

**Dunlap Community Unit School District 323**  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**October 15, 2025**

**INFORMATION ITEM**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Education  
Dr. Scott Dearman, Superintendent

**FROM:** Mandy Ellis  
Student Services

**SUBJECT:** Soaring Together Community Partnership Award

**BACKGROUND**

The Dunlap Community Unit School District #323 is committed to fostering strong, collaborative relationships with community partners who actively support the District's mission and vision. To formally recognize these partnerships, the District is establishing the *Soaring Together Community Partnership Award*. This annual recognition will honor individuals or organizations whose contributions significantly enhance the educational environment, safety, and well-being of our students and staff.

**INAUGURAL RECOGNITION**

The inaugural *Soaring Together Community Partnership Award* is being presented to **Chief Brandon Lanier and the Dunlap Fire Protection District** for their exceptional and proactive support of Dunlap Schools. Their partnership exemplifies the spirit of collaboration and community commitment the award is intended to celebrate.

**NOTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS**

Chief Lanier and the Dunlap Fire Protection District have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the safety and preparedness of our schools through:

- Responding to **35 medical emergencies** during the 2024–2025 school year and already responding to **over 10 emergencies** thus far in the current school year.
- Playing a pivotal role in establishing the **Cardiac Emergency Response Plan** and partnering with the District's in-house CPR trainers to train **nearly 200 staff members** in CPR.
- Promoting learning and student engagement through **field trip** opportunities for students across the district and involvement with the **fire science club** at Dunlap High School.
- Supporting **summer professional learning** for staff in fire science and safety.
- Providing the **Dunlap Fire House conference room** as a venue for professional

development sessions.

- Engaging in **ongoing safety planning efforts**, including:
  - Attending and certifying building fire drills,
  - Collaboratively planning for emergency and crisis situations, and
  - Reviewing building maps and response procedures.

### **Conclusion**

Chief Lanier and the Dunlap Fire Protection District have consistently gone above and beyond in their service to Dunlap Schools. Their efforts directly contribute to a safer, more prepared, and more resilient learning environment. The *Soaring Together Community Partnership Award* will stand as a symbol of appreciation for their extraordinary partnership and will become an ongoing opportunity for our district to honor community partners who share this commitment to excellence.