

# Granite School District

## Board of Education Study Session January 18, 2022

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:

Rich Nye	Superintendent
David Garrett	Business Administrator/Treasurer
Don Adams	Assistant Superintendent
Rick Anthony	Assistant Superintendent
Leslie Bell	Assistant Superintendent
John Welburn	Assistant Superintendent

Ben Horsley, Chief of Staff, Doug Larson, Policy & Legal Services Director, and Stacy Bushell, Executive Secretary were in attendance.

### **CONSENT:**

Purchase:

Rebuild of West Lake Junior High School, Hogan & Associates - \$56,934,400.00

**Motion:**                    **I move to approve the Consent Agenda.**

Made by:                    Nicole McDermott

Seconded by:             Julie Jackson

Called for vote:            President Winder

Results:                    Motion passed unanimously

### **STUDY SESSION:**

#### **Personalized Learning for Advanced Learners**

Sheri Sorensen, Curriculum and Instruction Associate Director, led a discussion about Granite Advanced Learner Services. In early 2000s several experts conducted a two-year evaluation of

gifted services. A continuum of services model was developed in consultation with this group to address the needs of gifted and talented students. We define gifted learners as students with outstanding academic ability or those who show the potential for performing at remarkably high levels of academic accomplishment when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. This definition allows us to identify students at all schools who may need services from advanced learners who need differentiation in the classroom to those who need full time cluster grouping. Students can be screened and assessed annually for placement in advanced learning programs. Granite has four magnet elementary schools where we serve all qualifying students in Granite and some additional students outside our district. In junior high schools we provide differentiation in classrooms, self-select honors courses, and GT/Honors courses where the teacher has a gifted endorsement. High school services include specialized academic courses such as AP, CE, IB, honors and CTE. Participation in these early college programs is up over the past several years. The International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Skyline high which serves approximately 220 students was discussed. (Exhibit 2230)

Board discussion: Board members asked how students who begin the magnet program in elementary are tracked through high school. The board receives feedback from parents who are concerned there are not enough offerings for gifted students especially as they enter junior high school. According to the model presented we have need of more gifted endorsed teachers. The current incentives provided to teachers who seek gifted endorsement are not attracting enough interest. There are challenges with the IB program at Skyline and access to the program for all students in Granite may be difficult. Additional information about IB such as, how it differs from AP courses and the benefits to students who participate is needed. Consideration of boundaries, population studies, demographics, and funding of the IB program should be included.

Superintendent Nye summarized the following for future discussion and follow-up; review of the Gifted and Talented master plan, GT endorsement incentives, and additional information about the IB program at Skyline high school.

**Motion: I move we adjourn.**

Made by: Kris Nguyen  
Seconded by: Clarke Nelson

Called for vote: President Winder  
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.