

DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Granite School District

Auditorium D

March 15, 2016

6:55 p.m.

I. Welcome and Introductions – Board President Bawden

President Bawden welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. Members of the District Community Council (DCC) and administration in attendance were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Network/Position</u>
Anitra Koehler	Cyprus
Darrell Kirby	Granger
Andrea Lindsey	Granger
Marni Allred	Hunter
Brandon Jones	Kearns
Susan Bond	Kearns
Oliver Schreiber	Olympus
Reed Young	Skyline
Laura Jane Hyte-Richens	Taylorville
Sarah Timpson	Region 5 PTA
Terry Bawden	Board of Education, President
Connie Anderson	Board of Education, Vice President
Karyn Winder	Board of Education, Member
Dr. Martin Bates	Superintendent
David Garrett	Business Administrator/Treasurer
John Welburn	Assistant Superintendent, Educator Support and Development
Mike Fraser	Assistant Superintendent, School Accountability
Don Adams	Assistant Superintendent, Support Services
Linda Mariotti	Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning Services
Ben Horsley	Communications, Director
Judy Petersen	College and Career Readiness, Director
Kaye Poulton-Timm	Comprehensive Guidance Coordinator
Darla Williams	Administrative Secretary, Recorder

II. Population and Boundary Process – Steve Hogan

Steve Hogan addressed questions raised about population tracking, and how study areas are chosen. He pointed out that they don't just start at one end of the valley and work their way to the other. It is a process. Planning and boundaries works through the calendar year, not the academic year. The reason that they use the calendar year is so, if a change needs to be made, they have time to implement it. They begin by meeting with community councils, and they meet with the board and give constant updates of the progress. He pointed out that he is not the decision maker. He is the gatherer of information, and then makes recommendations to the board. At any point in the process,

the board can vote to discontinue or postpone the study. He meets with the PAC (Population Analysis Committee). This is a committee of 12-15 members, and they meet on a regular basis. Granite School District has 92 schools and covers a lot of area. Once the board decides on a study, the PAC helps with the process of evaluating. Their information comes from patrons, school administrators, school community councils, board members, DCC members and school programs. They also look at classroom usage audits and building capacity so that each building is used to its maximum potential. Mr. Hogan showed the members a scatter plot map. This map shows where students live, and high growth rate areas. This is an aide in projecting populations down the road. This is not an exact science. It is doing your best to bring all the points together and make projections.

A question was raised about what boundary studies are going on right now. There are four studies at present. Cottonwood/Granger, Silver Hills Elementary, 3100 South corridor, and Granger Elementary

III. Dual Immersion – Linda Marriotti

The committee member that had asked for discussion and clarification on Dual Immersion was not able to attend the meeting. He asked the discussion be postponed so that he could be present.

IV. Citizenship Test Requirement -Linda Marriotti

Last year, the Legislature passed a new graduation requirement. Every student must pass a civics test. It is a 50 question test, with those questions taken from the naturalization test to become a citizen. The District does not want this to be a barrier to students who would otherwise be in line for graduation. A test has been created that is very similar to the type of test you take when you receive a traffic ticket and have to take the online course. When you answer a question wrong, you are redirected back to the information given for that question, and asked to read it and answer the question again. Every district was given the latitude to create their own test and this is the best solution for us. Right now it is loaded onto CANVAS and students are in the process of taking it in their Social Studies classes. The first stage of this implementation was to get all 12th graders tested. That testing started around Christmas time and schools are in the process of contacting all seniors who have not taken the test and encouraging them to do so. The next step is to test all 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th graders. At the end of the year, all of these students should have taken the test and it will be on record. Next year it will be integrated into 8th grade curriculum and so, even though they are not even thinking about graduation yet, these students will already have one box checked on their graduation requirements. We will also have a platform that will allow students that struggle with language to use the text-to-speech abilities.

One member commented that she knew a girl from Iraq. She had only been here for four months, when she took and passed the test. Another commented that, although he was very unhappy with the politicians that made this a requirement, he was at peace with the way the district is choosing to administer it. Another questioned what constituted an “identified disability” and Linda responded that they must have an IEP in the school.

V. Legislative Update Handout – Ben Horsley

Ben Horsley handed out a legislative tracking sheet. This sheet showed everything that was brought forth in both the House and the Senate that was related to education or impacted Granite School

District. Items in green were passed. Items in red did not pass and were filed. He did not go into specifics, but encouraged everyone to look through it. Two items of note were SB38; this was considering how charter schools are funded. Charter schools cannot collect property tax, so districts were required to do it for them. Because of this, it shows up on individual taxes as “Granite Schools” and most people do not realize that it is also funding charter schools. The legislature hammered out a great compromise. Another item of note is HB288 on student privacy. This clarified that student produced statements cannot be made available to the public (through GRAMA). Any questions can be directed to Ben through phone or email.

VI. High School Start Times Handout – Mike Fraser

This subject was originally brought up by a high school student. This student did a lot of research that showed that students perform better with more sleep. Mr. Fraser passed out a handout that was done in 2014. This handout showed that Granite School District’s start time for High Schools was about the same as over 1/3 of the nation. One big item of note is that extracurricular activities are very important to both students and parents. A later start time equals a later end time, which means the extracurricular activities start later. This results in students getting homework done and going to bed later. Another item of note is that a later start time for high schoolers would have a large impact on transportation. Transportation is already dealing with multiple schedules and complicated routes. Start times for elementary, junior high, and high school must be staggered or it would require purchasing more busses and hiring more drivers, potentially costing several million dollars. Most drivers make multiple stops picking up and dropping off. That simply would not be possible if all the schools start times are close together. Mr. Fraser said that the handout had interesting information on what has driven this and why school districts have not done it yet.

VII. Member Concerns

One committee member had a comment/concern about dual immersion. He went to a dual immersion meeting at Olympus High School last week. Students that he spoke to stated that they were working off of copies that the teacher had made for them. The administration stated that they thought every student had a book. It was asked that this be addressed in the next meeting. A question was also raised about how to evaluate how the teachers are doing with this program.

Another member has had a son in dual immersion for 2 years. Her son tested into the advanced learning program and she was grateful when that program called her to personally discuss which would be better for him, the dual immersion or advanced learning program. She explained that, for one half of the day, her child has to speak another language. This puts him in a position that for part of his day he doesn’t have the vocabulary to express his thoughts. She loves the program and feels that it is effective, but for advanced learners it can be frustrating. Linda Marriotti responded that, because we are a bigger district, we can provide a lot of different opportunities. It makes it hard for parents to decide what is best for their student. The district employees need to point out differences in programs so parents can decide which works best for their individual situation/personality. A question was raised as to why a foreign language cannot be part of the curriculum for the advanced learning students. Linda responded that not all parents want this, but that we do encourage language exploration in our schools.

The subject of re-implementing back to school nights was raised. Cyprus High School wants to do a back to school night. But, they are facing the problem of teacher contract days. What would it take to pay teachers to attend? Can we use part of all of one of the scheduled SEP days? State law dictates how many days a student must attend school per year, and how many professional development days teachers are allowed. Mr. Fraser commented that he used to kick off his school year at Hunter High School with a back to school night. He stated that as the years went on, attendance declined. Teachers began to feel that it was a waste of time. A lot of the students and parents are taking advantage of schools being open during registration to look around. We would want to make sure that schools are unlocked and available on those days. There is the question of ongoing maintenance projects, and that being an issue with opening schools that early. There is room for discussion on this issue.

One member approached the committee with a bussing concern. There is anxiety concerning the bussing situation at Matheson Jr. High. The current plan is a change and a burden to worried parents, especially along 8400 West. Dr. Bates acknowledged that these situations are unique to Magna, but that transportation is a larger conversation. Routes and Safety will go on the next agenda. Don Adams is pushing Salt Lake County to make improvements to keep our kids safe. Steve Hogan makes a call every time there is an accident, working for change. Crossing guards are not a school district responsibility. They are hired and trained by local law enforcement. We have no say in where they go.

David Gourley Elementary has concerns about safety in pickup zones. A Capital Project was submitted for their school, but they don't know the progress or time line for it. Dr. Bates would like to spend time to address these concerns in a future meeting. Don Adams said they are welcome to call him to get the information on where they are standing in the process. But, to be honest, just this past year they have received 16.7 million dollars of requests, and have 1.2 million dollars to handle them. A discussion is needed to figure out how to help, as safety is always a top priority.

Future items of discussion:

One member would like to know the process used to create school calendars. He only had two choices to vote on, and didn't like either one of them.

Please give the committee a comprehensive understanding of athletics in the District. How is it managed? How are credits given? Also, the status of the IB program at Skyline High School.

FYI from Darrell Kirby – Parents at Neil Armstrong Academy are concerned that the preschool will be displaced to accommodate future growth. This subject would be part of the ongoing planning and boundary discussion.

The suggestion was made to change the next meeting date as it is scheduled after school is out.

The meeting was dismissed at 8:05