

# Granite School District

## Board of Education Meeting

October 7, 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 5:07 p.m., those in attendance:

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

Excused:	
Julene Jolley	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
Linda Mariotti	Assistant Superintendent
John Welburn	Assistant Superintendent

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

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

#### 1. Granite Education Foundation (GEF)

Jen Wunderli, GEF, Executive Chair, presented the annual Foundation report to the Board. She shared the mission statement which states, "To provide Granite School District students access to resources that ignite learning, improve educational outcomes, and prepare all students to be confident, competent and engaged citizens." The GEF Board identified certain areas that have become bigger challenges: refugee population; increased poverty levels

(including generational poverty); and literacy for students and families. Engaging families in education was at the top of the list.

The GEF Board is designing a new vision statement that will “insure that all students are prepared to live and work in a global multi-cultural world by creating and supporting opportunities for success.” A new strategic plan will operate on three corner stones, (1) scholastic achievement, (2) community connections, (3) acknowledging teachers, students, administrators, volunteers and business partners for a Distinguished Pace Setters Award.

Mrs. Gandy asked what changes had taken place at the GEF recently. Ms. Wunderli reported Deb Coffey had been hired to work with the refugee center. The Executive Board had met with Dr. Bates to discuss their needs. They planned to ask the principals for input of how the Foundation could be more beneficial to the schools. An external analysis audit is being planned.

The Board thanked Ms. Wunderli and expressed their appreciation for the GEF and all they do for Granite students.

Mrs. Wunderli expressed the GEF condolences to the family of Vickie Burrow, a secretary in their department, who has unexpectedly passed away.

## 2. Student Achievement for Growth and Excellence (SAGE) Scores Rollout

Ms. Mariotti, and Rob Averett, Director, Student Assessment, reviewed the results of the new SAGE test mandated by the Utah State Office of Education (USOE). This test replaces the Criterion Referenced Test (CRT) that has been used in the past.

The SAGE is a computer adaptive test and the 2014 school year was the baseline year. As predicted, the scores were lower because of how the test is scored. It will be a challenge to get instruction out to teachers and parents about the changes. This spring 2015 will result in immediate scores when the tests are taken and the data will be more individualized.

It was explained that new standards are needed because old standards were not adequate for success after high school. By 2020 74% of jobs will require more than a high school diploma. Standards are the expectation of what students should know and to be able to demonstrate. They are not curriculum. In 2010 the USOE approved the Utah Core Standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics. These Standards are aligned with national and international competitive benchmarks.

The SAGE test recognizes when a student answers a question correctly and directs them to a more difficult question; incorrect answers lead to less difficult questions. The test was developed by Utah teachers and reviewed by a 15 member parent panel chosen by the USOE and a legislative panel.

SAGE is reported by using scaled scores and looking at individual levels of proficiency. Proficiency levels interpret the scale score into categories; High Proficient, Proficient, Approaching Proficient and Below Proficient. SAGE and CRT scores are not comparable. Both tests measure academic knowledge and skills but use different methods. SAGE is at a higher standard. The scores indicate that fewer students are proficient. Students do not suddenly know less. Teachers are not teaching less. The bar measuring expectations has moved. This is not an indication of decrease in student achievement; rather it reflects an increase in expectations.

Teachers and schools will see their test data from last spring on October 13-19. The results will be embargoed at that time and not released to public until October 20. Examples of letters and guides on how to interpret the results will be made available to the parents. (Exhibit #15-6)

The Board expressed concern about the samples of letters and guides that were to be made available to parents. Dr. Bates felt they were a little defensive. Other board members said they were too complicated and would not be read. Ms. Mariotti commented that Granite could devise their own more positive communications and simplify them.

Mrs. Anderson stated that many people think that the new Common Core is a federal intrusion on our schools. Mr. Averett clarified that the Common Core is not from the federal government, but driven by the states. Ms. Mariotti suggested when someone questions the new core they should be referred to the curriculum maps available on Granite's web pages (<http://www.graniteschools.org/curriculuminstruction/curriculum-maps/>).

President Gandy asked how teachers are feeling about the SAGE test now that they have gone through the experience. She was told their confidence is stronger and they will be happier when results are immediate, which will happen in 2015 testing.

Mr. Bawden asked for information on how teachers are feeling toward too much testing. Mr. Averett commented that teachers are learning to use the data testing produces. He did report, however, that there have been technical problems during the testing window. The computer labs are heavily scheduled and it is frustrating when the computers go down. There is an on-going effort at this time to improve the technology.

The Board took a dinner break at 6:15 p.m.

### **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:

Susen Zobel	GEA
Crista Holt	
Teresa Himmelberger	GAEOP
Darla Williams	
Ashley Beesley	
Tracy Atkins	GESPA
David Shell	
Else Salmond	
Mary Anne Stevens	GASA

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

Rob McDaniel	Principal, Cyprus High
Christy Straatman	Principal, Brockbank Junior
Karen Gregory	Principal, Smith Elementary
Tracy Rose	Principal, Twin Peaks Elementary
Jennifer Reed	Principal, Upland Terrace Elementary
Jane McClure	Principal, Valley Crest Elementary
Brent Nelson	Principal, West Kearns Elementary
Mardel Higginson	Principal, Western Hills Elementary
Wes Cutler	Assistant Principal, Olympus High
Ryan Oaks	Assistant Principal, Skyline High
Emme Liddell	Assistant Principal, Taylorsville High
Michael Marcum	Intern Assistant Principal, Brockbank Junior
Brenda Zimmerman	Intern Assistant Principal, Eisenhower Junior
Connie McCann	Intern Assistant Principal, Granite Park Junior
Kristie Reather	Intern Assistant Principal, Hunter Junior
Cindy Dunn	Intern Assistant Principal, Jefferson Junior
Ted Thackeray	LPP Intern, Bennion Elementary

Candidates for Board of Education:

Terry Bawden, Precinct V

Connie Burgess, Precinct III

Gayleen Gandy, Precinct VII

Karyn Winder, Precinct VI

Linda Hansen, candidate for the State Board of Education.

Media: None

Pledge of Allegiance: James Everett, Cottonwood High

Reverence: Cottonwood High Madrigals favored the Board with two numbers, directed by their teacher, Cecil Sullivan.

### **RECOGNITION**

Principals Week

Mr. Horsley acknowledged Principals' week to be October 20 through 24. A video was shown highlighting an outstanding administrator that exemplified the principals in Granite, Teri Roylance from Churchill Junior.

Mrs. Anderson read a proclamation acknowledging the importance of principals in our schools. The Board asked all principals in attendance to stand and they thanked them for their work to make our schools a better place for our students. (Exhibit #15-7)

**MAYORS PARTICIPATION** - None

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION** - None

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

Minutes: September 2, 2014 & September 16, 2014

Purchases:

1. Nine School Buses, Bryson Sales - \$989,091.00
2. Fertilizing and Weed Control for all District Sites, Perfection Pest Control - \$67,999.50
3. Architectural Services for Elementary School Buildings Security Updates, GSBS Architects, \$75,187.00

Award of Contracts

1. Commercial Real Estate Brokerage Services, CBRE
2. School Improvement Support Team, Utah Education Policy Center - \$127,500.00

Personnel:

1. Leaves of Absence
2. Employee Hires and Separations

Financial Reports

1. Purchase Order Summaries - \$3,902,592.07
2. Accounts Payable Pay Vouchers - \$51,335,635.89
3. Principals Cash Report –August 2014
4. Monthly Budget Report – August 2014

School LAND Trust Amendments

Sale of Condominium, 3958 S Summerspring Lane

Utah Retirement Systems Resolution

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

**Made by:**                    Sarah Meier

**Seconded by:**              Connie Anderson

**Called for vote:**            President Gandy

**Results:**                    Carried Unanimously

**INFORMATION ITEM**

Professional Development Week Summary

Assistant Superintendents Ms. Mariotti, Mr. Fraser and Mr. Welburn reported on the first annual Professional Development Week held August 18-22. The theme for the week was “Putting It All Together”. Those attending the meetings included administration, principals, and educators.

The teachers and principals met at their school locations on Monday morning and viewed DVD presentations by Superintendent Bates and Todd Braeger, Director, Research and

Assessment. The theme was introduced and instruction was given regarding “The Granite Way in Everyday Practice.” The afternoon was spent in instructional preparation time for the educators. Tuesday each staff was at their individual schools and worked with principals in staff meetings followed by time allotted for their class room preparation. Wednesday all schools gathered at their network high school and were presented information on instructional practices by district office administrators and principals. Thursday elementary schools educators were at their own schools and secondary educators went to their network high school. Content Literacy and Math were the areas of focus with Literacy Coaches and School Technology Specialists (STS) leading discussions. The teachers met with their corresponding grade/subject teachers and discussed the concepts. Friday was a full day at each school site where the principals directed discussions on how to implement the instruction they had been given during the week.

Seven teachers were invited to come to board meeting and respond to questions about their experiences while participating in the professional development.

Amber Baumgartner, Science, Olympus High, commented that hearing from principals in a teaching mode was very helpful.

Ben Peters, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Driggs Elementary, explained the teachers were able to “talk shop” about GoMath. The content day (Thursday) gave teachers time to make sure they were teaching the standards.

Cheri Gonzales, Counselor, Kearns High, said the week allowed collaboration with colleagues, teams, and feeder schools. Presentations by the principals and administrators were excellent. The role modeling was very positive. She very much appreciated the presentations.

Emma Crockett, Social Studies, Kearns Junior, as a new teacher she appreciated the information. She liked working and collaborating with all same subject educators. Balancing all content levels at all schools would be very positive.

Gary Martin, Social Worker, District, was a little apprehensive about leaving his school buildings feeling perhaps the District did not trust them. He did experience a positive outcome. A positive approach was given and principals came prepared to work with their staff. It was a great experience.

Katie Jo Marx, Math, Wasatch Junior, said it changed her way of teaching.

Malia Groesbeck, Science, Wasatch Junior, reported the instruction helped her implement her lessons and it gave her balance.

Some comments came from teachers in attendance. They suggested that the two half days be scheduled on one and leave them at their school to prepare for another complete day.

Ms. Mariotti reported that a survey of participants was taken. Most comments were positive. They liked the week as a whole but would suggest the schedule be revised. Some would like more opportunity to schedule professional development that would benefit their individual schools. They seemed to be most excited about students, PLC's, and collaborations. Testing and not enough time to do everything that was expected gave them the most anxiety. (Exhibit# 15-8)

The Board discussed the success of the professional development and what could be done to improve it in the coming year. Dr. Bates emphasized the importance of moving forward and addressing additional items next year were not covered this year. The Board thanked the presenters and the teachers who participated.

### **FIRST READING**

Class Size Policy – Article VIII.A.4

This policy replaced an outdated policy and is beneficial to teachers and School Community Councils.

“The class size policy acknowledges the realities principals face when making class assignments and managing class loads for teachers. This policy assures parents and teachers that the District and schools will make every effort to remain fair and equitable in the process. The policy also acknowledges that community councils and teachers may have input regarding the process.”

**Motion:**            **I move we approve the Class Size Policy as a First Reading.**

Made by:            Dan Lofgren

Seconded by:      Sarah Meier

Called for vote:    President Gandy

Results:            Motion Passed Unanimously



## **ACTION ITEMS**

### 1. Wellness Policy - Article X.A.12

“The Board approved the Wellness Policy as written for a first reading. No changes have been made since the first reading. The policy brings the District into compliance with highly proscriptive federal regulations regarding nutrition standards for reimbursable lunches and breakfasts and for all competitive foods or sold at school other than reimbursable lunches and breakfasts.”

**Motion:** I move we approve the Wellness Policy as Second Reading.

Made by: Sarah Meier

Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Called for vote: President Gandy

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

### 2. School Food Services Policy Article VI.E.1

“The Board approved the School Food Services General Responsibility policy as written for a first reading. No changes have been made since the first reading. This policy was updated to align Food Services’ responsibilities with the new federal regulations and the resulting changes to the Wellness Policy.”

**Motion:** I move we approve of the School Food Services General Responsibilities Policy as a Second Reading.

Made by: Dan Lofgren

Seconded by: Terry Bawden

Called for vote: President Gandy

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

### 3. Special Education Policy Manual - Article VI.E.1

“The District’s Special Education Policies and Procedures Manual was modified slightly to conform with changes to state rules as follow: (1) the definition of ‘consent’ was revised; (2) the ‘Revocation of consent’ languages was added; and (3) ‘*pro se* representation’ was included in the

due process procedures. The Board approved those changes during the first reading and no further changes are being proposed.”

**Motion:**            **I move we approve the Special Education Policy and Procedure Manual as a Second Reading.**

Made by:            Dan Lofgren

Seconded by:     Sarah Meier

Called for vote:   President Gandy

Results:            Motion Passed Unanimously

## **REPORTS**

Dr. Bates reminded the Board of the boundary open house Thursday, October 9, 7:30-8:30 p.m. It is scheduled to be held at Bennion Junior High Media Room. A portion of the Board will leave Saturday, October 11, for the NFSSD Conference and will return Tuesday, October 14.

Several board members commented on the positive experience that they had while attending the Latino Outreach evening.

Mr. Bawden reported on the Stansbury Elementary open house to showcase their new additions. The community was very pleased. Connie Anderson attended and shared the positive feedback.

Mr. Bawden asked that further discussion be planned to help outline the responsibilities of the School Community Council presidents. The need for the SCCs to become more coordinated with the administration was important. He also suggested more training for principals regarding working with the SCCs.

President Gandy thanked Mr. Horsley for the excellent training he had provided earlier to the SCCs. The Board was reminded to visit each of their precinct SCCs as support. The board members asked for a set of talking points that would be important to use when addressing them.

While visiting a writing class at Granger High as an invited guest, a student had asked Mr. Bawden why a later starting time had not been instituted. Recent research suggested the students would perform better if they had a later starting time. Mr. Bawden told him he would bring the question before the Board. The Board agreed additional information would be

beneficial while considering the question.

Mrs. Burgess suggested a discussion with the Board regarding the book, "The Smartest Kids in the World: And How they Got That Way" by Amanda Ripley. The Board received copies of the book at the previous board meeting.

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

Made by:            Dan Lofgren

Seconded by:      Connie Anderson

Called for vote:    President Gandy

Results:            Motion Passed Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 9:05p.m.