

Granite School District
Board of Education Meeting
September 3, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Education of Granite School District convened in the Boardroom 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
Terry Bawden	Board Member
Nicole McDermott	Board Member
Todd Zenger	Board Member

Martin Bates, Superintendent, and Kathy Goodfellow, Executive Secretary, were in attendance.

President Winder voiced the need for an executive session to discuss the Character & Competence of an Individual.

Motion: **I move we adjourn to an Executive Session to discuss the Character & Competence of an Individual.**

Made by: Connie Burgess

Seconded by: Terry Bawden

Called for voice vote: President Winder

Results:

For:

Terry Bawden
Connie Burgess
Nicole McDermott
Todd Zenger
Karyn Winder

Against:

The meeting adjourned; the board convened an Executive Session in Conference Room B-217.

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

The Granite School District Board of Education reconvened at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom. President Karyn Winder welcomed all in attendance for this session and called for a roll call of board members; all board members were present. (Gayleen Gandy and Connie Anderson arrived during the Executive Session.) The following members of the superintendency were in attendance:

Don Adams, Rick Anthony, David Garrett, Linda Mariotti, John Welburn.

Staff members Ben Horsley, Communications Director, Doug Larson, Policy and Legal Services Director, were also in attendance.

Superintendent Bates introduced those representing organizations:

Kari Montoya	Region V PTA
Julianne Hamblin	GAEOP
Sheyla Holt	GAEOP
Emily Grunig	GASA
Michael McDonough	GEA
Randy Woodbury	GEF
Damien Shinsel	GESPA
Steven Powell	Middle Manager
September Hogan	Child Nutrition
Sheyla Holt	Child Nutrition

Garett Muse, School Leadership & Improvement Services Director, introduced administrators attending by assignment:

Brenda Byrnes	Principal, Woodstock Elementary
Matthew Graham	Principal, Arcadia Elementary
Rocky Lambourne	Principal, Bonneville Junior
Pauline Longberg	Principal, Academy Park Elementary
Maile Loo	Principal, Kearns High
Becki Monson	Principal, Bacchus Elementary
John Paul Sorensen	Principal, Armstrong Academy
Mary Anne Stevens	Principal, Bennion Junior
Steve Alder	Assist Prin, Granger Elementary
Emily Grunig	Assist Prin, Evergreen Junior
Angie Rasmussen	Assist Prin, Diamond Ridge & Hunter Elems
Ryan Shaw	Assist Prin, Olympus High
Sarah Wall	Assist Prin, West Lake Junior
Jeremy Brooks	Intern, Granite Park Junior
April Reynolds	Intern, Magna & Pleasant Green Elems

Pledge of Allegiance: Ryan Shaw

Reverence: Taylorsville High School Choir

RECOGNITIONS

Skyline MESA (Math, Engineering, & Science Achievement) Team

Ben Horsley introduced Charlene Lui, Educational Equity Director, who introduced members of the Skyline High MESA team who recently took first place in the MESA USA National Engineering Design Competition. Mark Jasumback, advisor, was also recognized.

Teacher of the Year

Rick Anthony introduced Lauren Merkley, an English teacher at Cottonwood High School, who is Granite's Teacher of the Year. She is also a finalist for the State Teacher of the Year, which

will be announced later this week.

Legislator Recognition

Ben Horsley introduced three legislators who sponsored educational bills and worked on behalf of education during the 2019 legislative session: Senator Karen Mayne, Senator Kathleen Riebe, and Representative Mike Winder. The board thanked them for their support of public education.

MAYOR PARTICIPATION – Kristie Overson, Mayor of Taylorsville City. She mentioned how the city and school district work together for the good and safety of students and residents.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – see below

CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes, August 6, 2019

Purchases:

1. Lumber for CTE Construction of Mobile Classrooms, Stringham Lumber – \$60,000.00
2. School Lunch Credit Card Transaction Fees, PAMS Lunchroom – \$110,000.00

Award of Contracts:

1. Maintenance, Large Copy Machines, Secondary Schools, Pacific Office Automation – \$70,000.00
2. Check Point Security Systems, Information Systems, DirSec Inc. – \$309,032.30
3. Pool Rental, Kearns High School, Kearns Oquirrh Park Fitness Center – \$107,085.00

Personnel:

1. Leave of Absence
2. Employee Hires and Separations

Financial Reports:

1. Purchase Order Summary – \$6,287,156.86
2. Accounts Payable Pay Vouchers – \$46,598,855.95
3. Principals' Cash Report – July 2019
4. Monthly Budget Report – July 2019

Bond Funding for the Roosevelt Elementary Rebuild Project

Motion: **I move that we accept the Consent Agenda.**

Made by: Gayleen Gandy

Seconded by: Nicole McDermott

Called for vote: President Winder

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

INFORMATION ITEM

Olympus Network Reconfiguration

John Welburn turned the time over to principals from the Olympus network: Steve Perschon

(Olympus High), Josh LeRoy (Olympus Junior), Wes Cutler (Evergreen Junior), Kayla MacKay (Cottonwood El), Nichole Higgins (Penn), Kyle Anderson (Rosecrest), Teri Cooper (Crestview), Ann Kane (Mill Creek) and Ben Peters (Driggs). Each principal introduced members of the school community councils who were in attendance. Each principal then reviewed information regarding reasons for the support and opposition to reconfiguration from their community. (Exhibit #2006). In summary, reconfiguration discussions have been ongoing since the 2014-15 school year, principals support the reconfiguration of K-5, 6-8, 9-12 beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Eight of nine school community councils support the proposal.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Meg Thunell, 1880 Woodside Drive. She is in support of reconfiguration. She finds no academic benefit to keeping what we have now. The core curriculum is out of alignment, 6th grade students should have educational experiences (labs, technology resources, additional supplies) which are offered at the junior high. How we move kids is more important than when. The “how” involves support from administrators, counselors and teachers. A delay in making this decision allows more time for fighting among communities. Now we have a tremendous opportunity to address concerns.

Patti Hession, 1602 E 3010 S. She is not against reconfiguration but is concerned about timing. The implementation of the reconfiguration policies is a concern. In April 2019, a change occurred which allows for a super-majority vote to bring a proposal before the board. The survey was delivered in the summer, which was the worst time possible. In August 2019, there was a change in the process from unanimous to majority. The changes have left the community upset, it has been district driven and caused division in the community. Step 3 in the process states that communities gather together to discuss, has not been done. How can we get community involved? She asks for a reasonable timeline and wants to see the implementation plans.

Erica Finlayson, 4190 Camille Street. She believes reconfiguration will best serve our students. She respectfully acknowledges concerns but the schools are up to the challenge. This is an important priority and we want to do it well. Colleges consider 9th grade an important part of the high school experience. Greater options for academics, flexibility is greater, with more extracurricular activities available.

Ashley Beck, 2110 Kline Ave. Parents are passionate about both sides. There are conveniences to reconfiguration but the downsides strongly outweigh the benefits. Moving the 6th grade to junior high does not justify the risks of increased depression, anxiety, and suicide, exacerbated by social media, sexting, bullying, drugs, vaping and alcohol abuse. Let 6th graders stay 6th graders and have one more year to prepare for junior high. Reconfiguration does nothing to benefit kids academically. She urged the board to protect our 6th graders.

Julie Jackson, 5224 Cottonwood Lane. She is in support of moving ahead in 2020. There are district initiatives happening that will help our kids be successful. Proficiency Based Grading is occurring in the junior high, grades 7 & 8 but not 9th grade, creating two grading systems in the school. There are expected teacher retirements this year and patrons want to take care of teachers and keep the teachers who are impacting our students. There have been recent changes in intramural sports, 9th graders have no opportunity to participate unless they go to the high

school now anyway. By reconfiguring in 2020, next year's 6th graders and next year's 9th graders will have the opportunity to benefit sooner.

Valerie Pingree, 1920 Longview Drive. She appreciates the public comments thus far. As a PTA volunteer, a substitute teacher, and member of school and district community councils, she has been heavily involved in the discussion. There have been numerous emails, conversations, newsletters, town hall meetings, which have given as much information as possible. Information and facts have been available. People have asked for plans, plans cannot be made without a decision to move forward. Now it's on the board to move forward. It makes sense to reconfigure now. With teacher retirements expected this year, other teachers will have the opportunity to move into schools and positions of their choice. The benefits and advantages will far outweigh the disadvantages.

Board members discussion:

Connie Anderson: She thanked everyone for the comments. It's OK to have different opinions but she is deeply troubled by the animosity that has surfaced. She hopes the community can come together. She has talked with many people and has spent a lot of time with principals in the Olympus network. She visited Bonneville Junior High and saw the 6th graders at that school and took note of what is happening to welcome them; they are doing well. Bonneville had two years as a 7-8 school and lost good teachers and elective programs. She is convinced it is harmful not to move 6th grade at the time of moving 9th grade. Josh LeRoy is an experienced principal with reconfiguration. There are parent concerns about students feeling comfortable and included; she asks Principal Perschon and both junior high principals to be open with their plans. We are cheating our 9th graders by keeping them out of high schools and there are positive things for 6th graders.

Todd Zenger: He asked Wes Cutler about the the 5x5 configuration at Evergreen, it has been successful for 9th grade. During advisory time twice a week the students look at their grades and standards they need help with, they meet with teachers and receive remediation. Mr. Zenger asked if that was possible at the high school. Mr. Pershon said that was something that all high schools could look at as there are many programs such as the GTI, ROTC, etc. to consider. There are ways to put intervention into the schedule, which may look different from the 5x5. Mr. Zenger said he is concerned that the board has not heard from any 6th or 9th grade students. Their lives will be impacted. He'd like information how students feel – pro and/or con. He is also concerned about the escalated procedure since May. He thanked everyone who has presented and he wants more data on the impact on children. He'd like to know how programs will help children, how scheduling (5x5 or something similar) can be implemented. He's anxious to hear why and how going into high school is a benefit for 9th grade. He asked that changes are done thoughtfully and deliberately and that the board has a chance to hear from more parents and students.

Nicole McDermott: She asked for clarification about credit for advisory. At this time Evergreen does not give credit for the 30-minute advisory. Evergreen will stay with the 5x5 after reconfiguration and then evaluate. An advisory could be added to a 4x4. Dual language immersion students can take the Culture & Media elective class and language class. She asked Josh LeRoy about the reconfiguration experience at Churchill. He reported that a 6-8 school becomes a totally different building in a positive way. 6th grade students have enthusiasm for

school, they love their teachers and are a little more playful. 6th graders are not that far behind in maturity. She asked about the impact on the school if 6th graders did not move into the junior high – Mr. LeRoy said that Olympus Junior would be left with about 600 students which is smaller than what is optimal for course offerings and programs. Mr. Cutler said that it would be devastating to their elective programs at Evergreen to move the 9th graders without the 6th graders coming in.

Both junior high principals report that they will share their plans with the community and get input to meet the needs of the community.

Connie Burgess: Regarding special permits, she asked if there is enough space to accommodate the permits as well as the 9th graders. Mr. Perschon reported on the special permits coming to Olympus at this time. They have looked at the numbers from the junior highs, there will not be issues with handling the additional kids. The K-5, 6-8, 9-12 model will help in maintaining consistency in enrollments throughout the network.

Terry Bawden. He thanked everyone for the preparation for the past 5 years. He is sorry that this process has caused contentions in the community. It is time for the board to step up and make the decision. He looks forward to hearing from more community members. He hopes that communities can mend feelings. He is ready to make the decision so schools and communities can move forward and make plans one way or another. We have seen good results in other networks that have reconfigured and in a way, we have heard from students through the positive results.

Gayleen Gandy. She said that it has been interesting to hear the comments from community, board members and administrators. She is 100% behind the changes in the process made in the past few months. She is convinced it's time to make a decision and hopes to put this issue on the agenda for next month.

Nicole McDermott stated that every board member wants the best thing for students. The board will not make a decision that is not in the best interest of students.

Todd Zenger: Requests a study session allowing at least 30-40 minutes per side.

Karyn Winder: She is active in school community councils, it is interesting that we have people telling board members to make a decision, then there is the opposite that people tell the board to stay out of the decision. We welcome differences in opinion, we cannot make everyone happy. The reconfiguration process is community driven and it's time to act on the decision. She respects everyone's opinion, we should move forward with an agenda item next month.

Further discussion: Ms. Gandy was expecting to hear a lot more opposition tonight as this was the opportunity for opposition to voice their opinion. Ms. Winder said that students have been heard through their parents in the survey and those who have made comments. Mr. Bawden said that we are doing a disservice to the process by future delays. Ms. McDermott said that the principals have shared pros and cons, essentially hearing both sides and the board has had the opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Winder reminded the board that we have the survey results that speak of the community support.

The majority of board members agreed that this item be placed on the October agenda as an action item. Board members asked community members to contact them with any comments prior to October 1, 2019. Ms. Winder asked the network principals to attend the October meeting. She also reminded everyone that public comment time will be available for those wanting to participate in that way.

ACTION ITEMS

Article V.C.1.b. Turnaround Plans for Low Performing Schools

Doug Larson explained this policy which gives schools direction on how to proceed after being identified as low performing Turnaround schools. The statute clarifies the board member on the school turnaround committee must represent the precinct where the turnaround school is located.

Motion: **I move we accept the policy Turnaround Plans for Low Performing Schools.**

Made by: Terry Bawden

Seconded by: Gayleen Gandy

Called for vote: President Winder

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously (Connie Anderson absent)

Article X.A.12. Wellness, Nutrition, and Competitive Foods

Doug Larson reminded board members of the discussion from last month. We will maintain broad language in the policy to allow for flexibility in recess time.

Motion: **I move we accept Wellness, Nutrition, and Competitive Foods.**

Made by: Connie Burgess

Seconded by: Nicole McDermott

Called for vote: President Winder

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously (Connie Anderson absent)

SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD REPORTS

Superintendent Bates: The Riverfront development elementary involves a boundary change and it has been suggested we start the process for naming the school. John Welburn will head up the committee; Connie Burgess and Connie Anderson will be invited to participate on the committee.

Calendar items: Thursday, September 5, 7:00 p.m. Taylorsville reconfiguration meeting, September 10, Taylorsville Town Hall meeting. September 17, open house at Sandburg elementary, September 18, Jackling open house, September 18, Kearns High reconfiguration meeting, specifically 6th grade moving to the junior highs, September 24, study session.

Nicole McDermott: She went to the Vista and Bridger back-to-school nights. She gave a shout-out to the PTA, parent involvement is #1 indicator of student success. She also thanked those involved in developing safe walking routes.

Connie Anderson: She attended the Redwood Elementary school carnival and gave kudos to those who make such a big effort for kids. She has had several positive school visits.

Karyn Winder: She reminded board members of the USBA leadership academy, the NFUSSD conference, and the USBA fall regional meeting. She thanked the Granite Education Foundation and their partnership with Discover. Their support is incredible.

Motion: **I move we adjourn.**

Made by: Terry Bawden

Seconded by: Connie Anderson

Called for vote: President Winder

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.