



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

Dashboard provides snapshot of COVID-19 in schools COVID aides help track, compile positive cases, quarantine numbers

Staff, parents and board members will soon be able to see a weekly snapshot of COVID-19 cases related to Davis School District schools, Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen told the Board of Education Tuesday.

Every day COVID aides are chasing down leads about suspected COVID cases. Each elementary school has one COVID aide and each secondary school has two aides. Zurbuchen said the aides were hired to assist the Davis County Health Department to perform contact tracing with cases tied to schools.

Six days into the school year, he said verified numbers show there are 26 active cases among students and staff in the district's 92 schools. That number includes 18 staff members and 8 students. Of those students, three are in elementary and five in secondary schools. Four of the five secondary student cases are related to extracurricular activities. Those positive cases resulted in 77 quarantines. He further detailed that 66 of the quarantines were students, but only three quarantines were due to the classroom-related cases.

Cases tied to regular school time are leading to fewer quarantines because of the district's ability to physically distance students and because students are wearing masks, he said.

Compiling data isn't as simple as getting reports of positive tests from the health department, he said. Aides must look at student schedules and interview any students or staff members the positive student may have come in contact with for more than 15 minutes within 6 feet. That information helps determine quarantines. Aides also chase secondhand reports of positive cases.

“There’s a lot of rumor our COVID-19 aides have to go through.”
— Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen

“There’s a lot of rumor our COVID-19 aides have to go through,” Zurbuchen said.

Within the next few weeks, he said the data will be compiled and numbers will be released weekly in a dashboard on the Davis School District’s website. That data will include the cumulative number of positive cases in Davis County and district schools, a weekly number of positive cases in Davis County and district schools, the number of schools with positive cases and quarantine numbers.

The dashboard will also include the number of classrooms with 3 or more cases over 14 days or schools with 15 or more cases over 14 days. State guidelines indicate classrooms or schools with those numbers will move to remote learning.

In other business related to COVID-19, the Board approved changes to the school year calendar. Elementary School Director Helene Van Natter said with the hybrid

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Bountiful City offers to purchase Washington Elementary property

The city of Bountiful is interested in purchasing the site where Washington Elementary once stood, Business Administrator Craig Carter told the Board of Education during its regular meeting Tuesday.

Washington Elementary, which was one of the oldest schools in the district, had a declining enrollment of 267 students in 2018. The district made the decision to close the school in 2019. Since that time, Carter said,

there has been an ongoing discussion on what to do with the site. The district decided to declare the nearly 10 acres as surplus with Bountiful City getting the first right of refusal for its purchase.

Carter said the city is interested in the property, but must pass a bond in the fall to make the purchase. At this time, the city has offered the district \$8 a square foot. Carter said if the land was sold as a residential site, it would bring a higher value, but the

district feels the city has made a fair offer. The parcel would be sold for \$3,472,603.

The city has expressed an interest in turning most of the site into athletic playing fields. An interlocal agreement would allow the district to continue using those fields for school sports, he said.

“We’re in desperate need for more space, especially as lacrosse comes online in the spring,” Carter

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Sophia Leavitt, a senior at Bountiful High, is sworn in by Business Administrator Craig Carter as a student board member for the 2020-21 school year.



Business Administrator Craig Carter swears in Matthew Cohen, senior at Layton High, as a student board member for the 2020-21 school year.

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said. “We feel that this is actually a very fair price that the city is providing us.”

In other business, the board approved:

- The sale of .60 acres near Reading Elementary to Symphony Homes for a future housing development. Carter said sale of the parcel does not impact the school playground. The developer is offering \$300,000 an acre for a total purchase price of \$180,000.

- The hiring of Stout Building Contractors as the Construction Manager/General Contractor for a remodel of Building F2 in the Freeport Center. Carter said the renovation project was originally just the transportation offices. However, the decision was made to do a more comprehen-

sive remodel that will impact offices for transportation, federal programs and custodial services, increase parking and create a training room that can house 300 people.

- Changes to the policy governing school community councils. The changes allow for digital voting.
- Adjustments to policies addressing extracurricular and co-curricular activities participation, equal employment opportunities and employee sexual harassment.
- An application for optional enhanced kindergarten programs in 15 Title I schools. The extra 45-60 minutes in those programs is used to focus on language arts and math instruction. The extended day would be optional for parents.

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schedule, several non-school days were landing on a Monday. Parents whose Group 1 students meet on Monday, were concerned about equal face-to-face time with their student’s teacher. The next Monday off included a scheduled professional day on Sept. 28. Van Natter said that professional day will be moved to March 5.

The next Monday holiday following that is Martin Luther King

Day, but a professional day is scheduled on the following Tuesday so students will have equal time with their teacher.

President’s Day is another Monday holiday, but Van Natter said the hope is things will change by then and all students will be in schools daily.

“It’s a daunting task for some of the requirements to keep children

and our adults safe in the system and to kind of weather the storm of the virus that’s upon us,” said Superintendent Reid Newey.

“We’ve seen a significantly admirable response in schools,” Newey continued. “The cleanliness and sanitation are immediately apparent.”