



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

District highlights ongoing safety improvements

Security cameras installed in all schools and secure entry points added

Davis School District continues to increase safety measures for students in the final phase of securing school entry points and upgrading security cameras.

All district elementary and junior high schools now have secure entry points and three of the district’s nine high schools are completed, Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen told members of the Board of Education.

Zurbuchen also explained the district now has over 5,000 security cameras, with 95 percent of them digitalized and connected to a unified security system. Digital cameras allow law enforcement and resource officers to access live monitoring as needed.

“I can’t speak to how essential these cameras have been in the work for our schools in terms of providing eyes to situations that have become contentious, where we can look back and see what actually happened,” said Zurbuchen.

School buses are also in the process of receiving updated camera installations. Currently, just over 40 buses

have digital security cameras. The district also has an additional 60 buses that have cameras installed, which will be upgraded to the new system eventually.

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Board Member Julie Tanner followed up saying, “Four years ago, when you (Newey) started, that was (one of the things you emphasized) from the very beginning, to create physically safe environments for the

students and teachers. And I think a lot of that has been you driving it.”

The district has also implemented another level of internet safety protection on student devices. In addition to the filter system already installed on each device to prevent students from accessing certain content online, an alert system now identifies students who may be at risk based on words or phrases they type or access online.

“This is keeping our kids safe and this is providing a measure of security, I believe, for parents,” said Zurbuchen.

District to increase student opportunities in accelerated programs

Davis School District plans to focus on increasing student enrollment in accelerated learning courses after a recent district evaluation of the program identified a gap in some student populations.

District Teaching and Learning Director Belinda Kuck told board members that girls are enrolling at a greater percentage than males in the accelerated programs. There is also a lower representation of Latinx and Pacific Islander students in those programs.

“How we plan to close that gap ... is to tap them on the shoulder

and say, ‘We see this potential and we see that you can do this, and you need to do this,’” Kuck said.

“We’d like to start with these conversations in our high schools with our principals, counselors and teachers reaching out to those students they believe can be successful,” she added.

The district is also working to identify first-generation students and give them information about enrolling in advanced programs.

Engaging parents is a vital part of the accelerated programs. Kuck said the district will make information about the programs available at school registration events and work with sec-

ondary schools to host parent learning nights.

Kuck also let board members know that the Davis School District pass rate for Advanced Placement tests last year was 74%, an increase of one percent from the previous school year.

The district exceeded the Utah AP pass rate by 15 percent, which landed at 58.3 percent and surpassed the national AP pass rate by 8 percent, which came in at 65.7 percent.

“I think that is absolutely remarkable and a real credit to our students and our teachers, who kept working toward that AP test, regardless of what a pandemic could throw at us,” said Kuck.