

THE INFO NEWSLETTER

GRANITE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

For the latest Information go to our website: www.graniteclassified.com



Working hard for all classified employees

The publication of Granite Educational Support Professionals Association Newsletter is made available as a service to our Members. It is not an official site of Granite School District, nor does it represent the opinion of GSD and/or its School Board or Administration. Any concerns should be sent in written form to GESPA Executive Board
864 East Arrowhead Lane
Murray, Utah 84107.

2009 Delegates

Conference

The 2009 USEA delegates conference was held this year in St. George, the conference was held on Friday May first and Saturday May second. Granite had 7 delegates and 4 alternates attend. A resolution was passed that will create a committee with USEA board members, a representative for small districts, a representative for medium districts and a representative for large districts; this committee will meet to discuss and work on restructuring the dues so that it is easier for new and potential members to understand. The committee faces huge challenges with some districts taking dues weekly and some monthly; USEA dues are monthly and NEA is annually.

Membership

There are many perks of membership, the main one is you should view it as an insurance policy; You can not call the car insurance company the day after you wreck your car and ask to pay a months premium so that you will be covered.

Our membership is the same as an insurance policy, hopefully you will never have to use it, but it is nice to know that you have the policy. By being a member you have the local, state and national backing in litigation, by being a member you have access to thousands of discounts through NEA, by being a member you can take advantage of the free life insurance, dental and optical. By being a member your voice is heard!

IMPORTANT

If you have a change of address, phone, job location, etc. please contact USEA with your new information. Recently we have had several members not receive association materials. You can contact

USEA at: 801-269-9320

Membership cont:

In numbers we are more powerful, help us bring our numbers up, talk about the association to all of your co-workers, refer them to our website www.graniteclassified.com and USEA's website www.useautah.org and NEA's website www.nea.org
Thanks to all the members for all you do!

Elections for Vice President and department president elects Pg.2

GESPA

PRESIDENCY

Boyd Kimber, President
Doyle Herndon, Vice President
Tracy Atkin, Secretary/
Treasurer
Doug Woolsey,
Webmaster

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jackie Van Etten, Custodial
Koralynn Drake, Custodial
Jerry Norton, Police Electronics
Brian Mann, Warehouse
Sue De La Cruz, Food Service
Jo Ann Palmer, Food Service
Mike Memmott, Maintenance
Tracy Atkin, Secretarial

Don Turner, Info. Systems
Sherri Linnel, Para-Professional
Marla Stark, Para-Professional
Tony Beale, Compliance
David Shell, Transportation
Elese Salmond, Transportation
Dave Richards, Police Electronics

Inside this issue:

Elections 2009	2
Negotiations	2
President's message	2
Employee Alert!	2
Employee awards	3
New Area Code	3
Para Professional training	4

Elections & Negotiations

Department Elections

Else Salmond was re-elected to the GESPA board to represent Transportation, she is now in the position of President Elect and David Shell moves into the position of President to finish out his two year term.

No other departments had anyone but their current board members who ran for the positions; all were

willing to serve again and a vote of confidence went out to all members for their support in sustaining them in the current positions.

Doyle Herndon ran for the office of Vice President, he ran unopposed and received a majority vote. He is the Vice president of the association.

NEGOTIATIONS

The negotiations team for 2009 was as follows:

Boyd Kimber, Tony Beale, Doyle Herndon, Tracy Atkin, Tony Beale and Nan Kirkpatrick. On the sidelines learning and watching were Mike Memmott and David Shell. The team met several times prior to beginning negotiations with the GEA negotiations team.

The negotiations teams are in favor of the changes to the health insurance plans. We have seats on the insurance committee, this has been in the works for several months.



Quote of the day

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain.

Budget Crunch see pg.3

Presidents Message

We had a pretty good turnout for the Mass meeting to ratify the negotiated agreement. The meeting was held at Eisenhower Jr. High School in the Auditorium on June 25th at 5:00 PM. The vote to ratify the agreement approved increasing the flex spending amount annually to \$7200. The

pharmacy benefits will change to \$10/\$25/\$45. The Network coverage Co-Insurance will change to 85% in network and 65% out of network. The Select Care PPO will change to Select Med PPO. We will reset the employee and non-spouse dependent contribution at 5% and the non-employee spouse

contribution at 20%. They will continue to fund the training fund at \$15,000 with carry-over not to exceed \$20,000.

Thanks to all who attended the mass meeting, we look forward to the new school year. Now is the time to remain strong and to increase our membership for more bargaining power.

President's message



Employee Alert !

Please contact all of the Granite School District Board members. Contact every member, be respectful but be direct and ask the following two questions:

1. Why did you fund steps for the teachers and not the classified employees. We are the lowest paid employee group and it will have the greatest impact on our pay and our retirement?
2. Budgets were set prior to negotiations, taking away the ability to negotiate on behalf of our classified employee's, Why?

GSD board contact information

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801-277-9220 dlofgren@graniteschools.org



Mass meeting for ratification of the negotiated agreement will be scheduled in June

Employee of the month

Remember to submit nominations for your fellow employees, you can print out the nomination forms on our website and turn them into any board member. It is a nice way to recognize your co-workers and congratulate them on the great job that they do for the District. The following people have received the employee of the month award for the months of January through May 2009

Chad Berry was the recipient for the month of January, he works in the electrical shop; Garth Hyden was the recipient for the month of February, he works in the central kitchen; Pat Perry was the recipient for the month of March, she is a bus driver in the transportation department; Mike Memmott was the recipient for the month of April; he works in the carpentry shop. Congratulations to all of our outstanding employee of the month recipients.

January February March April May



Chad Berry Garth Hyden Pat Perry Mike Memmott Shawwna Nay

June July Congratulations



Bonnie Williamson Mark Detton

To you
All

AREA CODE CHANGE FOR GRANITE

All of Granite School District has now moved to the 385 area code. It was effective on June 15, 2009.

Budget crunch

The Federal and State governments have imposed massive budget cuts to the remainder of this fiscal year (2009) and they have imposed even larger cuts to the 2010 budget and we could be looking at even more for the 2011 budget. We received Federal and State one time money to help cover the shortfall this year. The Board of Education has been wrestling with how to balance the budget for several months and finally arrived at a balanced budget at the May 5, 2009 School Board Meeting.

Some of the cuts to balance the budget included the closure of Granite High School; a reduction in force on the Granite Police Department, District office personnel filling positions out in the schools, loss of some of our provisional employee's due to funding from Title 1, Title 9 and the YESS programs. We lost the custodial apprenticeship program and the custodial lead men. Many of the cuts would have been worse were it not for the many employees who chose to retire.

A MASS MEETING was held

At Eisenhower Jr. High on Thursday June 25th at 5:00 PM to ratify the negotiated agreement for the upcoming school year

2009-2010, ratification was achieved, see the presidents message on page 2

The GSD board approved the agreement on July 7, 2009

ONLINE positive open enrollment for GSD

Positive Online Open Enrollment will be done this year and every year from now on. Watch for more information on the web page and from the district

Editors Note:

We had many months in 2008 when we did not have an outstanding employee nomination; I know for a fact that we have a lot of outstanding employees; please take the time to nominate a member that is deserving. It is a wonderful way to recognize the hard work of our fellow employees.

The online form is fast and easy and only takes a few minutes out of your day.

NOMINATE SOMEONE TODAY!

See's candies certificates are available for purchase.

The price for a certificate, for a one pound box of chocolates is only \$15.60 this certificate can be redeemed at any time and any store. Contact Tracy Atkin in planning and boundaries to purchase one.

We have shirts, blankets and totes available with the GESPA logo on it.

Order one today!

Call Tracy Atkin at 385-646-4123 or 801-637-4238 to get an order form or to place and order.

There will be 5 SNAD days for the 2009-2010 School year. All of our contract Para Professionals will need to attend 5 days of training, one to two of those days will be a meet and greet with your teacher to learn curriculum, set up classroom and prepare for the year with the teacher. A minimum of three of the five days need to be in training. The day (s) that you set up to with your teacher to meet at the school need to be coordinated with the principal of the school to insure access to the building.

We would like to have some feedback from all Para's on what type of trainings are needed. One of the trainings can be MANDT, another could be sensitivity training, we could do a refresher course on how to seatbelt in and secure wheelchairs on the bus. Speaking about the bus, **ALL OF OUR CONTRACT PARA'S ARE REQUIRED TO RIDE THE BUS TO AND FROM SCHOOL**, it is a part of your 8 hour contract day, one hour on the bus in the morning, six hours in the classroom and one hour on the bus in the afternoon. Sometimes you work a little longer than 8 hours Monday through Thursday with bus time, in exchange you are out early on Friday's and are still paid the full 8 hours. Substitutes are available and they need to ride the bus as well.

There is training scheduled in August, it is called the Fall institute week. Watch your mail for the flier, they will be on August 10th, August 11th, August 13th and August 14th. If your summer schedule allows you to attend these and then you meet and spend a day with your teacher setting up the classroom, you would be done with your five days for the school year.

For those that can't attend any or all of these training days, we would like to set up others to occur on the SNAD days and we need your feedback on they types of trainings . The one to two professional development days in October for teachers could be used for training days as well. Please e-mail tatkin@graniteschools.org with suggestions and ideas on training