

Granite School District
Board of Education Meeting
August 12, 2021

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 5:05 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:

Rich Nye	Superintendent
David Garrett	Business Administrator
Don Adams	Assistant Superintendent
Rick Anthony	Assistant Superintendent
Leslie Bell	Assistant Superintendent

Ben Horsley, Communications Director and Stacy Bushell, Executive Secretary, were in attendance.

Doug Larson, Policy and Legal Services Director participated virtually.

John Welburn, Assistant Superintendent was excused.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ESSER Report

Rick Anthony provided a review of prior ESSER plans, summaries of new allowable uses of funds, new plan requirements for ESSER III, and a summary of allocation of funds for ESSER I, II, and III. New allowable uses for ESSER III funds include facility repairs and upgrades to reduce risk of COVID transmission. Project proposals will be reviewed by USBE and projects must be completed by September 2024. The ESSER III application is due September 17, 2021 and will be available to the board as a consent item at the September board meeting.

Results of a stakeholder survey were shared with the board. Preferences for use of the ESSER III funding were ranked and top choices were additional paraprofessionals to assist teachers, increasing social and emotional services, and enhanced extra-curricular and enrichment activities. Indicators of student performance will drive our strategy to utilize the money. Allocations will be divided in thirds, going to schools, district programs, and facility repair and improvements. The plan will address the following: accelerated learning, descriptions of how

funds will be used, the plan for commitment to safe in-person instruction, compliance with the federal General Education Provisions Act, and assurances. (Exhibit 2205)

Explanation of School Vaping Lawsuit

Doug Larson introduced Joel Wright from the law firm Kirton & McConkie, the firm is representing schools in a lawsuit against Juul Labs. The lawsuit seeks to recover damages suffered because of Juul failing to sufficiently limit access to its products by K-12 students. Mr. Wright then introduced William Shinoff from the Frantz Law Group in California. They are leading the mass action lawsuit on behalf of school districts. Mr. Wright summarized the arguments against vaping distributors and marketers. Their services will be provided on contingency with the fee being 23% of the recovery amount.

TAX HEARING – 6:00 p.m.

Mitch Robison, Budget Director, presented information regarding the budget and outlined the Truth in Taxation process. (Exhibit 2506)

June 1, 2021: The proposed 2021-22 budget was made available to the public through the district website.

June 15, 2021: A Budget Hearing was held where the tentative budget was approved and the tentative tax rate set.

August 6, 2021: Newspaper advertisements were published and since that time, Salt Lake County has mailed property tax notices.

August 12, 2021: Truth in Taxation hearing held.

In 2017 strategies were considered to finance long term capital needs. The options included a single tax increase, a series of bonds, and a hybrid of both models. There was an extensive effort to engage the community in the process. The option the community preferred (58% voted in favor) was the hybrid model. Since 2017 Olene Walker and South Kearns elementaries were built, an addition at Hunter High was completed, and renovations were made at Driggs and Rosecrest elementaries. Construction on Skyline and Cyprus high school is underway. Information on property valuation appeals was reviewed and made available to those in attendance. This information is also posted on the district website.

President Winder opened the meeting for public comment: 6:20 p.m.

Debra Gatrell, West Valley City. She works at Hunter and is grateful for the addition that was recently completed. The Cyprus High rebuild is needed. She thanked the board for their foresight to fund these projects.

Todd Barker, Murray. His taxes have risen \$600.00 in one year. He opposes a tax increase.

Kim and Gil Pehrson, Taylorsville. Their neighbor's increase was \$100.00 and theirs was over \$200. They would like more information on appeals and tax relief. They are on a fixed income and don't have a way to pay higher taxes.

Molly Kimball, Millcreek. Her small home was built in 1955 by a well-known architect. The home is listed on the national heritage foundation. The value has increased significantly, and her taxes went up \$1600.00.

John Duran, Kearns. He has an issue with superintendent salaries being very high while he is paying taxes to fund them. He has concerns about low test scores on the west side and higher test scores on the east side. He does not want to be taxed and forced out of his home because he cannot afford taxes.

Thomas Wall, Millcreek. Thomas does not have any children associated with Granite School District. The entire budget was not presented tonight, and it is hard to evaluate if there are places to cut spending. This is all about inflation and we cannot allow schools, police, etc. to benefit from a windfall that taxpayers do not. Run the school district like a business to shave the budget.

Ella Manczuk, Millcreek. This is the third time she has complained. Her taxes have tripled and are up \$500.00. She asked for the square footage of her property to be considered.

Tama Hale, Taylorsville. She was shocked when she saw her property tax. It is upsetting to her to see such a large increase.

The open comment time was closed and the Board participated in discussion.

Nicole McDermott asked why some taxpayers have much higher valuations than others. This is because the assessor focuses on different areas of the county in any given year. Granite is assigned a rate, but we do not set the assessed value of property.

Terry Bawden thanked those who attended and commented. We do all we can to do a good job and provide the best possible education to our children.

Karyn Winder recommended that patrons contact the county assessor with their concerns about the valuation of their property. She encouraged them to apply for assistance if they qualify.

Clarke Nelson said the budget is posted online and is available to the public for review.

Connie Burgess talked about the plan we have for financing projects.

Julie Jackson thanked those who commented and made the effort to speak tonight. She appreciated hearing their individual stories and concerns.

Motion: **I move we adopt the 2022 budget as published.**

Made by: Connie Burgess

Seconded by: Terry Bawden

Called for voice vote: President Winder

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Motion: **I move we set the tax rate at 0.007105.**

Made by: Nicole McDermott

Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for voice vote: President Winder
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

The Granite School District Board of Education reconvened at 7:10 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.

Pledge of Allegiance: Rick Anthony

Reverence: Karyn Winder

GRANITE ELECTED OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION – None

PATRON PARTICIPATION

Lisa Sudweeks, Taylorsville. She addressed the board regarding Critical Race Theory (CRT). She has been following the USBE rule R227 about educational equity. The board is here to represent us and safeguard our children. She believes CRT does not seek the best but points out flaws and attributes those flaws to race. These divisive teachings don't belong in our schools. She appreciates administrators, teachers, and staff who have made her boys feel safe and capable. However, if this hateful world view is permitted in our schools, she will stop volunteering in our schools and her children will no longer attend.

Katie Baucom, Holladay. She is an educator and has a son attending elementary school. She spoke in support of requiring masks in schools. Public health experts are clear that prevention strategies are needed in schools to protect students. We will be adversely affected by removing this layer of protection for our students and their families, especially those who are immune compromised. She asked the board to protect our children and community by requiring masks in school.

Logan Hauenstein, Millcreek. He is concerned about student health and today's decision by the Salt Lake County Council to reverse the Health Department mask order. His immune compromised student opted for virtual learning in 2020. In the Spring his students were able to return to school because all students wore masks. Now he is urging the board to educate and strongly encourage students to wear masks in schools. Beyond this he hopes that the board will explore all avenues available to protect our students.

CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes, July 6, 2021

Purchases:

1. Canvas Studio, Educational Technology, Utah Education Network (UEN) - \$55,518.40
2. Copier Maintenance, Print Shop, Canon Solutions America - \$75,000.00
3. Copier Maintenance, Secondary Schools, Les Olson Company - \$65,000.00
4. Lumber for Mobile Classrooms, CTE Construction Budget, Stringham Lumbar - \$109,812.36
5. Maintenance Uniforms, Maintenance Services, ALSCO - \$85,000.00

6. Paper and Supplies, Print Shop, Veritiv Operating Company - \$55,000.00
7. Waste Disposal Services, Custodial, Republic Services - \$400,000.00

Award of Contracts:

1. Alternative Medical Options Health Plan, Human Resources, Bind Benefits, Inc.
2. Communication Software Platform, Information Systems - \$183,300.00
3. Demolition of West Lake Junior High School, Grant Mackay Demolition - \$1,238,846.00
4. Replacement of Building Chiller, Matheson Junior High
Equipment, Mechanical Products NSW - \$220,615.00
Installation, US Mechanical - \$188,000.00
5. Rebuild Cyprus High School – General Contractor, Westland Construction - \$165,984,356.81

Change Orders:

1. Cottonwood High School, Track Upgrades, Jardine Malaska Construction - \$90,409.40
2. Skyline High School, Rebuild, Hughes Contractors - \$674,541.75

Personnel:

1. Leave of Absence
2. Employee Hires and Separations
3. Administrative Appointment

Appointment effective August 13, 2021

Brian Ipson

Director, Budget

Financial Reports:

1. Purchase Order Summary - \$25,295,478.89
2. Accounts Payable Pay Vouchers – \$6,179,321.36
3. Direct Electronic Transfer of Funds - \$8,112,691.53
4. Change Order Summary Report - \$195,284.91
5. Principals' Cash Report – June 2021
6. Monthly Budget Report – June 30, 2021

Continual Improvement Plans

Early Literacy Plan 2021-2022

LAND Trust Amendments

LAND Trust Final Report for 2019-2020

Sewer Line Easement, Taylorsville-Bennion Improvement District

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

Made by: Nicole McDermott

Seconded by: Julie Jackson

Called for vote: President Winder

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

David Garrett introduced newly appointed budget director Brian Ipson. We are very fortunate to have someone with his education and experience accept this position. Mr. Garrett thanked Mitch Robison who is retiring after many dedicated years of service as budget director.

FIRST READINGS

Article II.K. District Community Council Policy

Ben Horsley shared the history of the District Community Council (DCC). We have a goal to streamline and enhance the opportunity for community engagement by having a DCC. Rather than having a separate election, School Community Council members will now be a part of the DCC. We will hold roughly the same number of meetings going forward. Meetings will be held in different regions of the district and involve parents from multiple areas to gain greater perspective of needs across the district. The district council meetings will be structured to gain feedback and provide recommendations to the board.

Motion: **I move we approve the Granite School District Community Council Policy asking that each community council be represented and four meetings per year.**

Made by: Terry Bawden

Seconded by: Julie Jackson

Called for vote: President Winder

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Article IX.A.1.v. Self-Reporting Requirements and Background Checks

Doug Larson said the USBE rule change clarifies when employees are required to report a criminal charge or a court decision or conviction. These changes will comply with the USBE rule.

Motion: **I move we approve the first reading of Self-Reporting Requirements and Background Checks policy.**

Made by: Julie Jackson

Seconded by: Nicole McDermott

Called for vote: President Winder

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD REPORTS

Dr. Nye said this week has been very busy as we have prepared for the new school year with administrator, new teacher, and central kitchen professional training days. Teachers will receive his recorded welcome message as they are returning this week.

We are still experiencing the effects of a global pandemic. Dr. Nye presented plans for the upcoming school year to provide educational excellence in a safe and personalized learning environment. Granite will provide online learning and in-person instruction. There will be layered prevention strategies in place for the health and safety of everyone. He reviewed

quarantine procedures and test to stay guidelines. The Salt Lake County COVID-19 dashboard shows there is an increase in eligible students who are now fully vaccinated. We will continue to monitor data with the health department and our elected officials and navigate as we engage in in-person learning. (Exhibit 2207)

Clarke Nelson attended the administrator kickoff. He appreciated the Chamberlin speech and speeches principals will share with their teachers. He is optimistic and excited for school to start.

Kris Nguyen attended the administrator kickoff and went to some of the breakout classes. We have phenomenal administrators in our schools. They are ready for a new school year. She is looking forward to teacher town hall meetings. She is hoping the layers built into our plan will be effective.

Nicole McDermott attended the AVID conference in July. It was inspiring to understand the concepts and goals of the program.

Connie attended the administrator kickoff and enjoyed attending classes. She attended the AVID conference. It was good to get a perspective of efforts teachers make to teach students to consider all points of view in culturally relevant teaching.

Julie Jackson made several stops at schools to observe things happening as they prepare for a new year. The engagement and excitement were thrilling to see.

Terry Bawden attended the administrator kickoff, and it was wonderful. All the presenters did a great job. Next week on Friday and Saturday is the USBA delegate assembly.

Karyn Winder discussed the purpose of the USBA delegate assembly to put forth legislative priorities that support education. It has been fun to drive by schools and see the excitement as they prepare for back to school. She encouraged parents to volunteer with the PTA and school community councils. She thanked secretaries for the extra work they do at this time of year. School counselors are also working hard for our students to make sure they have the classes they need. The NFUSSD conference is coming up in October for board members.

Motion: I move we adjourn.

Made by: Julie Jackson

Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Called for vote: President Winder

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.