



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

TSSA and LAND Trust Framework approved for 2022-23 Plan includes funds for continued teacher salary enhancement

The Davis School District Board of Education unanimously approved the 2022-23 Teacher and Student Success Act framework (TSSA) during Tuesday's board meeting.

The framework outlines how the TSSA and School Learning and Nurturing Development (LAND) Trust funding will be used and provides a visual snapshot of the school's community, student body, culture and unique features and challenges, District Assessment Director Janeal Magalei told board members.

Additionally, the plan looks at a school's notable achievements, recent improvements and needed improvements for the next school year. Each plan also includes goals that address needs in math, science and language arts, with the addition of graduation and college and career readiness for secondary schools.

Legislation requires local school boards to annually adopt and formally approve the plan schools create for their school year goals in order to receive funding from the TSSA and LAND Trust program.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Logan Toone told board members during Tuesday's meeting that the framework for TSSA includes a continued stipend for teacher salaries.

"Legislation allows funds up to 25 percent for direct-to-educator salary enhancements and we take that option as a school district," Toone said. "The negotiations

group, with our teachers, identified a need to enhance salary in the mid-range years of teacher careers, so that's why the stipend was established. The remainder (of funds) is distributed to schools on a per-pupil basis."

The framework also gives guidance to schools for using some of the TSSA funds for an additional teacher contract day in August. Toone said that historically, schools in the district have opted to provide the extra preparation time for teachers.

In other business, the Board of Education approved:

- Bailey Builders for the Woods Cross High School teen center with a bid of \$771,330. Business Administrator Craig Carter said the project includes the existing Cat Shack near the football field. The building will be remodeled to add a shower, laundry and study facility for students in need. The other half of the building will house concessions and restroom facilities for use during athletic events. The project is expected to be complete by the summer of 2022.

- Updates to the policy for resource conservation. District Legal Counsel Ben Onofrio said the policy came up for a five-year review and the main change was language inserted encouraging employees to conserve water and electricity. The policy will be considered by the board for final approval in its January meeting.

- A five-year review of the policy addressing crisis

District implements training program for teaching assistants

The district has created a teaching assistant development program using funding received from the American Rescue Plan and Secondary Education Relief Fund (ARP ESSER) to provide additional training resources for teaching assistants.

Superintendent Reid Newey said the project has been on the district's radar for some time.

"We've talked for the last several years about the opportunity to one, increase the number of adults in

classrooms to knock down the teacher-student ratio, and two, increase the ability and resource our classroom aides have," Newey said. "With the ESSER funding, we saw a valuable opportunity to set up a template that could be ongoing."

The training program includes three tracks — how tutoring works, creating math learners and managing behavior issues. Nancy Call, TA Development Specialist, said teaching assistants learn how to promote learning, how to work through challenges and

how to encourage positive behaviors. They also receive instruction on building a positive mindset for learning new concepts and strategies to help student behavior.

"It's been really impressive to hear some of their stories as they ponder things that they have not thought about themselves, because typically, they are parents," Call said. "They don't have an education background, so they haven't thought about these issues ... so the training has been very

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valuable to help them be successful,” said said. “This is also helping them go forward if they want to be a licensed teacher.”

The training has been available to all teaching assistants who work with students in the district. High school students have even been able to participate in the training and earn course credit while working as a teaching assistant in elementary or junior high classrooms.

Board Member Brigit Gerrard said the extra training and assistance from teaching assistants is invaluable for teachers.

Board considers ad hoc committee for parent feedback

The Board of Education is considering the creation of an ad hoc committee to organize resources on the district website for addressing parent concerns.

“We have all of this amazing information and the resources that are available is vast,” said Board Member Liz Mumford. “This is an opportunity to ask them, ‘Are we giving it to you in a way that’s useful, how can we do better, what do you have questions about,’ and it creates a more reciprocal relationship so that we can make sure

these tools are useful for them.”

The scope of the committee would involve asking parent representatives in the district about questions they have and then creating a resource page.

“The purpose is not for parents to engage in issues, but connecting people to existing resources,” Mumford said. “Having a refined parents’ landing page gives us a common place to send people.”

The proposed ad hoc committee would be for a limited amount of time to reach out to parents and create

“When I go in and visit, especially with first year teachers ... one of biggest things they struggle with is behavioral issues and they aren’t prepared to handle those things, so I love this focus on training” Gerrard said.

“I also see this as a huge way to help our teachers. We know they are burdened and feeling the weight of the world ... and we can harness these teaching assistants and help teachers understand that ... this can be a huge resource for them and a help to them and not just something else they have to worry about.”

the website resource page.

Board Member Cheryl Phipps said parents don’t always feel like they are engaged, so the ad hoc committee would help involve them.

“We want parents and students to be successful and we want to make sure parents know how to be engaged,” Phipps said.

“The most valuable thing in schools is our kids, but parents are right there with them and have to be included. ... and helping them feel like their input is valued is important.”

Board honors



The Syracuse High Chamber Orchestra is recognized for the performance.



Emilie Larsen is recognized as the UASP School Psychologist of the Year.



Bountiful High's Girls Volleyball team is recognized as the 2021 5A State Champions.



Shoreline Junior High students Megan Herbst and Alyssa Anderson are recognized for their heroic actions when a guest speaker needed CPR.