

Granite School District

Board of Education Meeting

Study Session

January 22, 2013

A study session for Granite School District was held in Auditorium D at the Granite School District offices, 2500 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah. President Gayleen Gandy called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m., those in attendance:

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

The following members of the administration were present:

Martin W. Bates	Superintendent
David Garrett	Business Administrator/Treasurer
Mike Fraser	Assistant Superintendent
Dave Gourley	Assistant Superintendent
Jim Henderson	Assistant Superintendent
Linda Mariotti	Assistant Superintendent

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

STUDY SESSION:

1. Fundraising Policy

The Board tabled the approval of the Fundraising Policy (Article V.C.11.) at the December 4, 2012 board meeting. It was decided at that time the policy would be a topic for discussion at the January 22 study session.

Mr. Horsley and Doug Larson, Director, Policy and Legal Services, presented the background information regarding fundraising in Granite District. In 2012 the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) requested a state audit of selected high schools. Cottonwood High was audited at that time. Audit findings pointed out inconsistencies. Policies on how donations were received and the fundraising process needed to be addressed. In October 2012 a Donation Policy (Article V.C.8) congruent with the state law was approved by the Board. The USOE is now rewriting their policy on fundraising. Mr. Horsley and Mr. Larson are working closely with them as they detail a policy that will be compatible with the state.

Mr. Larson reviewed the current state law and USOE rules. State law regarding the handling of money, procurement (expenditures), local school activities involving educators, camps/clinics, and accepting gifts were discussed. New state rules that are awaiting a final approval in February by the Utah State Board of Education include the definition of school sponsored activities (R277-113-1H), 3rd party interactions (277-113-4F), and the approval process (R277-5C3).

Mr. Larson pointed out that some of the state laws and USOE rules were covered sufficiently in Granite's existing procedures and the proposed new Fundraising Policy.

- Handling of money is addressed in the Donations Policy, Fundraising Policy (section F & G4) and the Accounting Manual.
- Procurement procedure is found in the Procurement Policy (Administrative Memo 9) and the Fundraising Policy (D4).
- Educator Involvement, Fundraising Policy (D & G1)
- School sponsored activities defined in Fundraiser Policy (C)
- 3rd Party Interactions are found in the Fundraiser Policy (D & G3)
- LEA Approval Process is found in Fundraiser Policy (C&D.1 – Approval Form) (Exhibit #13-35)

Concern was voiced that the approval process regarding fundraisers may be confusing to employees. It seemed unclear what was and was not a “school sponsored” activity. Mr. Lofgren suggested that some employees participate by working through scenarios to confirm that the process would be understandable and followed correctly. Mr. Larson proposed to take the policy back to committee and after testing scenarios and clarifying the term “school sponsored” returned to the Board for approval.

The Board went on to discuss the wording in Section E, “Student Participation”. It was pointed out that students may feel the pressure to participate. Mr. Larson and Mr.

Horsley will take the Board's input back to their committee regarding the wording.

2. Accelerated Learning Program

Representatives from Teaching and Learning, Carolyn Schubach, Associate Director, and Sheri Sorenson, Gifted Coordinator, shared updated information on the Accelerated Learning Program. They reviewed the funding sources for the program from 1990 through 2011 (USOE - R277-711). A new rule enhancement for accelerated students (R277-707) explains that elementary and junior high gifted and talented (GT) and honors programs are funded based on district population. Advanced placement (AP) at the high school level is based on a pass rate of 3 or higher. The International Baccalaureate (IB) program is funded by enrollment in IB and a pass rate of 4 or higher.

Current GT funds are divided between salaries and benefits (GT coordinator and secretary), professional development, instructional materials, facilitator stipends, and assessment for advanced learner programs. AP funds are used for professional development, FTE reduction, teacher stipends based on AP enrollment, and salaries and benefits. The IB funding goes directly to Skyline High where the program is housed and does not pass through the district GT program.

Honors courses must be available to all students desiring academic rigor in the content areas of English, Science and Social Studies. Students then select classes based on interest and potential. The honors classes are taught by an educator based on their ability to differentiate and support students in rigorous work.

All students may choose to pursue the opportunity to participate in the GT program. Students are identified through GT testing. Those meeting designated criteria are placed in selected classes. This program is taught by GT endorsed teachers.

It was proposed when a school makes the decision to offer an AP course a "Pre-AP" program to train teachers on how to bridge the gap between honors curriculum and college-level courses be made available.

Teaching and Learning's recommendation was to provide registration fees for the AP Fall Conference and Summer AP Institute for AP teachers and junior high honors/GT teachers. Also, to establish vertical teams within networks, provide professional development on teaming, and to continue to use remaining funds at the end of the year to reduce FTE at each high school. (Exhibit #13-36)

The Board discussed the College Board and its influence in Accelerated Programs. They asked for clarification on the curriculum for regular classes vs. GT/Honors/AP. There was concern that the curriculum not just be more “busy work”. They were told that the Accelerated Program gave opportunities for a rigorous curriculum for broader and deeper understanding of content areas.

Dr. Bates expressed the need for administration to have more conversation on this subject. The program clarification would then be brought back to the Board for further consideration. The Pre-AP and allocations of funds were agreed on but there were still questions about awarding or not awarding stipends as has been done in the past.

Motion: **I move we adjourn.**

Made by: Dan Lofgren

Seconded by: Connie Anderson

Called for vote: President Gandy

Results: Motion Passed

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.