

# Granite School District

## Board of Education Meeting

### Study Session

November 17, 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. Vice President Connie Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m., those in attendance:

Connie Anderson	Vice President
Connie Burgess	Board Member
Dan Lofgren	Board Member
Sarah Meier	Board Member
Karyn Winder	Board Member

Board President Terry Bawden and Gayleen Gandy, Board Member were excused.

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, Executive Secretary, were in attendance.

### **STUDY SESSION:**

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE**

Linda Mariotti introduced Dale Roberts, Information Systems Director, who presented this update. Mr. Roberts began by reviewing the Board's charge regarding technology: to ensure that technology is implemented only on the basis of proven efficacy. A further charge is to ensure that all systems and processes used in grading, scheduling, reporting or other functions can be used with complete confidence and with complete reliability.

Discovery is the software system we use for grading, scheduling and reporting. In April 2015, after having several issues with Discovery, the District asked employees to participate in a

Discovery satisfaction survey. Teachers overall were highly satisfied, as were secretaries. Counselors were less satisfied, with 68% wanting a new program. Since that time, Information Systems has meet with the vendor weekly. The vendor takes our suggestions and comments and tries to implement changes. Additional personnel have been provided through Information Systems as support facilitators/trainers for the schools. These trainers are in the schools three days each week, improving response time for any problems encountered. Board members suggested we check with the counselors periodically to see if satisfaction rates have improved for this group and provide a follow-up survey for all employees about the software in the Spring, 2016.

Regarding network infrastructure, the District created a second data center at Granger High. All internet traffic comes out of that data center and with this additional capacity, resources are doubling to the schools. There is a concern that if we lost the data center everything would cease to work. We are working to replicate core functions of the district network so technology will continue working in case of an emergency. Another aspect of infrastructure is wireless capability, which continues to grow. The majority of all internet activity, comes through wireless infrastructure.

E-rate reimbursement has allowed us to make many improvements. Through this federal program, we are allowed to receive an 80% reimbursement on \$1.5 million in infrastructure expenditures per year. This allowed us to build the Granger data center. We will continue to access this reimbursement as it is a huge savings for the District and taxpayers.

Ways in which our network is accessed continue to grow. Teaching software, maintenance technology software, plus over 160 servers, 35,000 desktop computers, thousands of iPads, Chromebooks, and an unknown number of personal devices rely on our network. As more technology is acquired, more of the budget goes to maintenance of the technology; less is available for new purchases or replacement of existing equipment.

We are not at the “complete reliability” stage, however we are continuing to reach that goal. (Exhibit #1621)

### **PLC IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

John Welburn introduced directors in his division (Leslie Bell, Teacher Induction; Todd Braeger, Research & Evaluation; and Bill Kenley, Talent Development), who represent areas that play a role in the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) process.

Starting with Great Beginnings, an induction program for new teachers, newly hired and provisional teachers are offered this 1 or 2 day training. This includes an introduction to The Granite Way, by Superintendent Bates. Also included is an introduction to the PLC process,

given by our system coaches, to ensure a foundational knowledge of PLCs. Mentors are located at the same school as provisional teachers at a 1:3 ratio. We also have continuing cadres running throughout the year.

Systems Support Coaches offer teaming, organization and structure for all teachers. Training includes how to organize groups for active constructive dialogue within the PLC. It's important for the group to work collaboratively together and then connect to data and lesson design. Using the PLC Summary Form, teachers stay reasonably on track to cover core concepts throughout the year. By following the suggested PLC structure, summaries of the work is sent to the principal and each team member, helping the principal and team members move in the direction they need to go. This is a successful plan when teachers understand how and why PLCs work. Ongoing training will help in this process. We are able to access valuable data, district wide, which leads to useful conversations about what's working in certain locations, grade levels, subject areas, and what is leading to student achievement. We can also strive to replicate practices to make other schools successful. We'll continue to make adjustments as needed to the PLC structure.

Principal Leadership. The principal's role in the PLC process is covered in monthly MTSS (multi-tiered systems of support) meetings. Trainings cover the roles and management of the PLCs and data utilization. Induction academies for administrators in their first three years are held monthly and PLCs are covered there as well. Additionally, we have had 19 veteran administrators participate in a 2-year Principal's Academy sponsored by BYU that focuses primarily on PLC implementation. (Exhibit #1622)

## **CYCLE OF EVALUATION & ACCOUNTABILITY**

This will be discussed during the next study session.

**Motion:**            **I move we adjourn.**

Made by:            Dan Lofgren

Seconded by:      Sarah Meier

Called for vote:    Vice President Anderson

Results:            Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.