

# Granite School District

## Board of Education Meeting Study Session January 21, 2014

A study session for Granite School District was held in Auditorium D at the Granite School District offices, 2500 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah. President Gayleen Gandy called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m., those in attendance:

Gayleen Gandy	President
Terry Bawden	Vice President
Connie Anderson	Board Member
Sarah Meier	Board Member
Connie Burgess	Board Member
Julene Jolley	Board Member
Dan Lofgren	Board Member

The following members of the administration were present:

Martin W. Bates	Superintendent
David Garrett	Business Administrator/Treasurer
Mike Fraser	Assistant Superintendent
Jim Henderson	Assistant Superintendent
Linda Mariotti	Assistant Superintendent
Ben Horsley	Communications
Douglas Larson	Policy and Legal Services

Merilynn Boekweg, Board Recorder, was also in attendance.

### **STUDY SESSION:**

#### 1. Parent Teacher Conference Template

Superintendent Bates reported the administration has been working to develop a

template/guide for teachers to help make parent/teacher conferences more informative and beneficial for families. Mr. Fraser and Ms. Mariotti presented scenarios for both elementary and secondary conferences. Each scenario depicted a conference before and after applying the guide. Using this new method parents would be supplied with data explaining the core concepts that have been mastered and concepts where their student may need extra help. The parents would be given direction on how to help their students and where to go online to find more information regarding the core curriculum.

Dale Roberts, Director, Information Systems, presented online data that could be made available to teachers for a complete reference to all testing and grades for their individual students. This information could be of benefit to educators and shared with parents easily. Parents could also access this information through the student portal.

Dr. Bates asked the Board to consider if this idea differs from past parent/teacher conferences and did it open communication with the parents.

The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding the effectiveness of this tentative template. There was concern that the online information used inconsistent terms that were too technical for parents to understand. The time it took to share the information and discuss methods of helping students with each parent was prohibitive for a secondary conference five minute time allotment. Mr. Bawden stated caution needed to be taken in assigning more to the teachers that are already overwhelmed with what has been asked of them. Sensitivity to the many cultures and languages needed careful consideration too. Parents who work and have time restraints should also be factored in.

## 2. Mill Hollow

Dr. Bates explained the issues Granite was facing in keeping the Mill Hollow program operational. The property is in need of costly repairs and since the Mill Hollow Recreation levy is no longer earmarked for the program the costs of operation and repairs, \$350,000 to \$400,000, would need to be subsidized from the Maintenance and Operational (M&O) funds. He introduced Rick Anthony, Director, Adult and Community Education, who was the administrator for Mill Hollow. Mr. Anthony presented information on the costs of maintaining the program.

Mill Hollow is open Monday to Friday for the months of June through August for Granite students. The students are rotated twice a week, Monday to Wednesday and Wednesday to Friday. The staff consists of a coordinator, three managers, six cabin counselors, and three kitchen workers. Teachers from the participating school are paid an hourly rate to take students in the day for instructions and cabin counselors take them in the afternoon, evenings and night.

The ratio is 1 teacher/counselor to 20 students. The facility is rented out on weekends and a yurt on the property is rented weekends year round. 3,500 students were served in 2012-2013. The tuition was \$65.00 and fee waivers did apply.

The total tuition revenue for the past year was \$234,116, rental revenue \$27,823, Misc. Revenue \$34,247 (donations, vending, and store) totaling \$296,186. The total operating costs were \$665,872. The District subsidized \$370,000. Tuition costs to be self sustaining would be approximately \$242 (370% increase). The tuition would vary year to year when considering enrollment and fee waivers.

Additional challenges facing Mill Hollow include becoming ADA compliant and facility upgrades. A new 100,000 gallon water tank and a replacement generator are needed.

The Board discussed the possibilities of leasing, closing, or selling the property because of the costs to the District to keep it open. It was recommended that studies be conducted to include the costs and long range goals of the facility, safety and security, and look at the educational/purpose of the program and how it aligns with the Board goals. (Exhibit #14-21)

**Motion:**            **I move we adjourn.**

Made by:            Dan Lofgren

Seconded by:      Connie Anderson

Called for vote:    President Gandy

Results:            Motion Passed Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.