



# BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

## District enhances COVID-19 protocols

### School case numbers now updated daily on district dashboard

**D**avis School District continues looking for new opportunities to optimize COVID-19 protocols. One enhancement undertaken by the district is how information is shared with the community.

Each day, Monday through Friday, the number of active COVID-19 case numbers per school will be updated in the School Information Section of the COVID-19 dashboard on the district's website, Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen told board members Tuesday.

The General Information Section of the dashboard will continue to be updated on a weekly basis to share cumulative number of positive cases in Davis County and district schools, a weekly number of positive cases in Davis County and the number of schools with positive cases.

Parents will also still receive a letter from the school on the day following a newly identified case, as identified by the Davis County Health Department.

"One thing we know is that each day, things change and everyone is doing the best we can," said Zurbuchen. "We continue to look at new information and do right by

what is presented to us that day and look at adjustments to our processes."

Zurbuchen also updated the board on the district rapid-testing site, which allows a quarantined student or employee to return to school after seven days following a mask-to-mask exposure if they are asymptomatic and receive a negative test result.

The district received approval by the Davis County Health Department to open the site, which is set up in a district warehouse in the Freeport Center.

During the first week of operation, Zurbuchen said large numbers of people led to long testing lines and congested areas

while waiting for test results.

The district has since devised new traffic patterns and individuals now receive results by email, which has helped shorten lines and eliminate congested waiting areas.

Of the 863 tests that have been given since the rapid-testing site opened, Zurbuchen said only 10 positives were found, which is a 1.2 percent positive rate.

"Many people say we quarantine too much, but

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— Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen

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## District reviews Friday remote learning day processes

**T**eachers are implementing innovative learning opportunities for remote learning.

Currently, the remote learning days in place on Fridays at all schools helps teachers to plan those activities, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Logan Toone told the Board of Education during its regular workshop Tuesday.

"While students are learning remotely, a big portion of the day is retained for teachers to respond to the pressures of delivering this type of in-

struction to our students," said Toone.

"It is likely still not sufficient, but it is absolutely critical to the success of our teachers and students. This Friday time is being used effectively by a majority of teachers in developing resources for students."

Formal, professional learning is currently being kept to a bare minimum on Fridays, he said, so teachers are not pulled away from content creation and their efforts to meet the needs for remote learning.

"As you know, the model or

expectation outside of pandemic is to be in school five days a week," said Superintendent Reid Newey.

"The adjustment the board has made (for Friday remote learning) in this time of duress will look different in various schools," he said, "such as a school with a higher count of active cases, which means more stress with teachers having to respond to more quarantined students.

"We have great faith in our principals. They, as much or more than

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without quarantine, those 10 people would walk into school, every day, with their infection,” Zurbuchen said.

“The quarantine does make a difference and the rapid-test brought 853 students (and employees) back to school seven days ahead of the regular quarantine time,” he said.

Regarding school closures, Zurbuchen said the district will keep the 15-case number threshold as it continues to follow the Utah School Board of Education school manual for closing schools.

## LEARNING, from Pg. 1

anyone, care about the successes of the students and the safety and success of their staff. We’ve got great people doing all they can,” Newey added.

In terms of attendance, Toone said the district is reporting a 4 percent decrease in attendance numbers, in comparison to the prior school year. However, student grades have increased significantly since the mid-term grades came out last month.

“We are happy to see that our students’ achievement levels, as indicated in their secondary report cards, have rebounded a bit,” Toone said, “(but) we are not yet to the point where achievement mirrors prior years, relative to student grades.”

In other workshop business:

- The district’s annual year-end financial summary was presented

to the board. The district received the highest rating possible by the external auditors.

Finance and Accounting Administrator Tim Leffel also added that because of previous years’ savings, the district was able to issue approximately \$15 million in a one-time stipend to recognize employees throughout the district.

- The Educational Equity Department announced plans to set up a student multicultural advisory committee with representatives from each school and an employee resources group for teacher leaders of color.

- The Foundation Department updated the board on its efforts to help students and families in need.

An increased number of requests for assistance have come in this

During the event of a school closure for students in special education, accommodations will follow the individualized plan set up by the IEP team, parents and teachers, Special Education Director Julie Larsen told the board.

“This is a constantly evolving situation and we are adapting as we go,” said Board Vice President Liz Mumford. “I appreciate that we are all coming from tough places and learning to adapt as we keep navigating and working through those challenges.”

year, according to Foundation Director Jodi Lunt. Thanks to partnerships, donations and fundraising efforts, even more families will receive help.

This year, more than 1,200 students are being served through the Salvation Army and community partnerships, and 450 of the most critical junior high students in crisis are being helped through the district’s Sub-for-Santa program.

More than 600 high school students in need will also receive gift cards and meal assistance from donations received from local corporations and individuals.

“If you are looking for something to shed just a little bit of joy, a little bit of light, little bit of cheer, visit our website at [www.daviseducation-foundation.org](http://www.daviseducation-foundation.org),” Lunt said.