

DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Granite School District

Auditorium D

October 27, 2015

6:30 p.m.

I. Welcome and Introductions – Board President Bawden

Board President Bawden welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members introduced themselves. Members of the District Community Council (DCC) and administration in attendance were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Network/Position</u>
Clarke Nelson	Cottonwood
Daniel Burton	Cottonwood
Ryan Spackman	Cyprus
Anitra Koehler	Cyprus
Darrell Kirby	Granger
Marni Allred	Hunter
Darrell Curtis	Hunter
Brandon Jones	Kearns
Oliver Schreiber	Olympus
Chris Betcher	Skyline
Kym Frey	Taylorsville
Sarah Timpson	Region 5 PTA Treasurer
Terry Bawden	Board of Education, President
Connie Anderson	Board of Education, Vice President
Dr. Martin Bates	Superintendent
David Garrett	Business Administrator/Treasurer
Don Adams	Assistant Superintendent, Support Services
Linda Mariotti	Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning Services
John Welburn	Assistant Superintendent, Educator Support and Development
Ben Horsley	Communications, Director
Judy Petersen	College and Career Readiness, Director
Kaye Poulton-Timm	Comprehensive Guidance Coordinator
Steve Hogan	Planning and Boundaries, Director
Diana Pennington	Administrative Secretary, Recorder
Melissa Mathison	Parent Visitor, Silver Hills Elementary
Beth Niederman	Parent Visitor, Stansbury Elementary

Board President Bawden turned the time over to Dr. Bates to begin tonight's discussions. Dr. Bates read and explained the policy for the DCC and the impact they have when they work with the SCCs in their respective networks. DCC meetings are usually in the odd numbered months; November, January, March, and May with the one exception of October.

II. Student Planning Guides – Judy Petersen and Kaye Poulton-Timm

CCR High School Student Planning Guides were handed out to all members and guests. These planning guides went to every 6th, 8th, and 10th grader in their planning meetings with their counselors. 10,000 copies were printed.

Ms. Petersen discussed the ways that parents receive information about graduation from Granite School District. She first explained that Granite School District has a counseling program for students K-12, which consists of social workers and licensed school counselors. Elementary grades typically have social workers and grades 7-12 have counselors. The ratio of students to counselors in secondary schools is 350 to one. Dr. Bates interjected that GSD has the best ratio in the state. Ms. Petersen continued to say that getting information to students may seem like a daunting task, but they believe that all students should have equitable access to information, and by publishing a planning guide, all students have access.

Ms. Poulton-Timm went through the Planning Guide in more detail and highlighted some of the information that was contained therein; what does it mean to be college and career ready, making a plan for graduation, monitoring progress, setting goals, courses that meet graduation requirements as well as Regents' Scholarship requirements, class options – AP and concurrent enrollment, CTE choices, and paying for college – scholarships, Pell grants, and FAFSA.

CTE was revamped and students can take specific courses that align with their goals. Students in 8th grade take the Explore test and in 10th grade they take the Plan test. Every 11th grader will take the ACT in March at no cost to them. Volunteers sit with seniors during school hours to complete a college application. Donations from the Granite Education Foundation fund the college application fee. Last year, 82% of students, whose application fees were paid by the Foundation, enrolled in college.

The next activity for students was the FAFSA Night. Utah is in last place when it comes to students filling out the FAFSA to qualify for Pell grants, work study, and loans. Last year only 32% of Utah students filled out the FAFSA and \$46 million dollars were left over as unused funds. In 2013, the average household income was \$89,000 with students qualifying for assistance. The CCR department is working hard with students, parents, and the community to get the word out to help students get to college and get the financial help they need. At FAFSA night, if a family is prepared with their tax information, the completion time is as fast as 16 minutes.

Ms. Petersen encouraged the DCC members to become familiar with the booklet and take a tour of the GTI to see all the CTE options available to students. She reminded them that students may take online programs at Granite Connections High School, as early as 7th grade, to get some courses out of the way and make more room in their schedule for classes that align with their future career goals.

Regents' Scholarship – default classes for graduation align with the requirements for students to obtain Regents' Scholarship. Mr. Betcher inquired how the French immersion classes will work when a school doesn't offer the "next" step in the language to fulfill the two-year requirement of a

foreign language. Ms. Peterson says that they are negotiating with Regents' for AP and college classes.

Dr. Bates stated that the legislature funds the Utah System of Higher Education. Some students qualify for Regents' Scholarship while others don't – and sometimes the rationale doesn't make sense. There is an appeal process, but we, as a district, are trying to figure out the “red-flags” that would disqualify one over another.

Ms. Petersen and Ms. Poulton-Timm are committed to attend all future DCC meetings. Their first goal is to have the planning guide in the hands of all students and then to have kiosks in all counseling centers for parents to have access to resources.

III. Field Rentals / Improvements – Steve Hogan

Field rental FAQs: GSD accommodates 86 leagues and utilizes 1,628 days/year (each rental counts as one day). 8-10 leagues provide the most participants and the rest are smaller groups. Sport groups include soccer, little league football, lacrosse, rugby, baseball, and track and field. These are non-school activity groups. Impact soccer league alone had 4,000+ participants. Most fields are utilized on average of four days per week. Some are at three and a few are at five.

Mr. Hogan said that he walked every field at every school. Rather than charging \$10/hour for an entire school field, the fields were split up and groups were charged \$10 for a designated space on the field. This fee helps pay for sprinklers, fertilizers, and general maintenance. There is still the cost of extra rounds of fertilizer and police security on the weekends to enforce the rentals. (Those paying for the rentals appreciate this service.) The district has spent over \$50k to remove permanent goals and purchase portable soccer goals at all of the junior high schools.

With all the rentals, it becomes a challenge to find time for watering, fertilizing, mowing, general maintenance, and letting the fields rest for a period – let alone time for the community (families) to have access to the public grounds.

Ms. Anderson asked if there was a priority to the high school clubs that are non-curricular. Dr. Bates explained the difference between a school club and community club and that community clubs, although they have all students, must pay the rental fee. They have to meet the definition under the law to be considered a school club. School clubs get preference.

Mr. Adams talked about the research that was completed to come up with the hourly rate so that we are competitive. Mr. Nelson and Mr. Kirby agreed that \$10/hour is a reasonable fee. Mr. Schreiber complimented the district on their work and asked if he could help by bringing in people to volunteer their time and expertise to maintain the fields. He also asked if the backstops could be removed. Mr. Adams reminded everyone that the fields are for student use first and that we don't want to remove equipment that they use at recess. Dr. Bates invited Mr. Schreiber to speak with Mr. Adams separately.

IV. SAGE and Common Core

A printed PowerPoint presentation was given to each DCC member with the common core standards that were created two years ago. The information is unchanged.

V. Member Concerns

Mr. Betcher asked if the building foundation at Morningside Elementary was stable with all of the cracks that it has or if the school could be rebuilt. He said the school has over 700 students and there is no room for portable classrooms. Mr. Adams said that the cracks are superficial and that they have a Facilities Assessment Program in place to monitor the conditions of every school and place priority where necessary based on a long-term capital improvement plan.

Mr. Burton inquired about social media sites and what the rules were for posting student pictures and information. This will be provided at the next meeting.

Mr. Curtis is concerned about the population at Hunter High School and if the building will be expanded to accommodate students and eliminate portable classrooms.

Mr. Nelson expressed concern for the loss of Mr. Parrish at Cottonwood High School to the district. The parents are very upset; it's mid-way through the year and the school is in reconfiguration. Dr. Bates explained the process for this decision and that Mr. Parrish will be very involved as the new High School Director.

Mr. Spackman shared his concern of teaching students how to test rather than just teaching students. A brief discussion took place and President Bawden let him know that the district has cut back on testing.

Ms. Koehler commented that the CCR options are changing and that AP classes are not as popular as CC classes. It was discussed that the colleges don't like the CC classes because they lose money. The district is working with the legislature to solve this issue since some high school teachers have higher qualifications than some college teachers. Ms. Allred commented that the CC grades show up on college transcripts.

Mr. Kirby asked about Armstrong Academy's enrollment pushing 800 students. A brief discussion was held to clarify enrollment and capacity.

VI. Closing – Board President Terry Bawden

Board President Bawden thanked everyone for coming and for their input. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.