

Granite School District

Board of Education Meeting

Study Session

September 15, 2015

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 Terry Bawden called the meeting to order at 5:04 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 Bates	Superintendent
David Garrett	Business Administrator/Treasurer
Don Adams	Assistant Superintendent
Mike Fraser	Assistant Superintendent
Linda Mariotti	Assistant Superintendent
John Welburn	Assistant Superintendent

Ben Horsley Communication Director, Doug Larson, Policy & Legal Services Director and Kathy Goodfellow and Danielle Kitchen, Executive Secretaries, were in attendance.

STUDY SESSION:

UPDATE ON DISTRICT ASSESSMENT

Superintendent Bates began this report by sharing information given to administrators and teachers during opening professional development last month. He reviewed the purposes of assessments, the purposes of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and current benchmark assessments. In making an assessment of assessments, four areas have been identified: too many assessments, benchmarks are less than helpful, data is difficult to get in a useful format and benchmarks provide useful information. The first issue has been addressed by lowering testing frequency. In elementary and secondary tested subjects, there will be three district assessments

plus the SAGE, making 4 total assessments, down from 7 in the past. In secondary non-tested subjects, there will be 4 district assessments, down from 8 in the past. Pre-tests will be completed within the first three weeks of each semester. Post-tests are to be completed no later than during the last two weeks of each semester. In addressing the next two issues, Board members were given a sample assessment report (available for teaching common core concepts) that teachers can print for their use, to give to their principal and to use during PLC time. These reports can be very useful in showing student levels of understanding of specific common core concepts.

Board members discussed how do we know if the Granite Learning Objectives (GLOs or Granite Benchmarks) are really working; are we listening to teachers; and what do the teachers think about the pre-tests? Ideas regarding how to get constructive input from teachers were considered. GEA will take on this challenge of getting feedback from a large group of teachers. Superintendent Bates will meet with GEA to develop this idea further and will report to the Board in six to eight months. (Exhibits #1610 & #1611)

GRADUATION CHAMPIONS PROPOSAL

We have many efforts underway in forming a graduation initiative, including school-based interventions, district-based initiatives and district-wide activities. The idea of aligning each student with a specific adult who monitors and collaborates with them is optimal, but we are limited in our available resources. Superintendent Bates shared the concept of Graduation Champions. Each high school principal is to identify 10 seniors who without intervention will not graduate. The principal will become the personal mentor for those 10 students. The hope is that by challenging each high school principal to carry those kids through to graduation, this proposal will expand by example to other administrators and student volunteers. Board members were excited about this proposal and suggested that guidance counselors identify the students and then follow up on their progress with the principal. Great results are possible with this program.

Motion: **I move we adjourn.**

Made by: Dan Lofgren

Seconded by: Gayleen Gandy

Called for vote: President Bawden

Results: Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.