



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

Board considers junior high requirements

Changes to State Board Rule allows for more wiggle room with electives

Students entering junior high may have a little more wiggle room when it comes to electives.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Logan Toone said the State Board has finalized changes to junior high educational requirements. The changes require students to take just one course in health education, college and career awareness, digital literacy, arts and physical education in grades 7 or 8. Previously students were required to take two courses of arts and physical education (one each year).

Currently, Toone said, it is proposed that district requirements mirror the new state board rule. The district must adopt requirements that are equal to or higher than the state's regulations.

The proposed policy also outlines a school-level and district-level appeals process. District Comprehensive Counseling Director Casey Layton said counselors have in the past and will continue to work with students in creating reasonable course substitutions.

Board President John Robison said the requirements serve a good purpose. The variety built into the requirements exposes students to courses they may not have considered otherwise. He suggested the district look at the data in a year or two to see how the change in regulations affects the courses students are taking.

Board member Liz Mumford suggested getting feedback from teachers and counselors before regulating or adapting too much. Her concern, she said, is the impact on

staffing if class sizes drop in some of the courses previously required.

"Our schools are currently staffed to meet the requirements, ..." Toone said. "If students take fewer arts courses and fewer PE courses then potentially fewer students will be enrolled. ... I think that we need to recognize the teacher's power in growing the program and in igniting passion in kids and that is going to be a responsibility that becomes more prevalent."

Another change to state board rule allows students to request modification to a low grade listed on their transcript. In order to qualify for that change, Toone said, the state rule requires them to retake the course from an accredited institution and declare in advance their intent to replace that grade. The transcript also cannot identify the new grade as being a retake.

"We also have the opportunity to determine what a comparable course is based on standards alignment, rigor and the agency," Toone said.

The curriculum director would be directed to maintain a list of those make-up courses that would be eligible for grade replacement consideration.

Currently schools are operating under the state board rule and few students are currently seeking that option. However, as it becomes more well known, Toone said it is expected that more may utilize it.

Toone said the board needs to consider putting the district's policy on a future agenda for further discussion.

District continues to adapt measures to keep students safe

School safety questions are at the forefront following the mass killing

in Parkland, Fla. With that in mind, Superintendent Reid Newey gave an update of the district's plans to the Board of Education.

"Safety is an ever-changing obstacle," Superintendent Reid Newey said. "Every individual in here thinks about this everyday."

As the district moves forward,

Newey said, school safety will be approached from four perspectives:

- Physical structures and pro-

cedures.

- Standard Response Protocol (SRP)
- Collaboration with law enforcement, and

- Responsive services.

Regarding physical structures,

Newey said the district is seeking to "harden our targets" as much as possible. That includes locking outside doors at all schools other than the main entrance.

Additionally, schools are being retrofitted with secure or reroute vestibules. Implementation of those security measures are somewhat lim-

"What that signifies is people are watching. They are seeing things."

— Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen

See SAFETY, Pg. 2

Board honors



The Board of Education recognizes Brandon Ripplinger, pictured above, who coached the 5A state championship wrestling team.

Right: Brooklyn, center, performed a dance number at the beginning of the Board of Education meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.



Board approves Viewmont High gym

Students at Viewmont High will have to pardon the dust a little longer than expected.

The Board of Education approved a complete remodel of the high school's gym at the cost of \$799,891. Business administrator Craig Carter said the gym was cut out of the original renovation plans due to cost, but some unused contingency is making it a possibility.

The remodel will now include taking out the gym ceiling, replacing the lighting and replacing the floor. It will also mean completion of the project will be delayed until September.

In other business, the Board approved:

- A new boiler for Central Davis Junior High at a cost of \$337,805;
- A request from the Farmington Junior High jazz band to play at the Mid-winter clinic if their application is approved. The request required special Board approval.
- Technical changes to a policy that outlines remediation and make-up credits for secondary schools.

Additionally, the Board reviewed a draft of secondary school fees.

SAFETY, from Pg. 1

ited by costs and the labor to make those changes.

Junior highs and high schools are a challenge with multiple parking lots requiring multiple entry and exit points.

Recently, the district implemented a new check-in/check-out system where all visitors must use their MyDSD login. If a visitor, including the well-known PTA president, forgets their login, there are requirements for them to recover that password including producing a photo ID.

Newey said the district is currently receiving bids for a video management system that would be centrally located and monitored. Many district schools have security cameras and others are getting them soon. This system would tie them all together.

Each school is practicing the

SRP with lockout, lockdown and shelter in place drills. Along with that, the district collaborates with all law enforcement entities in the county. Those agencies are practicing active shooter drills in school buildings to familiarize themselves with the layouts in each school. Additionally, it helps schools becoming familiar with the expectations law enforcement has of them in the event of a lockdown.

One of the most proactive components of the district's protocol is the responsive services, which includes case management and early identification of problems. Additionally, wide use of the SafeUT app allows anonymous tips from students, parents and teachers.

Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen said each time there is a school shooting, the number of reports

of possible incidents in the district increases. He explained that part of that is due to heightened awareness so more tips are received.

"What that signifies is people are watching. They are seeing things.

"... Because they aren't reported, let us not delude ourselves and believe they are not there," Zurbuchen said.

Newey said one thing that has not changed is the initial proceedings with a lockdown — locks, lights, out of sight. Teachers, administrators and students are also being trained to create barriers and be prepared to fight or take flight.

"One of the things that has evolved is what to do to engage our staff and our students when there is an active shooter," Newey said.