



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

Board adds three early-out days to calendar

Intent is to gift time to educators who are dealing with hard year

In recognition of the ongoing pandemic-related disruptions to education and other challenges teachers are experiencing this year, the Board of Education approved adding three early-out days in this school year (2021-22) for all schools.

All Davis School District schools will observe a two-hour early out on three Mondays — March 21, March 28, and April 18.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Logan Toone said as the district looked at how it could help teachers, feedback was solicited from district administrators, school administrators and key teachers from each academic level.

“Teaching is the greatest profession on the earth, and I truly believe that with all my heart,” Toone said. “And I respect and love our teachers and they’ve had — many of you have heard and we have heard as well — the hardest years in their careers. We intend not to solve all of the problems, but to provide a little relief on this.”

Toone said the extra time is a balancing act because teachers do their best work when they are in the classroom with their students. However, the district also has an obligation to offer high quality training, assessments and collaborative opportunities for teachers.

“As we balance that out, we feel like this proposal that is before you today is kind of a moderation, and a way of meeting the need and also maintaining the priorities that we have,” Toone said.

All schools will release two hours prior to the regu-

lar end time. All bus routes will run two hours earlier on those days. Toone said after-school programs will continue at schools where those currently exist.

Toone said these additional hours will be valuable as teachers focus on needs specific to their students and classrooms. The time will not be used for additional meetings, professional development or collaboration groups.

Superintendent Reid Newey thanked the board for seeing the need and also earlier approving a stipend.

“... We’ve expressed, from an administrative point of view as well as from the board, how incredibly difficult the year and the teaching job has been on our educators throughout the system,” Newey said.

“... With that, the board has charged us and we have expressed the same concern about trying to find any respite for teachers and educators, our aides, all of our personnel that support education, in this district,” he continued, “to try and gain some ground where we could.”

Toone said regular early-out Fridays in elementary schools and late-start Wednesdays in secondary schools will continue as scheduled. However, effort will be made to consolidate meetings and professional development to offer educators more individual time on some of those dates.

Board Member Julie Tanner asked if the district had looked at full days, rather than early outs.

Toone said it was considered, but the impact that a full day off would have on parents was a concern. Addi-

See EARLY-OUT, Pg. 2

Initial consideration given to boundary adjustment proposal

The Board of Education of the Davis School District gave initial approval to a proposed boundary adjustment for West Clinton and West Point elementary schools.

District Elementary Director Dr. Gwen Hill explained the adjustment takes about 92 students who currently attend West Point Elementary and moves them to West Clinton Elementary. West Point Elementary boundaries encompass a large area

with continuing projected growth.

West Clinton Elementary boundaries have little projected growth and they are just at building capacity, Hill said.

The move would help alleviate overcrowding at West Point while not overburdening West Clinton. Hill further explained that the adjustment should allow those students to continue at West Clinton Elementary even with an expected boundary study in the future if a new elementary school is built.

“... That’s not going to be enough for a long (period of) time, but it will allow us to move a group of students that there’s room for them to stay over the next three to five years at least,” she said. “So that’s our proposal to take just that little bit rather than move a bigger amount that then have to go back to West Point or to another school. We’d like to have as little shuffling around as possible.”

District Planning Director

See BOUNDARY, Pg. 2

EARLY-OUT, from Pg. 1

tionally, the district is required to provide four hours of instruction on a scheduled school day, which would have meant teachers preparing four hours of remote instruction for those days.

“The additional preparation time that would require for teachers would kind of offset the gift of time they would

BOUNDARY, from Pg. 1

Steve Snow said the students in the proposed area would be within walking distance of the school. The street the students would travel on has sidewalks on both sides and crossing guards at three locations.

Board member Julie Tanner asked about future plans for the area because of the exploding growth.

“As you noticed, even if we make this change, all three — Lakeside and West Clinton and West Point — will all be above capacity, which a lot of our schools hover above capacity,” Hill said. “We do that on purpose so that we don’t have empty classrooms sitting around. It’s a wise use of the taxpayer dollar.”

She added that the construction of future schools is contingent upon the voters approving a bond proposal, which the timeline for is unknown at this time. Without those bond funds, the district would have to look at year-round schedules for some schools. A year-round schedule puts fewer students in the building at any given time, which helps alleviate the pressure of too many students on the amenities at a school, such as bathrooms and the lunch room.

The Board of Education will receive further input from the community in a public hearing set for 6:30 p.m., March 22

be receiving and that would kind of counteract that benefit,” Toone said.

Tanner said: “I know this will be hard on parents that now have their children getting early out for three extra days, but I feel it’s worth the trade-off to be able to give our teachers some relief. ...”

in the Syracuse High School auditorium. Final approval of a boundary adjustment is scheduled for the regular Board of Education meeting, which begins at 6 p.m., April 19.

In other business the board approved:

- A bid from Perkes Roofing for \$132,970 to replace the roof on the Head Start building and Renaissance Academy.

- All Weather Roofing for the partial roof replacement of Centerville Elementary with a bid of \$527,800.

- A partnership with the Davis Education Foundation, Layton City and Davis County to purchase property in Layton, using a grant, for the future site of a teen homeless shelter. Foundation Director Jodi Lunt explained that the shelter will have 16 beds and will serve as temporary housing for teens in the district who find themselves without a place to stay.

“... The youth at the biggest risk factor, students who we cannot find another alternative for them, these will be the beds for them. It will keep them close to our schools, it will keep them in school, which is what they want them to be, so that we can connect them with graduation and other wraparound services. ... We see this as a great inter-generational poverty cycle breaker.”

New administrative appointments named

Board of Education members were introduced to new district and school administrators who have been appointed to lead schools next year.

The new administrators greeted members of the board via Zoom and told a little about themselves. Some have moved up through positions within the district, others come from schools outside the district and even outside the state.

Those new administrators and their appointments are as follows:

District office: Tiffany Midgley, special education director; Brian Hunt, CTE director; and Tyler Poll, Catalyst Center administrator.

Elementary principals: Michael Archibald, Antelope; Scott Rogers, Bluff Ridge; Sarah Burk, Hill Field; Janice Bukey, Kay’s Creek; Natalie Vincent, Mountain View; Heidi Short, Orchard; Megan Fairbourn, Tolman; Chad Sanders, Wasatch; and Jenny Schow, Whitesides.

Junior high principals: Merci Ross-mango, Centennial; Adam Thompson, Fairfield; Jo Richins, Mueller Park

Elementary administrative interns: Shannon Larsen, Centerville and Orchard; Brittany Brimhall, Ellison Park and Windridge; Natalie Williams, Cook; Amy Thompson, Hill Field; Emily Flinders, Odyssey and Reading; Lucas Ensign, Sand Springs; Amber Hansen, Endeavour and Snow Horse; Lisa Petersen, Sunset; Jasey Fatongia, Stewart and West Bountiful; and Barbara Soelberg, Whitesides.

High school assistant principals: Mylei Zachman, Farmington; Monica Ramos-Carlson, Northridge; and Hadyn Call, Viewmont.

High school administrative interns: Dr. JenneLyn Talbot, Bountiful; John Peoples, Clearfield; Mackenzie Loo, Davis; Evette Ashton, Syracuse; Krissy Beecher, Viewmont; and Sydnie Morse, Woods Cross.

Junior high assistant principals: Jordan Loo, Centennial; Katie Frederiksen, Fairfield; Kevin Hargreaves, Farmington; Eric Castro, North Davis; Pat Limas, North Layton; Elliott Tupea, Mueller Park; and Chris Bertoldi, Shoreline.

Board recognitions



Emerson, a 6th-grader, performed a piece from the WSU Storytelling Festival. She is one of the district students chosen to perform at the festival.



Leah, a 5th-grader, performed her piece from the WSU Storytelling Festival. She is one of the district students chosen to perform at the festival.



Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen is honored for his many hours of work dedicated to helping the district navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.