



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

Administration update Board on COVID response

Rapid testing helps quarantined students return to school earlier

Typically, anyone who comes in close contact with a person infected with COVID-19 must remain quarantined for 14 days.

Now, because of the relationship between the Davis School District and the Davis County Health Department, that quarantine period could be cut in half, Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen told board members Tuesday.

During a COVID-19 update given to the Board of Education of the Davis School District, Zurbuchen said the district has been approved as a rapid test site.

The testing site has been set up in a bay in the Freeport Center. However, he iterated that it is not set up as a community site and will only be used for students and staff members tied to the district.

“We were able to access through the health department 10,000 of those (tests),” he said.

The federally funded Abbott BinaxNow rapid antigen tests will be administered by school nurses at the Freeport Center in Clearfield. Results can be seen within 15 minutes without the use of laboratory equipment.

“It does provide an opportunity for kids to not be out for 14 days, if in fact they are negative,” Zurbuchen said.

The rapid test protocol only applies to individuals — students or staff — who were quarantined by the school district. It does not apply if the quarantined individual or person who tested positive was not wearing a mask. Students and staff members who qualify for the rapid test will receive instructions in their quarantine letter, including the date they qualify for the test.

Those who test positive will receive another test to verify the results. That test typically takes 48-72 hours for lab confirmation.

Zurbuchen said the decision to use the drive-through area was in the interest of the safety for school nurses who will be performing the test. They will be fully clothed in PPE and taking every precaution.

“We are doing everything we can to maintain the safety of that site,” he said.

In other updates regarding the district’s response to COVID-19, Zurbuchen confirmed that classes in three high schools — Farmington, Northridge and Syracuse — were being held remotely due to quarantine. Farmington was scheduled to return to in-person learning the next day.

Zurbuchen added that the district’s COVID-19 dashboard — which is on the district’s website — is updated every Monday afternoon or evening and reflects data provided weekly by the health department.

“The purpose of the dashboard, more than anything, is to give both the

board and the community a global look at where we are both within that previous week as well as where we have been since the beginning of the school year.

“It is not the intention of that to be able to provide a day-by-day analysis. The health department does not have the wherewithal, in terms of staffing, to be able to provide that kind of analysis across-the-board.

Also, when letters are sent home to parents indicating a positive case has surfaced in their child’s school, the letter indicates the number of students who have tested positive and are not in school. That number is a snapshot for that day and is not intended to match numbers on the district’s dashboard, which is data from the prior week.

Zurbuchen agreed with board members that the community needs to do its part as well to keep kids healthy.

“What you see in schools, you see in our community...” Zurbuchen said. “This isn’t just a school problem.”

In other business, the board approved:

- Updates to the employee discipline and dismissal policy;
- Additions to the credit evaluation standard and guidelines policy;
- An increase of the per-page charge for documents printed for a Government Records Access Management Act request. The 25 cent per-page charge matches the cost applied by the governor’s office.

The Board also tabled preliminary approval of the 2021-22 school year calendar.

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— Assistant Supt. John Zurbuchen

Board recognizes students, staff



The Board of Education honored Farmington High School's Boys Cross Country Team. They were the 5A state champions.



Davis High Psychology Teacher Kristin Whitlock was honored for receiving a Presidential Citation from The American Psychological Association.



Davis High's Girls Soccer Team was honored for being the 6A state champions.