



To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Doug Larson
Re: Policy Reading
Date: August 5, 2021

Policy and Legal Services will present two First Readings during the next Board of Education meeting. A description of the policies under consideration is provided below.

Article II.K. Granite School District Community Council

Changes to the district community council (District Council) policy are proposed to help increase participation of local community council members. Rather than go through the process of electing a separate body, the District Council will be reorganized such that parent members of local community councils will be invited to participate concomitantly as a District Council in semi-annual meetings with Board and District leaders. This change is intended to keep strong parent leaders involved on the local community council level while maintaining direct communication channels to Board members and District leadership.

Article IX.A.1.v. Self-Reporting Requirements and Background Checks

The modification of this policy was necessitated by the replacement of USBE Rule R277-515 with Rule R277-217. This new USBE rule clarified the reporting requirements of employees and volunteers related to criminal conduct. Other changes to the policy clarify how the District conducts background checks and monitors employees through the WIN database and the FBI Rap Back System. Lastly, the policy includes a provision on making reference checks from previous employers related to child abuse and sexual abuse. These changes bring the policy more in line with Utah State statutes and USBE rules, and the changes are intended to keep schools safe.

Article II.K. Granite School District Community Council

A. Purpose

The Board of Education of Granite School District (the Board) believes that the legislature has established, as a matter of state policy, that locally elected boards of education govern, control, and manage District schools. Furthermore, the legislature has established school community councils as the mechanism whereby boards of education receive community input. The Board's policy regarding the statutory requirements is Article VIII.A.23.

In addition to the foregoing, the Board is committed to establishing a culture of listening and responding to patrons, strengthening and collaborating with community councils, and providing timely and accurate information at all levels within the District. With this policy, a Granite School District Community Council (District Council) is established.

B. Membership and Functions

The District Council shall be composed of all parent members of local school community councils duly elected after September of each school year.

The Board president, vice-president, an assigned third Board member, and superintendent shall meet with District Council semi-annually, or more often as appropriate, to maintain open communication channels with patrons, facilitate collaboration among local councils, and provide timely and accurate information to school communities. District Council meetings will be scheduled in schools throughout the District.

While not directly invited to participate, other parents or guardians of Granite School District students shall not be excluded from District Council meetings.

A report of District Council meetings will be shared with the full Board.

1. In general, the District Council shall endeavor to:
 - a. support the interests of children, parents, schools and the District;
 - b. encourage parents and patrons to participate in the development and implementation of programs and decisions affecting the schools;
 - c. promote educational achievement;
 - d. identify needs and priorities for individual schools and for the District as a whole;
 - e. communicate and resolve concerns; and
 - f. identify opportunities to strengthen relationships between all stakeholders, including governmental entities that provide services to children and families in the Granite School District.

2. Specifically, the District Council shall provide advice and recommendations to the Board on education matters affecting the schools and the District including:
 - a. education programs,
 - b. student achievement,
 - c. school and District budgets,
 - d. boundary changes,
 - e. school closures, and
 - f. school improvement plans.

C. Decisions Reserved to the Board

Human resource functions (such as hiring, corrective discipline, school assignments, surplus status, etc.), decisions about individual students (such as discipline, placement, etc.) are among the subjects reserved for the Board and for school and District administration and will not be addressed in District Council meetings.