

# Granite School District

## Board of Education Meeting

### Study Session

January 22, 2019

A study session for the Board of Education of Granite School District convened in Auditorium D at the Granite Education Center, 2500 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah. President Karyn Winder called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., those in attendance:

Karyn Winder	President
Connie Burgess	Vice President
Connie Anderson	Board Member
Terry Bawden	Board Member
Gayleen Gandy	Board Member
Nicole McDermott	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.

### **STUDY SESSION:**

#### **Proficiency Based Grading**

Linda Mariotti provided board members a document showing percentages by school of the total sections reporting in the Proficiency Based Grading (PBG) Gradebook. Percentages varied from .02 to 100%. (Exhibit #1932). Linda Mariotti introduced Leslie Bell, Curriculum Director, Karen Gregory, Sheri Sorensen, and Stephanie Wood, Curriculum Associate Directors. Together, they have been holding PBG meetings and trainings at school locations with faculties, PTAs, School Community Councils, and other parent groups. They respond to every invitation to help parents, teachers, and students better understand PBG. A survey was sent to every teacher prior to Winter Recess asking what type of training is needed to implement and use PBG effectively.

From the survey results, a menu of 2-hour “How To” trainings will be created. Those participating will receive a \$100 stipend. Creating assessments and navigating Gradebook were two of the top requests. Sessions will begin in February and occur periodically through May. Teachers may attend up to 6 sessions.

Board members raised a number of questions and a discussion followed with Ms. Mariotti and the curriculum administrators. Questions and comments included:

**Some parents and teachers are confused what the ratings 1-4 mean. How can we clarify? How can we help parents understand while teachers are still learning? Are the messages to parents too complicated?** Communication with parents, students, teachers is key. The best communication occurs with individual teachers and parents, SEP conferences work very well for this. Whole school events with PTAs or other parent groups are also valuable. A website has been established: [graniteschools.org /grading](http://graniteschools.org/grading). There is also a link to the page from Granite’s homepage.

**There was a large number of teachers expressing interest this year, can and should we hold back until better understanding is widespread? Are there requirements to become a PBG teacher? Will all teachers use PBG in the future?** PBG district-wide is the goal. Teachers participate as they are interested. We are continuing to better educate teachers in PBG with the highest success occurring in small groups. Curriculum staff responds to all invitations to present and share information. Principals have venues and resources for providing school-based training to their teachers.

**Can parents and students check grades mid-semester? There must be an early warning system for kids not progressing.** Teachers need to post data to Gradebook continually, weekly at a minimum, so that parents and students can check progress many times during the semester.

**Is it up to principals to put a plan together to move forward responsibly?** When teachers request help of their principal, the principal may invite curriculum staff to hold training sessions or hold trainings themselves. Principals are building their own capacity of understanding and they attend many of the same trainings as teachers. Secondary schools have been putting together implementation plans.

**Can we make the video for teachers available to parents and what about using Facebook Live for parent meetings?** In December a 30-minute online training was made available to every teacher and this was very positive. The training is available on the website. Printed material is also available.

**Can we mandate that teachers use Gradebook?** To effectively use PBG, Gradebook is necessary.

**Canvas is not compatible with Gradebook, will that ever change?** We have encouraged the Canvas vendor to push the Canvas scores to Gradebook. Thus far, they have not been open in doing so. Canvas is a learning management system, not a grade recording system. School City, however, does communicate with Gradebook.

**For kids who have been adversely affected, how can they be helped? If a student shows proficiency in the pre-assessment, does that student need to take future assessments and are there deadlines for reassessments?** For kids adversely affected, they can ask the teacher for a reassessment. We must communicate this with teachers, principals and parents. There are multiple ways for students to show understanding and demonstrate growth. We measure student growth as they progress to proficiency, which is the goal.

**How can we incentivize teachers to share their assessments?** Teachers must be confident in the assessments and be willing to share ideas through shared drives, google drives, Canvas, etc. School City has an 11,000 pre-authored item bank in English Language Arts, Science, Math, and Social Studies.

**How are participation subjects (such as PE, art, music) using PBG?** As there are multiple ways for students to show growth, performance-based subjects lend themselves nicely to PBG.

**Can we get a Gradebook App?** We have asked the vendor about creating an App and are waiting for a response. If they are not open to the idea, we can tackle the project, we need the proprietary rights to do it. We are also continually making improvements to Gradebook to make it easier to use and more web friendly.

**We should create a PBG postcard for all Granite student households, with top 5 best PBG resources.** The curriculum department has been charged with this task. A draft postcard will be shared with the board prior to mailing.

Board members thanked the curriculum staff for the information. They look forward to hearing more about PBG progress.

### **District Direction Discussion**

Superintendent Bates and board members reviewed a possible policy of “Implementation of Standards & Objectives.” Wording from Utah Code 53G-4-402 was examined as to how it applied to the draft document Superintendent Bates presented. (Exhibit #1933). Assessments, instruction and adherence to Utah State Board Standards were discussed as were academic and citizenship grades. Developing a library of best practices was also discussed. Frequent and regular updates in the district grading system regarding student proficiency was also part of the conversation. Superintendent Bates will take the feedback from board members and update the

document. He will then meet with board leadership to determine if and when this will be presented as a First and Second Reading at future board meetings.

President Winder thanked all for coming.

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

Made by:            Terry Bawden

Seconded by:     Nicole McDermott

Called for vote:    President Winder

Results:            Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned 7:51 p.m.