



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

Policy changes streamline hiring process for teachers

Other policy changes mirror amendments in state laws

Streamlining the hiring process of teachers means a change in policy, the Board of Education learned during its regular meeting.

With the change, licensed teachers will no longer participate in a screening interview with a member of the Human Resources staff. District Legal Counsel Ben Onofrio said the change allows principals more leeway in hiring teachers. Eliminating that step also allows administrators to move through the process of hiring quality applicants faster.

“It makes us more competitive with other districts in timeliness and how quickly we can get new teachers in,” Onofrio said.

With the new process principals would work with the district to identify hiring needs, the positions would be opened and posted on the district website and then principals would review the candidates and schedule interviews. Once a qualified applicant is identified by the principal, they would request approval from their school director to offer the position to that candidate.

“I like the idea that principals and those who are a little closer to the situation have more of a say in who’s chosen,” Board Member Julie Tanner said.

The amendments to the recruiting policy were among several policies reviewed by the board. The board also approved:

- A change to the attendance and truancy intervention policy mandated by changes in state law. The changes specify that a valid excuse can include mental illness and that educational neglect must be reported to the Division of Child and Family Services.

- An addition to the student conduct and discipline policy that allows a minor to be referred to alternative interventions if they are believed to have committed an offense

on school property even when school is not in session.

- Changes to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy policy that al-

lows districts to share student data with a state agency if a report of educational neglect is being investigated.

- Modifications to the ninth grade participation in high school athletics policy. It allows a student to play sports with the high school they would be assigned based on an academic program feeder pattern, such as immersion.

- A policy change that allows extended travel for junior high students if they qualify at the state level. All travel requests would still be approved by a principal and school director.

- Changes to the policy that outlines employment of relatives. The amendment specifies that a relationship change between a supervisor and employee must be disclosed to Human Resources.

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— Legal Counsel Ben Onofrio

Purchase of homes helps set junior high up for future rebuild

The rebuilding of Sunset Junior High may still be a few years away, but the district is now closer to securing the necessary property to facilitate that move.

The Board of Education of the Davis School District approved the purchase of two homes that jut into the playfields on the east side of the school property. For a rebuild to occur, the district needs that property for the

construction of the new building while school continues in the current building.

District Finance and Accounting Administrator Tim Leffel said the homeowners were approached and are willing to sell. The prices agreed upon were in line with the appraisal. One home was purchased for \$170,000 and the other for \$228,470. The agreement allows the owners to stay in the homes rent free until Jan. 2021 — the anti-

pated date of beginning the rebuild.

In other business:

- The Board approved an agreement with Utah Transit Authority (UTA) to locate three new bus stops in Kaysville and one in Farmington. UTA has agreed to pay the district 75 percent of the property value of the easement. The placement does not interfere with any school activities in that area.

See REBUILD, Pg. 2

REBUILD, from Pg. 1



Top photo: Heather Anderson takes the oath of office as a new student board member. Right: Caden Zesiger is welcomed as a new student board member by Business Administrator Craig Carter.



- An OK was given to the addition of a freezer to the district's Building G5 warehouse. Currently, Leffel said, there are several large freezers at the south end of the building but they are worn out and in need of replacement. Those freezers store USDA commodities and act as an overflow for the district's nutrition services. The old freezers would be kept working until the new freezer is built.

- Two student board members took the oath of office for the 2018-19 school year. Caden Zesiger from Viewmont High School and Heather Anderson of Clearfield High School were sworn in to office by Business Administrator Craig Carter.

- A change of date for the Nov. 6 board meeting was approved. Board President John Robison said to avoid a conflict with election day, the meeting will be held Nov. 7.