



Board of Education
2500 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115-3110

385-646-4523
FAX 385-646-4207
www.graniteschools.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020

NOTICE: Pursuant to Utah Code §52-4-207 and Granite School District Policy, Article II.D., this meeting of the Board of Education of Granite School District will be conducted electronically. The anchor location of the meeting will be Granite School District offices. Based on Governor Herbert's Directive to the State of Utah, "Stay Safe, Stay Home," signed on March 27, 2020, and pursuant to other directives from Salt Lake County officials, members of the public will be able to participate online. The entire proceedings will be live streamed on our website at www.graniteschools.org. Members of the public who would like to comment as part of the preceding may do so via email at communications@graniteschools.org. Comments received by 5:00 p.m. Sunday, August 16, 2020 will be shared with the board in advance of the meeting.

BOARD MEETING – 8:00 a.m.

Introductions

Pledge of Allegiance

Action Item

Reconsideration of Elementary School Service Pattern

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Complete texts of agenda are available at www.graniteschools.org.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) during this meeting should notify Stacy Bushell at 385-646-4523 (alternate TDD number 801-298-9484) at least three working days prior to the meeting.

Members of the Board of Education may participate electronically.

New Information

As parent requests for either in person or distance instruction are coming to our elementary principals, numerous complexities are clarifying. Additionally, we learned the thresholds the health department will use to inform their recommendations for a two-week dismissal of a class (three individuals) or a school (10% or 15 individuals, whichever is less). While this threshold certainly favors caution, it is also foreseeable that schools and classes may move back and forth from in person to distance modalities over the course of the year. As we have worked to address these challenges under the approved elementary service pattern, the Board and administration received a letter from GEA highlighting several enforcement concerns (which we are addressing administratively) and a substantive proposal regarding the elementary service pattern.

GEA Request for Elementary Service Pattern

“Monday – Thursday students face-to-face, educators managing both modalities, and Friday’s with all students online and an opportunity to prepare for their online students for the next week”

Main GEA Concerns With Current Plan	Our Assessment
Lack of FTE	In-person and distance requests are not nicely balanced, causing multi-grade split classes for distance and split classes for in person
High number of students enrolling for face-to-face instruction	See above
Educators with online classes asked to participate in extra-duty assignments at school	Online teachers are expected to work from school and participate in PLCs and participate in the rotation of other assignments along with in person teachers
Confusion regarding additional pay or additional preparation time	We concur that there is significant confusion
Conclusion	
We agree that the concerns are significant concerns	

Potential Benefits	Potential Concerns
<p>Cleaner class assignments for teachers and students (e.g. fewer split classes)</p> <p>Children and teachers know who is in their class regardless of requested changes in modality at each quarter</p> <p>Fewer students attending in person (e.g. 90 students in a grade, three classes of 30 with 24 in person and 6 distance each rather than two classes of 36 in person and one class of 18 distance – or split grade classes for both in person and distance)</p> <p>In the foreseeable event of a health department recommendation to go distance for two weeks, smoother transition because all teachers are already teaching distance.</p> <p>In person students with non-COVID-19 illness can stay at home and participate as a distance student for the duration of the illness – no incentive to go to school sick to not miss anything</p>	<p>Additional planning required to teach both modalities (hence the additional time on Friday)</p> <p>Parents of elementary students will need to find an additional half-day of child care (Fridays are already a half-day, so this would be an additional half-day; secondary students are already by distance on Fridays which might mitigate some concerns)</p>

Administrative Recommendation

In light of the GEA request sent to the board and made public Thursday, August 13, 2020 and given that the administration shares many of the same concerns regarding staffing, split classes both distance and in-person, and other difficulties; we recommend that the elementary service pattern be amended to have all elementary teachers teach both distance and in-person students, with Friday being a planning/distance learning day.