

# Granite School District

## Board of Education Meeting

June 18, 2013

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 5:05 p.m., those in attendance:

Gayleen Gandy	President
Terry Bawden	Vice President
Connie Anderson	Board Member
Julene Jolley	Board Member
Connie Burgess	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
Mike Fraser	Assistant Superintendent
David Gourley	Assistant Superintendent
Jim Henderson	Assistant Superintendent
Linda Mariotti	Assistant Superintendent

Steve Powell, Communications Department, and Merilynn Boekweg, Board Recorder, were in attendance.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

#### 1. Granite Connection

Rick Anthony, Director of Educational Technology and Granite Peaks Life Long Learning, presented information regarding the new Granite Connection High School. It will be a component under the Granite Life Long Learning program.

The Granite Connection High School will offer flexible and individualized learning options. Classes will be available face to face, blended with online classes or complete online classes. Some students will be there for general instruction, working toward credit recovery or to

extend learning opportunities. Each situation requires a different approach to cooperative or independent learning. The vision is to meet all student needs.

Teachers should be comfortable in working with a diverse student population. It is important that they have the ability to deliver the curriculum in a variety of learning styles. Technology, course design, communications tools, and assessment will be assets in the assignment. They must have flexibility with student learning and the demographics of their work day.

Flexible learning options with dual enrollment will be available for comprehensive students, non-traditional students, and home/hospital participants.

High school counselors will identify students, or a student may refer themselves. The Granite Connection High Liaison serving at each high school and the School Support Team (SST) determines which students will be recommended to the Connection SST. The importance of moving quickly with the student transition was discussed.

Mr. Anthony reported that 550 students have enrolled for summer quarter. Some are using this time to get ahead. Students starting their sophomore year comprise the largest group enrolled for the summer.

The Board discussed possible situations that may arise. They clarified with Mr. Anthony that students are able to earn high school credit in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade years by taking online courses. They thanked Mr. Anthony for his work and were looking forward to seeing the results of the program once it is implemented. (Exhibit #13-59)

## 2. Report on Bond Sale

Mr. Garrett commented that the competitive General Obligation Bond sale of \$11.5 had just been completed. He introduced Dale Okerlund, Granite's Financial Advisor, and Nathan Robertson, both from Lewis Young Robertson and Burningham, to report on the sale.

Mr. Okerlund said this was a smaller bond amount than in previous years but was the amount needed to cover the construction costs of projects that were being completed. The remaining bonds will be sold when the need arises for a new northwest quadrant junior high. He gave the Board a Pricing Book that provided histories of bond sales, and information about the Fitch and Moody Ratings for Granite which were both excellent. Interest rates were up slightly from the district's last bond sale. Overall, Granite is selling their debt at a very low rate. (Exhibit #13-60)

### 3. William Penn Dual Immersion Update

Superintendent Bates reviewed the history of the Spanish Dual Immersion program at William Penn Elementary. He explained that there had been concerns voiced by parents who were both for and against the program. Meetings were held at the school and a survey taken regarding the impact the program has on students and the community. The survey indicated 70% of participants were in favor of the program and 25% were against, with 5% undecided. The School Community Council (SCC) voted against maintaining the program. Dr. Bates listened to the audio of the SCC meeting. He met with the SCC co-chairs, Principal Patrick Flanagan and the new incoming principal, Brittany Gilson. He detected the main problems from the parents were class size inequality between Spanish and regular education students, particularly in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Some dual immersion students require remediation and the question of the language it is offered in was a concern. The limits on the enrollment of program participants and the process for leaving the program, if desired, had school wide impact.

Teachers had concerns also related to class size. They expressed their impressions that Spanish teachers were not accountable or responsible for student progress in the Spanish or English portions of their classes. The Immersion program is so rigorous it doesn't allow time for fun instructional activities. The availability of the program was problematic. The teachers said that after the selection (lottery) was made a division in their classes was evident. Professional concerns among the teachers both in and outside the program had been expressed.

The Utah State Office of Education (USOE) has adopted the Dual Immersion program for which our legislature provides money. The funding helps with training and materials. Dr. Bates cautioned that deviating from the program too much could stop the state funding. The district is not in a position to fund the program.

Dr. Bates concluded that a second language acquisition as early as possible is a good thing. Most parents at Penn are positive about the opportunity their children have to be involved. There are legitimate family and teacher concerns about how the model is presently implemented. The School Leadership Team and the SCC co-chairs have expressed their commitment to addressing and resolving the concerns by designing a William Penn specific model.

Superintendent Bates recommended that Ms. Gilson, the incoming principal, work with the parents and staff to design a plan that addresses the concerns for the 2014-2015 school year. He directed his administrative staff to work with them on this project. The program will remain as it currently is for the 2013-2014 year.

The Board took a 30 minute dinner break.

**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	PTA, Region V
Sydney Johnson	Aspen Council
GASA	Maile Loo
GESPA	Tracy Atkin

Gail Howe, Elementary School Director, School Accountability Services, introduced administrators attending by assignment:

Karl Moody	Principal, Bonneville Junior
Christine Drummond	Principal, Bacchus Elementary
Jean Gowans	Principal, Academy Park Elementary
Naomi Hopf	Principal, West Valley Elementary
Cecilia Jabakumar	Principal, Arcadia Elementary
Lynne Rada	Principal, Bennion Elementary
Waisea Lesuma	Assistant Principal, Taylorsville High
Lois Elkington	Assistant Principal, Brockbank Junior
Tod Cracroft	Assistant Principal, Diamond Ridge Elementary/ Valley Crest Elementary
Janet Thorpe	Assistant Principal, Fox Hills Elementary/ Wright Elementary

Pledge of Allegiance: Ken Auld, Assistant Principal, Kearns High

Reverence: Mr. Lofgren acknowledged the importance of the parents and teachers in the educational process by helping students graduate from high school. He said that another cohort was often overlooked. He commended the support given by the many teams of classified employees district wide. They keep the district a safe and comfortable place for students to come. He thanked them for their service

**MAYORS PARTICIPATION** - None

## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Sophia Rowlings, 1785 Lake Street, SLC, is a parent of a student in the Dual Immersion program at Penn Elementary. As an immigrant she appreciates the opportunity her student has to participate. She supports the program

Daniel Marriott, 1528 Fuller Drive, SLC, supports the Penn Dual Immersion program. He commented that test scores indicated the school's averages were at or above grade level. He provided the Board with a petition signed by members of the community in support of keeping the Dual Immersion program at William Penn.

Melissa Strigham, 1917 E. 3780 S, SLC, reported she had attended the SCC meetings at Penn Elementary and had observed the process they had used in studying Dual Immersion. She has had children in the program and admitted it is not without problems. The experience however was an educational opportunity for her children. She felt that some problems are being blamed on Dual Immersion that should be placed elsewhere.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

Minutes: May 7 & 21, 2013

### Purchases:

1. Textbooks for 2013-14, Mountain States School Depository
2. Food Purchases for 2013-14, Bid as Per Needed
3. Annual Linen Needs for 2013-14, G & K Services
4. Vehicle Fuel Purchases for 2013-14, as Per State Code 63A-9-401(1)(d)(vi) and 63A-9-401 (1)(f) and Administrative Rule R27-6.
5. Carpet Cleaning, District Facilities, Double Take Carpet Cleaning - \$172,987.90
6. Computers for 2013-14, As Per Local Suppliers and Manufacturers
7. Computer Equipment for Information Systems, MSN Communications - \$221,718.62
8. Hardware Support and Software Updates for Cisco Smartnet, MSN Communications - \$63,251.64
9. Comm Vault Backup Software, Dell Computer Corporation - \$52,793.58
10. Avaya Telephone System Hardware/Software Support, CenturyLink - \$263,146.27
11. IT Programming Services, AeroTek – \$200,000.00
12. Microsoft EES Campus Agreement (Cloud Licenses), Enpointe - \$101,010.00
13. Audio Visual Upgrades for Multi-Purpose Rooms (Copper Hills, Farnsworth, Rolling Meadows, South Kearns, Spring Lane, West Kearns, Westbrook Elementary Schools),

Pro SVL - \$93,667.91

14. Tables for Granger High School, School Specialty - \$180,033.08
15. Collision Repair Equipment for Granger High School, Auto Body Paint & Supply - \$70,001.15
16. Welding Equipment for Granger High School, Airgas Intermountain - \$188,425.97

Award of Contracts

1. Annual Purchase of Milk and Dairy Products, Meadow Gold - \$1,600,000.00
2. Food Service Management, Sodexo America - \$1,074,600.00

Change Orders

Pool Dewatering Pumps and Parking Lot Remediation at Granger High School

Personnel:

1. Leaves of Absence
2. Employee Hires and Separations

Financial Reports

1. Purchase Order Summaries - \$4,395,052.66
2. Accounts Payable Pay Vouchers - \$89,626,703.49
3. Principals Cash Report – March & April 2013
4. Monthly Budget Report – May 2013

Summer Construction Purchases

Ratification of Negotiations with Granite Education Association

Ratification of Negotiations with Granite Education Support Professionals Association

Approval of Salary Schedules for Other Employee Groups

Purchase of Property at 2308 South 4000 West

Amended 2013 Board Meeting Schedule

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

**Made by:**                    Sarah Meier

**Seconded by:**              Terry Bawden

**Called for vote:**            President Gandy

Results: Carried Unanimously

### **INFORMATION ITEM**

Bryce Holbrook, Planning and Boundaries, addressed the Board regarding the Walker Lane boundary study. He reminded the Board that he had reported meeting with the six SCCs that were impacted by the proposed change discussed at the April board meeting. In gathering community input he found some for and some against the proposed change. The Board at that time decided that the timeline for implementation would not be shortened or “fast tracked” as a group from the area had requested. He was directed by the Board to hold open houses to address any questions the community may have. Boundary maps and transportation information will be made available at the open houses. Mr. Holbrook will return and report the progress following the meetings. (Exhibit #13-61)

### **BUDGET HEARING**

Mr. Garrett introduced and thanked Mitch Robison, Director, Budget Development, for all of the hours he has put in on the budget. He has worked many additional hours to bring it together.

Mr. Robison explained that this is the final step in the annual adoption of a yearly budget for Granite School District. The \$546 M budget proposed for the 2013-2014 school year was less than the previous year because construction projects are winding down.

The General Fund is the largest fund in the budget and receives money from state restricted (23.9%) and unrestricted funds (37.6%), property taxes (26.5%), federal contributions (9.2%) and local contributions (2.8%). Changes in the State Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU) were increased by 2%. However, most of that amount goes to required retirement contributions. The General Fund pays for salaries and benefits (88.9%), supplies (3%), utilities (3.4%) and others expenses (4%).

Mr. Robison explained the property tax rates and how they were set. Granite’s tax rate is slightly lower than the state average. He proposed that the tax rate for 2013-14 be set at 0.007138. The tax rate does not exceed the Certifiable Tax Rate, the allowable amount so there is no need for a Truth in Taxation Hearing. (Exhibit #13-62 – The 2014 budget may be viewed at [www.graniteschools.org](http://www.graniteschools.org) )

Mike Brennen, 4920 West Senica Road, SLC, asked if the tax rate was more or less than the previous year. Mr. Robinson commented that it is a little less. The permanent rate will be

finalized by the Tax Commission and County Auditors will make some final adjustments.

Mrs. Meier thanked the Board and those who work hard to bring this about. Mr. Lofgren commented that the budget has been a topic of discussion for several months and lack of detailed discussion indicates the Board is comfortable with the outcome.

**Motion:**            **I move we approve the Revised 2013 Budget as detailed in the budget book.**

Made by:            Julene Jolley  
Seconded by:      Connie Anderson

Called for vote:    President Gandy  
Results:            Motion Passed Unanimously

**Motion:**            **I move we adopt the 2014 budget and set the tax rate equal to the certified tax rate (currently estimated to be 0.007138) subject to the following:**

- **The Basic Levy will be adjusted to the rate to be established by the Tax Commission.**
- **The Capital Local Levy will be adjusted for Tax Commission calculations on Salt Lake County equalization.**
- **Other levies will be adjusted for changes in the calculation of the certified tax rate that may come from the Tax Commission or the Salt Lake County Auditor's office.**

Made by:            Sarah Meier  
Seconded by:      Terry Bawden

Called for vote:    President Gandy  
Results:            Motion Passed Unanimously

**Motion:**            **I move we close the budget hearing.**

Made by:            Dan Lofgren  
Seconded by:      Connie Burgess

Called for vote:    President Gandy  
Results:            Motion Passed Unanimously



## **ACTION ITEMS**

### 1. Kearns High School 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Reconfiguration

Mr. Fraser acknowledged the administrators from Kearns High, Kearns Junior, and Jefferson Junior, present for the Board approval vote on changing the Kearns High School configuration to a 9-12 grade school in the 2014-15 school year. Principal Loo, Kearns High, reported that there had been no questions from the community since the request had been presented as an Information Item in May. Mr. Bawden requested a report from the junior high administrators regarding the implementation of the 7-8 grade programs.

**Motion: I move we approve the Kearns High School 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Reconfiguration.**

Made by: Julene Jolley

Seconded by: Sarah Meier

Called for vote: President Gandy

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

### 2. Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Land Trade around Hillside Elementary

Teri Newel, UDOT, reported to the Board information regarding the moving of the playground at Hillside Elementary and the addition of a water retention pond. These changes will make room for the Mountain View Corridor project. A portion of the playground behind the school will still remain but a larger area to the north will be made into a new playground. UDOT is purchasing the new playground area and it will become Granite property. The water retention pond just north of the new playground will be owned and maintained by UDOT with school maintenance accessibility. Board members were given a map with the land swap options. (Exhibit #13-63)

**Motion: I move we approve the transfer of property around Hillside Elementary.**

Made by: Connie Burgess

Seconded by: Sarah Meier

Called for vote: President Gandy

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

3. 2013-14 School Calendar Adjustment - Mike Fraser

Mr. Fraser explained that on Tuesday, June 11, 2013, the State Board of Education approved a one year waiver which allows school districts to adopt a school calendar for the 2013-14 school year of less than 180 days. The waiver was to accommodate districts who wish to provide professional development to the teaching staff.

Ms. Howe reported, as a result of the negotiated agreement with the GEA, the Parent Teacher & SEP Conference dates for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 calendars have been adjusted to insure the compensatory day will fall in the same week.

The Board expressed concern that the overlapping Parent Teacher Conferences had been studied carefully prior to the 2012-13 school year. At that time a majority of parents were not supportive of having all conferences the same week. It would make it difficult, if you had students at all three levels, to participate in all the conferences.

Mr. Lofgren expressed that the previous plan which staggered the school level conference days without a compensation day necessarily in the same week had been carefully studied by the Board and perhaps it needed another year to see the results before making a change.

Mrs. Warner, PTA, cautioned that many parents will not be able to make the overlapping schedule work if they have students on multiple levels.

**Motion: I move we accept the revisions to the 2013-14 and 2014-15 calendars.**

Made by: Terry Bawden

Seconded by: Julene Jolley

Called for vote: President Gandy

<u>Results:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
	Connie Anderson	Dan Lofgren
	Terry Bawden	
	Connie Burgess	
	Julene Jolley	
	Sarah Meier	

4. Holladay City Redevelopment Area (RDA)

Mr. Garrett introduced Mayor Dennis Webb and City Manager Randy Fitts from

Holladay City. They were joined by John Springmeyer, Bonneville Research. He explained that in February an Information Item was given by Holladay City. After careful consideration and a revised proposal they were returning with an Action Item for the Board's approval.

The City proposed an extension of five (5) years to the Village Center RDA that had been approved in 2006. Environmental issues had been discovered, citizen concerns, and the economic recession had delayed the project. The original project was given a fifteen (15) year term and the new proposal was asking to extend the term to 20 years. The existing budget amounts would remain the same. Granite's participation would not increase.

Holladay City is currently negotiating with a significant anchor tenant, consistent with the original vision of the Village Center. The tenant is the type of user needed to propel the Village Center. The agreement is contingent on extension of RDA agreement. (Exhibit #13-64)

The Board asked for clarification regarding Granite's participation. Granite will forgo any new tax dollars with this property for an additional five (5) years. The 2006 tax base will go forward for another nine (9) years.

Mr. Lofgren commented that approval of this extension is not so much about the years, but it is a vote of faith. By extending the project the District will extend their proceeds. The extension to the city and Granite is a good and positive move.

**Motion:**            **I move we approve the two Taxing Entity Committee representatives to vote for a five year extension.**

Made by:            Connie Anderson

Seconded by:      Connie Burgess

Called for vote:    President Gandy

Results:            Motion Passed Unanimously

## **REPORTS**

Superintendent Bates asked for each board member to report on the high school graduations they attended and if they could see changes that would improve future graduations to make the suggestion.

Mr. Lofgren asked that a consideration might be made to cancel the July 2 board meeting. It is scheduled in a very busy holiday time.

**Motion:**            **I move we cancel the July 2, 2013 board meeting**

Made by:            Dan Lofgren

Seconded by:      Connie Burgess

Called for vote:    President Gandy

Results:            Motion Passed Unanimously

Mr. Lofgren enjoyed attending the graduations but commented that families and friends come to see the graduates not to listen to the Board talk. He suggested they keep their remarks very short or none at all.

Mrs. Anderson commented on the retirement dinner. She was impressed by so many teachers who stated that the years in Granite were wonderful years. She also mentioned that the graduations were well done and Judy Peterson in College and Career Readiness has had a very positive impact on graduation attitudes and graduation rates.

Mr. Bawden related what a great event the Granger High open house had been. Graduations were good. He questioned why the cost of credit recovery at Granite Peaks is less expensive than at the boundary high schools. He had attended the Utah High School Activity Association meetings and was pleased to report that all of Granite's high schools have passed the requirements for the sportsmanship program "Rally Right". This program encourages students to cheer for their teams and not against the opponents.

Mrs. Burgess was pleased with the counselors at the schools and the preparations they had made to have the graduations run smoothly (i.e. diplomas, standards and requirements).

Ms. Jolley attended the Granger High and Hunter High graduations. The only complaint she heard was one parent disgusted with other rowdy parents. The Hartvigsen graduation was touching.

Mrs. Meier was at the Taylorsville High and Cyprus High graduations. The graduations were fine. She questioned a "turf" battle going on between concurrent enrollment and Granite programs. She questioned what student identifiers were being used to track students that move in and out. Ms. Mariotti said each student has a state identifier and a district identifier number. The early data results were showing students were being tracked around the state as they moved.

The Utah School Board Association Leadership Academy is being held on September 4-7, 2013. Lavell Edwards will be the keynote speaker. If a board member is attending they need to let President Gandy know by August 5.

Mrs. Gandy expressed her love of graduations. She was very impressed with the counselors and that they could account for every student.

**Motion:**            **I move we adjourn.**

Made by:            Dan Lofgren

Seconded by:      Sarah Meier

Called for vote:    President Gandy

Results:            Motion Passed Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.