



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

District continues improving student safety

Digital camera updates and secure entry points nearly complete

The Davis School District continues its work to improve student safety, Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen told board members during a recent workshop presentation.

Zurbuchen explained that the district is in the final year of a three-year process ensuring all school cameras are digitalized and integrated into a district-wide video management system.

While all schools have camera coverage, some are still analog cameras, which cannot connect to the video management system. Digital cameras allow law enforcement and resource officers to access live monitoring as needed.

Two years ago, the district had 1,922 digital cameras. Today, the district has 3,609 digital cameras in 57 schools with plans to complete updating the 22 remaining schools this school year.

The district is also continuing its emphasis on locked doors and secure entry points. Forty-three schools are now complete with secure entries, with plans to finish 17 more schools during the school year.

“Safety is about making our structures as impenetrable, yet as friendly as possible, which means being inconvenient at times for our patrons,” said Zurbuchen.

Superintendent Reid Newey followed up saying,

“As we went out to schools on the first day of school, it was extremely gratifying to see the security at the schools. We can always improve, but our people are absorbing our intent with safety in the time we live in.”

Zurbuchen also pointed out that the district received over 2,000 tips last year from the SafeUT Mobile App, an increase from 1,000 tips received two years ago.

“While cameras are a great investigative tool, they are only a way to say what happened. Our culture of reporting abnormalities is really how we are keeping our schools safe,” said Zurbuchen.

Additionally, the district has received federal and state grants to increase the hours of family service employees, hire additional family service workers, expand some part-time therapists to full time and increase school nurse hours.

“The grants have given us a significant safety net since those are the people that give us the opportunity to respond to the questions that come up,” said Zurbuchen.

In other workshop business:

- Boundary Consultant Dr. Darrell White said the tentative proposed boundaries for the new elementary in W. Layton will be presented to the board on Sept. 3.

An open house and public hearing will provide opportunities for input from families. The final boundary proposal is scheduled to be presented to the board on Dec. 3.

District establishes new diversity training program

Davis School District plans to take a new direction with diversity training Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen told members of the Board of Education.

Zurbuchen described the new direction as an ongoing, organized conversation with school leaders to talk about equity in their school communities. As part of the process, each school will identify a liaison to be trained as a conduit for starting the conversation in schools.

“Do we provide equitable access to all children, and if we don’t, what are the impediments and how do we address that?” said Zurbuchen.

“We really can’t understand what those impediments are until we have people representing those schools and having those conversations.”

Additionally, the district plans to partner with Transformational Culture Consultant Dr. David Parker, who has extensive experience working with municipalities and law enforcement groups across the nation.

“In moving forward with our school culture liaison, we knew we needed to broaden out that expertise, and bring in someone who has a background in doing this exact work,” said Zurbuchen.

Parker explained that conversations about culture can be painful, but are important for creating change.

“My hope is to work with all the schools within this district and help them create a climate where learning truly is first,” said Parker.