



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

Traffic safety committee addresses hazardous routes Board member suggests consideration of new rubric

Parents with questions about hazardous bus routes and other transportation issues have another avenue for giving input with the formation of the Traffic Safety Committee.

Business Administrator Craig Carter said the committee was initiated during the summer and has met twice. The committee was formed to review problem areas and facilitate transportation implementation plans.

In its initial meeting, Carter said the group looked at some areas where there were construction issues which made bus transportation difficult. In October, the committee heard concerns from a parent at South Davis Junior High about students who no longer qualify for a hazardous bus route.

Carter said the committee did not disagree with the expressed concerns. The committee looked at the route and considered the existing hazards. The district allocates \$1.4 million for hazardous busing. It utilizes an engineering firm and tool that assigns points for various hazards. That area on 2600 South, Carter said, does meet many of the criteria for a hazardous route. However, there are 20 other areas within the same point range or higher that don't qualify for

a hazardous bus. Those areas impact 1,400 students and would require 17 more buses for transportation. Carter said the cost to the district would be about \$500,000.

The committee, Carter said, recommended no changes to busing in that area at this time. The committee plans to meet again in February and will consider whether any changes need to be made in assessing hazardous routes for next year.

Board Vice President Liz Mumford said she had concerns about the rubric as that was the complaint she heard the most from constituents.

"My concern is after 20 years we have learned a lot about traffic safety and it feels like it would be a reasonable thing to possibly reconsider," Mumford said regarding a change to the rubric. "Maybe that's something the committee could talk a little more in-depth about next time they meet Then as a board, when we are in our budget process, we can look a little more at the numbers you've shared with us and how we can make a plan moving forward."

Carter explained that any change would require the district to go back and reevaluate all routes that did not currently qualify. Each study costs about \$8,000.

Layton City proposes 10-year extension of Main Street RDA

Layton City hopes the Davis School District will agree to a 10-year extension on an RDA for redevelopment in the Main Street area.

Chad Wilkinson, community economic development director, said the district entered into the RDA in 2004. It is scheduled to expire at year's end. In 2009, the recession occurred and development came to a halt. Now development is on an upward trend again. He added that the new RDA agreement would decrease to a 50 percent tax increment instead of the 100 percent from the previous agreement.

Redevelopment of an area always comes with risks, Wilkinson

said. Because of those risks, it is unlikely that redevelopment will occur without the RDA.

Board President John Robison said he values the partnership with Layton City. However, he said, he also has concerns about the city's requirement for the district to give up the value of water shares as well as the water shares when a new school is built. That requirement is a huge financial impact on the district, he said, and not consistent with other cities.

"I'm not trying to threaten by any means. The bottom line is we need to work together. But I think moving forward to that point, I think the discussion needs to be had within the leadership of the city."

The board will consider the RDA extension request during the Dec. 3 meeting.

In other workshop business:

- Squire and Company gave an unmodified opinion — the highest opinion it can give — on the audit of the financial statements for the year and the evaluation of the budget.

- The board learned more than 2,100 constituents weighed in on the proposed calendar for 2020-21. Elementary School Director Helene Van Natter said 53 percent of those opposed to the calendar said they wanted school to end before Memorial Day. With scheduling graduations at the Dee Events Center that is not possible, she said.