

# DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Granite School District Offices

Auditorium A

September 17, 2013

6:30 p.m.

## I. Welcome

Gayleen Gandy welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Members of the District Community Council (DCC) and administration in attendance were:

RaAnn Foote	Cottonwood Network
Cody Gold	Hunter Network
Shawna Lockwood	Kearns Network
David Driggs	Olympus Network
Linda Zenger	Olympus Network
Dawn Warner	PTA
Mark Vincent	Skyline Network
Aimee Newton	Taylorsville Network
Gayleen Gandy	Board of Education, President
Terry Bawden	Board of Education, Vice President
Connie Burgess	Board of Education, Board Member
Dr. Martin Bates	Superintendent
David Garrett	Business Administrator/Treasurer
Mike Fraser	Assistant Superintendent
David Gourley	Assistant Superintendent
Jim Henderson	Assistant Superintendent
Linda Mariotti	Assistant Superintendent
Ben Horsley	Communications
Merilynn Boekweg	Board Recorder
Jennifer Johnson	Utah State Board of Education

## II. School Grades

The Utah State Office of Education recently assigned a grade to each school in the state. Dr. Bates explained to the committee the way school grade reports should be read. He said the letter grade is only a small portion of the valuable information found in the reports. Regression analysis shows that 45-50% of the grade is explained by socio-economic status. That still leaves many things the district can work on to make a difference.

Granite's approach is a commitment to teach the core. The instructional framework that has been developed will help teachers with structure in their planning and teaching. Instructional

and assessment tools are available for educators to carefully evaluate how their students are learning and where their methods of instruction can be adjusted. The implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) will encourage a team approach. Using a Multi-Tier System of Support (MTSS) is a valuable tool for school administration as well as teachers.

Dr. Bates commented that when there is fidelity to the core amazing things happen. School grades, school accountability, and educator evaluations take care of themselves. He reviewed slides showing a comparison of Granite's elementary school grades and their socio-economic status. He emphasized it is no longer sufficient to show mastery, you must show growth. (Exhibit DCC #14-1)

The committee discussed concerns regarding the school grades. Many parents are looking at the possibility of moving their students to higher scoring schools or out of the public school system.

The individual school grades may be accessed through the State Office of Education at <https://psdreports.schools.utah.gov/Gateway>.

### III. Secondary Math Sequence

Ms. Mariotti presented information regarding the changes in the Utah Core Standards. The new Common Core has proven to be very rigorous. The new math standards are a challenge because of the rigor in comparison to past curriculum. The changes are preparing students for college. It was explained that students have been entering college with insufficient math skills. Math requirements have been changed to Math 1, 2, & 3 in the secondary setting. The classes integrate former secondary subjects into the new format. Math 3 is a prerequisite for college math courses (1050, 1060, etc.). There is a concern that counselors and teachers are not conveying to parents the importance of taking Math 3. The complete math sequence will be required for students who wish to apply for the Regency Scholarship.

Committee members suggested the use of social media to get the word out to parents. The Communication Department is currently working on that idea. Ms. Mariotti reported that the extra help from the Canvas Program is a valuable tool for students and parents. The program is now available to the public. To access Canvas please follow the following directions from Celia Powell, Educational Technology.

“There are three ways for a parent or student to access the *Canvas* program. First, they can go to the district website (<http://www.graniteschools.org>), click on *Parents and Students* and then select *Canvas*. Second, if a parent has signed up for the Parent Portal, there is a *Canvas* icon on the applications widget. My preferred method for parents and students is the third option, but please let me explain why.

*Canvas* is not compatible with *Microsoft's Internet Explorer* and when most users click on the District's links their default browser opens and it is often *Internet Explorer* because they are using PCs. The better browsers to use are *Chrome*, *Firefox* or *Safari*. When using one of these

browsers the user can bookmark the site directly at <http://graniteschools.instructure.com>. Many of the help requests I get are related directly to this issue, so if I were putting a link in your minutes, it would be directly to the *Canvas* login page.”

#### IV. Member sharing of successes and concerns

- A question was asked about the effectiveness of the DCC. Members expressed the frustration with getting the information they are receiving in their meetings to all councils in their network. A suggestion was made that the DCC meetings be opened to all school council members who would like to attend. Mrs. Gandy stated that they are always welcome. However, the Board of Education and Administration were in favor of keeping the format as it is. They value the input of the District Committee members.
- Mr. Horsley reviewed the policy for SCC elections which are held in September and the DCC representative elections held the first part of October. The Community Council Handbook can be accessed at:

<http://www.graniteschools.org/depart/schoolaccountability/communitycouncils/Pages/default.aspx>.

He announced that all SCCs will have a web presence connected to their school homepage starting in October.

- It was suggested that the names of the members of the SCC be listed on printed school programs. Their names should be where parents and community members are able to see and know who is on the school council.
- A discussion was held regarding the possible financial repercussions of the school grades and State funding. Dr. Bates said at this time they do not have any different information about funding. The legislature could make decisions regarding funds during their upcoming session.

#### V. Next Meeting October 29, 2013

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.