

DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Granite School District
Auditorium D
September 22, 2015
6:30 p.m.

I. Welcome and Introductions – Board President Terry Bawden

Board President Terry Bawden 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>Name</u>	<u>Network/Position</u>
John Haglund	Cottonwood
Darrel Kirby	Granger
Andrea Lindsey	Granger
Marni Allred	Hunter
Susan Bond	Kearns
Oliver Schreiber	Olympus
Reed Young	Skyline
Sydney Johnson	Region 5 PTA
Terry Bawden	Board of Education, President
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, Support Services
Mike Fraser	Assistant Superintendent, School Accountability Services
Linda Mariotti	Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning Services
Doug Larson	Policy & Legal, Director
Ben Horsley	Communications, Director
Steve Hogan	Planning and Boundaries, Director
Diana Pennington	Administrative Secretary, Recorder
Amy Call	Parent Visitor

II. Support of Upcoming DCC Elections – Dr. Martin Bates

Dr. Bates thanked all the members for serving on the DCC and especially those who have served for the previous two years whose terms were ending. He encouraged them to run for re-election and if they weren't planning on it, to encourage others. Dr. Bates stressed the importance of having the DCC and the impact the members have on directing District policy.

III. Boundary Studies – Steve Hogan

Mr. Hogan, Director of Planning and Boundaries, presented the current boundary study information. He explained the boundary study cycle. There are several steps including a population analysis, community feedback, and open houses, before it is taken to the Board of Education for a final decision.

There are two boundary studies currently in progress; Cyprus reconfiguration and the 4800 W. corridor boundary. Mr. Hogan displayed a boundary map that shows the junior high schools west of I-215. These changes will clear up three school feeder systems and balance junior high populations by keeping Matheson Jr. around 1,000 students, increase Hunter Jr. to about 800 students (from approximately 500 students), and increase the enrollments at Kennedy Jr., West Lake Jr., and Valley Jr. by about 100 students each.

Mr. Hogan explained that it takes about 700 students in a junior high school to give students a comprehensive education that includes elective credits. These changes will benefit all of the schools' program needs.

Mr. John Haglund asked about the student enrollment numbers at Bonneville. Mr. Hogan estimated that there were approximately 500 students.

Ms. Susan Bond requested a copy of the map that Mr. Hogan displayed so that she could share it with the School Community Councils (SCC) in her network. The link to the Board presentation will be emailed to all DCC members.

Mr. Oliver Schreiber inquired about how the decisions are made to change boundary lines for schools – is it by population of students or by housing numbers. Mr. Hogan explained that Granite School District looks at actual boundary students and then special permits. Michael Duncan, in the Planning and Boundaries department, keeps track of all the new developments to project enrollments. The feeder systems are kept as clean as possible, charter schools are tracked, as well as other factors that may come in to play when determining enrollment; teachers, principals, programs, natural boundaries, neighborhoods, etc. Mr. Don Adams commented that although it's not an exact science, it is a well thought out process. It was also noted by Mr. Hogan that the District has not changed the high school feeder systems.

Ms. Allred shared her involvement as a SCC Chair when Mr. Hogan presented at a SCC meeting. Parents gave input and it was a positive experience.

Ms. Bond wanted to know what's there for her children if they have to move schools. Does the District just say, "Sorry, this is how it is"? Ms. Connie Anderson reminded everyone that there is always school choice. The open enrollment begins in December and goes through the third Friday in February. Mr. Hogan commented that Granite School District does make an effort to grandfather students into the schools for at least one year, sometimes two. Granite realizes there are strong feelings that come into play, extenuating circumstances, tradition, and many other factors. The District's goal is to

reach out to community members through the SCC's, surveys, open houses, etc. and do everything we can to accommodate and make sure that students' needs are met.

Mr. Schreiber asked if a decision has been made on the proposed changes. President Bawden reminded members that these proposals are going out to the communities for open houses and voting by survey. Once the feedback is received, it will go to the Board of Education for a final decision.

Ms. Sydney Johnson inquired about programs that schools have – theater, immersion, sports, etc. and how those will be affected. Dr. Bates explained that Human Resources (HR) works with teacher placements and reminded the members that when students move, so do the teachers.

Ms. Andrea Lindsey shared a situation about her daughter. She filled out a permit for her daughter to go to the junior high closest to their home (Valley Jr.) rather than be bussed to the boundary school. When her daughter was of high school age, she was not allowed to move to Valley Jr.'s feeder high school, Granger HS, with all of her friends because it was a closed school for permits. She wishes that she'd have known this ahead of time. There was some discussion on the language on the permit and it was proposed that the permit be examined and sent to the members via email for review.

A survey will be going out to the 5th and 6th graders at Armstrong Academy to get a feel for where students will attend this next school year and the following year knowing that West Lake Junior High School will become the new STEM school at the junior high level. Armstrong started with a boundary of about 300 students with the idea of permitting in an additional 300 students. The boundary could be expanded, but the District anticipates that the school will still be able to accept up to 300 permits from students outside its boundary.

President Bawden thanked everyone for their input and comments and reassured them that the District really does work hard to put all of this together for the benefit of the students. Mr. Hogan closed with the thought that when examining all of the options, the District tries to find all the positives in the changes with the least amount of negatives.

IV. Elementary Security Updates – Don Adams

Mr. Adams was introduced to share the security enhancements that have been made at several elementary schools. Mr. Adams explained that these security measures are intended to give the children a sense of safety at school while not making it feel like a prison. The premise of the changes is to create an environment where each person who enters the school is given personal contact with a staff member through the office. They are then “buzzed” into the school once permission has been granted. There is always a locked door between the outside of the school and the inside, including relocatables – their doors are always locked.

Currently there are eleven elementary schools that have been phased in with the security improvements; Academy Park, Bridger, Crestview, Granger, Gourley, Jackling, Magna, Moss, Plymouth, Redwood, and Upland Terrace.

Mr. Schreiber asked if these changes were for the everyday parent or to stop a gunman. Dr. Bates interjected to remind parents that although they are not a stranger to their own student, they are a stranger to the other 29 children in the class and that safety and the sense of security for all students is a goal of the District. Mr. Adams added that as he has been to the schools implementing the changes to the building structures and procedures for office staff, EVERY secretary has made a reference to knowing that they are between a gunman and the students, if it came to that, they would all willingly take a bullet to save the children. Another DCC member asked how parents are feeling when they have to go through these added security measures to volunteer at their child's school. It was commented by administration and other members that parents are grateful for the changes and the few extra minutes to get processed to enter is well worth it for the safety of their child.

This phase will take 4-5 years to complete for all of the schools to receive the security updates to the entry procedures. Mr. Ben Horsley commented that statistics show that schools are still the safest place for children; even safer than home.

V. Member Concerns – Open Discussion

Ms. Winder requested a calendar change on the DCC schedule for March 29, which is part of the spring break recess. In review, it was determined that this meeting could be moved to March 15 after the Board Study Session. The change was noted by all members in attendance and will be emailed to everyone with the meeting minutes.

Mr. Schreiber asked if Mr. Hogan could return for the next DCC meeting to discuss soccer fields and field rentals.

Ms. Bond shared concerns she had on the SAGE tests and who was receiving the results, based on a meeting that she'd attended. It was determined that there was some misinformation on the topic. Dr. Bates took the opportunity to explain that the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) has adopted their own standards; the Utah Core. This Core aligns with college entry and can be changed by the Utah State Board of Education at any time.

Mr. Haglund brought up a concern that he has heard parent complaints that the Bonneville boundary study was not handled correctly. Dr. Bates said that he has addressed this issue with the parents and referred them back to their SCC.

VI. Closing – Board President Terry Bawden

Board President Bawden thanked everyone for their service and for attending. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.