



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

Board considers option for building new elementary Boundary adjustments on hold for West Point and West Clinton elementaries

The Board of Education of the Davis School District voted unanimously during Tuesday's meeting to pause the boundary adjustments under consideration at West Point Elementary and West Clinton Elementary.

Moving forward, the district will study an option for building a new school in the area using a different funding option.

Business Administrator Craig Carter told board members the district typically uses voter-approved general obligation bonds to build schools in areas of high student growth. The last general obligation bond approved by Davis County voters in 2015 included new schools in Layton (Sunburst Elementary) and Farmington (Farmington High).

All the projects from the 2015 bond are now complete and the board has not yet elected to put another general obligation bond on the ballot, Carter said. Without additional funding from general obligation bonds to address overcrowding issues, the district instead looks to adjusting school boundaries or moving to a year-round schedule.

However, he said, the board has the option to create a Municipal Building Authority that can issue bonds to construct a new elementary.

"As you know, we have a growing population in the whole West Point area ... so we addressed that with the potential movement of about 80 to 90 kids to West Clinton (elementary) and we had a public hearing on that proposal," Carter said. "Currently they have about 1,052 kids in (West Point Elementary), and it is growing."

Additionally, the district is dealing with rising costs of construction and interest rates. When Farmington High was built four years ago, the cost was \$185 a square foot, he said. Now, the district is looking at \$400 per square foot to build a school.

"The longer we wait, the bigger that number grows and in addition to that, as you know, interest rates are growing," Carter said. "Given the interest of getting that school built down there, we thought we'd try to address it as quickly as we can."

The advantage of using general obligation bonds, Carter said, is that they carry the AAA bond rating. The disadvantage is that a resolution needs to be passed by the board at least 75 days prior to the election, authorizing the bond to be placed on the ballot and then must receive a majority vote from Davis County voters in the November election.

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Additional early-out days for elementary teachers during 2022-23

Two more early-out days added to the 2022-23 calendar will be used by elementary teachers for professional preparation.

The Board of Education of the Davis School District approved the addition of the extra time to help elementary teachers as they continue language arts training.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Logan Toone said through employee negotiations the district became aware of the need for additional early-out days for elementary teachers. District and state required trainings will occur during professional preparation days.

Those times fall at the end of terms when teachers also use extra time for grading and preparing for the new term.

Elementary Director Ruthanne Keller, who serves as the calendar committee chair, said the committee considered days that would have the least impact on continuity of instruction.

The first early-out day was already on the school calendar on Monday, Oct. 31, which occurs one day prior to the Teacher Preparation Day on Tuesday, Nov. 1.

The next early out day added would be Jan. 12, which is a Thursday

and precedes the normal Friday early out. It is also followed by Martin Luther King Day on Jan. 16 and a Teacher Preparation Day on Jan. 17 with school not in session.

The final added early-out day is on Wednesday, March 15, which is followed by an early-out day on Thursday for the end of term and a Teacher Preparation Day on Friday.

"We'll ask our school principals to ensure that these early out days ... are meeting and training free to allow for professional time. ..."

In other business, Superintendent Reid Newey introduced the

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tion.

Municipal Building Authority (MBA) bonds only require the vote of the school board members, which are sold based on the district's stand-alone rating, currently at AA1. That is one step below AAA, which equates to about half a percent higher on interest rates than a general obligation bond. The district would then allocate capital funds to pay back the bonds. Carter said the district's budget would allow for that option.

Board President John Robison asked about the timeline of a new school in West Point if the board waits for approval on a general obligation bond.

Finance Administrator Tim Leffel said if a general obligation bond is placed on the ballot this fall and approved by voters, a new school in the West Point area

would not begin construction until spring of 2023. With a Municipal Building Authority bond, a new school build could begin this summer and be complete by fall of 2024.

"So, what happens in that scenario, the school we would build with the MBA would not be on the next general obligation bond at all," Leffel said. "One advantage to that, as Craig pointed out with interest rates and rising costs, the projects that we talked about doing may be squished and we may not be able to do all those projects. Having this one in an MBA gives us a little bit more flexibility than a potential bond if we decide to look at that later."

Robison asked Carter to present further research on the Municipal Building Authority bonds for the board to discuss at the next board meeting on May 3.

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new Office of Equal Opportunity director. Kenneth Auld joins the district after working in Jordan School District as a Human Resources administrator. He also served as the principal at Logan High School.

"...

Everywhere he's been, (he) comes with the great reputation for solving problems and never waiting to take action and we're just thrilled to have him with us," Newey said.



Kenneth Auld

Newey also introduced other new administrative appointments: Heather Schultz will serve as the principal at Whitesides Elementary; Brett Sims was named the Principal at Kaysville Junior High; Megan Woodbury as an administrative intern at Northridge High and Sue Caldwell is the new director of Federal Programs.

Additionally, the Board of Education approved:

- Changes to the policy School Fees, Fee Waivers, and Provisions in Lieu of a Fee, as dictated by state law. The changes include a clarification that the fees charged may be less than the fee cap and completes the transition to textbooks being free. Additionally, parts of the policy were reorganized and conflicting language was removed.

- A clarification in the Student Transportation, Field Trips and Extended Travel policy that elementary students do not qualify for overnight travel. The district's practice has been that only junior high and high school teams qualify for extended travel. The clarification makes it clearer that elementary groups will not be sponsored by the district for events requiring extended travel more than 100 miles from school.

"This would clarify going forward that our practice is our policy," said District Legal Counsel Ben Onofrio.

Board Member Liz Mumford said she feels strongly about students having enriching experiences like competitions. However, the fee policy does

not allow for charging elementary students for travel. She apologized to parents — particularly parents who hoped to attend a national VEX Robotics competition with their elementary students — for the confusion and expectations caused by the policy wording. She said the policy was looked at years ago when teams sought to attend a competition in St. George. At that time, efforts were made to ensure high level competitions were made available locally.

"I don't think that diminishes the quality of these teams, there's several throughout the district that qualified," she said. "The teachers and coaches and parents and especially these students have done amazing work and we want this program to grow and expand..."

"On a long-term basis, based on safety, the value academically and socially for kids in this age group, and equity and cost and a whole bunch of other factors, I'm not supportive of elementary travel."

Board honors

Wellness Award



The Davis School District Wellness Program is recognized for their Worksite Wellness Innovative Award from the Utah Worksite Wellness Council.

Board Performance



The Board of Education of the Davis School District recognizes Viewmont High guitar students following their performance at the meeting.

Employee Recognition



The Board recognizes Randy Galbraith for his 54 years officiating junior high and high school athletics.

NAL Champions



The Board celebrates the Centennial Junior High team as the National Academic League National Champions.

Unified Sports Region Champions



Unified Sports State Champions



Unified Sports State Champions



Unified Sports teams were honored as tournament winners. above top: Woods Cross High, Region Champions. above middle: Bountiful High, State Division I State Champions. above: Northridge High, State Division II State Champions.