

DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Granite School District Offices

Auditorium D

March 31, 2015

6:30 p.m.

I. Welcome

Vice President Anderson welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Members of the District Community Council (DCC) and administration in attendance were:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Network</u>
John Haglund	Cottonwood
Clarke Nelson	Cottonwood
Ryan Spackman	Cyprus
Darrell Kirby	Granger
Andrea Lindsey	Granger
Darrell Curtis	Hunter
Marni Allred	Hunter
Oliver Schreiber	Olympus
Reed Young	Skyline

Connie Anderson	Board of Education, Vice President
Karyn Winder	Board of Education, Board Member
Dr. Martin Bates	Superintendent
David Garrett	Business Administrator/Treasurer
Don Adams	Assistant Superintendent
Linda Mariotti	Assistant Superintendent
John Welburn	Assistant Superintendent

Doug Larson	Policy & Legal
Ben Horsley	Communications
Merilynn Boekweg	Board Recorder

Excused:

Terry Bawden	Board of Education, President
Mike Fraser	Assistant Superintendent

II. Legislative Report - Ben Horsley

Mr. Horsley gave an overview of legislation regarding education during the 2015 legislative session. He provided the committee members with finalized House Bills (HB) and Senate Bills (B) tracking sheets.

During the session 161 bills dealing with education were introduced and 60+ passed. The Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU) is the percentage of funds allotted each district by enrollment. Governor Herbert had asked for an increase of 6%. The legislature voted to provide a 4% increase in the WPU.

Mr. Horsley chose to focus on three bills that impacted education, specifically Granite School District. (Exhibit # DCC 15-8)

1. HB119 – Charter School Finance Amendments
Charter Schools do not have a property tax base. Therefore, they are allotted more funding per pupil than public schools. The State provides 75% and school districts provide 25% of the funds for Charter Schools. Mr. Horsley explained that the school districts are the tax collectors for the charter schools. It is concerning to districts because the property tax notices do not reflect the portion going to charter schools and patrons do not understand that 25% of the tax assessment for Granite is actually for charter schools. The cost of this legislation is approximately \$850,000 a year to Granite. Charter schools can regulate who attends their schools. If a student starts the year at a charter school the WPU is awarded to that school. Many of the students return to the public school system but their funding stays with the charter school.
2. SB78 – School District Property Tax Amendments
If a district splits, the percentage of revenue that is given to each district at the time of the division is maintained indefinitely.
3. SB97 – Property Tax equalization
This bill creates a Minimum Basic Growth Account that is funded by districts with a larger property tax base. It is then made available to districts with a smaller tax base that meet the prescribed criteria to equalize the public school funding. Granite District could benefit from this bill.

II. 5 X 5 Block Schedule

Eisenhower and Kearns Junior High Schools are currently on a 5 X 5 class schedule. Other junior highs have shown interest in the same schedule. High schools are currently using the 5 X 5 block schedule. When used by junior highs it makes the transition to high school easier. It also allows for double blocking some core classes (math and language arts) and provides opportunities for more electives.

The Committee discussed in detail the positive points of going to this schedule. There were questions regarding how the decision was made to adopt the 5 X 5. The school administration along with the SCC brings the request to the Board of Education for approval. Parents who feel this would benefit the students should work with their SCCs and school administration.

III. Secondary STEM Curriculum

Ms. Mariotti gave an update regarding STEM schools for secondary students. It has been decided that West Lake Junior High will be the designated STEM Junior High for 7th and 8th grade students leaving Armstrong Academy. She explained that a STEM school is actually a regular school with good instruction that will enrich the curriculum and give opportunities to all students who are enrolled at that location. There will be training and helps given to teachers and administration who wish to be involved.

As students move into high school a STEM component will be installed at each school to encourage the rigorous instruction. This will offer more opportunities to more students. At this time there is not an apparent need to build a new secondary school.

IV. Open Comment and Suggestions for next meeting

The Committee discussed why the District does not take the lead in some of the school based decisions. If a concept is favored by the administration (i.e. 5 X 5 block schedule and 9-12 configurations) it should be recommended to the schools and patrons. It was expressed that the District administration, being experienced educators, should take the lead in some of the decisions and not leave them entirely up to parents and SCCs. Dr. Bates listened and said the “leading out” concept would be scheduled as a topic of discussion with the Board of Education.

A request was made for more information about obtaining high school credit in non-traditional ways. It was suggested the manuals given to counselors be made available to parents online. Another suggestion was to have a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page with links to the manual for clarifications. The parents would find it very beneficial.

Next meeting: May 26, 2015

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.