

Granite School District

Board of Education Meeting

Study Session

November 19, 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
Sarah Meier	Board Member
Connie Burgess	Board Member
Julene Jolley	Board Member
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, Doug Larson, Policy and Legal Services, Bryce Holbrook, Planning and Boundaries, and Merilynn Boekweg, Board Recorder, were in attendance.

STUDY SESSION:

1. Board Training Report

Mrs. Gandy asked the board members to share information and ideas they had gathered while attending the Utah School Boards Association (USBA) Leadership Academy in

September, and/or the National Federation of Urban Suburban School Districts (NFUSSD) Conference in October.

Mrs. Meier's information regarded how to engage the community. She encouraged fellow board members to participate in the Master Board program offered by the USBA. She provided each with information about the program. She asked if someone was monitoring Professional Learning Communities (PLC) in the District. The teamwork in PLCs can be highly effective when used correctly by the schools. Dr. Bates told her Todd Braeger, Director of Research and Evaluation, had his team evaluating PLCs in the schools.

Mrs. Burgess also had attended the USBA Leadership Academy and was interested in how the PLC's were working in the District. She said it is important to evaluate student learning not just how teachers teach.

Ms. Jolley reported visiting a school during the NFUSSD Conference and each student had their own I-Pad. She was impressed with what they were accomplishing. Next she visited a school that was art based. The programs offered there were impressive as was the building that had been built to house them. She said the students "paid back" help given to them by mentoring younger students. The schools were smaller and were designated for advanced courses.

Mr. Bawden commented about technology and what it offers students. The students are embracing it and doing well. He was impressed as he visited other schools at what a good job Granite is doing with less money. He referred to the board goal of getting 60% of our communities to engage with the schools. How do we get the tax payers who do not have students to buy into the vision of technology? They need to understand funding.

Mrs. Gandy attended a class at NFUSSD that gave suggestions on how to get the community into schools so they would feel ownership. Community meetings could be held in school buildings. Tickets to school productions could be provided to senior centers. Granite does use social media. Could it be used to provide an insight to our schools that would interest political and community leaders? Many residents in the community don't pay attention to what is going on and opportunities that are offered at the schools.

Mr. Lofgren commented that people who don't seem to pay attention may have just prioritized differently at this point in their lives. Is the District talking to them in terms that matter to them? He said people want peace of mind regarding education and tax funding. They want the Board to give them that.

Mrs. Anderson suggested that the Board give recognition to people in the community who have an impact on schools. She reminded the Board of the recognitions given to crossing guards last year. Being positive and not critical about schools and programs is important.

Mrs. Gandy said in attending the USBA Leadership Academy she was interested in the concept of customer service and going the extra mile to make people feel involved and important. A booklet created by the Salt Lake District Board of Education was available at the conference which gave a concise description of board member responsibilities and what the Board does. She had drafted information about Granite's Board and gave each board member a copy. She wondered if it would be beneficial to the public, particularly those who were considering running for a board position. She asked board members to get back with her and let her know what they thought.

2. Boundary Factors

Dr. Bates introduced this topic. At the November 12th board meeting a scheduled First Reading on the Walker Lane Boundary had been tabled for more study. The Annual Student Population Review Procedures policy (Article VII.H.1.) was the basis for this portion of the study session. He drew their attention to D.4. Population Analysis. He emphasized that the items listed guidelines, not by priority but alphabetically, to help the Population Analysis Committee achieve balance in considering potential adjustments.

The board members took a short amount of time to study the points and prioritize their top three choices. Listed alphabetically below are the variables discussed.

1. Community input
2. Continuous boundaries
3. Cost effectiveness
4. Effective use of capital to insure maximum opportunities
5. Maintaining the integrity of feeder programs
6. Minimal busing
7. Neighborhood schools – nurturing of
8. Student enrollment
9. Student safety

Mrs. Gandy suggested that a clarification or definition be given to the term “neighborhood school”. A definition would help as they discuss how to better serve the educational needs of students and families when considering boundary changes.

The Board discussed at length the situations that would require the District to consider a boundary change. The suggestion was made that the responsibility of providing evidence for a requested boundary change be on the applicant. There was conversation regarding the tension between neighborhood schools and the present alignments, some of which had been recently brought before the board. Some board members expressed the importance of having clear guidelines/variables with more structure written into the policy. Mr. Bawden stated that he felt the policy as it was written was appropriate with enough flexibility to make informed decisions.

The Board asked for clarification from Mr. Holbrook on the policy process. He explained that the items listed in D.4 were variables used for balancing each proposal from schools when choosing the study lists presented to the board. Not all the variables are used on each proposal. There was discussion on how the Walker Lane community and the Arcadia Elementary community had presented their proposals.

Dr. Bates stated his understanding was that the Board agreed the policy could basically be left the same with some language changes they had discussed. The Board confirmed and asked the administration to bring the amended policy back for approval. Mr. Lofgren asked that the Walker Lane proposal be tabled until the changes in policy had been approved.

3. Scheduling of Board and Superintendents Evaluation

The Board will conduct the Superintendent's evaluation during an Executive Session at the January 7, 2014 board meeting. It will be a group discussion.

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 7:43 p.m.