

Granite School District

Board of Education Meeting

Study Session

April 18, 2017

A study session for Granite School District convened 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 5:10 p.m., those in attendance:

Terry Bawden	President
Connie Anderson	Vice President
Connie Burgess	Board Member
Gayleen Gandy	Board Member
Sarah Meier	Board Member
Karyn Winder	Board Member
Todd Zenger	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.

The board welcomed Marjorie Cortez from the Deseret News.

STUDY SESSION:

Granite School District Future Update (Long-Range Capital Plan)

Superintendent Bates turned the time over to Ben Horsley and Don Adams who reviewed initial responses from School Community Councils and city council members for their understanding and support of possible bond action to address capital needs in Granite District. Of the three options proposed, the hybrid model (a school bond followed by property tax adjustments) was the most popular. (Exhibit #1728)

Mr. Horsley introduced Scott Riding, from Y2 Analytics, who reported on a broader survey conducted online and via email. An original survey was conducted in March of 1,006 likely voters and a follow-up survey sent this past weekend to the same group. The follow-up survey has received 303 responses so far so the results are preliminary. Two prevalent opinions (whether true or not) were commonly shared: schools are overcrowded and there are inadequate funds for teachers. There is also a belief that the District can solve its problems with a tax increase. When asked about capital needs, 65% of the respondents indicated they strongly agreed or somewhat agree and 57% of the respondents believed the District should raise taxes for both teacher raises and capital funds.

The most popular funding option, the hybrid model, received 63% support. Generally, support goes down near election time due to opposition groups. Support in all school network areas was 51% or higher. When asked about a tax increase, the average amount from those willing to consider an increase was \$199.

Considering persuasion opportunities, when an explanation was given for a tax increase, the level of support increased to 65%. Y2's opinion is that through a robust education campaign with good rational, the passing of a bond election could be successful.

Looking at 2017 or 2018 for a bond initiative, Y2 suggests our chances are a little higher in 2017 for a successful outcome because there will not be competing election matters taking away interest from our issue. It is anticipated that the Our Schools Now initiative will be on the 2018 ballot. (Exhibit #1729)

Board members agreed the hybrid bonding model is best and to move forward with plans for 2017. Board members asked for a final report from Y2 on May 2. They asked Mr. Horsley and Mr. Adams for additional details on the amount of money generated from a \$199 tax increase and what could be done in terms of rebuilds, remodels and maintenance of our schools.

Mr. Horsley will make contact with marketing groups to put together a community outreach program. In late August or early September, a public outreach campaign will begin which will detail plans for rebuilds and remodels.

Motion: **I move we adjourn to an Executive Session to discuss character competence.**

Made by: Gayleen Gandy

Seconded by: Sarah Meier

Called for vote: President Bawden

Results: Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.