

Granite School District

Board of Education Meeting

August 7, 2014

A board meeting for Granite School District was held in the board room at the Granite School District offices, 2500 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah. President Gayleen Gandy convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance for this session. A roll call of board members was taken.

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

Joining by phone:

Connie Burgess	Board Member
Sarah Meier	Board Member

The following members of the administration were present:

Martin W. Bates	Superintendent
David F. Garrett	Business Administrator/Treasurer
Don Adams	Assistant Superintendent
Mike Fraser	Assistant Superintendent
Linda Mariotti	Assistant Superintendent
John Welburn	Assistant Superintendent

Superintendent Bates introduced others representing organizations, they were:

Susen Zobel	GEA
Teresa Himmelberger	GAEOP
Elaine Wright	
Karen Bowden	
Tracy Atkin	GESPA

The Superintendent recognized the attendance of Scout Troops 495 and 435.

Candidates for the Board of Education were acknowledged:

Terry Bawden	Precinct V
Connie Burgess	Precinct III

Gayleen Gandy
Karyn Winder

Precinct VII
Precinct VI

Ben Horsley, Director, Communications Department, and Merilynn Boekweg, Board Recorder, were in attendance.

Media: None

Pledge of Allegiance: Joey Howell, Troop 495

Truth In Taxation Hearing

Mitch Robison, Director, Budget Development, presented the steps that had been followed in the budgeting process. On June 1, 2014 the proposed fiscal year (FY) 2014-15 budget was made available to the public through the district web site. June 17 a Budget Hearing was held where the tentative budget was approved and the tax rate was set. Newspaper advertisements were published and Salt Lake County mailed property tax notices (www.propertytax.slco.org) and the Truth in Taxation Hearing was scheduled.

Estimated revenue (unrestricted) for FY 15 totaled \$6,452,222. Required estimated spending increases (-\$3,877,777) and step increases (-\$3,313,627) were reviewed.

Granite's tax rate adjustment for FY 15 would fund mandated charter school local replacement (\$739,182) and negotiated investment in teacher professional development (\$2,719,894). The proposed tax would be set at 0.006831. This rate is below the state average and comparative to other Wasatch front school districts.

Property tax notices mailed by the Salt Lake County Auditor's office were reviewed. Granite personnel were available for interested parties with instructions and forms on how appeal their individual notices. It was suggested individuals could contact Salt Lake County (slco.org/propertytax/) for more information. The deadline for this appeal is September 15, 2014. (Exhibit #15-1)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Jay Blain, 2815 West Berwick Place, West Valley City, 84119, stated the legislative cuts, particularly in 2007, have impacted school districts in Utah. Numbers show that even with some new funding in the past two years Granite is behind 5.6% from where they were prior to 2007.

Granite took deep cuts in many areas to meet class sizes. Quality teacher block grants were eliminated which took 5.5 professional development days from teachers resulting in a pay reduction. He believes it is worth the investment and the raising of the tax rate to improve teacher quality. He is in favor of the tax increase

Carol Ferguson, 3657 Summer Time Place, West Valley City, 84120, is a retired teacher living on fixed income. She has a home that has been valued at 60% more this year. She does not have children at home and has always paid her taxes. She feels it is an obligation to educate children and is willing to continue that commitment. She is in favor of the tax increase.

Michael McDonough, 3169 Kaibab Way, Salt Lake City, 84109, is a tax payer and teacher. With the increase his taxes will only be \$7 more this year than last year. He agrees it is worth the investment. Teacher training is important and necessary to keep quality teachers. He strongly supports the proposal.

Susen Zobel, 6122 Wakefield Way, Kearns, 84118, thanked the Board for doing this. She sits on the teacher's negotiation committee. Teachers need to be prepared. Funding to train them has to come from somewhere. She thanked the board for adding professional development days back on the calendar and encouraged the Board to vote to approve the proposed tax increase.

Board Discussion

President Gandy stated even with the valuation of her home going up she felt the increase was very modest considering the value the District can get from it.

Mr. Bawden explained that the Board was sensitive about the raising of taxes and the affect it has on individuals. However, to invest in the children and the teachers is important and makes it very easy to say yes. He stated that after much discussion the Board agreed it was necessary. He requested a report be given to the Board relating how the tax increases were spent. Superintendent Bates agreed and stated a report later in the school year would be given on how the monies from the tax increase had been used.

Ms. Jolley commented that everyone should take note of how much the public is paying for, in her opinion, bad legislation. She asked everyone to help put a new face in the legislature that would be in favor of helping schools. Individuals can make a difference. Reluctantly the Board finds it necessary to raise taxes.

Mr. Lofgren said that increasing taxes is a sobering move and it is a responsibility the Board does not take lightly. The focus should be on the most important thing to do for the students and to help teachers in the classroom. He emphasized that this money is earmarked for teachers.

Mrs. Anderson agreed with her colleagues. The Board loves the kids in this district and is concerned with their futures. She appreciates the goodness of those that work with them.

Mrs. Burgess is supportive of the teachers and asked the Board to continue to support them for this coming year.

Mrs. Meier agreed with all that had been said and she was very supportive of the increase for the teachers.

Motion: I move we adopt the 2014-15 budget as presented and set the tax rate at 0.006831.

Made by: Terry Bawden

Seconded by: Julene Jolley

Called for vote: President Gandy

Results: Carried Unanimously

CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes: July 1, 2014

Purchases:

1. White Multi-Purpose Copy Paper for Warehouse Stock, Costco - \$65,512.00
2. Two Dodge Chargers for Granite Police Department, Salt Lake Valley Dodge - \$53,077.16
3. Credit Card Transaction Fees for School Lunch Program, PAMS Lunchroom - \$90,000.00
4. School Lunch Software, PCS Revenue - \$126,070.00
5. Science Electronic Textbook Adoption, Mountain States Book Depository (\$607,065.07) and Pearson (\$49,000.00) - \$656,065.07
6. VAV Box Replacement at Cyprus High, KHI Mechanical - \$689,222.00

Award of Contracts

1. IT Programming Services, TEK Systems - \$200,000.00
2. Food Service Remodels at 22 Schools, Wasatch West Contracting (\$128,018.00), Bailey Builders (\$69,880.00), and Copper Valley Construction (\$21,623.00) - \$219,521.00

Change Order

Olympus High School Ball Fields Modification, \$51,423.00

Personnel:

1. Leaves of Absence
2. Employee Hires and Separations

Financial Reports

1. Purchase Order Summaries
2014 Fiscal Year - \$333,033.78
2015 Fiscal Year – \$11,093,359.00
2. Accounts Payable Pay Vouchers - \$38,984,700.09
3. Principals Cash Report –May & June 2014
4. Monthly Budget Report – June 2014

Motion: **I move that we accept the Consent Agenda**

Made by: Julene Jolley

Seconded by: Connie Anderson

Called for vote: President Gandy

Results: Carried Unanimously

ACTION ITEMS

School Community Council Policy (Article VIII.A.23)

Mr. Horsley presented the School Community Council Policy for a second reading. The reason for changes to this policy was to bring it into compliance with state law. There had been no inquiries or changes to the policy since it was originally presented in the June 15 board meeting.

Motion: **I move we approve the School Community Council Policy as a second reading.**

Made by: Dan Lofgren
Seconded by: Connie Anderson

Called for vote: President Gandy
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

REPORTS

Superintendent Bates announced the updated district website would be functioning on August 13. A new logo had been designed for Granite. (Exhibit #15-2) He also reminded the Board of the Utah School Boards Association (USBA) pre-delegate and delegate assemblies that would be held on August 8 and 9. The Board discussed who would be attending.

Mrs. Anderson thanked the administration for the excellent first of the year administrative meeting that was held at Granger High on August 6.

Mr. Meier had noticed some of the teachers were already at their schools preparing their rooms. She wanted to acknowledge them and let them know they were appreciated.

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 6:45 p.m.