



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

Board votes to close Washington Elementary

Students will attend five other schools in Bountiful area in 2019-20

Students at Washington Elementary will attend five other schools following the 2018-19 school year. However, they will not be forgotten, board members promised.

The Board of Education of the Davis School District voted unanimously Tuesday to consolidate the boundaries of six Bountiful-area schools and to close Washington Elementary. Declining enrollment and the age of the building led to the decision.

Board Vice President Liz Mumford said her husband attended Washington Elementary. It's a wonderful neighborhood and a wonderful school.

"You have my word, we will make sure that the students from Washington Elementary will make a smooth transition to their new schools." Mumford said. "And that they get access to the resources that they need."

Board Member Cheryl Phipps said some of the consideration of the consolidation occurred before she took her seat on the board. In recent weeks she has visited the school, drove the boundaries of the other schools, read every email and considered what was said during the public hearing. She said she also looked at how the students have done on testing.

"I was very impressed to see last year it received a B grade," Phipps said. "It's certainly not we're closing a school because it's a school that's not a strong school. I think it's a big tribute to the faculty and the parents and the

students that are at that school."

"I have a very tender place in my heart for students at risk. In the end, the better hope for the children of Washington Elementary is to go ahead and bring them together with some other students."

Prior to the vote, Washington Elementary advocates encouraged the board to be mindful of the use of Title I funds that previously helped fund programs at the school. Mitch Davis, Community Council President, spoke of the food disparity that exists at the school. Many students at the school, he said, rely on the summer lunch program.

"When I lay awake in bed at night I think of those kids and my kids that go to that school. The only lunch they get is from the school. I know it's a societal issue and there are other resources the parents need to tap into ... I would ask for funding to fund the summer lunch program at Washington Elementary until the transition can be made for these children."

Superintendent Reid Newey acknowledged that closing a school is a difficult process. He said the closure of the school and the concerns expressed by the community will be handled with urgency.

"We care about every student we serve, every family we serve and we always will," he said. "It's our life mission. It's our goal for students to succeed."

Summer school and summer lunch will continue at Washington Elementary this summer to make the transition easier.

Bats, bonds and boundary consultant among Board approvals

Brazilian free-tailed bats continue to cause problems in a few Davis School District schools.

Business Administrator Craig Carter said the bats moved out of Layton High School after mitigation occurred there. But now they have taken up residence at Davis High School.

Hogan and Associates bid \$346,051 to seal up the small holes in the school's envelope that allows the bats to enter the building. Carter said the work will be completed before the



Bountiful High student Emmalyn Pykles was honored by the Board for her selection to the U.S. Senate Youth Program. Pictured from left: Supt. Reid Newey, Board VP Liz Mumford, Pykles, her parents, Principal Aaron Hogge, assistant principal Sue Baylis and Admin. Intern Lisa Day.

bats migrate into the area in the spring.

In other business, the board approved:

- An amendment to the employee discipline and dismissal policy to better reflect current practice.
- A resolution to authorize issuance of no more than \$55 million in bonds for continued building projects.
- Employment of boundary consultant Dr. Darrel White for the boundary study of a new elementary school to be built in the Dibble Farms area in Layton.