

Granite School District

Board of Education Meeting

Study Session

October 18, 2016

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 5:00 p.m., those in attendance:

Terry Bawden	President
Connie Anderson	Vice President
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
Rick Anthony	Assistant Superintendent
Linda Mariotti	Assistant Superintendent
John Welburn	Assistant Superintendent

Ben Horsley, Communications Director, Doug Larson, Policy & Legal Services Director, and Kathy Goodfellow, Executive Secretary were in attendance.

Connie Burgess, Board Member, arrived shortly after introductions.

STUDY SESSION:

Elementary Fine Arts Program Discussion

Mary Alice Rudelich, Curriculum Director, and Mark Pearce, Fine Arts Specialist, began the discussion. The four fine arts curriculum areas (art, music, dance, and drama) have core curriculum guidelines. Some of our elementary teachers are well prepared to teach in all four fine arts areas and some are not. Preservice training is the same for all teachers but some teachers take additional courses beyond what is required. Currently we have 16 FTE allocated for fine arts specialists (at a cost of \$1.1million) serving 65 schools. This equals 4 schools each, or one day of fine arts instruction each week per school and they focus on whatever fine arts area

the specific school community council (SCC) decides. The specialists teach up to 70 students in a classroom without the regular teacher involved. Regular teachers often use this time for teacher collaboration. We also have 17 Beverly Taylor Sorensen (BTS) grant arts specialists serving 25 schools. Currently students are not receiving fine arts education in all four areas each year.

Five possible scenarios were presented to maintain or improve what we have:

1. Maintain status quo, relying on elementary teachers to cover fine arts curriculum.
2. Maintain status quo with some quality control. (i.e. prescribe the art form to meet the needs of the school and the specialist.) This would limit SCC involvement.
3. Buy 13 additional BTS specialists (teacher side-by-side model, meaning the regular teacher is involved) for approximately \$978,000. Service levels would decrease as this option would reach only 30 schools.
4. BTS model, not side-by-side. This would allow for a total of 28 BTS specialists, using the \$1.1 million currently allocated for fine arts specialists.
5. Increase Fine Arts Specialist FTE to 56, costing an additional \$1.1 million.

Superintendent Bates reminded the board of a fundamental question, do we want and expect elementary teachers to teach the four fine arts areas or do they need assistance? Elementary teachers are responsible to teach 11-14 subjects. Can they be experts in so many subjects? We must be sensitive to our teachers.

Mr. Pearce shared what surrounding districts are doing. Each district has their own way of teaching the fine arts curriculum with varying degrees of success.

After some discussion, board members agreed that they have established a plan and they value all parts of the curriculum which the state has established. Is it realistic to have all teachers teach the four areas of the fine arts curriculum? Not with the allocated resources at this time. One idea would be to have the District Community Council and a council of teachers make recommendations.

To summarize, the board accepts the responsibility from the state board to educate children in all areas of the curriculum and needs to find a way to make that happen. We have resources, but they are not working in the fine arts area. What will it take in terms of resource and structure to give kids what they are entitled to, according to what the state suggests. The administration will take the information and explore ways to come up with solutions.

On another subject, it was suggested that the board adopt a policy or an operating principle to establish their position regarding alternative routes to licensure. This was done in an informal way during the staffing report in September. Board members agreed to have a more formal conversation and exposure to the issue.

Motion: **I move for adjournment.**

Made by: Dan Lofgren

Seconded by: Gayleen Gandy

Called for vote: President Bawden

Results: Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.