

**Granite School District**  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Education of Granite School District convened in the Boardroom at the Granite Education Center, 2500 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah. President Nicole McDermott called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., those in attendance:

Nicole McDermott	President
Kris Nguyen	Vice President
Connie Burgess	Board Member
Kim Chandler	Board Member
Julie Jackson	Board Member
Clarke Nelson	Board Member
Karyn Winder	Board Member

The following members of the administration were present:

Rich Nye	Superintendent
Todd Hauber	Business Administrator
Don Adams	Assistant Superintendent
Rick Anthony	Assistant Superintendent
Leslie Bell	Assistant Superintendent
John Welburn	Assistant Superintendent

Ben Horsley, Chief of Staff, Doug Larson, General Council, and Elisa Jenkins, Executive Secretary, were in attendance.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### **Construction & Capital Update**

Don Adams and Justin Naegle, Architecture, Engineering, and Construction Director, presented information about current construction and capital projects.

### **Legislative Update**

Ben Horsley presented the Legislative Update to the Board. There has been a legislative tracker on the Granite School District website. Todd Hauber reviewed the state funding source of the presentation. Superintendent Nye suggested that the Board have a study session on HB 84 as they work through implementation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m. for a dinner break.

## **GENERAL BOARD MEETING**

The Granite School District Board of Education reconvened at 7:01 p.m. in the Boardroom. President Nicole McDermott welcomed all in attendance for this session and called for a roll call of board members; all board members were present. President McDermott invited those representing organizations to introduce themselves. Those representing organizations were:

Gayna Breeze, GAEOP  
Michelle Jones, GEA  
GESPA, joined online

Pledge of Allegiance: Tayler Khater, Principal Howard Driggs Elementary

Reverence: Driggs Elementary

### **GOOD NEWS MINUTE**

Clarke Nelson recognized and thanked the cities of South Salt Lake and Millcreek for the event they held with the “Promise” partnerships in promoting graduation. He attended a Literacy Night event at Woodstock Elementary which received a lot of support from the community.

Karyn Winder read with some first and fifth grade students at Farnsworth Elementary. She was able to attend four of the EXCEL winner awards. She thanked the Community Councils for all they do. She also mentioned that Kennedy Jr. High changed their mascot, they are now the Kennedy Knights.

Kris Nguyen thanked the Granite Education Foundation for all their work with the EXCEL winners. She attended Silver Hills Literacy Night which was a great event for the students and parents.

Connie Burgess expressed her appreciation to the Granite Foundation for their work with the EXCEL program. She went to the Eisenhower Junior High school play, and she was very impressed with the great job that the students did.

Kim Chandler thanked all those involved in the legislative session. She also thanked those who were involved and participated in the reconfiguration meetings. She was able to attend “Thank You Thursday” at Stansbury Elementary and is also grateful for the Granite Education Foundation in looking at ways to celebrate teachers with the EXCEL awards.

Julie Jackson thanked the audience for their attendance and recognized those who are doing great things for students. She mentioned that Cottonwood Elementary had a “Battle of the Books Program” which was a great event for the students and said it was inspiring to see how excited the students were to read.

President McDermott said that she went with a special education class from Taylorsville High School on a tour of the State Capitol and it was a great field trip for them. She attended the Evergreen STEM night, which was a fun time watching drones above the school. She also visited with Mr. Johnson, the new principal at Diamond Ridge.

President McDermott thanked the board members for all their work in the community.

### **RECOGNITIONS**

The following elementary schools were recognized for 2022-2023 High Median Growth Percentile (MGP): Fox Hills, William Penn, Woodstock, Oakwood, Eastwood.

The following secondary schools were recognized to 2022-2023 High MGP: Churchill Junior High School, Evergreen Junior High School, and Kearns High School. Skyline High School was also recognized at the meeting because they were not able to attend the January meeting.

Aaron Whitehead, Athletic Specialist, introduced Guy Mackay from Taylorsville High School as the National Federation of High Schools Cross Country Coach of the Year. Aaron Whitehead, also introduced Jen Christensen, Principal of Olympus High School who recognized the Boys and Girls Swim Teams from Olympus who won state this year.

Academic All-State Recipients were recognized:

**Cottonwood:** Audrey Garringer, Competitive Cheer; Matthew Bruns, Boys Swimming; Kiersten Schaub, Girls Swimming

**Cyprus:** Alaura Holle, Drill

**Granger:** Sierra Smith, Girls Swimming

**Hunter:** Jenna Olsen, Competitive Cheer; Jenna Olsen, Girls Wrestling; Zaquel Cossa, Boys Basketball

**Kearns:** Frederick Biesinger, Boys Swimming

**Olympus:** Collin de la Garza, Boys Swimming; Audrey Kim, Girls Swimming; Lauren Greenwell, Girls Swimming; Ammon Stevens, Boys Wrestling; Dutch Dowdell, Boys Basketball

**Skyline:** Alexander Stewart, Boys Swimming; Conrad Flake, Boys Swimming; Soonhwi Kwon, Boys Swimming; Lucas Andtbacka, Boys Wrestling; Camilla Groberg, Girls Basketball; Malakai Sorenson, Boys Basketball

Lynne Rada, Organizational Effectiveness Associate Director, introduced the 2023 National Board-Certified teachers: Sharrie Lonnen, Silver Hills, Chad Farnes and Anna Bessesen from Taylorsville High School, Jennifer Christiansen, Eastwood Elementary.

#### **GRANITE ELECTED OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION** – None

#### **PATRON PARTICIPATION** –

Abby Hansen, from the Hunter High Debate team addressed the Board. She stated that Hunter High has had six students qualify for Nationals in Chicago Illinois. They would like to be able to fundraise in their school and to attend Nationals as a team, but they are not allowed per District guidelines.

Abigail Mackris, is also on the Hunter High Debate. She stated that she would also like to be able to attend NCFL Nationals, in Chicago Illinois.

Isabelle Miller, from the Hunter High Debate team would also like to be able to attend the NCFL Nationals in Chicago, Illinois and would like to be able to fundraise at the school as a team.

Noah Crane, is the Captain of the Kearns Speech and Debate Team. Kearns High School also has six students that have qualified for Nationals in Chicago, Illinois. He also would like to be able to attend the NCFL Nationals in Chicago Illinois and be able to fundraise as a team.

Dr. Nye stated that they are proud of these students and what they have accomplished. The Board has Board Policy Article 8.a.18 sub section 2.f. which limits where students can travel, but exceptions can be made by the Board. He encouraged those who would like to work through the exception process to do so.

Michelle Jones, GEA President addressed the Board. Ms. Jones expressed gratitude to the Board for their swift action and support of the resolution condemning the actions of Natalie Cline.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

Kim Chandler indicated that she will be voting against some items on the consent agenda. Ms. Chandler is opposed to government funding of personal internet access and feels that it is outside the proper role of government. There is also a third-party contract with an organization with which she has concerns.

Minutes, February 6, 9, & 20, 2024

Purchases: As outlined in the agenda.

Awards of Contract: As outlined in the agenda.

Personnel:

1. Employee Hires and Separations
2. Leaves of Absence

Financial Reports:

1. Purchase Order Summary - \$5,029,505.27
2. Change Order Summary Report - \$237,697.05
3. Accounts Payable Pay Vouchers - \$17,289,584.92
4. Direct Electronic Transfer of Funds
5. Principals' Cash Report – January 2024
6. Monthly Budget Report – January 2024

GESPA Negotiating Team  
School LAND Trust Amendments

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

Made by:      Karyn Winder  
Seconded by:      Kris Nguyen

Called for vote:      President McDermott  
Results:      Julie Jackson: Yea, Connie Burgess: Yea, Kris Nguyen: Yea, Karyn Winder: Yea, Nicole McDermott, Yea, Kim Chandler, NayYea: 6, Nay: 1

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Administrative Appointments**

Appointments effective July 1, 2024

Karly Chavez      Associate Director, Educational Equity  
Anne Reese      Director Onboarding & Instructional Coaching

**Motion:**      **I move we approve the administrative appointments.**

**Made by:**      Julie Jackson  
**Seconded by:**      Karyn Winder

**Called for vote:**      President McDermott  
**Results:**      Motion Passed Unanimously

Dave Gomez, Director of Educational Equity introduced the newly appointed Educational Equity Associate Director, Karly Chavez, she then introduced her family.

Rick Anthony, Assistant Superintendent, introduced Anne Reese, newly appointed Onboarding & Instructional Coaching Director, she then introduced her family.

### **K-5 ELA Curriculum Adoption**

These materials were made available on the Granite School District Website prior to the meeting.

Kim Chandler noted that there were some comments and concerns from teachers about the new curriculum. She said that although she appreciates less on-line and more physical curriculum she would like to pursue further and has some concerns around it.

**Public Comment:** none

**Motion:**      **I move that we approve the new K-5 ELA Curriculum Adoption**

**Made by:**      Julie Jackson  
**Seconded by:**      Connie Burgess

**Called for vote:**      President McDermott  
**Results:**      Julie Jackson: Yea, Connie Burgess: Yea, Kris Nguyen: Yea, Karyn Winder: Yea, Nicole McDermott, Yea, Kim Chandler, Nay, Yea: 6, Nay: 1

### **Sex Education Materials**

Sex Education Materials were presented at the last board meeting and have been available online for public review and comment and called for a motion.

**Motion:**      **I move that we approve as an action item, Sex Education Materials**

**Made by:**      Karyn Winder  
**Seconded by:**      Kris Nguyen

Discussion: Julie Jackson has concerns with the “Fight the New Drug” relating to pornography in the new curriculum. She feels it is more shame based and would like to get more information before approving. Rick Anthony noted that if they wait to approve this it will delay the implementation of the curriculum for the upcoming school year. The curriculum has been approved by the committee, which is made up of employees and community members. Karyn Winder has done some research and feels like the “Fight the new Drug” is very anti-shame and she would support approval.

**Substitute**

**Motion:** **I move that we get a little more data and information about this and bring it back next month to vote on again.**

Made by: Julie Jackson  
Seconded by: none

The Board discussed that parents may choose to opt out of this curriculum if they do not want their students learning this.

Kim Chander had some concerns with the rape recovery center curriculum.

**Substitute**

**Motion:** **I move to break up the vote of the two different portions of the curriculum because I would like to vote in support of the Brain, Heart, World materials, so I would offer the substitute motion that we approve Brain, Heart, World curriculum individually or separately and then revisit the second piece.**

Made by: Kim Chandler  
Seconded by: none

President McDermott called for a vote on the original motion.

Called for vote: President McDermott  
Results: Julie Jackson: Nay, Connie Burgess: Yea, Kris Nguyen: Yea, Karyn Winder: Yea, Nicole McDermott, Yea, Kim Chandler, Nay, Yea: 5, Nay: 2

**Reconfiguration, Cyprus, Granger, and Hunter Junior High Networks**

Ben Horsley presented information on the 2024 reconfiguration proposal. He recommends approval that the Board adopt a K-5, 6-8 grade configuration for the Cyprus, Granger and Hunter Junior Networks and feeders to be implemented in the 2025-2026 school year. The Board discussed if the reconfiguration networks could be approved separately but because of the feeder schools it would make it difficult.

Kim Chandler wanted to be the voice of those people who are opposed to the reconfiguration. She will vote Nay. She recognized the effort that has been put into this.

**Motion:** **I move that we adopt a K-5, 6-8 grade configuration for the Cyprus, Granger and Hunter Junior Networks and feeders to be implemented in the 2025-2026 school year.**

**Made by:** Karyn Winder

**Seconded by:** Connie Burgess

**Called for vote:** President McDermott

**Results:** Julie Jackson: Yea, Connie Burgess: Yea, Kris Nguyen: Yea, Karyn Winder: Yea, Nicole McDermott, Yea, Kim Chandler, Nay, Yea: 6, Nay: 1

## **INFORMATION ITEM**

### **2024-2025 School Fees**

Craig Stauffer presented 2024-2025 school fee schedules, which have been posted on the Granite School District website. He indicated the HB 415, requires changes to be made to the fees for next year. He went over the changes to the High School Fee Schedule with the Board. Steve Perschon reviewed the changes to the Junior High School, Elementary Fee Schedule, and Non-waivable fees.

There was some discussion about coach spend plans which need to be available for parents to view before registration and each plan must include all the costs for their program. The thresholds have been under the maximum, so they will be able to include transportation fees for next year without raising limits.

There was some discussion about the commencement fee that is now on the fee schedule. The commencement fee is now waivable because it is not on the fine schedule. Part of this fee helps pay the cap and gown rental fee and the fee to rent the facility. It is challenging to have commencement at the schools because many graduates would like to have as many family members come as they can.

President McDermott would like to be able to see the Debate students attend the NCFL Nationals competition. Students would have to stay under the current fee cap or there would have to be an exception made. She would like to see a line item added to the fee schedule to allow students to travel outside the geographical area with board permission, and she would like the students to have the opportunity to participate in fundraising for the travel. John Welburn, Craig Stauffer, and Steve Perschon will look into what needs to be done to allow this to happen and present it to the Board at their next meeting. An amendment to the current fee schedule will have to be approved for the Debate team to attend this year.

### **Public Comment - none**

## **SECOND READINGS**

### **Article V.C.17 Student Memorials and Tributes**

**Motion:** **I move we approve Article V.C.17 Student Memorials and Tributes as a Second Reading.**

Made by: Kris Nguyen  
Seconded by: Julie Jackson

Called for vote: President McDermott  
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

### **Article IX.A.3.1 Personnel Files and Medical Records**

**Motion: I move we approve Article IX.A.3.1 Personnel Files and Medical Records as a Second Reading.**

Made by: Karyn Winder  
Seconded by: Clarke Nelson

Called for vote: President McDermott  
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

### **SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD REPORTS**

Superintendent Nye reported that there has been an increase in the percentage of students above benchmark in literacy in elementary. The percentage of progress has increased in the number of students above their pathway of progress. The junior high schools are making improvements across their academics. There has been an increase in the number of students on track for graduation over the same period last year. The district struggles with attendance, but schools are working on it. The principals in the district that have attended the second cohort of the Principals Academy at the University of Utah will be presenting on March 20, they will be sending a calendar invite to the board.

Julie Jackson said she attended a USBA regional meeting, and the goal is to reach out to every candidate who will represent the district and invite them to talk about our schools, whoever that person would represent would also be invited to the meeting. The Board will be receiving an invitation to attend the meeting.

Kim Chandler said that the District Community Council meeting will be held Thursday, March 14, 2024, at Olympus Junior High.

Kris Nguyen said that the Linda Marotti literacy grants were awarded to William Penn Elementary and Magna Elementary, she thanked the regional PTA for sponsoring the grants.

Karyn Winder is on the Benefits Committee, and they have been discussing the increase of medical costs.

**Motion: I move we adjourn.**

Made by: Karyn Winder  
Seconded by: Clarke Nelson

Called for vote: President McDermott  
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at  
<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/2744>

*I certify that upon motion duly made, seconded and passed, the Board of Education of the Granite School District approved the foregoing on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2024, I further certify that a quorum of the Board was present on both the day covered by these minutes and the day of approval.*

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*Todd Hauber  
Business Administrator*