



401 N Canyon City Blvd ♦ Canyon City, OR 97820-6111
Phone: (541) 575-1280 ♦ FAX: (541) 575-3614

Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 03/13/2024 | 7:00PM

ZOOM IN BY USING THE FOLLOWING ACCESS CREDENTIALS:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2595245851?pwd=ZjFIZ2w2eDNPMMhoT1VtS0wvbk1MzZ09>

Meeting ID: 259 524 5851 | Passcode: HelloGSD3

[* = supplement enclosed]

1) PRELIMINARY BUSINESS:

- 1.1 Call to order → 7:18PM
 - 1.1.1 Board Attendance: 5 of 7; (AC & JT absent)
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.3 Agenda Review/ (see addendums: 1.4, 4.6.5 & 4.6.6)
 - 1.3.1 Motion: **ZB**; Second: **KB**; unanimous: 5:0
- 1.4 Executive Session decision delegate authority to Chair, Will Blood, response to complaint
 - 1.4.1 Motion: **ZB**; Second: **MTA**; unanimous: 5:0

2) RECOGNITION:

- 2.1 Chester's Markets | Recognition Plaque Presented/ We as a board want to recognize partnerships that we have within the community, doing great work with our students and their support. We really appreciate all the student support and we want to express our gratitude publicly. Chester's Markets – John Day s our first recipient of the award – Thank you Team Chester's! *Superintendent Witty*

Chester's Markets is very generous, sometimes to a fault. Making a list of their monumental generosity could not be possible, not just for our athletics, but for all our programs. *Vice Principal | Coach Lusco*

3) PUBLIC COMMENTS | 3-MINUTE LIMIT:

- 3.1 Public Forum: 1
 - 3.1.1 1) Haley Walker/(see attachment 3.1.1)

4) REPORTS:

- 4.1 Grant Union Student Body: Will commence at a later date
- 4.2 Financial/Business Manager/ MJE *
 - 4.2.1 See: 03/13/2024 Board Meeting Packet – Addendum 1/2 | Financial Report – February 2024

Making progress. Introduced Jennifer Nielsen. She was the business manager most recently at Adrian School District, she will be working with me in the background, dividing up duties, payroll and stepping in where needed. *Mary Jo Evers, Business Manager*

- 4.3 Current Enrollment | Average Daily Membership (ADM) Reporting) as of: 02/29/2024/ JM (revised)/ Full report in Meeting Packet

Board of Directors:

Kris Beal | M.T. Anderson | Amy Charette, Vice Chair | Chris Labhart | Zac Bailey | Will Blood, Chair | Jake Taylor
Superintendent: Mark W. Witty | Website: <https://www.grantschooldistrict.org/>



401 N Canyon City Blvd ♦ Canyon City, OR 97820-6111

Phone: (541) 575-1280 ♦ FAX: (541) 575-3614

4.4 Current Staffing/JY/im

- 4.4.1 GU = 39
- 4.4.2 HES = 42
- 4.4.3 SES = 4
- 4.4.4 HCCC = 7

4.5 Administrator's Reports:

4.5.1 Principal, Jay Hummel | GU *

- 4.5.1.1 2024/2025 Student Handbook/ Vice Principal Andy Lusco/Superintendent Witty/ These are working documents. Every year at the end of the year, we look through our handbooks and determine what's working, what's not working, make adjustments, keeping our Student Handbooks updated.
- 4.5.1.2 2024/2025 Coach Handbook/ Vice Principal Andy Lusco/ Same as commentary in 4.5.1.1
- 4.5.1.3 GUHS Class Ranking Policy */ Not a new policy and not asking for changes. Research of previously used Class Ranking Policies were limited. Found Honors Graduate requirements, received input from parents, conducted a lot of research, looking for what our 2024 graduates were officially advised as requirements for graduation and Class Ranking as incoming Freshmen.

In a short time, we may recommend weighted grades be used for Class Ranking, starting next year's incoming ninth grade class, staying with them four years as a roadmap, to graduation.

- 4.5.1.4 Seventh Grade Survey Data Report */ Shanna Northway led and created the survey questions used for the seventh grade class, whom were not producing passing grades. The answers from the survey were anonymous, for both PRE and POST surveys produced. Teachers listened and took action by closely monitoring students daily, providing assistance where needed immediately, resulting in reports from students feeling and seeing their own progress and success. After spring break GU will begin working on a summer school schedule.

MW: The collective efficacy of the staff has been huge. I've been around schools for 37 years and I haven't seen this level of intervention to a whole class in this manner that's been this successful. I'm just really appreciative of the leadership team and the teachers that are actually working and making this happen. I had the opportunity to attend the awards ceremony, some awards were given to some seventh-grade students. If you've been around schools enough, you know that some classes cheer for kids to do well, and some classes you can tell that they'd rather not – I've seen those classes where the pull is to not do well. They were really excited for the kids that were getting the awards. I think our staff have performed a miracle, a critical one that's going to impact these kids for the rest of their career.

- 4.5.2 Vice Principal, Andy Lusco | GU *
- 4.5.3 SpEd Director, Shanna Northway | GU/HES *
- 4.5.4 Principal, Janine Attlesperger | Humbolt (HES)*
- 4.5.5 Principal, Janine Attlesperger | Tina McCormick, Head Teacher | Seneca (SES) *
- 4.5.6 Director, Trina Fell | Humbolt Child Care Center (HCCC) *

Board of Directors:

Kris Beal | M.T. Anderson | Amy Charette, Vice Chair | Chris Labhart | Zac Bailey | Will Blood, Chair | Jake Taylor
Superintendent: Mark W. Witty | Website: <https://www.grantschooldistrict.org/>



401 N Canyon City Blvd ♦ Canyon City, OR, 97820-6111

Phone: (541) 575-1280 ♦ FAX: (541) 575-3614

4.6 Superintendent's Report/ Superintendent Mark Witty

4.6.1 Grant: Early Learning Center/ Baker City has Baker Learning Center. The concept is where you get as many early learning partners, as possible, under one roof so the families can interact with the early learning environment, a one-stop shop. It would definitely help our youngest families to be successful. I'm exploring different ways to try to get this in place. Visit Pendleton Early Learning Center. You can stop in there anytime, to get a sense of our future goal for GSD3. Principal Angela Lattin will gladly show you around.

The key: Provide an ELC similar to the PELC or BELC. Over the next couple of years, I want to make strides to get the community partnerships together – that is the key to getting started: early intervention, early childhood, special education, preschool promise in place, all these partnerships collaborating and working together as a team. Then you can apply for those grants, some significant ones, because there's a lot of money out there now to support these types of operations. The main concept is to be able to help those families have one center that focuses on early childhood. It's definitely been effective in other communities. So hopefully we can get something like that here.

4.6.2 GU Principal Transition/ Following potential board and contract approval, Justin Llewellyn will be our new 24-25 Grant Union Junior/Senior High School principal. Justin, Jay and myself will start identifying ways that we can create good transition, to enable Justin to come in with a solid foundation and familiarity with GU and staff members and processes.

4.6.3 Classified Negotiations Update/ March 22, 2024 – 4:30PM, board member Kris Beal and Board Chair, Will Blood will represent the Board, and Mary Jo Evers will join us online, meeting with the classified team and have those discussions. I'd like this team to get together at 4:00PM to prepare. This is an opportunity to know how competitive the market is, and it's critical that we stay competitive in the market so we can attract and retain our quality employees, doing great work.

4.6.4 Strategic Planning Update | See Section 6.4 *

4.6.4.1 District: Our board members have all participated all the way through the building process. I want to publicly thank the strategic planning committee of 16 individuals, that spent 20+ hours of participation– this group took it seriously. THANK YOU!

4.6.4.1.1 Mission Statement

4.6.4.1.2 Vision Statement

4.6.4.1.3 Goals (3)

4.6.4.1.3.1 Goal 1) Recruit, train and retain staff, able to implement, adjust and achieve excellence!

4.6.4.1.3.2 Goal 2) Create a student focused environment where each student is known and prepared for success in life!

4.6.4.1.3.3 Goal 3) Positive perceptions, community ownership and support for our district's facility improvements!

4.6.4.1.3.3.1 Performance Indicators & Measures for Goals

Board of Directors:

Kris Beal | M.T. Anderson | Amy Charette, Vice Chair | Chris Labhart | Zac Bailey | Will Blood, Chair | Jake Taylor
Superintendent: Mark W. Witty | Website: <https://www.grantschooldistrict.org/>



401 N Canyon City Blvd ♦ Canyon City, OR, 97820-6111

Phone: (541) 575-1280 ♦ FAX: (541) 575-3614

4.6.4.1.3.3.1.1 Thank you staff members that assisted us with getting the performance indicators measurements put together. I was actually pretty amazed at how quickly and how well they worked together to get these completed – they did a great job!

4.6.5 ~~Classified Negotiations/(addendum)/~~ Presented at a later date

4.6.6 Student Body Elections/(addendum)/ **GU 04/29/2024**. I want to emphasize how important students voices are. I am pleased that the team's getting this in place. Sometimes a student voice can be a little bit of a challenge in all reality, but it's a good challenge. We need to have in those conversations. I'm so very appreciative for getting that done.

Special Note: Humbolt Elementary School STEM Night: 5:30 – 7:30PM/Parent Input/ I highly encourage you to go down and take a look at that. There's going to be some great presentations the students have been working on.

5) **CONSENT AGENDA:**

5.1 Recommend Approving 02/21/2024 Board Meeting Minutes

5.2 Recommend Accepting New Hires: (2)

5.2.1 Justin Lieuallen, GU Principal 2024/2025

5.2.2 Laney Ulrich, Seneca ES Head Teacher 2024/2025

5.3 Recommend Accepting Resignations: (2)

5.3.1 Brittany Finley, Coach | GU Jr High Basketball

5.3.2 Jason Miller, Head Coach | GU Girls Basketball

5.4 **Recommend Adopting Policies | 03/2023 & 08/2023 OSBA Guidance | First Reading 02/21/2024:**

5.4.1 **BFG:** Board Policy Review | *for Board Process/review only*

5.4.2 **BFC:** Adoption and Revision of Policies | *for Board Process/review only*

5.4.3 DID Property Inventories

5.4.4 IGBB Talented and Gifted Program and/or Services

5.4.5 IGBBA Talented and Gifted Students – Identification

5.4.6 IGBAH Special Education – Evaluation Procedures

5.4.7 IGBAB/JO Education Records/Records of Student with Disabilities

5.4.8 IGBAJ Special Education – Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)

5.4.9 IGBA Students with Disabilities – Child Identification Procedures

5.4.10 IGBBA-AR Appeal Procedure for Talented and Gifted Student Identification and Placement

5.4.11 Please see: THIS Board Meeting Packet – **Addendum 2/2 | Policies**

5.4.11.1 Approval Consent Agenda (Section: 5): Motion: ZB; Second: MTA; unanimous: 6:0

6) **NEW BUSINESS:**

6.1 K-12 Science Adoption/Twig | First Reading *

6.1.1 PK-6/See document enclosed → Elementary School Curriculum Team: **Janine Attlesperger/ RC Huerta/ Kelly LaFramboise/ Carrie Sullivan/ Rachael Brooks/ Vanessa Houpt/ Sena Raschio**

Board of Directors:



401 N Canyon City Blvd ♦ Canyon City, OR, 97820-6111

Phone: (541) 575-1280 ♦ FAX: (541) 575-3614

MW: The elementary and high school teams have worked over the last three months to identify the science curriculum they want starting 2024/2025 School Year – these choices are displayed on the two tables in the back of this room for viewing.

JA: Decision for these selections were made by following recommendations by ODE. We narrowed the selections down to three that were based on how well they met the standards and how well they would meet our students' needs. We took a deeper dive, we got online, we obtained additional hands-on materials, we took time with each of them. The one we're recommending best aligned with our curriculum and standards and has the most to offer for our students. It has a comprehensive sixth grade curriculum, which is equivalent to K-5, which is unique, usually in sixth grade you only get one, either earth, life or physical science, it has all three.

It has a prepaid curriculum, so we can purchase that and get our preschools into some science. We also felt that the materials were very child friendly. They have science kits. They have level readers that students can read themselves, and then we have trade books that are very engaging for teachers to read. It's very comprehensive for all the levels that we serve.

6.1.2 7-12/See Document enclosed → JR/SR High School Curriculum Team: Sonna Smith/Jessica Suchorski

SS: The brands selected are McGraw Hill, Pearson and Savvas. One option we were looking for is textbook curriculum that would offer audible reading in multiple languages. We looked at Humbolt's selection of Twig for seventh grade. We evaluated what they had been tested on, the eighth grade level, and at the high school level for state testing, and decided we needed to go with a more rigorous curriculum that was specific to those subjects. We compared McGraw-Hill and Saavis' textbooks, by Pearson, side by side, due to meeting the need of teaching anatomy, biology and bio two.

MW: Textbook adoption process follows state guideline of a seven-year rotation. So nearly every year we'll have a textbook adoption, this year: science, for board presentation, and request for approval at our next board meeting; no vote tonight.

6.2 Cooperative Sponsorship Application | Prairie City/Grant Union/AL *

6.2.1 Motion: ZB; Second: JT; unanimous: 6:0

6.3 2024/2025 Probationary/contracted Staff Report/MW *

6.3.1 Motion: JT; Second: ZB; unanimous: 6:0

6.4 2024/2025 Budget Calendar/MJE *

6.4.1 Motion: CL; Second: KB; unanimous: 6:0

6.5 Strategic Plan Draft | See Section 4.7.3:

6.5.1 Discuss/Adopt

6.5.1.1 Motion: MTA; Second: ZB; unanimous: 6:0

6.6 Construction Projects: Update → 03/20/2024 moved → 04/03/2024 Board Meeting

Board of Directors:



401 N Canyon City Blvd ♦ Canyon City, OR, 97820-6111

Phone: (541) 575-1280 ♦ FAX: (541) 575-3614

6.7 Appoint two GSD Board Members to serve on Grant ESD Budget Committee: **KB; MTA; WB (back-up)/ Date/Time: 04/24/2024 – 5:15PM: JT; CL; unanimous: 6:0**

6.8 Superintendent's Evaluation by Board of Directors/Completed → **CL; JT; unanimous: 6:0**

6.8.1 Consideration to extend Superintendent Contract through 2025/2026

6.8.1.1 Motion: **ZB;** Second: **KB;** unanimous: **7:0**

7) **FUTURE CALENDAR DATES | 2024 | ALL Meetings are held at District Office, unless otherwise specified:**

7.1.1 03/13 – Executive Session Board Meeting | 6:00PM

7.1.2 03/13 – Board Meeting | 7:00PM

7.1.3 03/20 – Work Session Board Meeting Meal | 5:30PM

7.1.4 03/20 – Work Session Board Meeting | 6:00PM

7.1.5 03/20 – Special Session Board Meeting | 7:00PM

7.1.6 04/17 – Board Meeting | 7:00PM | *Seneca Elementary School Gymnasium*

7.1.7 05/15 – Board Meeting | 7:00PM

7.1.8 06/08 – High School Graduation | Time: TBA

7.1.9 06/19 – Board Meeting | 7:00PM

8) **BOARD REPORTS:**

8.1 **KB:** I want to echo what Mark said about the [incredible] cooperation between the staff members and the administrators.

8.2 **M.T. A:** Janine asked me to sit on the interview committee for the new teacher for Seneca. Guys, I'm going to tell you, we have got an unbelievably fantastic hire. If you don't know her, you're going to be excited. Thanks for having me sit in on that. That school is something that I'm passionate about. All my kids went to school there. And because all my kids went to school there, I'm not super familiar with the halls of Humbolt. When I was there, Janine gave me a tour of Humbolt, and I was able to see the ins and outs of that school and really enjoyed that. Thankful for the improvement of the seventh graders. Can hardly express enough the appreciation for all the hard work and improvement by our staff members, meeting before and after school to make this happen.

8.3 **AC:** "Pass; late."

8.4 **CL:** We had a group of readers went to Madras last week and placed first out of 18 or 19 teams. Also we had a person went to Seaside for a math competition and placed seventh. Our kids are out there. GU baseball team going to AZ! Mark's networking skills are amazing. We wouldn't have Jay without Mark. And we needed Jay. We wouldn't have this new principal without Mark. We had a lot of choices.

8.5 **ZB:** I do appreciate the Battle of the Books volunteers. That really has helped my kids want to read more. Maybe just a couple of personal shout outs: I lost Sam, my fifth grader, in the basketball game, while ago and I looked across the way and there was sitting next to Robyn Miller just chatting it up for like a half an hour. I love that Robyn is taking the time to have that kind of relationship with Sam. He also came home from school just incredibly excited about, 'what would happen to Gravity Dad if I dug a hole through the earth?' Teacher Anna Field told Sam: 'He would have to figure that out by tomorrow! I'm going to get a pro card if I get it done!' Mrs. Smith is right there with them, playing Ultimate Frisbee. I feel like she has known all of my kids as they've entered her program.

8.6 **WB:** I feel grateful for teachers to take the time to know the students. Regarding our 7th grade class, how many board meetings ago did we see the data presented showing their achievement. Now here we are, months later, and the train's back on the tracks. I can't express enough my gratitude for the administrative team, all the teachers, and these kids. I'm excited about Mark and a third year.

8.7 **JT:** Well, I know everybody was shocked to hear that I wanted to go to Portland to the OSBA convention. I was in my element. And when we went in the basement and Mark says to me in front of all these people: "I can't get done when I need to get done in two years, I need a third year." I asked him: "Is it okay if I kiss you on the lips." I was even wearing clean clothes and everything. We all know the beauty of this, that he came into a tough situation, but he knew our school, and that's how he knows the people.

During the OSBA convention, every room that I went into knew Mark Witty. He's huge in the state of Oregon, and he represents us and our needs, and we're not just fortunate to have him, we are beyond that. I appreciate the fact that you realize we do need you for at least another year. Like M. T. said, we also recognize you have other things to do. I appreciate the fact that you would give us another year or so.

Our strategic planning. I was very glad to be a part of that. I guess the biggest part of it is all the moving parts that are with it from everybody that was on the team, to the guy who's running the show here. I mean, we're so lucky to have all that. I'm starting to see him just like what M. T. is seeing, you can hear people talking outside, talking about what's going on inside, and it's all positive. I appreciate all that Jay has done, Andy and Shanna Northway. This strategic plan timing is so perfect.

6 | 2024-0313 Board Meeting Minutes

Approval Pending: 2024-0417; web-posting: 04/18/2024

Board of Directors:

Kris Beal | M.T. Anderson | Amy Charette, Vice Chair | Chris Labhart | Zac Bailey | Will Blood, Chair | Jake Taylor

Superintendent: Mark W. Witty | Website: <https://www.grantschooldistrict.org/>



401 N Canyon City Blvd ♦ Canyon City, OR, 97820-6111
Phone: (541) 575-1280 ♦ FAX: (541) 575-3614

A Note From the Board Secretary | JM: I have a thank you card that came in from Jerry Colonna, responding to the card everybody signed for him, and it says: "Hello Janet, we just want you to pass on to everyone that I received the special thanks card and I'm very moved by all the wonderful comments. It means a great deal to me and my family during this difficult time. Love, Jerry Colonna."

- 9) **TOTAL IN ATTENDANCE:**
9.1 In Person: 16
9.2 Via Zoom: 5

- 10) **ADJOURNED: 8:43 PM → ZB; KB; unanimous: 7:0**

Meeting Summary | AI:

The meeting began with an agenda review, during which an amendment was made to address executive sessions. The board recognized Chester's Market for their support to the community and students, with the board chair expressing gratitude and highlighting the generous contributions made by Chester's Market. The discussion then delved into the contentious issue of using weighted versus unweighted grades to determine class rank and graduation honors at GUHS. The section focused on reports and updates, including financial progress, staffing, and handbook revisions.

Jay addressed the lack of clarity in the class ranking policy and presented a recommendation to use weighted grades for class rank for the next four graduating classes. The staff discussed the positive impact of their efforts on seventh graders, highlighting the success in collecting data and improving student performance. The section delved into the potential creation of an early learning center, aiming to consolidate early learning partners under one roof to provide strong intervention and support for families.

The section of the meeting involved detailed discussions on various topics, including the probationary contracts for staff members and the process of budget development, which included the distribution of budget development worksheets and the upcoming budget committee meeting. The discussion centered on the evaluation of Superintendent Mark's performance, which involved a multi-step process including self-evaluation, feedback from board members, and a collaborative evaluation by the superintendent and another individual. The section covers the approval of the superintendent's evaluation by the board of directors, followed by a discussion about extending the superintendent's contract for another year, with expressions of appreciation for his work and dedication to the school.

Overall, the meeting covered a range of topics, including academic achievement policy, financial progress, staffing, and handbook revisions. The meeting also highlighted the strong teamwork and dedication within the district, with a focus on continuous improvement and a collective desire to make the district the best it can be. The meeting featured personal anecdotes and expressions of gratitude towards various individuals, as well as announcements about the baseball and softball teams' rankings and upcoming games.

[Board Packet posted on district web site at:
https://grantsd3.schoolinsites.com/](https://grantsd3.schoolinsites.com/)

Grant School District No.3 does not discriminate in employment, educational programs and activities, on the basis of race, national origin, color, creed, religion, gender, gender identification, sexual orientation or associational preference, age, disability, veteran status. The District also affirms its commitment to providing equal opportunities and equal access to its facilities. For additional information or assistance contact the District office at: (541)575-1280 | 401 N Canyon City Blvd, Canyon City, OR 97820-6111. For telecommunications relay services for the deaf, hearing or speech impaired call 1(800)735-2900 – thank you!

Board of Directors:

Kris Beal | M.T. Anderson | Amy Charette, Vice Chair | Chris Labhart | Zac Bailey | Will Blood, Chair | Jake Taylor
Superintendent: Mark W. Witty | Website: <https://www.grantschooldistrict.org/>

1/2
3.1.1

I'm here this evening to comment on the Class Rank agenda item.

For over a year I've been asking for clarification on this subject, so thank you to the leadership team for working on this for the students.

In the board packet this evening I did not see what is trying to be accomplished with this recommended policy, in other words, what issue are we trying to solve and why is this important? Are there any other options beside this recommendation, what are other schools doing? And finally, what are the consequences and impact to our students as a result of this recommended policy in comparison to other options?

Throughout my discussions the most controversial topic has been around weighted versus unweighted grades and which one is used to determine class rank and ultimately valedictorian and salutatorian. I see in the recommendation "There is no evidence that weighted grades have ever been used to determine Class Rank at GUHS for the purpose of graduation honors." I would argue that there is also no evidence that unweighted grades have ever been used to determine Class Rank at GUHS for graduation honors, and I've requested this evidence but apparently it does not exist. All the documentation has referenced "cumulative" gpa with no designation of weighted or unweighted, and this, specifically, is what created confusion and why I began my search for a decision, leading to my presence this evening.

I believe defining weighted and unweighted is the first step so everyone knows what this means. What does it mean for a class to be weighted and how are classes determined to be weighted? While written documentation may not exist to provide a clear answer on GU's history, the student transcripts clearly indicate weighted classes and have at least since the 2020-21 school year. They have been in person only honors classes, dual credit classes, and college credit classes. I've been verbally told online honors classes ARE NOT counted as GU honors classes on their GU transcript, but I haven't seen anything in writing related to this including this recommended policy.

What does all this mean? Well, I believe students are fully aware that dual credit and college credit classes are counted and have been counted as weighted on their transcript. This also means that in person GU honors classes offer more rigorous coursework than online honors classes, for example, completing a science project to earn honors credit or electing to participate in honors band events outside of regular school concerts.

I also believe understanding the definition of valedictorian and salutatorian is equally important in the decision making process. Many sources define valedictorian as "the student having the highest academic achievements of the class" and salutatorian as "the student having the second highest academic achievements of the class." Similar to an offensive MVP in sports. Data is used to make this determination such as batting average and most points scored in basketball. So, back to my original question, is this what this policy is attempting to accomplish...how to identify the students with the highest academic achievements by using documented data on student transcripts? Does this policy correctly and completely answer this question?

We pride ourselves on being a district of excellence and to quote Mr. Jones in the January Prospector Pride Newsletter, "It is the student who displays the most depth that deserves the trophy. What do you want for your students Grant School District? Do you want them to relax in the fun and easy or be pushed in the direction of meaningful and rigorous?" This is exactly why I'm here this evening. Selfishly I'm here to try and keep my daughter engaged in a meaningful and rigorous direction during her limited time left at GU. Teenagers are really good at figuring out how a system works, and we have to remember we are talking about adolescent teenagers. If students know they can coast through their last year of high school with easier classes to keep their 4.0 gpa and have greater opportunity for scholarships, then will they really be eager to continue taking challenging and rigorous classes, and therefore risk being in the running for the top of their class?

How is this recommended policy helping our students after high school who intend on pursuing higher education? We all know that if our students continue to stay engaged and learning then they WILL be better prepared for learning in college. However, we will be doing our students a great disservice if our policy and practices steer them in the direction of coasting during their last year of high school.

Being disengaged from continuous learning for a year and then entering college will most certainly set them back compared to their peers in college. Is that really how a district of excellence operates?

So, yes, I am here selfishly to try and keep my daughter engaged in learning during her last year at GU, because she is determined to go to college, and I don't want her to be at a disadvantage. Again, we are talking about teenagers, and they don't have the developed decision making skills to determine if they should "coast" through their last year or stay engaged in challenging and rigorous learning.

If using a cumulative weighted gpa system, a system that is already in place at GU, then by default, those students seeking a high class rank WILL remain engaged in a more rigorous class schedule.

So how do we keep our students engaged and actually award the highest academic honors to the highest achieving students? Perhaps tie-breaking is worthy of discussion. Is it important enough to this district to recognize the highest academically achieving students? Are we going the extra mile for the high performing students and preparing them to walk in to any college or university and be successful.

If so, is it as simple as using the system already in place, which is the weighted cumulative gpa? Could it be the number of honors courses taken over a student's high school career? My point is, there are ways to determine a tie-breaking system which really aren't complicated, and not new to us. GU has a system in place, and has for years, on student transcripts, to determine the student with the highest academic achievement, so why aren't we recommending using this system?

I have a couple additional points about the recommended policy because it appears to lack some specific scenarios which are common and lead to personal interpretation which varies from person to person, but I'll send those separately to the leadership team.

While I agree that changing graduation requirements, as pointed out in the board packet, could create the perception that some students will be treated unfairly, but either way some students are going to feel this way. This is a tough decision because it has very different consequences for all students, and I humbly request you work toward a decision that benefits students in their life immediately after high school and supports life-long learners.

Thank you all for your service to our community and our school district and your commitment to the staff and students. I will make myself available if anyone would like to visit.

—Haley Walker
530-567-5987
walkerhaley57@gmail.com

Grant School District No. 3

PLEASE SIGN IN

BOARD MEETING

District Office Board Room

DATE: 03/13/2024 TIME: ~~7:00 PM~~ → 7:18 PM

(Signature)

CHECK HERE if you wish to address the Board during Public Forum.

(3- Minute Limit)

NAME (please print)

TOWN REPRESENTING

<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Andy Lusco</u>	<u>MI</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Jay Hummel</u>	<u>GA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Jessica Suchorski</u>	<u>OH</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Wayne Suchorski</u>	<u>—</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Jawine Attlesperger</u>	<u>John Day</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Rick LaMountain</u>	<u>John Day</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>M Ann Coalwell</u>	<u>SD</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Cody Wilson</u>	<u>Mt. V</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Turza Mike Shaffer</u>	<u>Carrington City</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Sonna Smith</u>	<u>Seneca</u>

Grant School District No. 3

PLEASE SIGN IN

BOARD MEETING

District Office Board Room

DATE: 03/13/2024 TIME: 7:18 pm

CHECK HERE if you wish to address the Board during Public Forum.

(3- Minute Limit)

NAME (please print)

TOWN REPRESENTING

<input type="checkbox"/>	Bob & Kay Concentration	John Day
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shanna Northway	John Day
<input type="checkbox"/>	J Collier	John Day
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HAVER WALKER	cc
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anna Field	Prairie City
<input type="checkbox"/>	Robyn Miller	Canyon City
<input type="checkbox"/>		