

DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Granite School District Offices

Auditorium A

March 26, 2013

6:30 p.m.

I. Welcome

Gayleen Gandy welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Members of the District Community Council (DCC) and administration in attendance were:

RaAnn Foote	Cottonwood Network
Jim Getty	Cottonwood Network
Cody Gold	Hunter Network
Leisl Leystra	Taylorsville Network
Shawna Lockwood	Kearns Network
Aimee Newton	Taylorsville Network
Charles Pruitt	Skyline Network
Renee Taylor	Hunter Network
Mark Vincent	Skyline Network
Dawn Warner	Region V PTA
Jolene Winder	Cyprus Network
Linda Zenger	Olympus Network
Gayleen Gandy	Board of Education, President
Terry Bawden	Board of Education, Vice President
Connie Anderson	Board of Education, Board Member
Dr. Martin Bates	Superintendent
David Gourley	Assistant Superintendent
Jim Henderson	Assistant Superintendent
Linda Mariotti	Assistant Superintendent
Ben Horsley	Director, Communications
Merilynn Boekweg	Board Recorder

Excused:

David Driggs	Olympus Network
Mike Fraser	Assistant Superintendent
David Garrett	Business Administrator/Treasurer

II. Legislative Report/Update

Mr. Ben Horsley provided Granite School District tracking sheets for legislative action on bills regarding education. He gave an overview of bills that had passed including 9 of 17 House Bills and 8 of 18 Senate Bills that impacted education. (Exhibit #13-2)

III. Member sharing of success and concerns

1. Fine Arts Program

Superintendent Bates led the discussion regarding the Fine Arts Program in elementary schools. He explained that in the past the Board of Education supported a resolution that required 50% of instructional time be spent in teaching literacy and 25% teaching numeracy. As of July 1, 2013, a new resolution will be in place and will focus on teaching the total State Core Curriculum. Elementary Fine Arts, kindergarten through 6th grade, consists of music, visual arts, dance, and drama. Each certified elementary teacher is trained in these areas. Granite has in past years supported an instrumental music program in the elementary schools (grade 5 & 6). It, however, is not part of the State Core for elementary. It is part of the curriculum for secondary.

In recognizing the need for collaborative and planning time to implement all of the core objectives, the administration has proposed that each elementary school be given one art specialist that will be assigned to the school one day a week for six hours (360 minutes). The School Community Council (SCC) and the principal will decide how the minutes will be delegated in each of the 4 areas. The time the specialist works with groups of students will be available for collaboration or planning for teachers.

Instrumental music may be included if the SCC and principal choose to use some of their 360 minutes for that instruction. All students will still need the remaining minutes for fine arts instruction. Currently band and orchestra is being taught twice a week for 45 minutes a class totaling 180 minutes. Only 180 minutes would be left for teaching general music, visual arts, dance and drama. The school may elect to use all 360 in covering all the core objectives.

Dr. Bates explained budget implications of this proposal. He stated that each specialist will be in schools 4 days a week and the 5th will be spent at the district planning and receiving training. There is essentially no extra funding for this program rather a reallocation of the current budget.

This proposed change would be implemented after input from the schools and SCC. An information survey will be going out to schools in the next 3 weeks asking what kind of a specialist they want.

2. Testing Overload

Linda Mariotti explained the different approach education and assessment has taken. Academic growth has become the focal point. With the new commitment to the State Core Curriculum it is essential to be able to gauge the growth of students in the core objectives.

The need for assessment has become apparent to see if the students are learning the curriculum and if the teacher is teaching the objectives. She presented a pattern for finding growth. First the subject is taught, then the teacher assesses the students for comprehension, after which adjustments to instruction are made. The pattern repeats and the teachers are able to see if the students are learning what she is teaching and if she is teaching the State Core objectives. Assessment is a part of good teaching and it helps to differentiate instruction for student needs.

Dr. Bates commented that in researching the amount of assessment/testing being done, it appears to be 6% of the instructional time. This is a smaller amount of time than has been indicated. Student assessment is a most important part of the formula for teaching the core.

The new math core was briefly discussed. Ms. Mariotti agreed that the core was more rigorous than previously taught. It was written to not necessarily have a right and wrong answer but rather which is the better answer. It helps the students use critical thinking skills.

3. Student Behavior

Paul Hansen, High School Director, School Accountability, addressed a question regarding student behavior. He acknowledged that disciplining students was an ongoing issue in schools. The methods change with time and the approach to classroom management is continually evolving. Teachers sometimes have become tired. They are in need of support and up to date training in dealing with the issues. He invited any educator who needs assistance to contact the School Accountability Directors for help. He also suggested that going to the internet and searching for information would be helpful.

4. Bus Upkeep – Dave Gourley

Dr. Gourley explained the protocol followed by bus drivers when they get on and off their buses. The driver walks the length of the buses and checks the doors and windows to make sure they are secure. They look for any graffiti and if any is found they try removing it with cleaners that are provided to them. If that does not remove the graffiti it is reported to the Transportation Department and they do a thorough cleaning. If someone needs to report a problem they should call the Transportation Department at 385-646-4280 with the bus number if possible.

5. Next Meeting May 28, 2013

The meeting adjourned at 8:33.