

Community Council Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2009

In Attendance:

- Principal: John Welburn
- School Employees: Jerry Schaffer, Warren Child
- Parents/Guardians: Trish Hull, Sandy Lancaster, Greg Henson, Kim Thompson, Tracy Atkinson, Lu Penfold

I. Presentation of Granite School District's video regarding the bond election.

- a. Link to video can be found at www.graniteschools.org
- b. The November 3rd ballot will include a bond election for \$256 that will be used for capital improvements, including the installation of air conditioning in 51 schools (including Cyprus High School) and the building or rebuilding of several schools within the district, including a new elementary in the Magna area.
- c. Granite School District has been using a "Pay-as-you-go" policy since 1996, with an annual budget of \$17 million for capital improvements.
- d. The School Board is committed to repay this bond by using the existing \$17 million annual budget, without increasing taxes.
- e. The Board believes the economy presents a unique window of opportunity, taking advantage of low interest and competitive bids.
- f. By statute, the language on the ballot must include reference to a tax increase associated with the bond. It is important that voters be informed of the District's proposal and strategy.
- g. If approved, the bond could help the local economy with the work opportunities.

II. Council Business

- a. The board nominated and approved Warren Child as the 2009-2010 Community Council Chair and Lu Penfold as the Vice-Chair. Sandy Lancaster volunteered to record the minutes.
- b. Community Council meetings will be held the 3rd Monday of each month at 2:30 in the media center, with the exception of December and May. All meetings are open to the public.

III. Council Discussion

- a. The Council's role is to:
 - i. Develop a School Improvement Plan (SIP), including a School LAND Trust Plan, and participate in the development of the Professional Development Plan.
 1. Review school testing data
 2. Determine the school's most critical academic needs
 3. Recommend a course of action
- b. There are no Quality Teaching/Student Achievement (QTSA) funds this year.
- c. Test results are not the only measurement of success or failure, so as we develop the SIP, it is important for the council to assess other data, such as graduation rates, student attendance, student grades, and student involvement.
- d. Graduation rates have been improving, even though the Senior Class has remained nearly the same. 2007 was about 260; 2008 was about 290; 2009 was about 320.

- e. The CRT test is used to determine Annual Yearly Progress (AYP). It is a huge investment in time and effort on the part of the school, and is a primary measurement of school success under No Child Left Behind. However, the CRT test has no inherent value to the student. The test scores are not part of the grades, nor are they used for college placement. This may lead to scores that don't accurately reflect student comprehension and ability. Students may be tempted to stay out of school on CRT test day, which requires more time and effort to track these students down and arrange for the test. Parents need to encourage students to take the test seriously. Teachers are restricted from offering a perceived reward related to the test. For instance, food can be offered prior to the test, but not after the test.
- f. New policies/programs for 2009-2010 include:
 - i. Professional Learning Communities (PLC) have been implemented this year and meet on late-start Mondays.
 - 1. One of the objectives of the PLC is to analyze existing benchmarks, develop new benchmarks as needed, and create an environment of collaboration. For instance, if all math teachers are teaching the same concept at the same time and test results vary between classes or vary from established benchmarks, the instructors have the opportunity to compare teaching techniques, classroom environment, etc. and make adjustments on a quarterly basis. This is more effective than waiting for year-end test results and helps the instructors better prepare the students for CRT testing.
 - 2. The PLCs incorporate accreditation focus groups to assist with the high school accreditation process, which must be completed this year. Parents are needed for these focus groups. The accreditation site team will meet with parents and the Community Council. The SIP should go hand-in-hand with the accreditation mission.
 - ii. Students cannot enroll in Driver's Education if they are off track in core classes.
 - 1. This resulted in a significant increase in summer school enrollment
 - iii. Tier II and Tier III reading classes, which incorporate strategies to increase vocabulary comprehension
 - iv. The Media Center continues to promote improvement in literacy
 - 1. This year the "Read & Feed" program has increased library check-out rates by offering coupons from local businesses when designated books are checked out. The next phase will be the "Review & Chew" program, where students who complete a review on designated books receive a candy bar. Donations fund these programs and sponsorships are greatly appreciated.
 - 2. The Media Center environment is very welcoming to students and teachers and improvements continue to be made.
 - 3. Teachers are also reading more and talking about the books they are reading.
 - 4. The number of books checked out in the entire 2008-2009 year was 1367. The number of books checked out by September 2008 was 600. Year-to-date this year, the number of books checked out is about 1700.