



# BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

## District renews accreditation with high IEQ score

### Review team applauds supportive culture, encourages focus on innovation

Davis School District has once again achieved K-12 accreditation and is still the only district in the state to earn such a designation.

That's the news Superintendent Reid Newey and Professional Learning Director Dr. Patti Brown presented to board members during a board workshop on Tuesday.

An 18-member AdvancED accreditation team observed 255 classroom settings and interviewed over 700 people during its Oct. 6-9 onsite visit, which included students, parents, community members and district personnel. The district not only achieved accreditation again — it initially did back in 2014 — but it received an Index of Education Quality rating of 339. The national average is 278 -283.

“Everything that leads up to this data leads back to where the rubber meets the road,” Newey said, “which is the classroom visits and what they see with our teachers in the classroom. I felt like that is what put us over the edge in the accreditation process.”

Brown described the processes going well in the district, as outlined in the AdvancED report.

“The interviews revealed positive relationships built on trust and mutual respect that serve as behavioral models and expectations throughout the district,” said Brown. “They were very impressed with the strategic plan and noted our process of involving stakeholders to provide input and the now widespread use of it throughout the district.”

Brown also mentioned from the report: “The highly supportive culture of Davis School District empowers all staff members to personify the district’s motto of ‘Learning First!’ and establishes the fact that everyone perceives themselves as educators regardless of position within the organization.”

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— Superintendent Reid Newey

The accreditation team also focused on one area out of 31 for improvement. “Promote creativity, innovation and problem solving to increase student engagement is an area for us to focus on and expand,” said Brown.

“We have several things in the works and more things to work on to solve this. We know there are a lot of things going on in the classroom, and we know that kids are different and need different strategies. We are excited for

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## District reports final results of RISE and Aspire tests

The state RISE and Aspire testing reports have been published by the state, said Assistant Superintendent Dr. Logan Toone during the Tuesday Board of Education workshop.

“The data comes with a question mark on it, due to some of the issues that happened statewide, so we are not intending to put high stakes on this, but we can get value from it by comparing our data to other districts in the state that had the same issues we did,” said Toone.

Parents will see the results of their students RISE and Aspire Plus results on myDSD soon.

According to District Assessment Director Janeal Magalei, RISE testing data from students in third through eighth grade last year will show parents the main components of student achievement — how the student did overall, how the student scored compared to peers, how the student performed in each reporting category, how the students’ performance compared to last year and what specific things students should be able to

do to achieve proficiency.

Out of the 12 largest districts in the state, Davis School District placed fourth in overall English language and arts proficiency with 51.2 percent, third place in math proficiency with 51.6 percent, and fourth place for science proficiency with 55.6 percent.

The Aspire Plus, an ACT predictive test, was taken by ninth and 10th graders to help students make informed decisions on how to be suc-

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A Syracuse High student played a holiday violin solo during the Board of Education meeting.

## ACCREDIT, from Pg. 1

the opportunity we have to learn from these 18 educators who came across the county, who were very pleased with all of the things they thought we were doing well at and are pleased there is only one thing we really need to focus on improving.”

Board Member Gordon Eckersley asked how the district could help students become better problem solvers.

The first step involves personalized learning, Brown said. “Back in the day, we learned by memorizing a lot of facts, but our kids need to be able to problem solve, be creative and be innovative because facts are at our fingertips now. What the accreditation team is wishing for is more student directed, (where students) are creating from scratch and solving things from the beginning.”

## TESTS, from Pg. 1

Successful for the ACT test taken in the 11th grade, said Magalei. Science proficiency results of 58 percent ranked the district first among the 12 largest districts in the state and second in both English language and arts proficiency with 58.7 percent and math proficiency with 52.6 percent.

Toone credited teachers for their help during the testing challenges. “Getting us through the issues we had last spring with testing, and yet still coming out on top, rested solely on the shoulders of our teachers,” said Toone.

In other business the board approved:

- A 10-year extension with the Layton Main Street RDA with

a tax increment of 50 percent.

- New boundaries for Ellison Park, Heritage and Snow Horse elementaries, which also creates boundaries for Elementary No. 63 being built in west Layton.

- The school year calendar for 2020-21. The calendar includes a two-week winter break and weeklong spring break for traditional schools.

- Merrill Sheriff Construction for remodels of kitchens at Burton, Taylor and Valley View elementaries.

- Hogan & Associates as the Construction Manager for high school stage rigging replacements at Layton, Viewmont and Woods Cross high schools.

## Board reviews tax reform proposal

Business Administrator Craig Carter presented to Board of Education members the efforts currently underway in the Legislature to reform tax structure, which may impact public education.

“They are trying to provide a more stable revenue source for education, develop more flexibility for both state and local entities, and try to maintain the long-held beliefs that we provide equity across the board for all students,” said Carter. “The constitutional earmark as it currently stands states that income tax will be used for public and higher education, but unfortunately, that doesn’t mean the revenues that come in go to education.”

While the Legislature is proposing a set certified tax rate to stabilize education funding, Carter said it would likely mean property taxes would go up each year with inflation.

“The goal for the Legislature is to provide an increased flexibility to us with two primary levies — the board local levy and capital levy, which currently have a cap. Their recommended proposal would allow us to combine those and raise the cap,” said Carter.

Additionally, legislators want to create a new equalization plan for districts across the state. Carter explained that the proposed equalization plan would benefit Davis School District. Since the district sits at \$80 Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU), which falls below the median, funding from equalization would help the district reach the median level of \$142 WPU. Districts who have extra funding beyond the median value would see that redistributed to all the districts in Utah on an equalized basis.

“As a district, this is so important for our students in that it gives us extra funding with the property tax base funding method, so it’s critical for us to support that equalization effort,” said Superintendent Reid Newey.