



# BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

## Transportation appeals board gets favorable comment

### Parents, law enforcement, UDOT representatives may serve on board

The Board of Education of the Davis School District discussed creating a transportation safety committee to address concerns from the public regarding bus and safe walking routes.

Currently, the board serves as the appeals committee for transportation concerns if patrons are unable to resolve the issue at the local school level.

During a workshop presentation, Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen presented a plan for a transportation safety committee that would address issues as needed, while remaining in compliance with state code. He suggested the committee configuration include PTA members, Davis County representatives, law enforcement, UDOT engineers, teachers and parents.

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said Zurbuchen. “The board could meet to provide transportation implementation plans, review any potential problem areas, and determine traffic patterns we see over the summer.”

Board members unanimously favored the suggestion for a transportation safety committee, especially so public concerns could be addressed in a timely manner,

without having to wait for a standing board meeting.

“I think good things could really come of it by anticipating things ahead of time,” said Board Member

Julie Tanner. “Anything we can do to communicate with parents, teachers and schools long before changes are made is always a good thing.”

Board President John Robison also favored the plan saying, “I think having UDOT on the committee would really give us a different set of eyes to give us information we may not be aware of.”

## Board discusses merits of hiring independent auditor

Board of Education members weighed the possibility of hiring a board-appointed auditor to focus on hotline complaints, board member concerns and risk management issues.

While some board members suggested a board-appointed auditor would be advantageous for the district, others suggested the money would be better used elsewhere in the district.

“We could hire nine family service workers, three part-time counselors in elementary schools, two part-time integrational therapists, or two nurses with the same amount of funds used for a board-appointed internal auditor,” said Board President John Robison. “I don’t say that because I don’t think auditing is important, because it is important, but I think we can spend

the money in an area that would be more beneficial to students.”

Robison also pointed out that amongst the 41 school districts in the state, his understanding is 39 do not have a board-appointed internal auditor. Many districts opt to contract for board-related auditing projects.

According to Business Administrator Craig Carter, the Utah State Board of Education regularly conducts audits in Davis School District, in addition to the work done by Davis School District’s internal auditor.

“The state office felt they didn’t have the resources to accommodate for all of the school districts, but they are in our district a lot, auditing various programs,” said Carter.

Some board members worried about the high cost of hiring contract

auditors.

“With a district as large as ours, it’s important it is done right,” said Board Member Julie Tanner. “A full-time auditor gains familiarity with the systems for them to be more efficient.”

The issue may be discussed further during a future meeting.

In other business, the board reviewed the budget for the 2019 fiscal year. Highlights include anticipated revenues of \$525.6 million and new revenues have increased by \$9 million. The district’s focus for the budget is to meet the district’s strategic plan key indicators of maintaining class sizes, hiring new teachers and addressing classroom size bulges.

[Review the district’s budget, here.](#)

## Board holds off on extension of Farmington RDA

The Board of Education postponed support for a two-year extension of the Farmington Station RDA.

The extension was requested by the city in hopes of building a 5,000-seat arena. The arena would be considered by the Utah Jazz G League team for a future home base.

Farmington City leaders pointed out that the proposed building could host graduation ceremonies and other district events.

At a special board meeting held to further discuss the issue, board members expressed increasing concern with the rush on the issue. Business Administrator Craig Carter said the push is due to certified tax rates being set on June 8. The city wanted to have the extension in place prior to that date.

During the earlier workshop, board members said they worried about parking and traffic issues with such a large arena. Farmington City leaders noted there is enough parking that currently exists within Station Park, the Front Runner station, and the nearby University of Utah medical

center, with the option for many to take mass transit.

The city indicated that even if the Utah Jazz selects another location for their G League team, the arena may still be built. If no arena was built by May 30, 2020, the RDA extension would expire.

Several board members said Layton is also attempting to attract the G League team to locate in that city.

Board President John Robison said: "It still feels like it's fast forwarding. ... I think we are very fortunate to have had the success of Station Park. We have always worked well with cities. But there has to be a strong sense of comfort in any deal that we make. ... It seems like there are some unknowns."

The board agreed to continue to look at the proposal. The Taxing Entity Committee (TEC) representatives said they would represent the board's concerns at the upcoming meeting. Board President John Robison was assigned to act as an alternate member on TEC with Carter. Board member Gordon Eckersley is the other TEC member.