

Granite School District
Board of Education Meeting
August 4, 2020

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
Connie Anderson	Board Member
Terry Bawden	Board Member
Kris Nguyen	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
Don Adams	Assistant Superintendent
Rick Anthony	Assistant Superintendent
Leslie Bell	Assistant Superintendent
John Welburn	Assistant Superintendent

Ben Horsley, Communications Director, Doug Larson, Policy and Legal Services Director, Donnette McNeill-Waters, Human Resources Director, and Stacy Bushell, Executive Secretary, were in attendance.

OATH OF OFFICE

Sherrie Swensen, Salt Lake County Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to Kristen Nguyen, newly appointed board member.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

PBL Update

Dawn Hauser reviewed the history of PBL in Granite School District since 2011. There are two significant changes for the 2020-21 school year. First, teachers will have flexibility to determine the number of assessments used for each standard. Second, the calculation method for determining proficiency on a standard will be recency rather than decaying average. (Exhibits #2107.a-c)

Board Comments:

Board members asked how the changes will impact Gradebook. Ms. Hauser said Information Systems made many improvements and adjustments to calculations in Gradebook. The PBL Gradebook will be familiar to users. Karyn Winder wants to make sure parents are educated

about grading. She also expressed concern about the functionality of the Canvas and Gradebook platforms. She asked if there is a system that would integrate the two platforms in a better way.

Rick Anthony said perhaps there could be a change in platform for Gradebook in the future. A committee was formed this summer to study Gradebook. An RFP may be issued in the spring.

Terry Bawden thanked Dawn Hauser for her hard work. Karyn Winder has received many compliments from teachers saying that Dawn has addressed many of their concerns. Connie Anderson thanked the administration for choosing Dawn Hauser to lead this effort.

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 for a dinner break.

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

The Granite School District Board of Education reconvened at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom. All board members were present.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mark Ellermeier

Reverence: Connie Burgess

CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes, July 7 & 14, 2020

Purchases:

1. Classroom Furniture, Granite Park Junior High, Workspace Elements - \$56,600.25
2. Cloth Masks for students, PPE Trade and Support LLC - \$54,950.00
3. Maintenance Uniforms, AlSCO - \$85,000.00
4. Paper and Supplies, Print Shop, Veritiv Operating Company - \$55,000.00
5. Secondary English Language Arts Curriculum for 6th Grade, McGraw-Hill Education - \$69,600.00

Award of Contracts:

1. Classroom Remodels, Arcadia and Copper Hills Elementary Schools, Judd Construction - \$69,337.00
2. Copier Maintenance, Print Shop, Canon Solutions America - \$75,000.00
3. Copier Maintenance, Secondary School, Pacific Office Automation - \$65,000.00
4. District Linen Needs, AlSCO - \$100,000.00
5. Equal Opportunity Schools Contracted Services to Improve AP/IB Participation and Scores, Equal Opportunity Schools - \$124,800.00
6. Excess Workers Compensation Insurance, Aon Risk Solutions - \$99,956.00
7. Pharmacy Benefits Management Services, Kennan & Associates - \$12,652,505.00
8. Reroofing, Bonneville Junior High and Spring Lane Elementary, Clark's Quality Roofing - \$383,365.00
9. Upgrade Electrical System, Westbrook Elementary, Probst Electric - \$83,200.00
10. Upgrade Fire Alarm System, Westbrook Elementary, Probst Electric - \$99,113.00

11. Orientation and Mobility Specialist Services, Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind - \$71,554.00
12. Waste Collection Services, Republic Services - \$350,000.00

Personnel:

1. Leave of Absence
2. Employee Hires and Separations
3. Administrative Appointments/Transfers

Financial Reports:

1. Purchase Order Summary - \$43,937,073.57
2. Accounts Payable Pay Vouchers - \$19,041,074.86
3. Change Order Summary Report - \$346,210.81
4. Monthly Budget Report - June 2020

Early Literacy Plan

Land Trust Amendment

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

Made by: Terry Bawden

Seconded by: Nicole McDermott

Called for vote: President Winder

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

INFORMATION ITEMS

Kennedy Junior Network Reconfiguration

Mary Basso shared information about the reconfiguration process for Kennedy Junior High. Community councils in each feeder elementary are supportive of reconfiguration. (Exhibit #2108)

Board members asked if the community council meetings were open and attended by parents. Ms. Basso said all parents were invited to a very well publicized meeting and approximately 50 parents participated.

Taylorville Network Reconfiguration

Emme Liddell, principal at Taylorville High, spoke on behalf of the Taylorville Network. (Exhibit #2109)

Nicole McDermott asked about space concerns at Taylorville High. Ten additional relocatable classrooms will be needed. Some will be placed in the parking lot north of the school and four will be located along the path to the seminary building. Relocatable buildings will be used for a variety of classes, not designated as 9th grade only.

Mary Ann Stevens, principal at Bennion Junior High said reconfiguration is well supported by the community council.

Mark Ellermeier, principal Eisenhower Junior High, reported that his community council is in favor of reconfiguration, but many want the addition at Taylorsville High to be built first.

Principals from each elementary in the network shared details of their surveys, community council votes, and expected impact on enrollment numbers. Community councils in each elementary are supportive of reconfiguration.

RESIDENT PARTICIPATION

Brandalyn Seaman 3093 Cisco Ridge Road

Ms. Seaman served as PTA President, worked as a classroom aide, and has worked at the district office in Student Assessment. Parents talk to her and ask why grade reconfiguration has not happened yet. She has worked for good communication and education about this issue in her community. Overall, parents strongly support reconfiguration. The benefits that are important to her are opportunity and individualized learning for all students. She feels it makes a difference for middle school students to have specialized math, English, and science teachers. Students also benefit from extracurricular activities. In the high school there will be access to GTI and more challenging classes for 9th grade students. Her own students want to see reconfiguration and are excited about the possibilities.

Board comments:

Board members and Ms. Liddell discussed several options for accommodating more students in the building prior to the remodel. Taylorsville High used to serve a student body of over 2400 students. They will work with Don Adams and Steve Hogan on solutions. Terry Bawden asked when the addition will be built at Taylorsville High. Don Adams said it will be as late as 2028. Don Adams said the board can vote to move priorities of projects on the bond list.

Kearns Network Reconfiguration

This reconfiguration is for the 6th grade students going into junior high. It involves Kearns and Jefferson Junior High Schools. (Exhibit #2110)

Scott Bell, principal at Kearns Junior High, reported on the process and timeline they followed.

Board comments:

The board asked if the school could address the DLI needs in the elementary communities. Mr. Bell said they addressed this by adding class time in the targeted language into their schedule. This class time will be in addition to language and culture classes. Nicole McDermott asked about teacher certification for the additional class time. The additional class would not fall under the DLI plan and therefore will not have the same requirements.

Rod Horton, principal at Jefferson Junior High, reported on his community process. The community council vote was 7 opposed and 1 absent. Survey results were split amongst network elementary schools. The council is concerned about the lack of support from elementary schools but will happily welcome 6th grade students if the board chooses reconfiguration. The Jefferson community council feels the board has the knowledge and expertise to make this decision.

The Kearns Network elementary principals reported on their surveys, votes, and expected impact on school enrollment. Bacchus, Beehive, Jim Bridger, Fox Hills, Gourley, South Kearns, and Western Hills voted for reconfiguration, while Diamond Ridge and West Kearns voted against.

ACTION ITEM

COVID-19 Secondary School Service Pattern

John Welburn reviewed and discussed with the board the elementary service pattern approved last board meeting. (Exhibit #2111)

At the request of the board from the July 14 meeting, Mr. Welburn presented a secondary plan with additional planning time. The plan addresses the need for planning time, communication with distance learners, and other duties of secondary teachers. Monday through Thursday teachers will teach using both modalities, face to face and distance. Late start PLC time currently scheduled on Mondays will move to Fridays. Fridays will be designated as a distance learning day. The time on Fridays without students in the building will be used for distance learning, collaboration, interventions and extensions, and planning which allows greater flexibility for our secondary teachers.

Terry Bawden asked if this plan was discussed with GEA. Mr. Welburn confirmed that GEA is supportive of this plan.

RESIDENT PARTICIPATION

Meg Thunell 1880 E South Woodside Drive

Ms. Thunell is chair of the Crestview community council. She is the parent of students in high school, junior high, elementary, and pre-kindergarten. She has children who have an IEP, 504, tested into the gifted program, are athletes, and a son who is a minority. She is passionate about the success of our district and the schools in it. Moving secondary schools and not elementary schools to a four-day schedule is incredibly unfair to elementary teachers. Additionally, only eighteen students at her school signed up for online learning. This means one teacher will have to teach grades 3-6 with only two weeks to prepare curriculum. There may be up to 35 students in the 5th grade in person class. A four-day school week does not address health concerns. She believes that a modified schedule for the beginning of the year would be best and could easily transition to in-person. She feels that a modified schedule will prevent possible school closures. She is also concerned that teachers will leave their profession if they are asked to teach in person.

Natalie Larson 2597 Kimbary Way

Ms. Larson has three children in Granite School District attending Wasatch Junior High and Skyline High. She is representing other parents of 9th and 12th grade students. She wants a modified schedule; she would like to focus more on building capacity and wants it lowered to a target rate of 50%. She is interested in a delayed start to the school year to give teachers more time to prepare for the modifications needed for COVID-19. She would like to see benchmarks to know when schools will move to the different attendance models. Her boys want to go to school and miss attending. They want to be involved in extracurricular activities. The choice of digital learning or full attendance is a very difficult choice. She also wants to know if out of boundary permits will be allowed.

Board comments:

Todd Zenger said that he is concerned circumstances have changed over the past two to three weeks. Salt Lake County has the 36th highest infection rate. The infection rate is double what the CDC recommends for school reopening. Reports say there is a higher carrier rate among children. The CDC and state websites say we should socially distance. CDC says the lowest risk is distance learning, a medium risk is a hybrid schedule, and high risk is the full-time, full-day schedule. He feels that in the name of civic mindedness and public health the board should not adopt the high-risk approach.

Mr. Zenger made a motion to adopt a school opening that allows the opportunity to implement social distancing and a resolution to adopt distance learning.

Karyn Winder clarified the procedure, last board meeting the board made a vote of finality choosing our reopening plans. It states in board policy that to reconsider an item within one year, the motion has to be seconded and receive support from 2/3 of the board. Ms. Winder also reminded the board that when the board voted last month, the possibility of an adjustment to the secondary schedule was still an option within that vote.

Motion: I move that we reconsider our decision to go with a 5-day schedule because it is the highest risk schedule and that we reconsider it for either a modified or a distance learning schedule.

Made by: Todd Zenger
Seconded by: Motion not seconded; motion failed.

Motion: I move we accept the COVID-19 Secondary School Service Pattern as presented by Mr. Welburn.

Made by: Terry Bawden
Seconded by: Connie Anderson

Board comments:

Connie Anderson said this is the hardest decision the board has made since she has served. The schools in her precinct have the highest percentage of students on free and reduced lunch, which is an indicator of poverty. She is concerned about a modified or distance schedule for families who have lost income due to COVID-19 and have the burden of daycare or leaving children home alone three days a week. She is concerned that students will not receive lunch and they have difficulty accessing technology for distance learning. She does not want students to get so far behind that they cannot catch up.

Nicole McDermott asked Mr. Welburn if more planning time for elementary teachers was addressed. He responded that teachers who prefer to teach in both modalities could possibly have an increase of two hours per week. There will not be a mandate that elementary teachers must teach in both modalities. However, for those who want to they could have that option. Ms. McDermott said there are many students who participated minimally. She has tried to read all emails and study out all sides of this issue. We are tasked with balancing the risks for all students

both for education and health. Our special education students are impacted by this situation. We want to make the best possible decision for our students. We are all making sacrifices.

Connie Burgess has made many difficult decisions, and this is one of the most difficult. We will work together and be creative doing our best to keep everyone safe. The loss of learning for our students is significant. It is important for our students to get back to school.

Kris Nguyen thanked board members for sharing why they made the decision they did last board meeting. Students are challenged with getting online. Our plan gives parents a choice. We have awesome educators in our district and they are up to this challenge. She is grateful for the opportunity to represent her area and this is the right way to represent them.

Terry Bawden said he has reviewed emails. He appreciates all that our administration does. He has read the entire COVID-19 school manual from the state. Almost half of the manual talks about creating a healthy learning environment. Our staff will do all they can to create a healthy environment. He knows we are asking a lot of parents and thanked them for sacrifices they make.

Todd Zenger talked about a percentage of students with high anxiety. He feels it is unwise to shift the disadvantage to students who feel anxious and force them to sit in a classroom in this experiment where they cannot learn. He has received hundreds of emails from teachers concerned for their health and unsure of PPE they will have. We are asking our teachers to teach, self-protect, manage masks, hygiene, record and upload lessons, and follow up online. He feels this is an unreasonable burden on our teachers. He feels the board should adopt a modified COVID-19 policy to excuse teacher absences due to a COVID-19 infection contracted at work. He does not think it is wise to commit our schools to provide childcare during a pandemic. Mr. Zenger prefers other options such as pantries and delivery to neighborhoods for school lunch. He said it is unwise to put our teachers and families in this position.

Todd Zenger made a substitute motion to delay the start of school until after Labor Day.

Motion: A substitute motion to modify the plan and delay the start of school until Tuesday, September 8 to give our teachers, our administrators, our staff, and our families better time to prepare.

Made by: Todd Zenger
Seconded by: Motion not seconded; motion failed

Called for vote
on the original
motion:

President Winder	
<u>For:</u>	<u>Against:</u>
Connie Anderson	Todd Zenger
Terry Bawden	
Connie Burgess	
Nicole McDermott	
Kris Nguyen	
Karyn Winder	
<u>Results:</u>	Motion Passed

Karyn Winder reiterated that board members have worked very hard and researched this issue. She thanked the board for the time they have spent. Board members have received numerous emails in support of and opposition to all possible versions of reopening. She thanked Todd Zenger for addressing the issue of PPE. She was concerned as well when she heard that teachers believed they needed to find funding for these supplies. Ms. Winder spoke with Dr. Bates about this and the district will provide desk shields or plexiglass in addition to masks, gloves, shields, etc.

HEARING

Doug Larson gave a procedural history of the transaction between the district and the O'Brien family. As part of the Skyline rebuild land was purchased northeast of the school from the O'Brien family. In negotiations there were restrictions on the use of the road adjacent to the land. The restriction would limit public access to the road and a gate would be installed. Later a dispute arose because the O'Briens were concerned that the district planned to drive school buses on the road. The O'Briens filed a lawsuit to address this issue. Granite School District consulted legal counsel and proposes that the board vote to eliminate the restriction through the process of eminent domain. Before the board takes action the O'Briens have an opportunity to address the board regarding this issue.

Sean O'Brien joined the meeting virtually and spoke to the board. His attorney Robert Hughes (Parson Behle & Latimer Law Firm) attended the meeting in person and addressed the board. Mr. Hughes asked the board to vote against taking the contractual restrictions by eminent domain. He asked for a fire crash gate to be installed.

Board comments:

Todd Zenger asked if the O'Briens are willing to accept a monetary amount for the contractual restrictions. Mr. Hughes answered, he thinks something could be worked out.

Dr. Bates asked if we install the gate they want, will they allow the buses to access the road. Mr. Hughes said "No."

Nicole McDermott asked, what is most important to the O'Briens, privacy or property value? Mr. Hughes said they are concerned about access being expanded beyond school buses.

Mr. Zenger asked if a map was attached to the settlement agreement. No there was not.

Karyn Winder thinks this comes down to the type of gate and use by school buses. Access by our school buses is different than public use by private vehicles. She does understand where the O'Briens are coming from.

Doug Larson reviewed the options for the board. The O'Briens were given the opportunity to address the board. Now the board can proceed with action to exercise eminent domain. They also have the option of going into executive session to discuss litigation strategy.

Motion: **I move we go into executive session to discuss litigation strategy.**

Made by: Todd Zenger
Seconded by: Terry Bawden

Board comments:

Dr. Bates and Karyn Winder asked about timing and if this action could wait until next month. Ms. Winder also asked if there is an alternative plan for the busses. Mr. Larson said there is not. Matt Anderson, attorney for Granite said there is a timing question but there is not a pending deadline to file eminent domain action.

Called for vote: President Winder

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Convened executive session at 10:49.

Board meeting reconvened at 11:06

ACTION ITEM

Approval to file eminent domain action.

A motion was not made. The board asked to move this action item to next month's agenda.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Bates invited board members to attend the Administrator Kickoff at Cottonwood High at 8:30 tomorrow morning.

Motion: I move we adjourn.

Made by: Karyn Winder

Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Called for vote: President Winder

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 p.m.