

Granite School District

Board of Education Study Session March 16, 2021

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 5:02 p.m., those in attendance:

Karyn Winder	President
Nicole McDermott	Vice President
Terry Bawden	Board Member
Connie Burgess	Board Member
Julie Jackson	Board Member
Clarke Nelson	Board Member
Kris Nguyen	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:

Small Schools

Aaron Wilson, Organizational Effectiveness Director, presented information on small schools. In our district a small school does not necessarily have small class sizes. All elementary schools have an average of 27.25 students per teacher. School funding is based on enrollment and the formulas are consistent for all schools. Therefore, medium and large schools have more buying power for fixed costs which is often beneficial. John Adams, Mike Douglas, Natalie Hansen, Shauna Jensen, and Tina West, Elementary School Leadership and Improvement Directors, addressed the board. They outlined the effects of small school challenges on students, patrons, families, and teachers. Steve Hogan, Support Services Director, concluded the presentation. (Exhibit #2148)

Board members discussed and asked questions regarding small school challenges, possible benefits and success of some small schools, enrollment guidelines in lower grades, fiscal responsibilities, equitable distribution of funding, and enrollment in DLI schools.

ESSER II Plan

Rick Anthony shared plans for a second round of federal legislation funding which was once referred to as CARES and now ESSER II. The purpose of this money is to help reopen schools, address learning loss, and take other actions to mitigate COVID-19 impact. A funding plan is due at the end of March which is two weeks after we received the guidelines. Our plan does not need to be extremely specific but requires general goals and objectives. The money is available for the next two years. We plan to fund a synchronous Granite Online option, after school and summer programming, elementary core content support, secondary graduation support, mental health support, improve preparedness and response, purchase sanitizing supplies, and provide training on sanitization. Most of the funds will be distributed to schools so they can determine the best uses locally within the guidelines. Board members expressed appreciation to administration for prioritizing funds going directly to schools. (Exhibit #2149)

West Lake Junior High

Don Adams updated the board on earthquake damage evaluations at West Lake Junior High and options to rehabilitate or rebuild the facility. If rehabilitation is pursued many needs for upgrading building systems and covering unforeseen costs would be the responsibility of the district. The insurance settlement offer is 37.4 million. The estimate for a junior high school rebuild is approximately 55 million. Using the municipal bonding authority our board may choose to fund a project like this. A bond could be financed over 10 to 20 years. With this funding, rebuilding West Lake will not affect the timeline of our other capital projects. Mr. Adams reported that FEMA may be a source of funding for part of this project. The state qualified in January and we have submitted the documentation required. (Exhibits #2150.a-e)

There are many problems West Lake administrators and students are facing at the elementary campus. They are anxious to move to a rehabilitated or new facility. The administration's recommendation to the board is to move forward with an MBA bond to fund a rebuild of West Lake Junior High. The administration will conclude negotiations with the insurance carrier and bring the settlement to the board for review. If approved, work to rebuild will begin immediately. Communications will work to inform the community and constituents. The board thanked everyone involved for their work on this project.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Superintendent Bates reminded everyone that last summer the board took a crucial step to designate Fridays as distance learning days. The purpose was to help our teachers with the burden placed on them to teach in two modalities. In the coming school year, it will not be necessary for teachers to teach in person and distance, therefore, school will be in person five days a week.

In a meeting with the health department today they discussed providing 16 and 17 year-old students the opportunity to receive COVID-19 vaccinations, with parental permission, prior to the end of this school year. Community Nursing Services will work with the health department to provide immunizations in our schools.

Even though the mask order is being lifted on April 10th the requirement to continue with mask wearing in schools will continue through the end of the year.

Motion: **I move we adjourn.**

Made by: Nicole McDermott

Seconded by: Clarke Nelson

Called for vote: President Winder

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.