



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

“No Mandatory Testing. No Mandatory Masking.” Board Hears Updated COVID-19 Policy

Davis School District has updated its COVID-19 pandemic response for the 2022-2023 school year.

Changes include putting more decisions in the hands of parents while using nearly \$1 million to support students and staff in schools, according to Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen who presented the update to the school board.

“Contrary to popular demand, it is still with us,” Zurbuchen said. “There are things we have in place to provide for our families that we are excited to share with you.”

When school begins on August 22, there will be no mandates or thresholds related to COVID-19.

“No mandatory testing. No mandatory masking,” Zurbuchen said.

When a student tests positive for COVID-19, the district recommends isolation for five days or until

they are no longer symptomatic, which mirrors Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

When a student returns, the district policy recommends they wear a mask for five additional days. However, this recommended action will not be enforced.

A positive test result would not deny a student access to school or the activity, Zurbuchen said.

“We will not be an enforcement agency,” Zurbuchen told the board, “This will be a family decision.”

Davis County Health Department and Davis County Commissioners gave the school district \$900,000 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or, CARES Act funding.

The district will use the one-time funding to hire a full-time nurse and ten COVID aides to manage

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From Migrant Worker to Ivy League, Dr. Fidel Montero Serves as New Assistant Superintendent



Veteran educator Dr. Fidel Montero was introduced to members of the Davis School Board of Education as the new assistant superintendent.

“We are grateful that you are with us and we look forward to working with you,” said Davis School District Board of Education President John Robison.

Montero comes to Davis School District with 20 years of experience in public education,

most recently as principal of Timpview High School in the Provo School District.

“He does incredible work that is focused on academics. That is the best way for students to have equal opportunity and demand rigor and excellence,” said Superintendent Dr. Dan Linford to the board.

Prior to his time at Timpview High, Montero also

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any outbreaks. When not responding to COVID, the aides will transition to health aides in various elementary schools. The positions will be for one year.

“The reason the county is being so supportive of what we do is because of the work we’ve done over the past two years,” Zurbuchen said.

Zurbuchen said the district allocated \$400,000 to buy two years’ worth of HEPA filters to be used in portable air cleaners placed in classrooms.

If an outbreak is suspected, the district will also offer COVID-19 rapid antigen testing before or after school.

When classes resume, the district will also relaunch its COVID-19 dashboard with up-to-date information on COVID-19 positive cases from the Davis County Health Department.

“It will provide a way to give information to our families so they can make measured health

decisions for their children,” said Zurbuchen. “That’s what this is about...this is a supportive measure.”

The district will also no longer be contact tracing, but will deliver notifications to district staff and students when there is a positive case in a school and classroom.

“The reason that information is critical is there are families who are very concerned about a potential outbreak in school and the impact on their families,” Zurbuchen said. “That family can make a measured decision on what they will do with their child in terms of attendance.”

Davis School Board of Education member Cheryl Phipps raised concerns about education access to families who choose to keep a student home because of potential exposure to COVID-19. Zurbuchen said the district will continue to support students through online learning capabilities and keep the child up to date.

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served as chief of staff to President Matt Holland at Utah Valley University, principal of Alta High School in the Canyons School District, and superintendent intern in Miami-Dade Public Schools and the School District of Philadelphia.

“Since we announced his hiring, I have had folks reach out to me from across the state, even fellow superintendents...to tell me what an exceptional human being he is,” Linford told the board. “The most astounding thing I have heard is what a high-caliber person he is from top to bottom.”

Montero was raised in a small farming community in Northern California as the son of Mexican immigrants. He grew up as a migrant worker who picked peaches, walnuts, and almonds.

“My public school wasn’t ideal,” Montero told the board. “I think we had one AP class in high school. It was small. But the teachers that I had were so wonderful. They taught me and instilled in me a sense of hope, a sense that I could do anything in this life. As a first-generation immigrant to this country, that was

hopeful.”

He holds an Ed.D in Leadership and Management as well as a Master of Education from Columbia University, a Master of Educational Leadership and Foundations, and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science Teaching from Brigham Young University. He is the father of five children.

“It’s a real treat to be here with you,” Montero told the board. “I hope to give you my best self and to serve all the students who attend this school district.”

Board Approves Policy Updates

District Legal Counsel Ben Onofrio presented the board with minor updates to the language in Davis School District’s Policy and

Procedures. The board voted in approval of updates to sections 1B-010 Qualifications Authority Power and Responsibilities, 2HR-

200 Equal Employment Opportunity, 2HR-204 Ethical Conduct of District Employees and 5S-202 Authorization of Student Clubs and Organization.