

Granite School District

Board of Education Meeting

May 6, 2014

A board meeting for Granite School District was held in the board room at the Granite School District offices, 2500 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah. President Gayleen Gandy called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m., those in attendance:

Gayleen Gandy	President
Terry Bawden	Vice President
Connie Anderson	Board Member
Connie Burgess	Board Member
Julene Jolley	Board Member
Dan Lofgren	Board Member
Sarah Meier	Board Member

The following members of the administration were present:

Martin W. Bates	Superintendent
David F. Garrett	Business Administrator/Treasurer
Don Adams	Assistant Superintendent
Mike Fraser	Assistant Superintendent
Jim Henderson	Assistant Superintendent
Linda Mariotti	Assistant Superintendent

Ben Horsley, Director, Communications Department, and Merilyn Boekweg, Board Recorder, were in attendance.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Report on Assessments: State, District and School

Dr. Rob Averett, Director, Student Assessment, and Mary Alice Rudelich, Director, Curriculum and Instruction, explained that assessments are an essential component of instruction. Assessments serve students by giving them a personalized learning environment and interventions if needed.

Assessments assist the teachers in forming differentiated classroom instruction. They provide feedback to parents, schools, and the Board of Education regarding student and school climate.

Why so much testing? Dr. Averett and Mrs. Rudelich explained the purpose of testing is to help improve student achievement by allowing for more informed instruction. The State of Utah requires tests to be developed to align with the new core and will replace the national norm-referenced tests. The Federal mandated tests are increasing the rigor in curriculum to improve student learning when compared to international peers.

The Board was provided a handout with a comparison of testing being conducted in Granite over the 2013-14 school year (SY) and the 2014-15 SY. Tests being given in surrounding districts (Alpine, Canyons, Davis, Jordan and Salt Lake) were compared to Granite in both elementary and secondary. The Board discussed, in depth, required testing, who mandated it, and if it results in good and useful data. Schools are given some latitude in administering tests that fit with their school plans. Those assessments include common formative assessments, teacher selected (end of unit/chapter, formative/summative created by teacher), and software based (i.e. My Access).

Challenges have been addressed in testing. Technical problems have been experienced in using computer based tests. Choosing tests with content accuracy and consistency with the core objectives is a challenge. The availability of time and the ability to assemble and disaggregate reports can present a problem to the educators. (Exhibit #14-30)

Benchmark tests are being revised this summer to align them with the common core. These tests do give immediate results to the students as well as teachers and help greatly in driving instruction.

Members of the Board asked if some of the tests are overlapping and taking too much instructional time while contributing to student testing fatigue. Mr. Averett stated a student could become fatigued or motivated depending on how the data is read. A discussion followed which included information about the State mandated SAGE testing. The SAGE test will set a baseline in the 2013-14 SY. The 2014-15 SY will give a more accurate picture of student assessment. They talked about benchmark tests and if they are accurate enough to really drive instruction.

Dr. Bates asked Dr. Averett to research some of the information requested by the Board and report his findings.

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

The Granite School District Board of Education reconvened at 7:05 p.m. in the board

room. President Gayleen Gandy welcomed all in attendance for this session and a roll call of board members was taken. Superintendent Bates introduced others representing organizations, they were:

Dawn Warner	Region V, PTA
Sandy Straley	
Debbie Gyman	
Carrie Friend	
Karen Winder	
Tonya Ashton	State PTA
Susen Zobel	GEA
Kathleen Riebe	
Crista Holt	
Vickie Burrow	GAEOP
Teresa Himmelberger	
Tracy Atkin	GESPA
David Shell	
Bobbie Bringhurst	
Terry Roylanncce	GASA

Paul Hansen, Junior High Director, School Accountability Services, introduced administrators attending by assignment:

Garett Muse	Principal, Taylorsville High
Carol Harris	Principal, Olympus Junior
Dawn Hauser	Principal, Matheson Junior
David Holt	Principal, Valley Junior
Andy Carbaugh	Principal, Upland Terrace Elementary
Amy Martz	Principal, West Valley Elementary
Brent Nelson	Principal, West Kearns Elementary
Yvonne Pearson	Principal, Woodstock Elementary
Jolene Randall	Principal, Vista Elementary
Tracy Rose	Principal, Twin Peaks Elementary
Terri Roynance	Assistant Principal, Taylorsville High
Lynda Tierney	Assistant Principal, Skyline High
Melanie Roybal	Assistant Principal, Brockbank Junior
Mary Beth Schmidt	Assistant Principal, Vista Elementary/Wilson Elementary

President Gandy requested those running for Board of Education to stand and indicate which precinct they would represent.

Gayleen Gandy-Precinct VII
Terry Bawden-Precinct V
Connie Burgess-Precinct III
Julene Jolley-Precinct VI
Karyn Winder-Precinct VI

Media: None

Pledge of Allegiance: Dawn Hauser, Principal, Matheson Junior

Reverence: 2013-14 PTA State Reflection Winners from Granite were presented to the Board. Region V PTA had five students who had their entries advanced to the national level. Those in attendance were:

Brielle Reichert, Olympus High, Literature
Yuna Shprecher, Oakridge Elementary, Literature
Emily Marsh, Dance

The Board congratulated them and asked where the community could read the literature entries. They will be on the Region V website. The Board thanked the PTA for their work in enlightening the students.

RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Horsley announced the National Teacher Appreciation Week May 5-9. Teacher Appreciation Day will be acknowledged May 7. He shared social media responses students and parents had written about the positive influence of teachers in Granite.

Ms. Jolley read a proclamation signed by President Gandy and Superintendent Bates stating the importance of teachers.

MAYORS PARTICIPATION - None

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - None

CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes: April 9 & April 22, 2014

Purchases:

1. Hardware Support & Software Updates for Cisco SmartNet Equipment, MSN Communications - \$86,470.96
2. Computer Server Storage for Information System, Summit Partners - \$334,209.05
3. Computer Network Switches for Information Systems, Valcom - \$320,500.95
4. Wireless Computer Networking Infrastructure Equipment for Information Systems, MSN Communications, \$353,030.80

Award of Contracts

1. School Climate Survey, Conditions 4 Learning LLC - \$201,000.00
2. Contracted Services to Move Relocatables, Wells House Movers & Intermountain House & Structure (as per building size)
3. Remodel of Kearns Junior High Food Labs, Arnell-West - \$113,705.00
4. Remodel of Churchill Junior High Food Labs, Jardine Malaska Construction - \$136,250.00

Change Order

IT Programming Services

Personnel:

1. Leaves of Absence
2. Employee Hires and Separations

Financial Reports

1. Purchase Order Summary - \$2,563,283.79
2. Accounts Payable Pay Vouchers - \$33,614,334.90
3. Principals Cash Report –March 2014

Ratification of Negotiations with Granite Education Association (GEA)

School LAND Trust Plans for 2014-15

Foreign Exchange Agency Approval

Motion: **I move that we accept the Consent Agenda.**

Made by: Julene Jolley

Seconded by: Sarah Meier

Called for vote: President Gandy
Results: Carried Unanimously

President Gandy commented on the LAND Trust Plans she had read. She complimented Elk Run Elementary for the very detailed information they had provided about their goals. Each goal had been supported by data they had collected.

INFORMATION ITEM

Hunter High Grade Reconfiguration Survey

Mr. Fraser gave a short history of the Hunter High reconfiguration proposal. He yielded the floor to John Welburn, Principal, Hunter High, to provide information on the survey taken in their school and community. Joining Mr. Welburn were Craig Stauffer, Hunter High Assistant Principal, Mary Anne Stevens, Principal, Kennedy Junior, and Doug Wagstaff, Principal, Hunter Junior.

October of 2013 at a town hall meeting the community expressed interest in moving Hunter High to a 9-12 grade configuration. The change would affect not only Hunter High but Kennedy Junior and Hunter Junior. With the support of the School Community Councils (SCC) a survey requesting input from the community, parents, students, teachers and administration was made available online. They were notified on school websites, phone calls, postcards and school marquees. Results showed 100% support from administrators at all levels. There were 479 respondents to the survey. The parents were 63% in favor, teachers over 60%, and students 42%. There were several variables that played into the student count.

Room for housing the additional students will be available if the relocatables from the junior highs are moved to the high school. At the present time there are five unused classrooms at Hunter High and a plan has been developed for placing 12 relocatables next to the tennis courts in a parking area that is under used. A restroom will be available in the same vicinity. Enrollment projections show Hunter High at 1,950. Kennedy Junior has 356 9th grade students and Hunter Jr. 343. Class configurations will make it possible for all students to have scheduled classes in the relocatables, not just the 9th graders. (Exhibit# 14-31)

Common concerns that were voiced included social interaction and 9th grade maturity levels. Some were concerned about the housing of students and the behavior of the older students around the 9th graders. There were, however, more positive comments than negative.

A discussion regarding the proposed relocatables in comparison to long term enrollment projections ensued. Junior highs will fall back to their capacity enrollments and will no longer need the relocatables. The District sees a stable enrollment at the high school and does not expect a surge that would increase the housing needs.

The Board also discussed the concept of a threshold for the percentage of approval from schools requesting the reconfiguration. It was suggested that further study on the topic be done. SCC members commented about the positive opportunity students would have to participate in the Granite Technical Institute (GTI) early in 9th grade. The ability to get an education that would train them for a career directly out of high school would be beneficial for the school population.

ACTION ITEMS

1. 2014-15 School Calendar Revision

Gail Howe, Director, Elementary School Services, and Paul Hansen, Director, High School Services, explained the proposed changes to the 2014-15 school calendar. The negotiation agreement with the Granite Education Association (GEA) would require additional Teacher Contract Days (TCD). The previously approved calendar allotted 4 TCD. In compliance with the tentative negotiations agreement it was proposed to allot 8 TCD. The Legislative Instructional Exemption day would be part of the 8. (Exhibit #14-32)

The Board discussed the importance of the Calendar Committee's approval of the changes. Mr. Hansen will contact the committee and give them the option of approving the changes.

Motion: **I move we approve the amended 2014-15 school calendar upon the approval of the calendar committee.**

Made by: Dan Lofgren
Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Called for vote: President Gandy
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

2. 2015-16 School Calendar

Mr. Hansen explained to the Board the need for speedy approval in order to secure graduations locations.

The survey results of 1,729 participants for the 2015-16 school calendars were reviewed. Two options were presented. Both options are the same for Fall Recess, Thanksgiving Recess, Winter Recess, and Spring Recess. Mrs. Howe shared survey results for both options.

Option A

- Starts August 19, 2015 (Wednesday)
- Ends May 27, 2016 (before Memorial Day)

Option B

- Starts August 24, 2015 (Monday)
- Ends June 3, 2016 (after Memorial Day)
- Includes a 4 day weekend for Memorial Day (because of Legislative Instructional Exemption Day)

(Exhibit #14-33)

The Board discussed the options.

Motion: **I move we Accept Option A.**

Made by: Terry Bawden

Seconded by: Sarah Meier

Called for vote: President Gandy

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

3. Anti-Discrimination Policy Article V.C.2.

“This policy was presented to the Board for a first reading in November 2013. We had recently entered into a settlement agreement with the Office of Civil Rights regarding policy and procedure for responding to deaf or hearing impaired individuals. Part of that settlement included updating our anti-discrimination policy. The policy was modified to strengthen the process of providing accommodations.” (See Agenda)

There were no requests from the Board for changes after the first reading.

Motion: **I move we approve this conditioned upon our willingness to make changes as per OCR directives.**

Made by: Dan Lofgren

Seconded by: Sarah Meier

Called for vote: President Gandy

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

REPORTS

Mr. Bawden asked for clarification on the topic for the May 20th study session. He will be unable to attend. Mr. Lofgren will also be unable to attend. Mrs. Anderson commented the assigned graduations and end-of-year activities made the end of the month very busy for board members. If there was not an urgent need the study session could be canceled. The Board agreed and the study session was canceled.

Dr. Bates reminded the Board of the town hall meeting at Hunter High scheduled for May 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center.

Mrs. Burgess commented on the new signs that help in locating Bonneville Junior High.

Motion: **I move we adjourn.**

Made by: Dan Lofgren

Seconded by: Terry Bawden

Called for vote: President Gandy

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.