

DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Granite Education Center

Auditorium A

September 25, 2012

6:30 p.m.

I. Welcome

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

RaAnn Foote	Cottonwood Network
Jolene Winder	Cyprus Network
Linda Zenger	Olympus Network
Dawn Warner	Region V PTA
Julian Warton	Skyline Network
Mark Vincent	Skyline Network
Leisl Leystra	Taylorsville Network
Aimee Newton	Taylorsville Network

Gayleen Gandy	Board of Education, President
Terry Bawden	Board of Education, Vice President
Connie Anderson	Board of Education, Board Member
Dr. Martin Bates	Superintendent
David Garrett	Business Administrator/Treasurer
Mike Fraser	Assistant Superintendent
David Gourley	Assistant Superintendent
Jim Henderson	Assistant Superintendent
Linda Mariotti	Assistant Superintendent
Ben Horsley	Director, Communications
Merilynn Boekweg	Board Recorder

At the request of Superintendent Bates, Mr. Horsley reviewed the DCC election policy (Article II.P., Granite School District Community Council). The elections previously held prior to the end of school have been moved to the fall. Nominations come from newly seated School Community Councils (SCC) and they will elect the representatives to serve on the DCC from their network.

II. SCC Law Changes

Mr. Horsley explained SCC 2012 legislative revisions. The revised policy can be found on the District's web page, Article VIII.A.23, School Community Councils. The revisions include:

- Exemption from requirements of Open and Public Meeting Act – Meetings no longer need to be recorded.

- Elections must be held in the fall commencing within the first 30 calendar days of the school year.
- Council makeup must consist of at least two more patron members than employee members.
- School employees may now serve as patron members at the school their child attends as long as they are not employed at that school.
- Rosters and meeting schedules must be sent home within the first 6 weeks of the school year.
- Written minutes must be retained for 3 years and posted on school websites.
- Must adopt rules of order and procedure to govern meetings.
- All community reporting is eliminated with the exception of a summary annual report on how LAND Trust Program funds were used by November 15 of each year.
- Responsibility of training council members falls on council chair.

The training schedule for SCC members was provided. (Exhibit # DCC13-1)

III. Telling Our Story

Mr. Horsley referred to the Board of Education Goals, improving student achievement and improving community engagement, when introducing an overview of the Communication Department's objectives. He explained what traditional tools they use to communicate. The department provides online Connections, a newsletter for employees, and Pathways, a newsletter for the public. They use direct mail, regular e-mail updates and a district-wide phone system. All of these methods are good, but there is concern that not everyone is being contacted.

Social media has become an effective tool of communication with a large portion of the students, teachers, and community. Mr. Horsley explained the social media options Granite has chosen to use; Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. He explained how they are using these sites to promote Granite and its students. The feedback he has received has been mostly positive. Social media is fast and efficient way to send information to users that otherwise do not communicate with the schools. He emphasized that these social media devices do not replace standard communication tools but it does enhance them.

The Communications Department focuses on improving customer service. Trainings for district employees on customer service, annual Superintendent school visits, and annual town hall meetings have been well received by employees and the community. An organized web presence by the schools and the district is being prepared for rollout in the near future.
(Exhibit #DCC 13-2)

IV. Member Sharing of Successes and Concerns

Mrs. Warner asked when math books will be coming. She had heard they were at the publisher. Ms. Mariotti explained that Granite will not have math books in the physical sense. Elementary students will now be using the online textbook program, "Go Math". She explained how it worked and that the new math "Common Core" will be taught. Parents should watch for notes telling them how to access the program online to help their children. Junior high students are also using an online math program.

Mr. Warton expressed concern that students having textbooks on line will not be challenged to be vigilant in their study habits. He questioned if the students will stay on task with only online resources or will they wander into places they should not be. Mrs. Anderson stated parents and teachers need to teach students to be on task and vigilance in a protected and sheltered way.

Field Rentals at Granite schools was a topic of discussion. Equality in field availability is currently being studied.

Background checks for volunteers were discussed. Dr. Bates reemphasized that only volunteers with significant and unsupervised contact with students need background checks which are done at a cost of \$45.

The new elementary STEM school has broken ground. The facility is being built to house 750 students of which 350 will attend by boundary assignment. The remaining enrollment will be by special permit. Mrs. Mariotti explained the curriculum and how it will differ from traditional schools.

Back to school nights are optional for schools. In the past when professional development days were available they were held. With fewer professional development days schools have elected not to participate.

The DCC expressed concern about the number of students that are going to charter schools. The administration asked that they share any information about why parents are moving students to charter schools. Their input would be very helpful.

Mrs. Foote said that there were teachers trying to use the new online programs in class and they did not have the proper equipment. Mrs. Mariotti explained that the principals are monitoring the equipment needs. The equipment needs are being filled as they become apparent.

A request was made for SCC rosters with email contact information for this new year. Mr. Horsley will see that it is made available to committee members as the new information becomes available.

V. 2012-2013 DCC Meeting Schedule

A new meeting schedule was given to each council member and one was emailed to them.

VI. Next Meeting October 30, 2012

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.