

Granite School District

Board of Education Meeting

Study Session

April 23, 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 5:04 p.m., those in attendance:

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

Excused:
Dan Lofgren Board Member

The following members of the administration were present:

Martin W. Bates	Superintendent
David Garrett	Business Administrator/Treasurer
David Gourley	Assistant Superintendent
Mike Fraser	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. Board Reporting of Conferences Attended

President Gandy explained the Board is given the opportunity to travel to and attend a conference during each school year. Board members chose to attend the National School Boards

Association (NSBA) conference or the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) this year. Each member had been asked to report and share their experiences they felt would be beneficial to all board members.

Mr. Bawden attended the NSBA conference. He shared information gained in a session that addressed adult bullying between staff members in schools and how it is becoming a larger area of concern. If a school is experiencing this behavior it will be reflected by the students. He also shared information from a digital vs. printed textbooks presentation and one exploring the concepts of stopping drop-out students.

Mrs. Anderson gave details from the ASCD conference regarding civility in the workplace and adult bullying. The Board discussed the repercussions in Granite of adult bullying in the workplace.

Mrs. Burgess attended the ASCD conference. She discussed with the board the concept of teaching students, as well as adults, how to ask the “right questions”. How to ask questions that will help the individual gain the information they are seeking. It helps to open the lines of communication.

Mrs. Meier attended the NSBA conference and was happy to state what a great board Granite has and how well they work together. She had attended classes about “Moving beyond Seniority – a 21st Century Approach” and a project that provided each student with a hand held mobile device that was used interactively in the lesson planning and instruction. The presenters encouraged the concept that technology should be modeled from the top down in a school district.

Ms. Jolley attended the NSBA conference and shared her class information regarding new technology that is available. She was impressed with Chromebook and the possibilities it has in digital learning. The Board discussed Chromebooks with additional information from Dr. Henderson and Ms. Mariotti. It was requested that a study session be held to discuss the variety of new tools available.

President Gandy provided a handout of the eight sessions she had attended at ASCD. 21st Century learning and skills were emphasized. She related educational thoughts from four educators from around the world in the “Future of Education in a Globally Connected World”. Styles of learning were discussed in the “Frontiers of Learning”, and ideas for creating a high-performing school culture were explored in another class. She evaluated her experience and value of attending the conference for board members and encouraged them to do the same. (Exhibit #13-55)

2. Fine Arts specialists Program Update

Ms. Mariotti quickly reviewed the new Fine Arts Specialists program. After the legislative session was over and educational funding was decided, the administration proposed one specialist at every elementary school for 1 day a week. That specialist will teach the Fine Arts core curriculum as directed by individual School Community Councils (SCC) and principals. Fridays the specialists will meet in the district office to collaborate, receive professional development, and work with lesson planning. Conversations regarding the proposed change have been taking place at elementary schools since February. The next step is to gather from each school the area(s) of focus they would like taught at their location for the 2013-2014 school year. This will be necessary in making the specialists' school assignments. Before a letter can be sent to the principals asking for the information, the Board needs to give approval for 2 additional teachers to complete the roster.

A discussion followed regarding the program and how a school would tailor it to fit their students. Instrumental music, if requested by the school, may still be taught with the understanding that remaining time would be used by the specialist and teachers to instruct all students in a Fine Arts core curriculum. The Board asked if there would be additional funds to cover the employment costs of the addition 2 teachers. Dr. Bates was confident that the budget could be adjusted to accommodate it. Ms. Mariotti explained that outside funds (i.e. Sorenson Arts Grant, PTA, Trustland funds) would not be affected by this program. They would still be available to be used as they have in the past.

Mr. Bawden was not comfortable in approving the additional teaching contracts without a preview of the 2013-2014 budget. The decision would be made after information given in the upcoming Executive Session.

Motion: I move we adjourn to Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining.

Made by: Terry Bawden

Seconded by: Connie Anderson

Called for vote: President Gandy

Results: Motion Passed

The Board adjourned from Executive Session.

Motion: I move we adjourn.

Made by: Terry Bawden
Seconded by: Sarah Meier

Called for vote: President Gandy
Results: Motion Passed

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.