



# BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

## District board approves fall school reopening plan Plan options include face-to-face instruction or online school

The Davis School District Board of Education approved a fall school reopening plan, in response to the state’s request that every Local Education Agency (LEA) present an opening plan to their board.

“The governor asked and mandated that we return to school in a face-to-face fashion, so our goal is to have normalized instruction, with our plan addressing key areas that we can control,” said Superintendent Reid Newey. “Our plan also offers a viable, online offering, which we’ve opened up to any student or parent that wants their child to participate.”

Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen explained that the district’s opening plan has the ability to change as needed.

“We’ve been meeting with the Davis County Health Department every week to discuss not just how we open, but once we open, how we can pivot when things change,” said Zurbuchen.

The district currently plans to begin school on August 25, while implementing the Big 5 safety protocols (Hygiene Etiquette, Stay Home When Sick, Face Coverings, Physical Distancing and Clean and Disinfect). If in-

fection rates go up in Davis County, the district is prepared with alternate modes of instruction delivery, such as an alternative-day schedule or full soft-closure.

“Our goal is to do what we can and do it well, but there is so much we can’t control. If we do these things, we can create a safer environment and lessen the possibility of this disease being spread,” said Zurbuchen.

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— Superintendent Reid Newey

“We can’t eliminate risk completely, but we do believe that with the Big 5, we can mitigate risk significantly. “Keep in mind that in Davis County, our community has managed it much better than communities around us.”

Zurbuchen noted other key areas of the district plan that help reduce risk — students wiping down desks regularly, staff and students reminded to stay home when sick, and students who become sick while at school will be sent to the health room where they will stay in an enclosed, safe place until a parent or guardian can pick them up.

The district will provide staff members with a face shield, not as a replacement for a face covering, but as an added protection. Zurbuchen also explained that ADA accommodations will be in place regarding face coverings for students and adults who have asthma and anxiety.

**See REOPENING, Pg. 2**

## Student sexual harassment district policy updated

The Davis School District Board of Education approved changes to the investigation and discipline process of sexual harassment.

Davis School District Legal Counsel Benjamin Onofrio explained that the changes were made to comply with the new Department of Education regulations effective August 14, 2020.

The new Title IX regulations increase due process for both the complainant and respondent in situations

that fall under the new definition of sexual harassment.

The district recently hired a new Title IX Coordinator, Bianca Mitendorf, who will help oversee the process and ensure compliance with the new policy.

In other business, the Board of Education approved:

- Acme Construction for a site renovation at Doxey Elementary. The project will cost about \$144,000 and create a drop-off loop on the north side

of the building.

- The bid of \$1,180,497 from Wasatch West Contracting for a renovation of the drop-off, parking area and portables relocations at Lincoln Elementary.

- Landscape Specialties, Inc., for renovations of Layton High’s baseball and softball fields and Woods Cross High’s softball fields. The bids were for about \$195,000 and \$183,000 respectively.

- Hogan & Associates as the

**See POLICY, Pg. 2**

## REOPENING, from Pg. 1

The health department will also play a pivotal role in providing guidance to schools when a COVID-19 case is identified at a school.

To help track cases, each school will have a COVID-19 contact person. Funding for the position will come from government relief funds and training will be provided by the health department.

Board member Brigit Gerrard expressed concern about the district's substitute capacity for teachers who stay home when sick, especially given that many of the current substitutes are in the at-risk category.

"There may come a time where we don't have enough staff to provide a viable option, so we may need to pivot at that point," said Zurbuchen.

Newey added that, "We have trepidation of what the sub pool will look like, relative to how spread happens and what people's opinion of that is. Some of our sub pool had been high risk. We hope there are people out there that feel like they can substitute."

Board member Gordon Eckersley asked how schools will protect adults in schools, especially those who are more vulnerable.

Zurbuchen explained that in addition to the Big 5 procedures, public access points at each school will require visitors to have their temperature checked, front-office areas will have plexiglass shields and students will be cleaning flat surfaces and handwashing every time they enter and exit a class.

"If we do the Big 5 well, then it protects our adults," said Zurbuchen.

## POLICY, from Pg. 1

Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) for a Career and Technical Education Center in Kaysville. Business Administrator Craig Carter explained that it is a unique project, so the CM/GC will work in partnership with the VCBO Architecture to ensure that the design is as efficient as possible. For at least the first year, Hogan would be contracted on a fee basis.

In other business, the Board:

- Welcomed Caray Long, a new OCR compliance officer for Davis School District and Bianca Mitendorf, a coordinator for Title IX. Both will work in the Educational Equity office.

- Learned Pioneer Adult Rehabilitation Center (PARC) is officially a stand-alone entity. PARC creates employment opportunities for disabled adults. Superintendent Reid Newey said the district has partnered with PARC for years and the division is "bittersweet."

Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen explained that the separation was necessitated because of changes in operations. The separation allows PARC to expand and operate without regulations required under the district's umbrella.

- Heard from a small group who voiced their opinions on the

Braves mascot at Bountiful High. Superintendent Reid Newey said the issue will be addressed with urgency.

"At the district level we will be supporting the school level process," Newey said.

"Mascot adoption and maintenance ... is a school level process and we want to make sure and continue to observe that."

Bountiful High student Lemiley Lane said she is Navajo and was offended, but did not speak up in the past, when a student dressed in a Native American costume appeared at an assembly.

Any recommendation will be brought to the board at a future date.

## Board Recognitions



The Board recognized two Davis School District employees who received scholarships from the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents of Utah. Eric Castro (top), a Spanish teacher at Millcreek Junior High, and Patricia Limas (bottom), a counselor at Layton High School, were named 2020 recipients of the scholarship.