Note of explanation:

Davis County School administrators and board members began looking into the possibility of switching to a 4-day school week for the following reasons: easier teacher recruitment and retention; transportation cost savings; and the possibility of positively impacting student behavior and relieving teacher stress.

School officials wisely sought to saturate the public with information and seek community input. Their strategy:

• Form a study committee of school personnel and a wide representation of community leaders.

• Hold zoom sessions with other schools on the 4-day-week schedule to study the pros and cons of student achievement, effect on families, and effect on communities. The zoom sessions were held with the study committee, but available to the entire community through streaming.

• Posting informative pro and con articles on the school’s website.

• Hosting three, well-attended community forums on the topic.

• Administrators and board members encouraged phone calls and opinions from the public.

• The study committee set the perimeters and determined they would give a positive recommendation of a 4-day week to the school board only if 75% of the committee would endorse the change of schedule. That goal was not met; there was no recommendation; and the change of schedule did not happen. Further study may occur in the future.

The Bloomfield Democrat’s role in all of this? We reported (online and in print) on every zoom session, every public forum, published meeting schedules, and urged the community to get involved in this decision.

Why? We saw this decision as one that had the potential to affect quality of education, family life, community life, and economic development in Davis County for years to come and we knew community input was extremely important.