

Granite School District
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, November 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 5:02 p.m., those in attendance:

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

The following members of the administration were present:

Benjamin Horsley	Superintendent
Todd Hauber	Business Administrator
Don Adams	Assistant Superintendent
Leslie Bell	Assistant Superintendent
John Welburn	Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Mitch Nerdin, Chief of Staff, Doug Larson, General Counsel, and Stacy Bushell, Executive Secretary, were in attendance.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Capital and Construction Update

Don Adams, Justin Naegle, and Chris Kartchner presented an update on the status of capital and construction projects. The focus of this presentation was to report progress and explain the need for change orders on the Truman, Skyline and Cyprus projects.

Board discussion:

Board members recently toured the Cyprus site. Kim Chandler questioned whether the design of restrooms in the performing arts area comply with state laws. In this space there are private toilet stalls which will be designated separately for female, male and ADA use. The sinks for this area are across from the toilet stalls and are undesignated. Other restroom spaces in the building are completely separate and designated male and female. Board members considered if further study of the spaces with common handwashing stations is necessary and concluded it is not. The layout of the restrooms does comply with state law.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President McDermott said there is need of an executive session for the purpose of safety and security and called for a motion.

Motion: I move we go to executive session for the purpose of safety and security. This motion, made by Julie Jackson and seconded by Kris Nguyen, Carried.

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (yea), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), Karyn Winder (yea)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

The executive session began at 6:04 p.m. in room B-216, Kim Chandler, Kris Nguyen, Doug Larson, John Welburn, Leslie Bell, Mitch Nerdin, Don Adams, John Lake, Randy Porter, Ben Horsely, Todd Hauber, Julie Jackson, Karyn Winder, Connie Burgess, Clarke Nelson, and Nicole McDermott were in attendance.

Motion: I move to adjourn the executive session. This motion, made by Julie Jackson and seconded by Karyn Winder, Carried.

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (yea), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), Karyn Winder (yea)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

The executive session adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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.

GEA - Michele Jones, Shantelle Diaz, Kelly Collett, Caren Burns
PTA: Liz Shellum and Heidi Christensen
GAEOP - Gayna Breze and Monica Tovar
GESPA – Breezy Davis and Riley Ogden
Granite Education Foundation - Kathy Newton
Principals – Tim Clark, Katrina Gillespie, and Jen Johnson

Pledge of Allegiance – Steve Perschon

Reverence - Hunter High Barbershop Quartet

GOOD NEWS MINUTE

Kim Chandler said it has been a busy month with legislators in the classroom, thank you Thursday, PAC meetings, meetings with administrators and teachers. She thanked Wright elementary for inviting her to observe special education classes. She acknowledged Veteran's Day yesterday; she attended the concert. She respects and appreciates the sacrifice of veterans.

Connie Burgess said the veteran's program was very special. Hello Dolly at Taylorsville was wonderful. She encouraged everyone to attend high school musicals.

Kris Nguyen talked about the month of kindness in October at Hillside Elementary, there was a carnival to celebrate the students' participation. She attended a Day of the Dead celebration at Lake Ridge elementary, it was fantastic. She attended Pleasant Green's veterans' program.

Karyn Winder celebrated Valley Junior High for achieving most improved attendance in the district. She attended the Granger tennis banquet, and the Super CCA Day showcasing CTE pathways for junior high students. Mr. Broschinsky, Granger choir director, scheduled a Veterans' program at a local nursing home, it was so fun.

Clarke Nelson attend the veterans' performance which included all Granite high school concert choirs. He attended the Bonneville Junior High production of Mad House. This week there are several Ruby Bridges walks these represent someone who had courage, and we can look up to.

Nicole McDermott the musical at Taylorsville blew her away and she will be attending musicals at 3 other schools. Taylorsville cross country placed 1st at the state competition. She enjoyed the guest Mariachi band at Jefferson Junior High. She asked veterans and their families to stand and be recognized.

RECOGNITIONS

Fall Academic All State Athletes

Boys Cross Country: Andrew Poulson (Cyprus), Ethan Ostler, Spencer Bentley (Granger), Dung Ho (Hunter), Andrew Storheim (Olympus), Andrew Crouch, Davis Lloyd Howe, Johan Fearnley (Skyline), and Kai Makowski (Taylorsville)

Girls Cross Country: Brynn Poulson, Lily Shawcroft (Cyprus), Paige Meaders (Granger), Evelyn Clayton, Sofia Jourdon (Olympus),

Football: Uha Malekamu (Cyprus), Brady West and Carson Stewart (Skyline)

Boys Golf: Sterling Peterson (Skyline)

Girls Soccer: Caroline Handy (Skyline)

Girls Tennis: Sunnie Ivins (Cottonwood), Lani Sturgeon, Tatum Castro (Hunter), Alice Pugsley, Ivy Zhao, Rain Xu (Skyline), Charity Christensen, Rachel Booth (Taylorsville)

GRANITE ELECTED OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION TIME - none

PATRON PARTICIPATION TIME

Michele Jones, GEA President, addressed the board saying that Granite has been known for reliability and consistency. Granite and GEA have a long history of reciprocal communication. "We are proud of the work that we do and impact we have on our students' lives at all levels. However, in the wake of the transition of the new superintendent and chief of staff.... we have seen some breakdown in the communication that has traditionally served us so well." We are better together, this is achieved when Granite and GEA honor, trust and build upon the legacy of the professional agreement, negotiated outcomes, and protocols we collectively crafted. "GEA, the educators of Granite School District, are committed to these shared values." She requested that the district reciprocate these same commitments to reestablish and reinforce collaborative, transparent communication.

CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes: October 1, 2024 and October 15, 2024

Purchases as outlined in the agenda.

Change Orders as outlined in the agenda.

Personnel:

Employee Hires and Separations

Financial Reports as outlined in the agenda.

Easement near Cyprus High, PacifiCorp

LAND Trust Amendments

Motion: I move we accept the items on the consent agenda. This motion, made by Karyn Winder and seconded by Kris Nguyen, Carried.

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (yea), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), Karyn Winder (yea)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

ACTION ITEM

Administrative Appointment

Administrative appointment effective December 2, 2024.

Tim Clark Principal Brockbank Junior High

Motion: I move that we accept the action item of the administrative appointment. This motion, made by Kris Nguyen and seconded by Connie Burgess, Carried.

Kim Chandler said she has conflicts and feels it is appropriate to abstain from this vote.

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler Abstain (With Conflict), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), Karyn Winder (yea)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Abstain (with conflict): 1

John Welburn introduced the newly appointed principal of Brockbank Junior High STEM school, Tim Clark, who then introduced his guest.

INFORMATION ITEM

Student Enrollment Report

Steve Hogan, director of planning and boundaries, presented summaries of student enrollment in Granite School District. The overall enrollment continues to decrease with 2,312 fewer students enrolled for the 2024-2025 school year. The districtwide forecast by consultant, MGT, projects a continued decline in enrollment of 1.9–2.9% each year, over the next 5 years.

ACTION ITEM

Population Analysis Committee Recommendations

Steve Hogan reviewed the study process and community outreach efforts. Then he summarized each of the Population Analysis Committee (PAC) recommendations, including boundary changes and potential busing areas. Dr. David Gatti, transportation director, explained rationale for bus routes due to the proposed changes and answered questions about those routes.

PUBLIC HEARING

Candice Feil, Community Council Chair at Orchard Elementary is concerned because her street is just barely outside of the area that will be bused to Whittier. She is very concerned about her child's safety as it would require crossing two very busy streets.

Lindsey Moseley, Orchard Elementary, her children attend Orchard on a permit, and they have a family friend who runs a daycare near the school. Their childcare provider and others will lose income due to this closure. This is hard on single parents and worrisome to have students walking to a different school. She doesn't want to lose the staff and teachers they currently have.

Debra Wilde lives near Orchard Elementary. Her children get themselves to school in the morning. If Orchard closes, she does not have a way to get them to school. There is not a safe walking route because 7200 W and 3500 S are too busy to cross. Please do not close Orchard without providing a safe way to get to school.

Mindy Harding, Monroe Elementary, she is worried that a lot of students from Monroe will not be able to get to Valley Crest. It is likely students would go to a charter school which is closer because families don't have the transportation needed. She would like to see the results from a recent survey of parents in her area. Do teachers on the English side of DLI have options to go to the magnet program?

Adriana Flores, Orchard Elementary, her son addressed the board, "Cal" thinks it is wrong that you are shutting down the school just because it is old and not popular. Kids will be sad if they cannot go to school with their friends. Even though it's November you should have some Christmas spirit and keep Douglas T. Orchard in business. Adriana then talked about the many questions her son has about where they will go to school and how they will get there safely. Parents are concerned for their children's safety with the hill especially in snowy weather. Cars don't slow down.

Aimee Warren represents the pink area of Valley Crest. She brought attention to the STEM track at Armstrong Academy. Students this area permit to Armstrong and then continue with STEM at West Lake. The change in feeder boundary affects families who choose the DLI or STEM track.

Breanna Davis works for transportation; she worries about safety and logistics of more buses going to Whittier. There are already many buses taking students to special classes there.

Rylie Ogden works at Academy Park; she spoke about the closure of Redwood elementary where families are under stress because of recent business closures and now the closure of their school.

President McDermott closed the public hearing and then invited the patron who wanted to comment on another issue to come forward.

Emily Schultz, teacher at Magna Elementary, spoke about the proposed reconstitution of Magna elementary. The faculty were surprised to learn that they will have to apply for a position at the school for next school year. There was not opportunity for discourse, the process lacked transparency. Reapplying for their jobs is distressing to teachers who are committed to the community. Because the Administrator will remain at the school, she believes it creates a stressful environment for the remainder of this year. She thanked the board for their time and consideration.

Action Item: PAC Recommendations continued.

Motion: I move that we change the boundary of Sinbad Way from Pleasant Green to Lake Ridge Elementary as a first reading. This motion, made by Julie Jackson and seconded by Kris Nguyen, Carried.

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (yea), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), Karyn Winder (yea)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Motion: I move to approve the closure of Orchard Elementary with boundary adjustments to Copper Hills and Whittier only without Wright elementary included, as a first reading. This motion, made by Kris Nguyen and seconded by Julie Jackson, Carried.

Kris Nguyen explained, at the beginning of the study only Copper Hills and Whittier were proposed to take students from Orchard, later in the study Wright was added. Ms. Nguyen is concerned that there is not a safe way for students to get to Wright and it makes sense to only divide the boundaries between two schools instead of three.

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (yea), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), Karyn Winder (yea)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Motion: I move we approve that the east side of the Orchard closure go to Hunter Junior High and the west side go to Matheson Junior High as a first reading. This motion, made by Kris Nguyen seconded by Julie Jackson, Carried.

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (yea), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), Karyn Winder (yea)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Motion: I move to approve the closure of Redwood Elementary with boundary adjustments to Granger, Stansbury, and Wilson elementary schools to include the portion of Redwood to Granger Elementary to become a feeder from Granite Park to Valley Junior High as a first reading. This motion, made by Julie Jackson and seconded by Kris Nguyen, Carried.

Board discussion: Board members expressed concern about an area in the current Redwood boundary where there is not a safe walking route to Stansbury. They asked staff to study solutions for this area. Principals are looking forward to receiving Redwood students next year.

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (yea), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), Karyn Winder (yea)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Motion: I move to approve the boundary adjustment from Walker to Wilson and Lincoln elementary schools as a first reading. This motion, made by Julie Jackson and seconded by Karyn Winder, Carried.

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (yea), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), Karyn Winder (yea)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Motion: I move to approve the boundary adjustment from Walker to Wilson specifically the family shelter at the corner of 3300 South and I-15 with boundary adjustments effective January 2025 as a first reading. This motion, made by Julie Jackson and seconded by Connie Burgess, Carried.

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (yea), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), Karyn Winder (yea)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Motion: I move to approve the closure of Valley Crest Elementary with boundary adjustments from Armstrong and Valley Crest to Monroe Elementary school and to include a feeder pattern change from West Lake Junior and Granger High to Hunter Junior and Hunter High as a first reading. This motion, made by Kris Nguyen and seconded by Connie Burgess, Carried.

Board discussion: Kim Chandler asked about the busing plan to the Spanish Dual Language Immersion (DLI) magnet as presented earlier. She questioned whether the boundary for junior high and high school should be changed, considering the DLI and STEM tracks that currently feed to West Lake and Granger. She is unsure that a magnet DLI program is the best idea.

The busing plan will be in place short term to help families currently in the program. If it is later determined that additional busing should be added, at an increased cost, the board will decide how to proceed. Moving the boundary from Granger to Hunter to alleviate the enrollment

pressure at Granger where the school is over capacity is an advantage. By providing a strong DLI option in this area we hope to serve families who want a Spanish DLI focused school.

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (yea), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), Karyn Winder (yea)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Motion: I move to approve the school opening of a DLI Spanish magnet school at the current Valley Crest campus as a first reading. This motion, made by Connie Burgess and seconded by Kris Nguyen, Carried.

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (yea), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), Karyn Winder (yea)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

FIRST READINGS

Article VIII.A.27. Naming District Properties and Approving Mascots, Monuments, and Permanent Artwork.

Motion: I move to approve Article VIII.A.27. Naming District Properties and Approving Mascots, Monuments, and Permanent Artwork as a first reading. This motion, made by Julie Jackson and seconded by Kim Chandler, Carried.

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (yea), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), Karyn Winder (yea)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Article V.A.2. Prohibition of Dangerous Materials on District Property

Motion: I move to approve Article V.A.2. Prohibition of Dangerous Materials on District Property as a first reading. This motion, made by Karyn Winder and seconded by Kris Nguyen, Carried.

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (yea), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), Karyn Winder (yea)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

SECOND READING

Article X.C.3. Educator and Student Communications through Social Media

Motion: I move we accept Article X.C.3. Educator and Student Communications through Social Media for a second and final reading. This motion, made by Julie Jackson and seconded by Kim Chandler, Carried.

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (yea), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), Karyn Winder (yea)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

SUPERINTENDENT and BOARD REPORTS

Superintendent Horsley recently spent time in co-taught kindergarten classes. Cheyanne Hunt, nutrition worker at Wright Elementary touched his heart when he recorded a hallway minute with her. As he has visits with education support professionals, he finds they are just as dedicated as teachers to education and providing opportunities for students. The district committee, which is made up of district directors and principals, will work to assist schools with critical needs by providing interventions and support. Dr. Nerdin, Chief of Staff, created 3 new committees aimed to collaborate and represent principal voices. These committees focus on improving academics. They will implement a contest to reinforce math facts. Lastly, he was job shadowing instructional coaches in a kindergarten class. The teacher was amazing, the coach was there to support as students were learning the letter o and how to identify the letter b. A student he was helping corrected him and helped to reinforce and reteach the information being taught.

Kim Chandler reported on District Community Council (DCC), held October 29. The presentation was on the school accountability model and school achievement rates. They discussed HB212, teacher bonuses, which are 62% funded by the district. There was time for questions and answers, overall, it was good meeting to start the year.

Julie Jackson said as a follow up to legislator day in the classroom, we are creating a presentation on funding within Granite to share with our legislators to help them understand our needs.

Connie Burgess the ZAP tax passed, and the county will be taking applications as they distribute the funds.

Karyn Winder met with the benefits committee. This year a higher number of employees did not complete open enrollment during the window so the benefits office will follow up with them. There is an 81.5% loss ratio on medical expenditures which is 8% less than this time last year. Pharmacy costs are rising quickly so they will keep an eye on those. Mental health is the number one diagnostic category, it is good that people are utilizing that resource.

Nicole McDermott asked board members to watch for an email from Stacy on the NSBA conference. Calendar options were emailed to board members. If there are questions, please let her know. The committee is proposing two very different calendar options.

ADJOURN

Motion: I move to adjourn. This motion, made by Karyn Winder and seconded by Kris Nguyen, Carried.

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (yea), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), Karyn Winder (yea)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Meeting adjourned at 10:43 p.m.

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