

DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Granite School District
Auditorium D
April 4, 2017
6:30 pm

Welcome and Introductions – Board President Bawden

President Bawden welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
Members of the District Community Council (DCC), administration, and visitors in attendance were:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Network/Position</u> |
|-------------------|--|
| Clarke Nelson | Cottonwood |
| Christy Rasmussen | Cyprus |
| Darrell Kirby | Granger |
| Marni Allred | Hunter/Region 5 PTA |
| Oliver Schreiber | Olympus |
| Valerie Pingree | Olympus |
| Chris Betcher | Skyline |
| Dr. Martin Bates | Superintendent |
| Terry Bawden | Board President |
| Gayleen Gandy | Board Member |
| Ben Horsley | Communications Director |
| Don Adams | Asst. Superintendent, Support Services |
| John Welburn | Asst. Superintendent, School Accountability |
| Rick Anthony | Asst. Superintendent, Educator Support and Development |
| Linda Mariotti | Asst. Superintendent, Teaching and Learning Services |
| Doug Larson | Policy and Legal Services Director |
| Dave Garrett | Business Administrator/Treasurer |
| Sydney Johnson | Region 5 PTA President |
| Charles Pruitt | Skyline |
| Darla Williams | Administrative Secretary, Recorder |

DCC POLICY CHANGE – Dr. Bates noted that in the last DCC meeting there was a question brought up by a member concerning the policy for attendance at DCC meetings. There is a concern that some networks are not being represented because they have representatives that frequently miss the meetings. At that time, it was said that they would look at the policy and discuss it again. As a result of that investigation, there has been a quick fix made to the DCC policy. Because the Board feels that

attendance is important, and there are only 5 meetings per year, if a member misses 3 meetings they will be replaced by the Board. This is similar to the SCC statute and policy. This policy change has been read to the Board once, and will be read again next month. It will become policy after the second reading. Another fix is that there has been a line added to the policy which says that generally meetings will be on odd months. But, we have to take into account, that occasionally we have to make adjustments to the schedule. President Bawden asked about how this was going to be tracked, and who would be in charge of the tracking and replacing of members. Ben Horsley stated that the Communications Dept. is already tracking attendance, and once this is in effect, he will be contacting the members that miss more than 3 meetings. The Communications Dept. will then actively seek volunteers to fill the position, and if there is more than one volunteer, an election will be held. New members will finish out the term of the member that they are replacing.

DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION IN HIGH SCHOOLS - Linda Mariotti reminded everyone that we now have Dual Language programs in Elementary, Middle, and High Schools. These programs are not grade specific, but are level specific. In the Elementary schools it is a 50/50 model, with half day in the target language. When they move to middle school that concept changes. The classes are more academic. 7th and 8th graders take the next level target language and a content class in the target language. In 9th grade they go to the advanced placement courses, and take the AP test in the target language.

In High School they have the Bridge program. Students who might have taken the AP language test in another language and passed in 9th grade are eligible for Bridge courses in high school. These students are taking courses to earn college credits, working towards a minor in the target language. Not all students want to participate in the Bridge program. Students can begin taking another language if they wish, instead.

Linda addressed a few questions: One concerning students that take the AP test in 9th grade and then do not want to continue. How does this affect eligibility for the regence scholarship? Linda said that is problematic, and they might want to wait until 11th grade to make that change. She stated that the two years have to be consecutive. She was also asked about students that may be in dual immersion in another district, and move to Granite School District. Can they continue the program? The answer is “yes”, if there is room. New students are routinely added in 2nd and 3rd grades. After that, you have to be proficient in the language, and there has to be room in the program. She also assured everyone that everything is in place to make sure that students do get the college credits.

The main concern among parents is that some teachers are not teaching at the level that is expected or promised. Linda said that is not just an issue with dual immersion. It is a struggle across the board, and is always being addressed at the District level. She was asked if there was a way to open up an additional language, and responded that course offerings are student driven. If there is a need and enough interest, we try to offer it. By the same token, if a class is being offered and interest dwindles, it may be removed. Students can also take accredited courses online when it is not available at the school and get credits. Counselors should be offering that as an option.

FINE ARTS UPDATE - Next year, Granite School District will be partnering with the Sorensen foundation, who receives funding from the Legislature to help districts support the BTS specialists. At no additional cost to the district, every elementary school will be receiving a .5 (half time) BTS specialist. These specialists are required to have either a major or a minor in arts. Each specialist will only serve 2 schools. By the time a child leaves elementary school, they will have been instructed in Visual Arts, Music, Theater and Dance. The arts specialists are licensed teachers, so the teacher does not have to be present. The specialist will take over the class and the teacher will have additional planning time. Schools that previously have funded their own BTS specialist will no longer have to fund them.

Charles Pruitt asked if we can measure the outcome. Linda responded that, although as a District we do not feel that we have to justify arts education, it will be interesting to see if there are improvements as we integrate curriculum into the arts. She urged everyone to talk to parents, maybe take surveys. It would be wonderful to get a sense from parents and students and see if it changes the climate of the schools.

MEMBER CONCERNS/AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING - Charles Pruitt addressed the subject of later start times again. He does not want this forgotten. He had emails from parents that had concerns and would like it addressed. Dr. Bates stated that, since the last meeting, they have had several discussions with Principals and there are a lot of opinions. John Welburn noted that School Community Councils have a lot of power when it comes to building or changing schedules. They can add extra classes in the morning (0 period), and after school classes (8 period). High schools can stagger teacher start times so that they can cover these classes. Students schedules can be adjusted to fit their particular needs. Members were urged to talk to their School Community Councils and look at options for their school. All suggestions will be addressed. Transportation will have to remain standardized, as the bus schedules are not network specific.

Charles also addressed a suicide at Skyline High. The school is addressing the problem at their level, with things such as the HOPE squad. He asked about the District being a pilot for a program called "For What's Next". Dr. Bates said he would love to talk about their efforts, and integrating it into our program, Safe UT. He asked that it be added to the next agenda.

Another agenda item for next month – Electronic Devices. What is the policy? Can it be “beefed up”? How do we provide support for teachers with this issue?

A question was asked about self contained classes being moved. Linda Mariotti stated that they are moved quite regularly. This could be because of busing, space in schools, keeping the class close to the students who attend, etc. She is happy to address any specific move if she is contacted.

President Bawden thanked those in attendance and dismissed the meeting at 8:15.

