



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

Boundary consultant presents junior high proposal New school in west Layton impacts boundaries of three junior highs

The Board of Education took a look at proposed boundaries for Junior High No. 17 Tuesday during the workshop meeting.

Dr. Darrell White, the independent boundary consultant, said to draw the preliminary boundaries he considered the board's goals as well as the priorities received during a public survey. He also drove the neighborhoods and considered data indicating where students live.

The goals, he said, include:

- Opening the new junior high with 1,000 students

- Reducing enrollment at Farmington, Centennial and Legacy Junior High schools due to overcrowding, and;

- Balancing enrollment (to the extent possible) at junior high schools in the area.

White said Legacy and Centennial are the two largest junior high schools and are overcrowded by about 600 students. Farmington Junior High is over capacity by about 200 students. Prior to drawing the preliminary

boundaries, he met with city officials in those areas to also look at growth. The big surprise, he said, was how much more growth is coming to Layton on that west side.

“When we met with Layton City ... we were a little surprised ... that there was more growth than we originally anticipated and that it might be happening just a little bit faster.”

The proposal takes one area of Farmington to Centennial Junior High. Those students currently feed into Farmington junior high from Endeavour Elementary. The proposal brings that feeder pattern to 100 percent for

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— Dr. Darrell White

Centennial Junior High.

The proposed changes also create a better balance for other feeder patterns. White said Centennial Junior High becomes a 100 percent feeder to Farmington High School. Legacy's feeder pattern changes to 44 percent to Layton High and 56 percent to Clearfield High. The new junior high will be about 50 percent each to Layton and

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Policy changes address student travel, sports eligibility

Two policy changes will come before the board for consideration during its Sept. 4 meeting.

District Legal Counsel Ben Onofrio reviewed the policy changes with the board during a workshop.

Onofrio explained that the proposed change to the extended travel policy is to accommodate ninth grade teams that do not have a state competition. Currently, the policy allows travel only for junior high teams or groups that win at the state competition level. Groups, such as a band, do not have a state competition. The discrepancy came to light recently when a Farmington Junior High band was

invited to play at a national competition, but was denied travel because it did not meet the policy requirements.

“The thing to note is the change is minimal,” Superintendent Reid Newey said. “There is no change in the process. We expect the director to evaluate the request that has already been evaluated by the principal and the building administration.”

Board member Liz Mumford said the new language does what the board asked, it still specifies that the group must qualify in some way to be considered for extended travel.

The other policy change addresses ninth-grade participation in high school athletics. Onofrio said the proposed change is specifically for immersion students, but could include

other academic magnet programs in the future.

“This is kind of specific to immersion programs today,” Board President John Robison said. “But it’s written in manner that if we have other academic programs come, we would treat them the same.”

The revision indicates that ninth-grade student athletes can try out for and participate on a high school team if they would be assigned to that school because of an academic program feeder pattern. To be considered, the student must have enrolled in that academic program by the third grade and participate uninterrupted up to the ninth grade.

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Davis High.

The projected enrollments are 1,149 at Legacy Junior High, 973 at No. 17, 1,009 at Centennial Junior High and 1,145 at Farmington Junior High.

“The new school will jump to 1,000 in a year after opening,” White said. “There’s no doubt with the growth in that area.”

The next step, White said, will be presenting the proposal on Sept. 12 to Community Councils for the three junior highs. That feedback will be considered as the process moves forward. Open houses for the public are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 3 at Centennial Junior High and Oct. 4 at Legacy Junior High.

More information is available at www.davis.k12.ut.us/district/boundary-study.

The board is still discussing the public hearing date and may vote to change it during its upcoming meeting on Sept. 4.

Board President John Robison said: “My recommendation would be to change it to Oct. 9. The feedback I got from a lot of the folks that came to our public hearing was that it was so close to the final decision that they kind of felt like that it was just kind of going through the motions.”

• In another report:

Assistant Superintendent Logan Toone spoke of the advantages the district is receiving due to its partnership with Microsoft.

Recently the district had the opportunity to send a group of teachers to a Hacking Stem training. Valerie Boyles, who attended the two-week workshop, said teachers came away with a framework for project-based learning as well as a broadened understanding of use of technology in facilitating learning.

In the future, the district will implement junior high classes specifically based on the hacking STEM concept.

“Both of us were sitting in the training thinking ‘Man, we wish we could take this straight into our own classrooms,’” said Annette Foncesbeck.

Board gets update on implementation of district security measures

The district continues to work on ways to increase student safety.

During its workshop meeting Tuesday the board learned of some of the updates that have occurred recently. Superintendent Reid Newey reminded the board that four committees were formed to address physical structures and procedures, Standard Response Protocol, collaboration with law enforcement and responsive services.

Newey said the district recently purchased a video management system. As security cameras were slowly added over the years, they were on different systems. This brings them all under one system that can be monitored from one place.

Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen demonstrated some of the capabilities of the new system and spoke of its ease of use.

“One of our goals, and we’ve said this all along,” Newey said, “the only sure method of prevention and limitation that we have is early detection and to do that we’ve got to get to kids when they are in crisis before they expand the crisis.”

Newey said the district is also getting closer to having secure vestibules added to all elementary schools. Secure entrances are also being added to junior highs.

Another part of the district’s plan is to better prepare district employees as well as students with how to respond in an emergency. Newey said drills are a non-negotiable item for building leaders. The district has set up a drill schedule that indicates the type of drill buildings will practice each month.

“Do you have to practice lockouts and lockdowns?” Zurbuchen asked. “Nothing in law says you have to. We need to be much more prescriptive in what we expect from our schools.”

The district is providing every teacher with the minimum expectations in a drill. That way each student practices and knows what to do in a given situation no matter what classroom they are in or school they are attending.

Additionally, all employees are required to wear identification badges. Check in and check out procedures for students are also more secure and the same districtwide.

Another part of security is preventative measures. Student and Family Resources Director Brad Christensen talked about plans in the works that will help identify students in need early on. He is working with Davis Behavioral Health to get a mental health clinician in every school at some point.

“Not only do we need systems to identify where there is a need, I think we have to back up before then,” Board member Gordon Eckersley said. “I think we have to say every student who shows up needs to feel safe, needs to feel accepted. If we can do that, we will have met the needs of the vast majority of our students.”

Board members asked to receive quarterly updates on the district’s security measures.