



# BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

## Board adopts recommended high school boundaries

### Farmington High principal prepares for new educational experience

The Board of Education gave unanimous final approval to high school boundaries for six of the district's high schools Tuesday.

Bountiful, Davis, Layton, Viewmont and Woods Cross boundaries were studied and adjusted to prepare for the opening of Farmington High School in 2018.

Dr. Darrell White, the boundary consultant hired by the board, said the boundary study was a quite lengthy process — nearly a full year — which included several opportunities for public input.

“That process had multiple steps over a period of 11 months. And (it) ended on Dec. 5. Well guess what, we're there. We have arrived at Dec. 5. And we began and end with the same three goals.”

Those goals, he said, were to open a new high school with sufficient enrollment, keep other high schools at viable enrollments and reduce enrollments at Layton and Davis high schools which are way above capacity.

“Those were lofty goals, but they were also goals that were absolutely necessary because of the extensive enrollment growth which Davis District has sustained over the past several years.”

White said some feedback was received after the board took its first vote on the boundaries on Nov. 21. That feedback was reviewed and considered. White also said the boundary study group recognizes there are still concerns. He respects those concerns, but said he found no compelling reason to make any changes to the recommendation.

“You will have nine great high schools in this district. And not many districts can say that,” White said. “And that's one of the saving graces when you are in the position that you are — asking people to change from one high school to another in the school district. ... We encourage those people who are being inconvenienced to make the adjustments, to work with the board with any further concerns they may have to make this work and to make those high schools great.

“The only way they will continue to be great is with the positive attitude of parents and students and certainly the board members, district staff, teachers and others,” he added

In voting for the boundaries, board member Julie Tanner and Board Vice President Mona Andrus recommended that staff look into the costs of activity buses and the amount of time special education students spend on the bus, as well as schedule changes to lessen the impact of the long commute some students will make to Farmington High. Additionally, they asked the district to continue the conversation with Kaysville and Farmington cities regarding road improvements.

During board workshop, Farmington High Principal Rich Swanson also gave an update on preparing to open the new high school. The school's philosophy is based on four pillars of success — personalized learning, blended instruction, competency-based learning and project-infused

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## Board adopts calendar for 2018-19 school year

The Board of Education adopted the 2018-19 school year calendar Tuesday during its regular meeting.

Elementary School Director Helene Van Natter said the traditional nine-month calendar includes a start date of Wednesday, Aug. 22 and end date of Friday, May 31. The draft calendar also schedules a winter recess from Dec. 21 through Jan. 2 and week-long spring break from April 1-5.

“It was posted online and we

opened it up for people to email their comments. We've received 449 comments ... with input ranging from later start time to earlier start time to later start date to later ending date, a variance of longer or shorter breaks and moving around professional days.”

Van Natter said each recommendation was looked at. The committee considered the impact of term lengths and days required by the state.

“To meet a variety of interests and needs, we would still propose that

you approve the calendar we put before you,” she said.

The calendar also includes professional development day for teachers on Sept. 17. State board rule allows up to four regular school days to be used as professional development days. The district is using one of those. Van Natter said some teachers suggested that day be placed the day after Halloween, but it made terms really uneven.

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curriculum.

“As we move this school into the 21st Century, we plan to have a different look to what education looks like,” Swanson said.

With the boundaries set, Swanson said he will begin to involve parents and students in giving input for what that looks like in the programs offered at the school.

With the new approach to education, there will be a learning process for faculty and students, Swanson said. Technology will be blended into every course, textbooks will be accessible 24/7, and students will have opportunities to move forward once they have established competency in a subject.

Project-based learning will include access to computer programming courses and a pharmacy pathway, as well as a state-of-the-art composites lab. Through a partnership with Weber State, every sophomore at the school also will have the opportunity to take a concurrent enrollment course in digital literacy for college credit.

“I can tell you that the science department chair we have hired is leaving his professorship at the University of Utah because he says we have the premiere bird refuge in the entire world at Farmington Bay and he says I cannot wait to be here.”

Whether a student is taking a majority of their courses online or at the school, Swanson said every student will have a faculty mentor who tracks their progress and helps them be successful.

Board member Brigit Gerrard asked about the no attendance reference on the pamphlet each member received. Swanson said it actually sounds more exciting than the reality. Teachers at Farmington High will not conduct a daily roll call attendance because each student will have a badge which automatically records their attendance when they enter the classroom.

The actual construction of the high school is on time. Swanson said 50 percent of the classroom spaces are complete, the track is laid, turf is going in and work is moving forward at a good pace.



Members of the Legacy Junior High Madrigals pose with Board Vice President Mona Andrus, choir director Derek Furch and Superintendent Reid Newey. The choir performed at the beginning of the meeting.

## Bus compound improvements, drone policy among Board considerations

Improvements to the bus compound in Farmington will take place in two phases, Business Administrator Craig Carter told the board Tuesday.

The district was hoping to build a covered bus compound and small maintenance facility, but the bids came back higher than expected — about \$12 million. Carter said the critical needs were analyzed and the project was narrowed to include canopies for the buses and solar panels on the canopies, as well as a redesign of the lot so the buses will face east. The solar energy generated will power nearby Farmington High.

The Guaranteed Maximum Price from Hogan & Associates is \$6.5 million. Carter said \$2.5 million of that cost will be taken out of the capital budget for the solar panels.

In other business, the board:

- Considered a policy on drone use at schools. District Legal Counsel Ben Onofrio said Davis will be the first district in the state to consider a policy for instructional use drones. The policy requires prior permission for use of a drone and stipulates that each drone must be covered by an additional insurance policy. The policy also outlines regulations for when and where a drone can operate. The Board will consider final approval of the policy during its next meeting on Jan. 16.

- Approved changes to the school board meeting policy. Many of the changes clarify regulations for the public comment periods.

- Heard a report on Davis Community Learning Center, located at Wasatch Elementary.

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“If we did it before school, teachers would be focused on setting up their room, if we put it at the end of the first term next to a professional day, again we’re focused on report cards and upcoming parent conferences,” she said.

She added that a lot of consideration went into getting the insertive day scheduled early in the school year, but not too early.

On the year-round calendar, which currently is only for Sand Springs Elementary, two professional development days were scheduled. That calendar begins July 25 and ends June 28.

Test dates and parent teacher conferences will be added to the calendar in the spring. The calendars are currently available on the district website at [davis.k12.ut.us](http://davis.k12.ut.us).