

Granite School District
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, April 23, 2024

A study session of the Board of Education of Granite School District convened in Auditorium A at the Granite Education Center, 2500 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Welcome - President Nicole McDermott called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., those in attendance:

Connie Burgess: Absent, Kim Chandler: Present, Julie Jackson: Present (virtually), Nicole McDermott: Present, Clarke Nelson: Present, Kris Nguyen: Present, Karyn Winder: Present.

Connie Burgess arrived at 6:25 p.m.

The following members of the administration were present:

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

Ben Horsley, Chief of Staff, Doug Larson, General Counsel, and Stacy Bushell, Executive Secretary, were in attendance. Rick Anthony, Assistant Superintendent was excused.

Consent

Purchases as outlined in the agenda.

I move to approve the consent agenda. This motion, made by Kim Chandler and seconded by Karyn Winder, Carried.

Motion passed: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent (Connie Burgess): 1

Cell Phone Policy

Ben Horsley presented a rough draft of changes to board policy VIII.A.24. Electronic Devices and Acceptable Use of Technology. The potential changes would address new requirements from the legislature and further define prohibitions and acceptable use of cell phones and electronic devices. The cell phone policy was discussed at last week's District Community Council (DCC) meeting. Kim Chandler reported on the discussion at the DCC meeting. The biggest challenge is lack of enforcement of existing policies in schools, the general opinion was that a district-wide policy would help that problem because it would place ownership of the policy on the district and the board. A consistent policy would be helpful for substitute teachers when they work at a different school each day. The group was divided about whether phones should be banned bell to bell or during class time only. It was clear they felt the needs at each school level are different and should be taken into account.

Board discussion: Each board member expressed support to work on a district wide cell phone policy. Board members talked about their views and feedback they received on this issue. Topics to be addressed in revisions to the draft policy included:

- The focus of the policy is on reducing disruptions to learning in the classroom.
- Teachers and coaches need to utilize multiple forms of communication so that a cell phone is not required for a student to receive messages.
- Allowance to use a cell phone should be extended for a health care plan, medical need, or a student's personal safety.
- A possible provision for cell phone use as a reward.
- Consequences outlined in the policy should be flexible and provide guidance, school administrators can work out logistics as they deem appropriate.
- Clarification of how restrictions and consequences apply to students and other groups.

The next steps will be to survey employee groups, students, and parents. School community councils will be asked to provide written feedback. The draft of the policy will be updated based board member discussion and feedback. The revised policy will be presented as a First Reading at the May board meeting. Surveying and outreach will continue, and results will be shared with the board. In June, the policy will be presented as a second reading.

Executive Session - Negotiations

President Nicole McDermott said there is a need for an Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations and called for a motion.

I move to go into executive session for the purpose of negotiations. This motion, made by Karyn Winder and seconded by Kris Nguyen, Carried.

Motion passed: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (yea), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), Karyn Winter (yea).

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

President McDermott excused those who did not need to attend executive session and released board members for a 5-minute recess.

The board convened an Executive Session in the boardroom at 8:10 p.m. Those in attendance were Julie Jackson (virtually), Kim Chandler, Connie Burgess, Kris Nguyen, Karyn Winder, Clarke Nelson, Ben Horsley, Nicole McDermott, Rich Nye, and Todd Hauber,

Adjourn

I move we adjourn from Executive Session. This motion, made by Kim Chandler and seconded by Clarke Nelson, Carried.

Motion passed: Yea: 7, Nay: 0

The executive session adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

I move to adjourn normal session. This motion, made by Karyn Winder and seconded by Kim Chandler, Carried.

Motion passed: Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Note: A copy of related materials can be found at <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/2744>

An audio recording of the meeting can be found at <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/>