

DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Granite School District

Auditorium D

May 17, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions – Board President Bawden

President 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>
Clarke Nelson	Cottonwood
Daniel Burton	Cottonwood
Anitra Koehler	Cyprus
Darrell Kirby	Granger
Andrea Lindsey	Granger
Marni Allred	Hunter
Darrell Curtis	Hunter
Brandon Jones	Kearns
Susan Bond	Kearns
Oliver Schreiber	Olympus
Chris Betcher	Skyline
Reed Young	Skyline
Sydney Johnson	Region 5 PTA President
Terry Bawden	Board of Education, President
Karyn Winder	Board of Education, Member
Dr. Martin Bates	Superintendent
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
Doug Larson	Policy and Legal Services Director
Dave Vande Veegaete	Curriculum & Instruction
Gail Howe	School Accountability Director
Alan Parrish	School Accountability Director
Darla Williams	Administrative Secretary, Recorder

**Dear colleague letter** – Dr. Bates asked if he could take a moment before we began with the agenda to discuss a Dear Colleague letter that has recently been in the news concerning transgender bathrooms in public schools. He stated that these letters are a regular occurrence, they just don't usually make news. The wording of the letter is different than the way it is being portrayed. At Granite School District, our policy is, and always has been that we don't allow kids to be bullied or made uncomfortable for any reason. This is nothing new. We will continue with the same practices as we have always had in regards to accommodating students with special needs/situations. A question was raised about the government withholding funds. Dr. Bates replied that he is not worried about funds being withheld. What they are asking us to do is what we are already doing. The letter wasn't particularly threatening – it is being portrayed that way.

**School Calendars** – Gail Howe and Alan Parrish

It is hard to meet the wants and wishes of every individual. As a committee, they are made up of, and represent every aspect of the district which includes staff and parents. As part of the process, every 5 years the district sends out a survey. This survey asks questions as to wants and desires for the upcoming calendars. Some of the results from the last survey are: Responders that prefer for school to end before memorial day – 61%, wanted a 2 day Thanksgiving break - 53%, preferred a 2 week winter break - 55%. As you can see these numbers are all very close to 50 %. This means that, when you go with the majority, you still have almost half that are not getting what they requested. The committee has to work with some rules. Students are required to attend 179 days. There must be 2 sets of SEPs and 2 compensatory days for teachers. They also need to work around national and state holidays, 3 end of term days, fall break, winter break, spring break, emergency closure and religious observances. The Calendaring committee narrows the calendar possibilities to two. In December, those two calendars are presented to the board of education. A few of the concerns expressed were that there are only 2 choices and parents are feeling that they don't have a voice. Marni Allred said that she was on the committee this year. She said that they honestly looked at all the parameters, and it is hard to make everyone happy. She felt the five calendars presented to vote on were a good representation. A question was asked about what percentage respond to the survey? Ben Horsley answered that on the recent 2017-18 survey, there was less than a 10 percent response despite phone call and email reminders. Testing is a big consideration in planning the calendar. We cannot change testing times so we need to work the calendar around them. The committee felt that it was handled in the most transparent and equitable way possible. Oliver Schreiber still expressed concerns about the process and parents feeling like they did not have a voice. President Bawden encouraged Oliver to put his concerns in writing for the next calendaring committee.

**Transportation Routes and Safety** – Don Adams

The district has 170 buses, 167 drivers, and transports approximately 12,000 students. 2,000 of those are door to door pickup. There are 764 routes. The qualifying distance for busing is 1.5 miles for elementary students, 2.0 miles for secondary. This is a state law. There are also 5,200 – 6,200 field trips per year. If there are too many students in a route, a new route is added. This is a complicated process of adjusting other routes and drivers. State statute says that we may receive funding of up to 85 percent for busing. Right now, we are receiving approximately 62 – 67 percent. The district covers the rest. A suggestion was made from Cyprus network to use your PTA to solicit the legislature to get that additional funding. Don also noted that in last years' audit, our

district was the best audit in the state. Out of 1.7 million miles, we were off by 472 miles because we miscalculated one route.

### **Capital Outlay – Don Adams**

How do schools request and how do projects get done? Every year, each school submits a list of maintenance/improvement requests. These requests are prioritized using criteria such as cost, whether they are a hazard or a safety issue etc. After the requests are received, they are looked at carefully to assess the needs as a district. A lot of them can be taken care of by a work order, so they are removed from the list and a work order is submitted. Once that is done, they cost estimate every request. Last year, after the requests that could be maintenance work orders were removed, they still had a list of 472 items. The second step is to meet with each schools' accountability director to understand what needs are most pressing. Projects are ranked by budgets and needs. Last year, there was 16.8 million dollars in capitol requests and 1.2 million dollars to spend. Big projects go out to bid, small projects are taken care of in-house by our maintenance department. The district cannot do projects above \$999,999. They must go through purchasing to get outside bids. Every Monday morning, Don holds a construction meeting to keep all jobs on track.

### **Athletics – Dave Vande Veegaete**

Who makes the cut? Utah only participates in NFHS sanctioned sports. Not all sanctioned sports are in our schools. Utah has chosen to participate in the ones that are active. The High School Activities Association is slow to add new sports to their list. Most of the sports added in last 30 years have been girls sports to make it more equitable. To add a sport you must have three organizations petition for the change. This includes coaches, staff, and another entity. Once they receive a petition they turn it over to the athletic directors committee who make a survey and send it to school coaches, athletic directors and principals to vote. If they get a majority vote, it goes to the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees. If it becomes actionable, school districts are given a couple of years to prepare by funding and including this sport in their curriculum. With any change, you need to consider facilities, equity, title IX balances, expense, equipment upkeep and storage, safety, available coaches & teachers, student participation, whether it is appropriate for a high school setting and the benefit to schools and the school system.

### **IB Program Status - Linda Mariotti**

The IB program began in 2002 in our district. The district had to find and identify 2 sites that would be accessible to students who were interested. High school principals were approached about the program, and the process was explained to them. To participate, you need teachers specially trained and you have to have the support of your PTA and community council. The school would need to offer a robust set of courses in concurrent enrollment and AP classes, as IB builds on that foundation. Through that process, Hunter High School was identified as a good choice for the West side and Skyline for the East side. When the board approved the program, they gave the district two years to get ready to move ahead. Over next two years, the district invested in getting ready to roll this program out. At district level, we had meetings, sent out postcards etc. The IB program has its own diploma if you meet all the criteria, or a certificate if you don't meet the requirements for diploma. This diploma is completely separate from a high school diploma. Over the years, the interest in the program went down at Hunter. In the end, Hunter asked for permission to abandon

the program and offer other more popular programs at their school. Skyline is working well within its own network.

President Bawden thanked everyone for their attendance. He reminded them that this is the last meeting of the year, with our next meeting to be held on September 27. He wished everyone an enjoyable summer, and asked that they send emails with any questions or concerns that they might have before the next meeting to Ben.

Meeting adjourned 8:20