

Olympus Junior High Community Council Minutes

December 9, 2016

12:45 p.m.

Olympus Jr. Main Office Conference Room

The purpose of this meeting was to have a Granite School District representative share with the Community Council at Oly Jr. why they are requesting Oly Jr. to make a schedule change for the school year 2017-2018. They want to share with us their overall vision for the scheduling challenges that they are facing district wide. Their proposal is to have all junior highs in the district on one of two different types of schedules.

In attendance: Doug Wagstaff, Julie Jackson, Katie Graham, Sally Timmins, Heather Johnsen, Tina Seastrand, Susan Hollberg, Robert Brough, & John Wellburn, Granite School District representative.

Introduction of those in attendance at the meeting with John Wellburn who works at the GSD John is over school accountability and operations. He also oversees the directors that are over the school principals.

John Wellburn: He shared a history of the school schedules and why there is a request for a change. Currently, in the GSD there are 8 traditional high schools that are all on the 4x4 block schedule. Having one type of schedule is a more workable arrangement with regards to the GTI classes and transportation of students with the buses. It also aides in staffing and human resource concerns. Teachers are better able to job share and work at more than one school if needed. There are 63 elementary schools in the district. They all have the same type of schedule. They are divided into three groups that each have the same stop and start time. This accommodates the many bus needs with the students. Fifteen out of the sixteen junior high schools in the district presently have 6 different school schedules. By reducing the number of schedules to two, it would considerably help with teacher staffing and job sharing. Good math, science and Special Ed teachers are difficult to hire at present. A more unified scheduling system could possibly help with this situation. Part time employees could job share in these subject areas. It would also help with the sharing of IT specialists and other roving employees. Currently there are 26% provisional teachers and 33% provisional administrators in the district. Provisional teachers are those that have worked for 3 years or less in their present position. Because of having such a large district with so many provisional teachers and administrators having a more streamline schedule system would help to facilitate better unity and cohesiveness. Recently John met with all of the junior high principals to discuss this situation.

All of the principals were asked which two schedules they liked the best and they voted for the 5x5 block and the regular 7 period schedule.

Presently, Olympus Junior High is on a modified 7 period block schedule. This was approved by last year's Granite School Board. Our schedule does not provide a consultation period on Thursdays and Fridays which is in violation of the GEA Professional Agreement. This could be a problem with the Granite Education Association. Olympus Junior needs to remedy this situation. The GSD also does not agree with the paying of Para educators to substitute in the classrooms. This was a part of the original School Land trust plan of hiring substitutes so that teachers could collaborate and work together on their Enrichment time activities. It was also a time for teachers to visit other schools and see how other Enrichment activities were being taught. The need for an advisory period is an important element for a schools accreditation scoring. The GSD tries to be flexible and give each school their own autonomy in deciding how to plan for and execute their advisory time. Olympus Junior thought we were doing that with our newly formed schedule last year. Chrome Books are being used in other schools for Enrichment time. While the Olympus Junior teachers and community council appreciate the use of Chrome Books, the Enrichment time was meant for a bigger and more hands-on/in-depth activity than just the use of technology.

Katie Graham: Katie shared our present 7 period modified schedule with the council and John Wellburn and what the vision we had intended from last year for Olympus Junior High this year. Last year, fall of 2015, the Community Council was told that we would not be able to have a 7 period schedule for the following school year. Four of our current Community Council members sat on that council and were a part of that meeting. We were told that due to our drop in test scores we were being required to include an advisory/remediation time for students who were struggling. This was something that was being mandated by the district. We were told we could adopt a 5x5 block or come up with our own schedule. After research to the 5x5 block, our council and teachers were not in favor of the type of schedule. We began looking for another type of schedule that would be best for our students and faculty. After much effort we found a model at Copper Mountain Middle School in the Jordan School District that we liked. With some modification we adapted this schedule to fit the needs of our school and community. This schedule was approved by the Granite District Board last spring. It has been a great frustration to our council that our school has not spent School LAND Trust money to facilitate our plans from last spring. The Olympus Jr. High Community Council has a great interest in the betterment of our school and to create an environment of unity and harmony with the teachers and administration. It has been our intent to create a schedule that would not only meet the needs of those that are struggling but also to meet the needs of advanced students and for peer leadership opportunities. We feel the schedule we have come up with

meets those requirements. With some tweaking and creative planning we feel we could come up with ways to satisfy the consultation and Para educator problem.

Julie Jackson suggested that we should have an Advisory Committee formed to figure out a schedule that might work with the district mandates. She also thought that maybe we could pay teachers to sit on this committee which would be in charge of working out the kinks. The idea was that the committee would consist of teachers, students of all grades and academic abilities, an administrator and a community council member.

Our next meeting will be Thursday December 15 at 3:15.