



# BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

## District exhibits culture of kindness during soft closure Exemplary efforts made by teachers, staff and students

During recent months, the district has seen exemplary efforts made by teachers, staff and students, Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen told board members during a workshop presentation.

“The culture of our district during COVID has really shown, in the sense that people weren’t directed to do a, b or c. Instead, they said, ‘We need to do something, what can we do?’” said Zurbuchen.

He cited examples of a principal who rode a school bus to hand out meals, a remote musical number put together by high school seniors, a goodbye presentation by an elementary school and the efforts of student body officers to bring students together during remote learning.

“Our culture is something we have seen emanate from the district in the way that we’ve been able to handle

the last number of weeks.”

Board Member Brigit Gerrard agreed saying, “The culture of sacrifice and giving has really come out during this pandemic. It’s been amazing to see how everyone has stepped up and thought about others over themselves, which has made our culture shine through.”

Zurbuchen explained that another key component within the district’s pandemic response is seen in the newly implemented SEL program.

“We invested significant money ahead of the curve in social and emotional learning (SEL), providing

SEL support at the district level to schools,” Zurbuchen said.

“We focused this year on SEL development with the school culture liaisons to talk about adult SEL. During the pandemic response, they were providing information that continually went out to our teachers and our parents about resources they could use during the pandemic.”

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— Assistant Superintendent Logan Toone

## District begins making plans for upcoming school year

While the district remains in the stabilization phase during the COVID-19 pandemic, preparations are being made for the upcoming school year.

“One of things we intend to do from the educational side is to continue to build on our ability to quickly transition to different modes of operation,” Superintendent Reid Newey told Board of Education members during a board workshop.

“We are also putting into place an internal guide in terms of assessing disease threat, as far as any diagnosis or confirmed cases, then we’ll work very closely with the health department officials to determine action.”

Following state guideline pro-

cedures, Newey pointed out that plans could include:

- Increased cleaning and hygiene regimens.
- Monitoring employees and students for symptoms and setting up nursing stations where students exhibiting symptoms can be quarantined until they can safely leave the school.
- All employees and students will be encouraged to stay home if they are symptomatic.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available to students and faculty and assigned seating and attendance-recording will be in place for contact tracing.
- The district plans to purchase a mask for every student and adult in the system.

“In terms of requirement, right now we intend to make wearing masks a high recommendation for student wear, but we’ll be in consultation with the state board and local health department on that,” Newey said.

Board Member Gordon Eckersley asked how large classes, such as band, choir and PE, would implement social distancing.

Newey responded saying, “They’re not going to be able to do distancing, particularly PE, depending on what the activity is.

“But where officials have okayed that to take place, we have issued athletic guidelines, such as enhanced hygiene, and we will just have to do the best we can to monitor symptoms and limit spread.”