

GRANADA HILLS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Meeting of the Governing Board

October 13, 2014 4:00 PM Library

Minutes

In Attendance:

Brian Bauer, Executive Director (non-voting)
Sonja Brown, Parent
Marty Eisen, Teacher
Norm Holloway, Teacher
Ken Horwitz, Retired Teacher

Joan Lewis, Administrator
Brian Mancini, Classified
Jim Salin, At Large Member (Chair)
Leila Vickers, At Large Member
Thomas Han, Student Liaison (non-voting)

Absent: Jesus Vaca, At Large Member

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. Norm Holloway led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Updates/Reports to the Board

Student Council – Thomas Han, ASB President

Mr. Han provided the following updates:

- Spirit week runs from October 13 to 17 leading up to the Homecoming football game and dance on October 17 and 18
- ASB will be hosting a MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity) drive in November to address poverty in the surrounding community
- The “Think Tank” committee will be brainstorming new ideas to implement changes for the student body and present them to the Student Services Committee

School Site Council – Judie Baumwirt, Administrative Director

Judie Baumwirt provided copies of the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) and made a presentation to Board Members serving in the capacity of the GHCHS School Site Council. The Plan, based upon school and state generated performance data, was developed in collaboration with the Leadership Team, ELAC Committee and Parent Advisory/Title I Committee and presented for input and approval. The SPSA was approved and signed by parent representatives at the following meetings: ELAC meeting – October 2, Parent Advisory/Title I Committee meeting – October 9.

Highlights of the 2014-15 SPSA show the merging of the goals of our LEA Plan, WASC and Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) to provide a more uniform direction for the school and allocation of funding as a more closely related one-year snapshot of the three-year LCAP. The SPSA focuses on planned improvement in student performance through four established goals:

- 1) Student Performance: All students, including significant student subgroups, will meet or exceed targets for growth on Statewide assessments in English Learning Arts/Literacy and Mathematics.
- 2) Academic Support of EL and RFEP Students: All EL students will gain academic content knowledge through the state-adopted academic content and performance standards and EL and RFEP students will perform at grade level on statewide assessments. Specific support will be given to increase the Reclassification Rate and English Language Proficiency of all EL and RFEP Students.
- 3) College and Career Readiness: All students, including significant student subgroups, are on track to be college and career ready and graduate with completion of A-G courses with a C or better.
- 4) Parent Engagement: Expand and strengthen existing opportunities and create engagement models for parent and community involvement in comprehensive student support; including academic engagement, social, emotional, and academic intervention, enrichment activities, and college/career awareness.

Discussion/Action Item #1 –Ken Horwitz made a motion to approve the Single Plan for Student Achievement. Joan Lewis seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

The approved SPSA will be posted on the school website under “About Us” and be revisited in the spring for update. The next School Site Council Meeting will be sometime in the spring semester. This portion of the meeting concluded at 3:50 p.m.

Curriculum and Instruction – Elisa Ragus, Chair

- **Discussion/Action Item #2** – Approval of a recommendation to change the Summer Transition Academy (STA) from two, two-week sessions (as we have offered for the past two years) to one, three-week session beginning after the July 4 holiday starting in 2015 forward. Among other benefits, bringing the incoming ninth graders on board after July 1 will eliminate problems related to student information not being available until the new academic year begins. **Marty Eisen made a motion to approve. Brian Mancini seconded the motion Unanimously approved.**
- The committee is also discussing a proposal to move geometry back to its traditional place in the math sequence after Algebra 1 and before Algebra 2. Discussions are taking place with our feeder middle schools about the math programs they will be implementing in accordance with common core standards.

Self-Study Update: Mid-term Accreditation Review – Elisa Ragus, Self-Study Coordinator

GHCHS will host a visiting team from WASC on November 13, 2014 for a mid-cycle progress report as part of our six-year accreditation status awarded in 2012. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges is the largest accrediting commission in the United States. The goal of accreditation is to validate the instructional and curricular programs, as well as school-site and community-based support-services of California high schools.

During the 2011-12 academic year, GHCHS conducted a full self-study involving all stakeholders in an eighteen month process of close examination, reflection and analysis of our entire educational program. Mid-way through a six-year cycle, we prepare a written progress report to update the community on our successes and on-going challenges.

During the preparation for writing this progress report, the staff have reexamined our Action Plan and reflected on the implementation of school-wide goals for student success. Because of our common vision and strong culture of high expectations, not only for ourselves, but also for our students, GHCHS is a model example of the WASC process – on-going examination of what, how and why students learn – and dedication to continued refinement and improvement.

The progress report addresses each step of our action plan and includes updates of program improvements or additions, refinements of goals from 2012 and an examination of current student performance data. Where appropriate, goals may have been modified in response to changing factors of demographics, funding, curriculum objectives, or student needs.

Our self-study report is a living document, aligned with our Single Plan for Student Achievement and Local Control Accountability Plan that sets clear goals for allocations of time, talent and funding to provide the highest quality educational experience for all students in preparing them to be college and career ready for the 21st century.

Operations – Maggie Abbott, Chair

The committee held elections and approved two extended lunch schedules. Future discussions will be centered around campus clean-up, the 2016-17 academic calendar, professional learning day schedules, and the L building walkway.

Student Services – Pam Dunn, Chair

The committee held elections and is working on goals for 2014-15. At the next meeting they will discuss the Student Wellness Policy that supports student wellness through health education, physical education and activity, health services, nutrition services, and services that promote the overall health of students.

Chief Business Officer’s Report – Walter Wallace

- August 2014 Monthly Financial Report – We have received our first two regular monthly apportionment payments for July and August, as expected; this represents about 18 percent of the advance payments. This is in addition to the regular July and August monthly payments from the District for special education and property tax funding. Thanks to continued timely apportionment payments from the state our operating cash position remains strong and we expect that to continue throughout the school year.
- Proposed Budget for Common Core State Standards Implementation Funds – Last year, GHCHS received \$848,866 in Common Core State Standards Implementation funds. As a condition of receiving these funds we must develop and adopt a plan delineating how these funds shall be spent, and report detailed expenditure information to the California Department of Education. With much of the focus on professional development over

the past several years already on Common Core, we have been hard at work even before funding arrived. Specific instructional materials aligned to the Common Core and California Instructional Standards is slowly becoming valuable. Great effort by all of our teachers has been made in using our current instructional materials to meet these standards. However, like many schools our greatest need has been in technology support of instruction and assessment. The following budget is presented to reflect anticipated spending of the Common Core Funds:

\$525,000 – Technology Based instruction and assessment

\$298,866 – Common Core aligned instructional materials

\$25,000 – Professional Development aligned to academic standards

The purpose of this report is to inform the Governing Board and the public at a regular meeting how the funds allocated for Common Core implementation shall be spent. At the November 3 regular meeting the Governing Board will have the opportunity to adopt this spending plan. Updates will be provided throughout the year and, as required by the statues, a final report of expenditures will be presented next spring before it is filed with the state.

Discussion/Action Item #3 -Karla Diamond brought forth the request to approve the Certification of Signatures effective immediately and through the end of 2015 of those authorized to sign orders for notices of employment, contracts and salary or commercial payments drawn on the funds of the School. If any of the authorized signers are unable to do so, the law requires the signatures of the majority of the Governing Board. The authorized signers for 2015 will be Brian Bauer, Eugene Straub, Dilmit Singh, Jennifer Eustice and Karla Diamond.

Norm Holloway made a motion to approve the 2015 Certification of Signatures. Jim Salin seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report – Brian Bauer

Discussion Item #4 - Board chair Jim Salin and Mr. Bauer reported that given recent conversations with the LAUSD and the Board's legal counsel concerning the IRS challenges to STRS and PERS eligibility for charter school employees and inherent conflict of interest concerns when employees or interested parties sit on the Board, the members need to consider whether GHCHS employees will continue on the Governing Board. In anticipation of this change to the composition of the Board, our current charter petition and the GHCHS Governing Board bylaws allow for the change without the need for an LAUSD-approved material amendment to our charter petition. Fortunately, we are prepared for this transition since the Board formed an ad hoc Screening Committee several years ago to screen and forward eligible and suitable at-large, parent, and retired teacher members to the GHCHS Governing Board for its consideration and approval. That same screening committee will review and recommend candidates for the same non-interested groups that comprise the Board. With the removal of employee members recommended by the school's legal counsel for January 2015, Board chair Salin will work with our legal counsel and Board members to develop a proposal for the November Board meeting.

Ken Horwitz made a motion to approve the 8/25/2014 and 9/8/2014 Board meeting minutes. Leila Vickers seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 5:20 p.m.

Meeting reopened to the public at 5:30 p.m. Chair Salin reported the Board discussed UTLA negotiations but took no action.

Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.