



# BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

## International travel policy remains unchanged

### Committee recommends parents use outside resources for China trip

The district's policy regarding international travel will remain unchanged. The Board of Education of the Davis School District discussed the board's own Policy and Review Committee's decision to keep the policy as written during its regular meeting Tuesday.

The current policy 5S-203, 4.1.4c states: "Extended travel shall not be approved which requires travel outside the continental United States."

Board President

John Robison said the district's travel policy has been an ongoing discussion. The committee most recently met with the directors of Risk Management and Teaching and Learning to discuss the risks of international travel. Multiple safety issues were brought to light, he said, and so the committee recommended upholding the current policy.

"Travel in the past unfortunately was done in violation of several policies, Robison said. "Mistakes that have been made in the past do not validate a violation of policy in the future."

## Early literacy celebrates gains in kindergarten growth scores

The district's early literacy plan results are worth celebrating, District Humanities Director Traci Robbins told the Board of Education during its regular meeting.

Robbins explained how Davis School District's plan was showcased as the model to follow at a recent state meeting. But the more important aspect of the plan is that it is working to help students meet literacy benchmarks.

In creating the plan, she said an increased focus was placed on kindergarten. The goal was set to increase growth by 12 percent. Using three years worth of data, the lowest

performing kindergarten grade level teams were identified. The district then chose 13 of those schools to be part of a focus group and assigned two coordinators to support the already on-site ELA coordinators at those schools. Every teacher received targeted training and collected data throughout the year with adjustments made as needed mid-year.

At the end of the year, there was a 25 percent average increase of growth in those 13 schools. In kindergarten alone, the increase in students reaching benchmark was 16.99 percent.

"These schools and these kids are well on their way to being very

The request for a policy change was brought to the district by parents of students in the Chinese immersion program. Students in the past have traveled to China for a more immersive experience. With the upholding of the current travel policy, those trips will no longer take place in a district-sponsored capacity.

During previous board meetings, students who

have taken the trip testified to its benefits. At Tuesday's meeting a student lamented the now missed opportunity for her because she chose not to go on the China trip last

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**"Mistakes that have been made in the past do not validate a violation of policy in the future."**

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— Board President John Robison

year.

Board Vice President Liz Mumford said international travel exceeds the district's role and needs to be a parental responsibility conducted through private entities. She added that fee structures in public education are also an issue and the cost of such an endeavor causes problems with equity.

Board members Julie Tanner and Cheryl Phipps expressed an interest in discussing student travel more extensively at a future workshop.

proficient and ready for first grade," Robbins said.

Next year, Robbins said, the increased scrutiny will be on first grade, while still maintaining the benchmark and growth percentages in kindergarten. She said there will also be a deeper look at areas where one classroom's need is masked by higher scores in other classrooms at that grade level.

"I just want to say great job," said Board Member Brigit Gerrard. "This is so exciting and exemplary. I appreciate all the work you've put in — you and your team."

# Board approves preliminary budget, pay increases for teachers

Following a fairly quiet public hearing, the Board of Education adopted the final legal budget for 2018-19 and approved the tentative 2019-20 budget.

Business Administrator Craig Carter said the tentative budget includes a 4.75 percent increase for all employees. It also includes new funding for staffing to help with social and emotional needs in schools and funding to help address class sizes. The \$853.5 million budget includes about \$35 million in new revenue.

Only three people spoke during the budget public hearing. Ronald Mortensen with Citizens for Tax Fairness said local property tax revenue is going up. He asked the district to cover teacher salary increases and other needs with that new growth. Former county commissioner Bret Millburn also spoke against any tax increase and suggested cost of living increases could be covered by taxes received from the Station Park RDA if the board didn't vote for Farmington's requested extension. Carter explained that to cover the salary increase for teachers, it will take about \$12.8 million. The property tax from Station Park will not come close to covering that amount. Teacher Chera Fernelius thanked the board for considering a tax increase to support teachers and remain competitive.

The tax increase requires a Truth in Taxation hearing which has been scheduled for August 6. [The two budg-](#)

[ets can be reviewed here.](#)

In other business, the board approved:

- Reappointment of Carter as the district's business administrator.
- The School Improvement/LAND Trust Plans
- Framework for use of Teacher and Student Success Act (TSSA) money by schools.

• Members of the curriculum review committee.

The board also gave preliminary approval to:

- The Nutrition and Physical Activity Wellness Policy, which outlines credit for physical education classes with two-year participation in a school-sponsored sport. Students participating in community-based sports can also request a review for credit. The policy also outlines incorporation of movement throughout the day for elementary students. Also included in the policy are guidelines for school nutrition, including procedures for handling unpaid meal balances.

• Changes to the electronic device section of the Student Conduct and Discipline Policy. The policy change outlines how each school administrator will develop a policy — preferably with the involvement of its community council — to govern the use of district-owned and privately owned devices. It also indicates that a training for students and staff will take place within the first 45 days of the school year.

## Board recognitions



The Board of Education recognized Rosalind Van Vleet as a 2019 Huntsman Award for Excellence in Education recipient. She has been in education for 34 years and currently teaches at Fairfield Junior High. From left: Superintendent Reid Newey, Junior High School Director David Tanner, Fairfield Junior Principal Bryon Nielsen, Rosalind Van Vleet, Board Member Brigit Gerrard, and next year's Principal Tiffany Midgley.



The Board of Education honored Utah State PTA President Jeana Stockdale. Her service in PTA started in 1997 at Kaysville Elementary School. From left: Superintendent Reid Newey, Robert and Jeana Stockdale, Board Member Cheryl Phipps, Utah PTA Treasurer Stacy Mollinet, PTA Region 3 Director Lynette Checketts, PTA Associate Region Director LeeAnn Brocius and PTA Education Commissioner LeAnn Wood.