

# Granite School District

## Board of Education Study Session September 15, 2020

A study session of the Board of Education of Granite School District convened in Auditorium A at the Granite Education Center, 2500 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah. President Karyn Winder called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m., those in attendance:

Karyn Winder	President
Connie Burgess	Vice President
Connie Anderson	Board Member
Terry Bawden	Board Member
Nicole McDermott	Board Member
Kris Nguyen	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
Leslie Bell	Assistant Superintendent
John Welburn	Assistant Superintendent

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

### **STUDY SESSION:**

#### **Board Handbook**

Doug Larsen said work began in January 2020 on the board handbook and it is now complete. He thanked the board for their input. The purpose of the handbook is to provide a straightforward and comprehensive reference guide for incoming and current board members. The handbook will be distributed to board members following final revisions. (Exhibit #2117)

#### **Update on Distance Learning Expectations**

Rick Anthony shared distance learning data collected as of 9/11/2020. Approximately 29 % of students are enrolled as distance learners. There are 78% of elementary teachers teaching both modalities and 100% of secondary teachers teaching in both modalities. He discussed the continuum of modalities and the delivery of distance learning. He described synchronous and asynchronous modalities. Mr. Anthony reported that the district communicates recommendations and best practice rather than mandates and explicit directives to teachers. The ease of implementation varies greatly depending on teachers' individual understanding, familiarity with

technology, and experience with various lesson design techniques. The goal is to allow teachers to choose what works for them. The district provides support through training and distance teaching resources. (Exhibit #2118)

Board comments:

Karyn Winder said the board requested this discussion because they believe parents of distance learners need to know what to expect from teachers. Parents want to know what distance learning will look like, how often they can expect communication and feedback, and how to navigate the distance learning model.

Mr. Anthony shared a document with the board which was distributed to principals last week. GEA collaborated with administrators in drafting the document. It provides more detail of expectations. The purpose was to give a framework to schools without being overly prescriptive. (Exhibit #2119)

Nicole McDermott asked if expectations of students were communicated to parents. She asked if the district communicated clearly to parents that Friday is a distance learning day.

Rick Anthony acknowledged there could have been more communication to families prior to the start of school. Superintendent Bates said the district has set the expectation that Friday is a school day.

Karyn Winder reminded everyone that very soon parents will choose distance or in person learning for quarter two. She asked when schools will have a clear plan in place for distance learning delivery and expectations so that parents can make an informed decision.

John Welburn said schools will provide a clear plan to parents within three weeks.

Superintendent Bates said that the work of Granite School District takes place in the classroom. He praised the incredible efforts of all employee groups.

Karyn Winder agreed, we are trying to navigate these times together and everyone is going the extra mile. The board would like to recognize employees and provide a “thank you” from the board. She proposed a 1% bonus for all contract employees to be given at the end of the first quarter. Additionally, she proposed a \$100 bonus for each hourly employee for quarter one. She asked Dr. Bates to place the proposals on the October agenda for action.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

Superintendent Bates thanked board members for their efforts and work during the past several months.

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

Made by:           Terry Bawden

Seconded by:     Nicole McDermott

Called for vote: President Winder  
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.