

Granite School District

Board of Education Meeting

March 17, 2015

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 Terry Bawden called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., those in attendance:

Terry Bawden	President
Connie Anderson	Vice President
Connie Burgess	Board Member
Gayleen Gandy	Board Member
Dan Lofgren	Board Member
Sarah Meier	Board Member
Karyn Winder	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, Doug Larson, Director, Policy and Legal Services, and Merilynn Boekweg, Board Recorder, were in attendance.

ACTION ITEM

Consideration of Hearing Officer's Recommendation regarding Ann Florence.

Motion: **The Board recognizes Ann's contribution to students at Wasatch Junior High. We have carefully reviewed and considered the findings of the hearing officer and we accept the recommendations and consequently uphold the termination.**

Made by: Sarah Meier
Seconded by: Karyn Winder

Called for vote: President Bawden
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

STUDY SESSION

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) School History and Future

Superintendent Bates led the discussion regarding STEM schools. He explained the concept that STEM was a “buzz word” currently being used in education. STEM to him meant good teaching, concept integration, and people working together. Educational opportunities that included activities that are relevant, meaningful and engaging make school fun.

Parents of students attending Armstrong Academy, which is designated as a STEM school, most often communicate not about the curriculum, but rather the things that make school fun.

Mrs. Gandy said she had recently attended School Community Councils (SCC) and there has been concern that Armstrong Academy and charter schools are taking many students from boundary schools. She said there was a perception that Armstrong receives more funding than other elementary schools. She asked for clarification on this point.

Dr. Bates and Principal Tyler Howe confirmed that there was nothing happening at Armstrong that could not happen at other elementary schools without extra funding.

A review was given on the purchase of land in 2010 in the Highbury area on the west side of the District. At that time it was projected that with the trend in residential building a junior high would be needed. Bond money was originally set aside for this project. The 9-12 grade configurations put into place at Granger High, Kearns High, and Hunter High resulted in more space in the feeder junior highs. Construction was put on hold as enrollments fluctuated. It was then proposed that a STEM high school be built on the site and West Lake Junior High be configured to be the STEM junior high. With board approval an architect was selected and early stage plans have been developed. (Exhibit #15-33)

The administration looked at the development of a STEM high school and discussed the concept of “installing” a STEM component in each high school. It would require training teachers and making some adjustments at each school. Dr. Bates re-emphasized the view that the STEM concept could be made available in all schools if the educators and administration were committed to the idea. This would not require a new school facility and save \$25M in

building costs.

It was suggested that a portion of the money be used as differed maintenance on buildings throughout the District that are in need of repair and upkeep. Mr. Adams has been compiling a list of projects, with a cost factor, for the proposal.

Dr. Bates reminded the Board that bond money could only be used for capital projects and this suggestion would be in line with that requirement. There was concern that architects were already approved and had been working on new building plans. Dr. Bates acknowledged that fact and said planning was still in the early stages and concepts that had been done at this point would be beneficial in setting up STEM classes in existing buildings.

The Board discussed the suggestions and the effect it would have on schools, teachers, and students that were currently involved in STEM classes. It was decided that the architects for the secondary STEM school would not move forward and Mr. Adams would complete his study of the buildings and the upkeep needed. The results of his study will be presented to the Board.

Dr. Bates said there was a need for an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Motion: I move we move into Executive Session to discuss personnel.

Made by: Sarah Meier

Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Called for vote: President Bawden

Results: Members polled - Motion Passed Unanimously

Mrs. Gandy was excused from the remainder of the meeting because she was not feeling well. Mrs. Winder was also excused but did return for part of the Executive Session.

The Board adjourned from the Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.