

DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Granite School District Offices

Auditorium A

October 29, 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:

Committee Members:

Desiree Jones	Cyprus Network
Darrell Kirby	Granger Network
Ben Johnson	Granger Network
Darrell Curtis	Hunter Network
Megan Blockmon	Olympus Network
Celina Milner	Taylorsville Network
Dawn Warner	Region V PTA

Excused:

Leisl Leystra	Taylorsville Network
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Administration:

Gayleen Gandy	Board of Education, President
Terry Bawden	Board of Education, Vice President
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 Director
Merilynn Boekweg	Board Recorder

II. New Member Welcome

President Gandy welcomed the six new members. Each member introduced themselves and identified their network. They shared information about themselves.

III. DCC Role/Discussion

President Gandy stated that not all districts have a DCC. She explained why the Board of Education formed the committee during the 2009/2010 school year. The Board's goals include

increased parent and community engagement. The information gained from these meetings is a way of gaining valuable input.

Dr. Bates said other districts have DCC's but the members are appointed by their boards of education. Granite has an elected council which gives greater opportunities to interact and keep communications open with School Community Councils (SCC) and networks.

Mr. Horsley provided members with a copy of, Granite School District Community Council Policy Article II.P. (Available online at www.granitedistrict.org) The legislature has established SCCs "...as the mechanism whereby boards of education receive community input." Granite has added the DCC which receives input from individual SCC's in their network and brings questions and information directly to the Board. Membership on the DCC is composed of two representatives from each high school network and the Region V PTA President. The Board president, vice-president, superintendent, assigned board member, and administrative staff also serve on the DCC. Parents or guardian members serve two year terms. Mr. Horsley presented the following from the policy:

D. Functions of the of the District Community Council

1. Provide advice and make recommendations on education matters affecting the schools and the district.
2. Support interests of the children, parents, schools and the district.
3. Encourage parents and patrons to participate in development and implementation of programs and decisions affecting the schools.
4. Promote educational achievement.
5. Identify needs and priorities for individual schools and for the district as a whole.
6. Communicate and resolve concerns.
7. Identify opportunities to strengthen relationships between all stakeholders, including governmental entities that provide services to children and families in Granite School District.

Items that members would like discussed at future meetings should be submitted to Mr. Horsley in the Communications Department (385-646-4529 or bhorsley@graniteschools.org) prior to the scheduled meeting to have it placed on the agenda. An open comment time is provided at each meeting.

IV. Member Sharing of Successes and Concerns

Mr. Curtis, Hunter Network, asked for information about the decline in graduation rates. Dr. Bates stated that the high school graduation business starts in kindergarten and continues through to 12th grade. Granite has started a big push across all levels to encourage and provide means for students to graduate. Many new programs have been developed and additional professional development opportunities have been made available to move toward promoting higher graduation rates. Mrs. Mariotti provided information regarding the College and Career Readiness Department that works directly with this issue.

Mr. Curtis also asked why fewer concurrent enrollment opportunities have been offered. Ms. Mariotti explained that courses should be student driven and schools must make choices for what will best fit their schools when formulating class offerings. A discussion followed regarding how concurrent classes transfer over to colleges/universities.

Ms. Milner, Taylorsville Network, asked for information about the new school grades given by the Utah State Office of Education. Dr. Bates explained that while discussing the grades with administrators he covers the letter grade. He asks that everyone looks at the data provided below and explained it is a valuable source of information. This data can show where a school can move to improve their grade in coming years.

Mr. Kirby, Granger Network, and Ms. Blockmon, Olympus Network, ask for ways to implement communication with the SCCs that are in their high school networks. Mr. Horsley will provide them with that information.

Ms. Jones, Cyprus Network, had several questions. The irregularities in class size per schools were discussed. Dr. Bates explained how the class size and Full-time Teacher Equivalent (FTE) is decided. The variables at each school can result in slightly higher or lower class sizes. The SCCs should be involved in the staffing decisions.

There are eleven nurses in Granite District and approximately 68,000 students. Concern was voiced that employees other than nurses are giving diabetic shots with epi-pens. Dr. Bates explained that the employees should have been trained to administer the shots. Needles are considered weapons and students are not allowed to have them at school.

School security for visitors and the hiring of extra security was discussed. Trust Land funds cannot be used for hiring extra security.

Mr. Johnson, Granger Network, congratulated Tyler Howe, Armstrong Academy, for being named Principal of the Year. He was concerned about the 9th grade configuration in high schools. He was unsure of how it worked. Dr. Bates stated he will support the communities that feel strongly about having 9th grade students in high schools, however, he will not push a community toward it.

V. Next Meeting January 28, 2014

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.