



BOARD BRIEFS

Authored by the Davis School District Community Relations Department

Davis schools ‘moving forward’ in promoting equity

Board of Education hears Quarterly Report

Dr. Fidel Montero provided a report on Davis School District’s agreement with the Department of Justice. Presented quarterly, these reports keep board members and the community informed with the latest information.

In the time Montero has been in his position as Assistant Superintendent, he has talked to students, parents and employees about what they see as the values of Davis School District. In those conversations, he noticed these recurring themes: respect, dignity, a sense of family, success for all, safety, communication, community and relationships.

“As a family man myself, I couldn’t think of stronger community values that I would want in

the place where my children go to school,” reflected Montero.

These values have been on the forefront as Montero and his team created the district’s Office of Equal Opportunity and framed its work.

Montero presented slides listing the work OEO has accomplished over the last year. Most recently, OEO modified its committees to have more input at the school-level. More than 200 school leaders have been trained since August and are now collaborating in OEO efforts and resolving situations at their schools.

Additionally, the district has secured new consultants to guide OEO’s efforts. As of February

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What should parents know about Summit Learning?

Board takes a deep-dive into the data behind the personalized learning platform

A new year and the election of new board members reignited interest in the Summit Learning platform.

Utilized by 10 schools in Davis School District (seven secondary and three elementary schools), Summit is a personalized learning platform that fuses traditional teaching with technology to help students master core academic subjects at their own pace. According to Summit’s website, the instruction provided emphasizes parental involvement, project-based learning and the application of lifelong skills.

“We felt like it was a good time to revisit the

platform,” said Board President Liz Mumford. “We’ve had significant changes in our board and we have new board members who have expressed interest in learning more about the Summit platform.”

To accomplish this goal, the board invited Assistant Superintendent Dr. Logan Toone to share data from schools who use Summit’s offerings as part of their instructional strategies. Following Toone’s presentation, a panel of parents and educators answered questions from the board.

“The idea behind the Summit platform is that it better enables teachers and students to engage in personalized,

competency-based instruction,” explained Superintendent Dr. Dan Linford. He shared an analogy comparing Summit to a doctor’s check-up, where a doctor (or teacher, in this case), evaluates where a patient or student is in real-time. He prefers this method to only doing evaluations at the end of a unit or semester, comparing that to an autopsy where it is too late to help students who fall behind.

“As the years go on, we have better technology to gauge student learning,” Linford continued.

Following the Superintendent’s remarks, Dr. Logan Toone presented the

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LEARNING FIRST PROFILE: *South Davis Jr. High*

Each month, the Board of Education will highlight a school in Davis School District. In February, the board learned about South Davis Jr. High from its administration team.

Things to celebrate at SDJH:

- SDJH offers 150 unique course offerings, including 15 honors classes, two AP courses, French Dual Language Immersion program, robotics tech, wood-working, 3D modeling, interior design, dance company, band and yoga.
- The school counseling team was awarded Counseling Team of the Year for the State of Utah in 2022.
- The school offers three support programs to help every student achieve success: Academic Coaching, English Language Learning and Credit Recovery Coaching
- Students and teachers alike follow the Spartan Code. They commit to being considerate, being resilient, seeking growth and taking ownership.



FAST FACTS:

Address: 298 W 2600 S, Bountiful

Principal: Justin Whittaker

Student Body: 1,100

Mascot: Spartans

School Colors: Red, White & Black



"I am really glad that in our school we focus on our character. We're not just learning academically, but learning how to be good human beings, how to be responsible, how to have a growth mindset when things don't go well. I think it helps all of us remember that there's more to life than just getting long division questions or writing essays."

- Julie Boam, English Teacher

District to conduct study of immersion programs at two elementary schools

Davis School District will study the sustainability of French Language Immersion programs at Foxboro and Odyssey elementary schools in North Salt Lake and Woods Cross, respectively.

Right now, both schools offer French immersion programs, but dwindling participation in the programs over the past three years could indicate a fiscal need to consolidate the programs to one school.

A steering committee has been created, made up of the following from both schools: the principal, a Davis Education Association representative, parents of students studying French, parents of students studying English, French teachers and English teachers. They are accompanied by nine district officials from the superintendent's office and departments of assessment, budget & planning, special education, curriculum and transportation to look at any solutions proposed from all angles.

"There are so many factors and complexities involved in studying these programs," said Elementary Director Traci Robbins. "In order to do a really throughout job, we really needed to peel back those layers and make sure every person had an opportunity to share their perspective."

The steering committee will study and consider the following factors:

- Staffing availability and cost
- Visas and work eligibility
- Class size and student attrition
- Program and enrollment trends at each

school

- Effects of possible program adjustments on school demographics
- Transportation needs
- Title I and other potential program designations
- Access to special programs currently housed in schools
- Jr. High and High School course articulation and availability through school feeder patterns
- Community perceptions and needs
- Student academic and social well-being
- School culture and climate

Emphasizing that no administrative decisions have been made to remove or consolidate French DLI programs at this time, Robbins predicted the steering committee would be ready to present the board with final recommendations in late fall or early winter of 2023.

In taking a slow approach, Robbins hopes the steering committee will have ample time to take in feedback and allow families time to ultimately decide the best course of action for their students once a decision has been made.

"We do not intend to rush the study process, nor do we anticipate readiness for any significant changes affecting the upcoming (2023-24) school year," wrote Robbins in a letter for parents. "We can confidently say that none of the possible outcomes being studied will be implemented this year or next year."

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2023, Dr. Karran Dunkley and Bernard Gassaway replace the Safeguarding Group.

OEO continues to partner with the district's Assessment Department to conduct surveys and focus groups to solicit parent and student feedback to inform its work. Moving forward, OEO will also continue working with interfaith groups, student advisory groups and

community members as part of its engagement plan.

"The work is moving forward," concluded Montero. "The biggest difference between today and August 2022 (when the board heard the first DOJ quarterly report) is that we have a lot more stakeholders and people who are a part of our school district who are helping do a lot of the lifting."

In June 2023, Montero will present an annual report to the board and detail the findings of the focus groups and surveys.

More information on the Davis School District Office of Equal Opportunity and its work can be found at davis.k12.ut.us/departments/office-of-equal-opportunity

Millcreek Junior High to undergo accessibility upgrades

The Board of Education approved a bid for Judd Construction to install three ramps and make necessary ADA upgrades at Millcreek Junior High in Bountiful.

The school is built on a sloping hill side with several levels connected by short staircases. To make the entire school ADA accessible, three new limited use limited access elevators will be installed: one connecting the upper classroom wing to the cafeteria, another connecting the shop level to the gymnasium level and a third elevator connecting the shop level to the band and choral level. An ADA ramp will also be installed to connect the band level to the girls locker room.

Work will begin immediately and will be completed by Mid-August. Construction will cost \$1.26 million.



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district's data on the demographics, academics and enrollment patterns of schools using Summit. His report included results from student and parent surveys and how Summit handles data privacy.

The 65-page report, [found here](#), notes that the data presented is "without intention of either supporting or opposing Summit Learning. It is presented as general information to the board or as a response to specific inquiries that have been presented by community members to board members or district administration."

"Primarily, our student grade data, our ACT data and our graduation data is reflecting positively on our Summit outcomes, while survey data is reflecting negatively on our Summit outcomes," said Toone

after showing the data to the board at the close of his twenty-minute presentation.

The members of the panel to answer board questions and share their first-hand accounts of Summit were:

- Amy Anderson, teacher at Farmington High School
- Mike Handy, teacher at Clearfield High
- Dr. J.D. Griffith, Community Council Vice Chair of Farmington High School
- Chris Keime, principal at Clearfield High
- TJ Strain, principal at Legacy Jr. High
- Michelle Thompson, Community Council Chair at Centennial Jr. High

Collectively, the panelists spoke on how Summit is implemented in their schools, what effect it has on student learning and feedback from students, teachers and parents.

A recording of the panel discussion and Dr. Toone's presentation is available at davis.k12.ut.us/school-board/meeting-info or by scanning the QR code below:

