

Granite School District

Board of Education Meeting Study Session February 19, 2019

A study session of 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
Gayleen Gandy	Board Member
Nicole McDermott	Board Member
Todd Zenger	Board Member

Terry Bawden, board member, was excused.

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, was excused.

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

Chris Lewis, Accounting Director, and Brian Ipson, Accounting Assistant Director, were also in attendance.

STUDY SESSION:

School Fees

Doug Larson and Garrett Muse, School Accountability Director, presented information on school fees. Giving some background on school fees and fee waivers, the 1994 permanent injunction was briefly summarized. In 2018 two audits (conducted by the Legislative Auditor's Office and the Utah State Board of Education) found that Granite District was in compliance regarding fees and fee waivers. The State Board is currently writing a new rule and two bills have been introduced in the 2019 legislative session that will impact school fees. (Exhibit #1941)

Anticipating changes in the State Board rule, several items were discussed including: fee waivable items will include all activities which are provided, sponsored or supported by the

school;
an annual per-student maximum will be determined;
fundraising, both individual and group, will need to be addressed;
non-exclusion of students for non-payment of fees;
donations cannot create significant inequity; and
one school may not bear a disproportional impact of fee waivers.

Examples were shared, comparing actual costs of three programs, how the schools pay for the costs as well as donations, fundraisers, etc.

Questions to consider:

How can the District provide opportunities and programs without over-burdening families?

More fees will likely need to be waived. How will more fee waivers affect programs?

Should fees reflect the total cost of programs?

How will the rules regarding fundraising impact a school's ability to raise sufficient funds for programs?

What is a reasonable annual maximum fee for all activities?

Should the District maintain current expectations for programs?

As a new policy is developed regarding fees, board members emphasized the need to take care of the "bubble" kids, or kids whose families do not qualify for fee waivers but are priced out of participation in activities. Many middle income families find the fees difficult to pay. We want to provide an opportunity for every student who has the desire and/or hope to be on a team. We need transparency with no hidden fees. The fee cap needs to be the actual cap, no additional fees. When a fee is set, that amount will be the maximum that can be fundraised. How much will the district make up? What is the actual cost of a program? What will be the burden on the student? If we lower fees, where will the money come from to do so?

The new policy must be implemented in the 2020-2021 school year. The policy, along with additional fee information, will be presented in the future.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Bates shared three possible concept designs for the Skyline rebuild, specifically the placement of the swimming pool.

Work continues on the Performance Based Grading (PBG) website and postcard.

District Reorganization Discussion

Superintendent Bates shared the Granite School District organizational chart. (Exhibit #1942)

The current chart was developed shortly after Superintendent Bates was appointed as superintendent and it assumes experience. Granite District is having a large number of baby boomers retire. They are being replaced with good people who are rich in vigor and short on experience. This presents a challenge. New employees (administrators and teachers) are coming to us with core knowledge and procedural knowledge, but they need conditional (or Granite District) knowledge. In the past, we have focused on providing resources and compliance. We need to change our service pattern to capacity building and continuous improvement.

In the school system, the principals are key. To build capacity of our principals, Superintendent

Bates suggests moving an FTE from Talent Development to Elementary School Accountability Services. An outside contractor will provide training to the elementary directors on how to be coaches to the principals. The principals will be trained, by the directors how to be coaches to the teachers. We have many instructional coaches in the district, who in the future, will be redeployed as capacity building coaches. This will be a multi-step transition which will take some time to implement. This will begin with a new elementary school accountability director appointed this Spring.

President Winder reminded board members of three calendar items:

February 26, Skyline Town Hall Meeting

March 5, Board Meeting

March 9, Board Retreat

Motion: **I move we adjourn.**

Made by: Gayleen Gandy

Seconded by: Nicole McDermott

Called for vote: President Winder

Results: Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.