



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

Four additional high schools to receive teen centers

Layton, Mountain, Northridge high schools and Renaissance Academy centers funded

The Board of Education of the Davis School District unanimously approved four additional teen centers to be built at Layton High, Mountain High, Northridge High and Renaissance Academy.

The district completed the teen center at Clearfield High earlier in 2021 and is in the process of building a teen center at Woods Cross High. The board approved the bid for Hogan and Associates to complete the four additional teen centers for just over \$1 million. Currently, the district plans on receiving enough donations to cover the full cost. Construction will begin immediately with plans for completion in the spring of 2022.

"We are so grateful for the difference the teen center at Clearfield High has made in the lives of many chil-

dren," said Board Member Cheryl Phipps. "Many families are excited for this opportunity to come forward for other children that need to have that in their lives."

Davis Education Foundation Director Jodi Lunt

said the Clearfield High teen center assists about 50 to 60 students per day. Students use the center for showering, laundry services, homework, tutoring and access to the school's

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— Board Member Cheryl Phipps

food pantry.

"This will be a trajectory changer for our students," Lunt said. "If we can keep them in school, if school can be a safe haven for them, we can get them to graduate and connect them to post-secondary programming and they too can become constructive and productive adults and reach their maximum potential they have."

Superintendent proposes furthering equity and inclusion in strategic plan

On the heels of a settlement agreement between the Davis School District and the Department of Justice, Superintendent Reid Newey proposed Tuesday an extension to the district's strategic plan.

Those adaptations would include four components of culture — human resources and recruitment, student and family support, social and emotional learning and equity and inclusion.

"We want to continue to aggressively pursue our efforts at recruiting the diversity that can fit into and build that culture that will be so much richer for all of our students," Newey said.

He also stated the district hired seven new secondary administrators, six of them representing diverse populations.

"In order to support the kind of culture that produces the equity that we want to see in our schools, we have to be able to reach impacted populations at a quicker and more substantial rate," Newey said.

As such, the district has focused on increasing family service workers in schools, added HOPE squads and incorporated training on youth mental health.

"In a very asserted manner, we are going to continue with our community-building curriculum and our efforts at aggressively attacking the racism that we see in society and in our schools," Newey said.

"We will continue to work at making a difference that's going to be significant and long lasting. The culture that surrounds our schools and in every department is made richer by the eye on equity and inclusion."

The board will review the proposed addition to the strategic plan at its next board meeting on December 7.

In other board workshop news:

- Board members discussed expanding public engagement by creating a central landing place on the district's website for parents to share concerns, participate in discussions and find information and resources relating to board policies and decisions. The board plans to discuss the idea in further detail at the Dec. 7 board meeting.

- External auditors reviewed the school's audit report, which passed with an unmodified opinion. Every district goes through an audit of its annual finances to ensure the financial records of the district are accurate and comply with state rules and regulations.

Board President makes statement regarding student's death

At the start of the Davis School District Board of Education workshop on Tuesday, Board President John Robison read a statement regarding the death of Foxboro Elementary student Izzy Tichenor.

"We again express our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family of Izzy Tichenor," Robison said. "There are many things we can't share about our direct interactions with the family because of privacy concerns and professional obligations. Generally speaking, extensive resources were provided to the family since enrolling their children. In fact, the family chose to continue having their children attend

our schools after moving outside the district. That was because of the relationship they had with our schools and teachers."

"We take this tragedy very seriously," he continued. "The district is currently establishing an independent team to review the processes we have in place and the allegations that Izzy was racially harassed and discriminated against. Members of that independent team will include an expert in interviewing children about trauma, someone who is an expert in educational practices and someone who is an expert in the law."

[To read the full statement, click here.](#)