



# BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

## Assistant Superintendent updates Board on COVID-19

### Drop in quarantines, successful Test to Stay among new information

**C**COVID-19 cases associated with Davis School District mirror the county and the state.

That's the news Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen shared with the Board of Education of the Davis School District Tuesday.

Zurbuchen also pointed out the sharp decline in quarantines. That dip came about following a change to state guidelines which eliminates the need for a quarantine if contact occurs with an infected individual while both persons are wearing masks.

"That means more kids in school," he said, adding that is a positive thing.

Another undertaking that is helping to keep students in school is rapid testing. Rapid testing involves school nurses administering a nasal swab with results returned in about 15 minutes. Zurbuchen said the testing began in November and allowed students in quarantine to return to school after seven days rather than

quarantining the full 14 days. The rapid tests are also utilized in the Test to Play effort which allows athletes and students in co-curricular activities to participate as long as they test negative every 14 days. With 10 high schools, that

means testing takes place at two high schools every day of the week.

Finally, the district has piloted a Test to Stay effort, which allows a high school to continue in-person education if 80 percent of the students participate in that rapid test. That testing was successful recently at Davis High with about 84 percent of the student body getting tested.

Board member Julie Tanner asked for clarification on what would have happened if Davis High didn't reach the 80 percent on testing. Zur-

buchen said the first measurement on Test to Stay is the percentage of parental permissions given. If those are not at 80 percent, the Test to Stay effort would not take place.

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A student participates in the Test to Stay effort at Davis High School.

## New CTE building will be known as Davis Catalyst Center

**W**hen the District Career and Technical Education (CTE) facility opens to students in 2022, it will do so with the name of Davis Catalyst Center.

District CTE Director Jay Welk told members of the Board of Education that two names came to the committee for the final recommendation. Nine of the 14 members chose Catalyst as their top choice over the other proposed name of Synergy. Part of the naming process, he said, was to find a unique name to eliminate confu-

sion with the nearby Davis Technical College.

"I like the Catalyst Center for multiple reasons," Board member Gordon Eckersley said. "For one, I think the word synergy is being overused lately in our world. ... Not only that, but synergy means if you come together as a team, the result is greater than the sum of the parts. ... But I like catalyst because it's starting something ... and I see that happening to those students because it's a great start, a catalyst to them for great careers."

A Guaranteed Maximum Price

of \$7.8 million was also approved for the west Kaysville Center. Hogan and Associates serves as the Construction Manager for the project that will renovate the former Tax Works building at 1265 W. Sportsplex Drive. The building will serve as a magnet school, which will eventually host CTE programs including cyber security, informational technology, medical assistance, pharmacy technology, entrepreneurship, unmanned aircraft and digital media. The construction is being paid for through the district's capital fund balance.

## UPDATE, from Pg. 1

Then on the day of testing, the 80 percent mark must be met to allow schools to provide a viable education. Multiple opportunities are not given to reach that percentage.

“I cannot say enough about (Davis High School Principal) Dr. (Greg) Wilkey and his staff, as well as the community,” Zurbuchen said. “They reached out to the community and spoke in writing to the importance of keeping schools open.”

Nearly 10,000 rapid tests have been administered through all the variations, he said.

However, with fewer quarantines, the district is no longer running a rapid test site at the Freeport Center. The Utah Department of Health is currently operating a rapid test site a few days a week in that same location.

One interesting point, Zurbuchen said, is the difference between the number of students who are positive in grades K-6 versus 7-12. Generally speaking, those two populations are similar in numbers, he said. What it shows is

significantly more infections in the upper grades.

Regarding vaccinations, Zurbuchen said more than 12,000 emails went out to staff, contract employees and substitutes inviting them to register for a vaccination. As the vaccination is not a requirement of employment, the district does not have any statistics on how many employees have participated.

To help facilitate the mass clinic, school nurses have been a part of the team administering the vaccinations.

In other business, the Board of Education:

- Gave final approval on the school year calendar for 2021-22. The calendar includes an end date prior to Memorial Day weekend and a weeklong spring break.

- Adopted a resolution to refund 2012 bonds. The move has the potential to save about \$2.8 million of taxpayer money over 10 years.

- Voted 5-2 to give preliminary approval to wording changes in the policy governing the audit committee.

## Board honors



The Davis Chamber of Commerce and Chamber President/CEO Angie Osguthorpe were honored for their ongoing support of the Davis School District. Osguthorpe also serves on the board of the Davis Education Foundation. From left: Superintendent Reid Newey, Osguthorpe, Foundation Director Jodi Lunt and Board Vice President Marie Stevenson.



Mueller Park Junior High Choir was honored for its performance of “The Twelve Days of COVID.” The choir is led by Alyssa Jenks. From left: Superintendent Reid Newey, Fine Arts Specialist Shanda Stenger, Board Member Liz Mumford, Jenks and Principal Kellie Mudrow.