



Board Report

Highlights from the board of education meeting **December 11, 2007**

Capital facility needs outlined

The board of education conducted a study session to review options for increasing capital project funds, and the administration provided a preview of facility needs for the next decade.

Capital funds considerations include:

- A legislative capital equalization plan that would shift money from the state Uniform School Fund to help reduce building costs for growing districts. Granite is not likely to benefit from that funding plan.
- A property tax increase that could yield up to \$33 million annually in the capital budget.
- Issuing general obligation bonds. Granite last bonded in 1983, and has been free of bonded debt since 1996.

A conservative estimate of capital needs over the next decade totals \$328 million in today's dollars. Those needs include:

- Air conditioning equipment for all schools without AC – \$58.7 million
- New school construction, including four elementary schools and a junior high school – \$78.4 million
- Replacement of aging buildings including two high schools, two eastside elementary schools, Hartvigsen School, and the Bates Kitchen – \$180.9 million
- Acquisition of sites for new construction – \$10 million

Three municipal projects discussed

Board members reviewed plans for two city development projects seeking tax increment funding, which freeze existing taxes collected on the properties for 15 years.

South Salt Lake officials provided details for an Urban Renewal Project between State and Main Streets from 2100 South to Truman Avenue, just north of I-80. The proposed \$200 million project would be 20 percent commercial and 80 percent residential development, including 250,000 square feet of office space and 850 apartment and condominium units.

West Valley City is proposing a project on 209 acres of undeveloped land in the city's north central area, bordered by Bangerter Highway and Highway 201. The first phase involves using 115 acres for light industrial manufacturing businesses in 27 buildings. The plan would create about 3,100 jobs. The second phase could add 600 more jobs.

Following two of the presentations, board members said they need additional time to discuss the ramifications of the projects.

Foundation outlines fund-raising initiative

J. Rees Jensen, who chairs the Granite Education Foundation's Friends of the Foundation committee, outlined the foundation's plan to raise \$3 million over the next three years. The money would endow annual awards of about \$50,000 in scholarships and provide funding for other projects related to students.

As part of the plan the foundation is seeking permission to name venues at schools for major donors. Football stadiums, gymnasiums, media centers, and libraries could be named for a donor. The foundation proposes that donations in the neighborhood of \$75,000 to \$100,000 could be so honored, with board approval. Board members suggested that the administration explore developing a policy to accommodate the proposal.

Single gender education discussed

Assistant Superintendent Linda Mariotti analyzed aspects of single-gender schools and classrooms. The presentation included a historical perspective, United States Department of Education regulations, reasons some educators are considering initiating the program, negative and positive factors, a summary of research and its limitations, plus a list of questions that should be asked before implementing such proposals.

The questions, she said, should include what might be lost if coeducation is abandoned, policy obstacles, rationales for the program, and degree of educator and community buy-in.

Consent agenda

The board approved a revision of the 2008 board meeting schedule and the following purchases as part of the consent agenda.

2008 board meetings

January 15	July 15
February 5 and 19	August 12
March 4 and 18	September 2 and 16
April 15 and 29	October 7 and 21
May 13 and 27	November 11 and 25
June 17	December 16

Purchases

- Insulation for Douglas T. Orchard Elementary School from Bonded Insulation, \$25,900, capital outlay budget
- Replacement dishwashers for Skyline and Olympus High Schools from Restaurant and Store, \$68,791, school lunch budget
- Outdoor tiles for playground surfacing for Granger and Thomas W. Bacchus Elementary Schools from Sof' Solutions, \$57,405, capital outlay budget
- Consolidation of voice communications at five schools from Qwest, \$171,266, capital outlay budget
- Eleven Blue Bird school buses from Bryson Sales and Services, \$1,198,032, 2009 capital outlay budget
- Installation of wheelchair lift at Upland Terrace Elementary School by Carson Elevator Company, \$48,615, capital outlay budget
- Design work for district web page by Total Web Hosting Solutions Inc., \$25,280, general fund budget