



# BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

## District announces partnership to combat racism

### First Lady, county, Hill Air Force Base leadership join community effort

The Davis School District has announced an enhanced partnership with key groups to address inclusivity, discrimination, and community-wide racism.

Installation Commander of the 75th Air Base Wing at Hill Air Force Base Col. Janise Carroll, Utah First Lady Abby Cox, and Davis County Commissioner Bob Stevenson were introduced to the school board during the regular Board of Education meeting Tuesday.

“I have not been treated differently myself, but individuals from the installation have,” Carroll said during a press conference. “That’s where the partnership will definitely come into play.”

The formal partnership creates a united front involving the most influential organizations in the community, including federal, state and local levels of government. Hill Air Force Base is the largest employer in Davis County, followed by the school district with more than 70,000 students.

“The question for us is, can we make this a healthier community? That’s the question for us,” said District Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen. “Can we make this a more inclusive and healthy community?”

The partnership will hold regular meetings to discuss goals and progress while working with marginalized communities within Davis County.

“There is willingness and there is desire out there to basically say, ‘We are one and we are going to continue to build as one,’” Stevenson said.

As part of the partnership, Cox’s initiative “Show Up Utah” secured funding to bring inclusive sports to all 10 of the district’s high schools.

“We believe in whole school inclusion through participation in sports with kids with disabilities, without disabilities,

all abilities, and race. We think that’s a beautiful way to provide that kind of inclusive environment for our schools,” said Cox.

The partnership enhances the district’s ongoing racial and inclusivity training for school employees.

“I believe that this partnership can be beautiful,” District Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jacqueline Thompson said. “We can plan to go together and build upon things that already had a foundation. We will work with our marginalized communities. We will work with all of our communities and our students will be right there with us.”

“We’ve got a lot of exciting things happening.”



Utah First Lady Abby Cox speaks about her part in the partnership with Davis School District.

## Board reviews proposed calendar for 2022-23 school year

The Board of Education of the Davis School District gave preliminary approval to the 2022-23 school year calendar during its regular meeting Tuesday. However, there is still work to do before it’s considered for final approval Feb. 1.

Elementary Director Ruthanne Keller said a 25-member committee made up of student board members,

parents, teachers, principals, district administrators and classified employee representatives, considered several options for the calendar. One calendar proposal was approved by the committee, which was then submitted to the board.

However, Keller said, it came to her attention just prior to the meeting that the proposed Jan. 2 return date from winter recess is the observed fed-

eral holiday because Jan. 1 falls on a Sunday. The committee will reconvene to discuss an amendment to the calendar to adjust for that holiday.

Keller noted that the calendar proposal includes a start date of Monday, Aug. 22 and end date of Friday, May 26, which is prior to Memorial Day. The draft calendar also includes a two-day fall break Oct. 13-14, a two-

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week winter recess and a weeklong spring break from April 3-7.

Board Member Julie Tanner said she heard from several parents about how much they liked the two weeks off for winter recess.

Board members learned the calendar proposal would be sent to all parents for feedback. Those comments will be summarized for the board prior to final approval expected during the regular meeting Feb. 1.

Patrons can e-mail comments to [news@dsdmail.net](mailto:news@dsdmail.net). Feedback will be taken until Friday, January 28.

In other business:

The Board recognized the retirement of Dr. Patti Brown, the Executive Director of Professional Learning and Quality Staffing. Kellie Mudrow, former principal at Mueller Park Junior High was announced as the administrator who will fill her position.

Superintendent Reid Newey also introduced Hailey Higgins as a new communications specialist.

The board also approved:

- Changes to a policy addressing resource conservation. Legal Counsel Ben Onofrio said the adjustments are in line with the district's on-

going practices of reducing energy use to the best of its ability within budget constraints.

Board Member Liz Mumford expressed her appreciation for the energy department for their aggressive approach to conserving resources. She highlighted a section of the policy which states: "When economically feasible, the District will work toward the zero energy school model when building schools."

"I think we've really demonstrated that through our most recent capital projects," she said. "And we've got a commitment to continue moving forward in a reasonable manner with energy conservation in kind of a balance with all the other demands on our budget."

- A five-year review of the personnel records policy. Onofrio said many of the items were streamlined as they were addressed elsewhere. Additionally, it outlines how an employee can apply to amend their personnel record.

- A change to the community council policy to establish a means to contact members other than listing their private email and phone number on the school website. Mumford said the hope is to protect community

council members from phishing scams which scroll through websites for that contact information.

- Interlocal agreements with the 10 municipalities and sheriff's office which provide school resource officers to district schools.

- An increase to the guaranteed maximum price for a building remodel of the F2 warehouse in the Freeport Center. Business Administrator Craig Carter said the remodel includes a training room which allows for large group trainings. The warehouse did not have adequate electrical for the audiovisual needs of the room, so a price increase of \$280,000 was needed to accommodate those upgrades. The funding comes out of the capital fund balance.

Newey noted that the district saved a lot of money with the purchase of those large buildings at the Freeport Center. Even with the remodel, the district has been prudent in getting a significant amount of space for a lower cost, he added.

"This will be the first building we have in the district where we can assemble all of our administration or teaching staff to do a significant training that isn't at a school," Newey said.

## Board honors



Dr. Patti Brown is honored for her many years of service in the Davis School District. Brown is retiring as the Executive Director of Professional Learning and Quality Staffing.



Students Dexter Hansen (above) and Eleanor Tensmeyer (left) are honored following the presentation of their winning Luther King, Jr. speeches.