize the scheduling process, and make it sustainable on an appropriate scale.

Further discussion will occur on this topic at the April 25th BOE meeting, and will come up for action at the May 2nd meeting. The deadline for the Board to include a proposal on the August 2022 ballot is May 9th.

SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A DHS parent asked the Board to discuss student academic outcomes at a future meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board President Mara Greatorex shared that the Educational Foundation of Dexter is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, April 12 to approve spring grants after a successful spring auction.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. [Board Bulletin \(March 21\)](#) - pp. 17-19

After sharing the Information Items, the Board moved into closed session for the Superintendent's Quarterly Evaluation.

CALENDAR

April 25 – Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. - Bates

May 2 – Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. - Bates