



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

Board considers changes to athletics policy

Amendments allow ninth-grade students to play at all high school levels

Ninth-grade athletes may soon have the opportunity to try their skills at all high school levels under a policy revision being considered by the Board of Education.

District high school athletics supervisor Tim Best said in the past students could not participate on a high school team if the sport was offered at the junior high level. The only exception was if the student was considered a “rare and exceptional athlete” who could play at the varsity level.

Best said the policy revision brings the district more in line with state practices. The tweak allows skilled athletes to play at any level at the high school.

In considering the changes, Dr. Dan Linford, district director of high schools, said the committee made up of junior high and high school coaches and administrators, recognized the importance of the impact on academics.

“We created a robust philosophy statement that really sets out the principles that we plan to follow in developing a strong athletic program at the junior high and high school,” he said. “And really it sets the stage for ... this idea of a collaboration between the junior high and the high school. Ultimately this shift in policy is about student choice.”

Linford said the policy outlines regulations that ensure a student only tries out for teams at the high school to which they would normally be assigned. Other parts of the

policy address concerns about recruiting, make the student’s guardian responsible for transportation to the high school and limits the time the junior high student is released from school for practices or games.

“If this is a family decision, if this is something that’s good for your student, we’re going to ask you to make sure that they’re not missing any school, to limit that to only one period maximum for home games and the least amount of time as possible for the away games,” Linford said.

Board member Tamara Lowe said part of that col-

laboration between the junior high and high school should include placing the student athlete in an elective course during that last period

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— High School Director Dr. Dan Linford

of the day.

The board gave preliminary approval to the policy. In other business:

- District Student Services Director Brad Christensen spoke about the variance process used by the district. He said parents can apply digitally through their MyDSD account beginning Dec. 1 and ending on the third Friday in February. Student Services assists those who do not have an account.

Most schools in the district are “closed” to open enrollment because they are above capacity. However, board rule allows up to 1.5 percent in variances at each

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Recognition program includes marking milestones, birthday wishes

Davis School District wants employees to know they are appreciated for the work they do every day.

Davis Education Foundation Director Jodi Lunt said it is with that thought in mind that the district is implementing new ways to recognize employees’ great work.

“Our goal is to foster a culture where appreciation and recognition are obvious,” Lunt said.

Lunt said Davis School District is successful because it employs great people. Those great people range from the head secretary to the bus driver to the cabinet maker to the teacher.

Showing appreciation can be done in myriad ways. Already, the district has implemented a program where every employee receives a birthday wish in their e-mail.

Another part of the program is

delivery of a treat and thanks during periodic visits from board members and district staff.

Still in the planning stages are a peer-to-peer recognition program, revamped top employees award night and milestone acknowledgement.

“It’s important to let employees know there are lot of people who appreciate what they do,” said Board President John Robison.

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school. Christensen said they also try to accommodate the maximum number of requests in secondary schools by utilizing one-for-one exchanges. For example, if a student from Viewmont High gets a variance to Davis High, that leaves an open slot at Viewmont High.

Christensen said variances are granted through a random drawing process. A variance cannot be rejected based on grades, attendance or any other factors other than safe school violations.

If a variance is not granted, there is still an appeals process. Christensen said every appeal is considered.

“Ultimately we want to do what’s good for individual students,” Christensen said.

- The board approved \$246,507 for the district’s share of road, curb and gutter in a West Point development. Business Administrator Craig Carter said the improvements are near a site for a future junior high.

- The board gave final approval to changes to a policy on student sexual harassment. District Legal Counsel Ben Onofrio said the policy came up for a five-year review and clarifications were made. Clarifications included identifying that male students can be victims and that conduct outside of school hours can still be punishable if it disrupts the educational environment.

- Superintendent Reid Newey updated the board on steps staff have taken to address Farmington High transportation concerns raised by the public. An activity bus will be provided Monday through Thursday for students who participate in after-school events. Concerns about the impact of a late start on traffic in the area will also be studied once the school year begins.

Board honors speech winners



Taj Thompson



Beatrice Etter



Mykelle Williams



Luke Kempe

Top winners of the Martin Luther King Jr. Speech Contest were invited to recite their passages for the Board of Education.

The competition canvassed the entire district giving students the opportunity to reflect on the legacy of Dr. King and use his words to inspire them to make a positive difference.

Students were asked to memorize and present a 1- to 3-minute excerpt. School winners then competed at the district level.

The winners are as follows:

K-2: First, Taj Thompson, Buffalo Point Elementary; Second, Nikki Hunt, Mountain View Elementary; Third, Kenny Romney, Bountiful

Elementary.

3-4: First, Beatrice Etter, Endeavour Elementary; Second, Coleman Hall, Mountain View Elementary; Third, Bode Buys, Odyssey Elementary.

5-6: First, Mallory Whitaker, Mountain View Elementary; Second, Lily Toone, Antelope Elementary; Third, Detmer Steffensen, Heritage Elementary.

Junior High: First, Mykelle Williams, South Davis Junior; Second, Jeremy Funk, Centennial Junior, Third Conner Hibbert, North Layton Junior.

High School: First, Luke Kempe, Bountiful High; and Second, Richelle Gorringer, Northridge High.