

Administrator reports

Assistant Superintendent Linda Mariotti discussed expanded programs for the 2008-09 school year at the Granite Technical Institute. An aviation program, including a flight simulator experience, will now be offered at the GTI.

The cosmetology program will add manicure, pedicure, and skin care programs and will move to a building on the Granite Education Center campus. A new classroom and greenhouse will be constructed for the Wheeler Farm animal science and horticulture program. The homebuilding/construction program will add a summer session. Students will also participate in remodeling projects in some schools and constructing relocatable classrooms.

Director of Educational Equity Charlene Lui and Associate Director David Gomez discussed family literacy and partnership involvement designed to enhance student academic achievement. The district is using grant money and partnerships to operate family literacy centers at Monroe, Woodrow Wilson, and James E. Moss Elementary Schools. The services will help parents of English Language Learners to develop language skills so they can assist their children.

The partnership programs are currently offered at Beehive and Vista Elementary Schools, Kearns Junior High School, and Granger High School. This partnership provides technology classes to help parents develop basic skills as well as establish learning environments that help both parents and students. Both programs will be expanded as resources are available.

Formative assessment data supports teachers

Progress monitoring data, such as that generated by the Yearly Progress Pro system, is proving to be an effective tool to help teachers target their instruction. The YPP program for assessing student understanding of math and language arts concepts is aligned with the state core curriculum. A second tool is the Acuity program, which is an on-line format for the Quarterly Math Benchmark assessments, written by Granite District math specialists.

Karen Sterling, YPP/Acuity administrator, and Danece Mangone, student assessment specialist, reviewed a variety of ways that the ongoing formative assessments are benefiting learning. As teachers receive professional development in using the programs, they are finding the tools invaluable. They can look closely at the needs of entire classrooms as well as individual student needs. The computerized testing takes only a small slice of instructional time, and the data that is generated is easy for teachers to use.

No more 'early out' Wednesdays

The board approved a recommendation from the district calendar committee, based on a district wide survey of parents and staff, that the six Wednesday "early outs" in elementary schools be discontinued. Elementary schools will be asked to make a site based decision related to providing structured collaboration time. Additionally, the board added 10 minutes to teachers' weekly planning time. Both of these changes take effect at the beginning of the 2008-09 school year.

The committee also recommended that elementary schools remain on the trimester system. Parent and staff surveys also voiced a preference for the school year to begin in late August, end in early June, and include fall, winter, and spring recesses.

Board to review LAND Trust Plans

Karen Sterling reviewed the online process that board members will use to review the LAND Trust Plans from their precincts. Ms. Sterling said the district can expect to receive just over \$3 million in state LAND Trust funds for the 2008-09 school year. The law requires that LAND Trust Plans, which are a subset of School Student Achievement Plans, address the school's most critical academic needs. School Community Councils are responsible to write the plans and allocate the LAND Trust funds.

The plans are to receive final approval at the May 13 board meeting.

Recognition

The board acknowledged the accomplishments of the Eisenhower Junior High School Academic Games team. Eisenhower advanced to the National Academic League final four after finishing the regular season as the district runner-up. Eisenhower's "creative team" took first place among the 16 district teams, and the team captain tied for the top scorer in the district.

Administrative appointments and transfers

The following appointments and transfers are effective July 1.

Appointments

Name	New assignment	Current assignment
Dave Holt	Principal, Valley Junior High	Assistant principal, Bennion Junior High
Carol Carroll	Assistant principal, Kennedy Junior High	Assistant principal, Granger/Stansbury Elementary
Rosselis Cabanillas	Assistant principal, Granger/Stansbury	Intern assistant principal, Granger Network

Transfers

Howard Sagers	Principal, Olympus Junior High	Principal, Kennedy Junior High
Bill Kenley	Principal, Kennedy Junior High	Principal, Valley Junior High
Merla Bybee	Assistant Principal, Bennion Junior High	Assistant principal, Kennedy Junior High

Foreign exchange list

The following agencies have been examined and approved for placing foreign exchange students in the district: American Institute for Foreign Studies; Amicus International Student Exchange; ASPECT; Counsel for Educational Travel, USA; NACEL Open Door; PAX, Program for Academic Exchange; Rotary Youth Exchange.

Purchase, contracts

- Calculators for Teaching and Learning endorsement classes from Valley Business Machines, \$35,742 from general fund
- Flight simulator for Granite Technical Institute from Precision Flight Controls, Inc., \$74,500 from capital outlay budget
- Door hardware for Wasatch Junior High School from Intermountain Lock, \$92,844 from capital outlay budget
- Playground landscaping and irrigation work at Copper Hills Elementary School by Odyssey Landscape, \$129,694 from capital outlay budget
- Construction of an addition to Granite Peaks High School by Bud Mahas, \$4,330,000 from capital outlay budget
- Roofing and seismic upgrade at Mill Creek Elementary School by Contract West Roofing, \$474,100 from capital outlay budget