



## CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The following minutes are a summary of the April 1, 2025, Canyons Board of Education meeting. To listen to the entire board meeting, including all comments made during the meeting, please go to BoardDocs at <http://www.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf>

The Board of Education of Canyons School District met in a board meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, beginning at 4:30 pm at the Canyons Administration Building, 9361 S. 300 East, Sandy, Utah 84070.

**Those in attendance were:**

Amber Shill, Board President  
Amanda Oaks, Vice President  
Andrew Edtl, Vice President  
Katie Dahle, Board Member  
Jackson Lewis, Board Member  
Holly Neibaur, Board Member  
Karen Pedersen, Board Member  
Rick Robins, Superintendent  
Leon Wilcox, Business Administrator

Excused: Daniel Harper, General Legal Counsel, Charlie Evans, Director of External Relations

**1. Closed Session – 4:30 pm**

- A. For the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual
- B. For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange or lease of real property.
- C. For the purpose of discussing collective bargaining

**MOTION:** Andrew Edtl moved to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual, for the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange or lease of real property and for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining. Katie Dahle seconded the motion. \*A roll call vote was taken. 5 Yea (Ms. Pedersen, Mr. Jackson, Ms. Oaks, Ms. Shill, Mr. Edtl, Ms. Dahle) 1 Not present (Ms. Neibaur joined after the vote) The motion passed unanimously.

\*Person in Attendance: All Board Members. Rick Robins – Superintendent, Leon Wilcox – Business Administrator, Alice Meridith – Director of Elementary Principals, Steve Dimond – Director of Human Resources.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DF5SBP71E7DB>

**2. Study Session – 5:30 pm**

- A. Policy Update: Policy-500.22—School Fees; Policy-300.08—Service Animals in Schools; New Policy-300.15—Animals in Schools; Policy 500.23—Extra-curricular Activities and Student Participation; New Policy-500.25—Field Trips (First Reading) - Jeff Christensen, Assistant Legal Counsel

Policy-500.22—School Fees

This policy will be edited to include updated definitions pursuant to HB415(2024) and HB 344 (2025). The fee schedule will be approved by April 1<sup>st</sup> for the following school year. There was also a fee provisions update for district, elementary and secondary schools.

Policy-300.08—Service Animals in Schools

The Policy Committee recommends adding additional detail to this policy to include general provisions for service animals and safety in schools, guidance for staff members for interactions with service animals and owner responsibilities for service animals in schools.

New Policy-300.15—Animals in Schools

The Policy Committee recommends a new policy to provide guidance regarding animals in schools that are not service animals. Trained therapy animal dogs may be allowed on school campuses or specific areas of a school, small animal classroom pets may be allowed in schools in accordance with the provisions. If a dog is not a service animal or therapy animal, for safety and hygienic reasons, dogs, whether leashed or not, are not allowed on school or district property.

Policy 500.23—Extra-curricular Activities and Student Participation

The Policy Committee recommends an update to the policy to include the definition of extra-curricular activity as outlined in HB344 2025 School Fee Amendments.

New Policy-500.25—Field Trips

To simplify Policy 500.24 – Student Educational Travel, the current regulation regarding field trips will be developed into its own policy. The Board recognized field trips are an integral part of the District's instructional program and may be provided to enrich or expand learning opportunities for students. Field trips shall be used to visit a variety of civic, cultural, community and business resources within the reach of the classroom. Within funding limitations, it is the policy of the Board of Education to assure all schools have an equal opportunity to receive bus service for field trips.

Presentation and documents available on BoardDocs.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DF5SBW71E9E6>

B. 2025-26 Bell Schedule (First Reading) – Leon Wilcox, Business Administrator

The HB161 School Bus Route Amendment moves the eligible reimbursement for transportation for 6<sup>th</sup> graders if they are in middle school to 2.0 miles rather than 1.5 miles. All middle school bus stops will now be at least 2.0 miles from the school.

There are no proposed changes for the 2025-26 elementary bell schedule. There are no proposed changes for the 2025-26 bell schedule from the 2024-25 bell schedule for secondary schools. Corner Canyon is researching the possibility of starting at 7:45am and building advisory into the bell schedule. Presentation and documents available on BoardDocs.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DF5SBX71E9E7>

C. Updates to 2025-2026 School Calendars (First Reading) – Director of Human Resources, Steve Dimond

The Administration and School Calendar Committee are proposing a revised 2025-2026 School Calendar K-12. The proposal includes an update based on a change in State code, moving the first day of Kindergarten to Wednesday, August 20, 2025. This adjustment allows for additional time dedicated to individualized testing and evaluation. A change in Parent-Teacher Conferences to three days while rotating the day PTC is held between levels requires an

adjustment. In addition, an update will be made to convert two additional instruction days, for a total of four days for professional development.

A revised Brighton High School calendar is being proposed to change the first Parent Teacher Conferences to October 2, 2025, to accommodate extra-curricular activities and homecoming for 2025 and converting two additional instructional days, for a total of four days, to professional development days as allowed by State Code. Presentation and documents available on BoardDocs. <https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DF5SEJ724513>

**D. 2025-26 Land Trust and TSSP reports – Alice Meridith, Director of Elementary Principals**

Instructions were given to board members for them to review and approve Land Trust and TSSP reports. Approval of Land Trust and TSSA plans for 2025-2026 school year with two Board member signatures will be included on the April 15, 2025, Board Consent Agenda. <https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DFAQVQ6A4BE8>

**3. Student Advisory Council Recognitions – 6:30 pm**

The Student Advisory Council meets with the Board of Education to provide feedback from their perspective as Seniors from their respective high schools. Tyler Olsen, Brighton High School said that it gave him the opportunity to meet other students from other high schools and see how they do things at their schools. Students and board members expressed appreciation for the opportunity to collaborate and share ideas.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DFEPWB656341>

**4. Business Meeting – 7:00 pm**

**5. Opening Items**

- A. Welcome
- B. Approve Agenda for April 1, 2025

**MOTION: Andrew Edtl moved to approve the agenda for April 1, 2025. Karen Pedersen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DF5SC571E9ED>

**C. Pledge of Allegiance – Sprucewood Elementary, Principal Cathy Schino**

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DF5SC871E9F0>

**D. School Highlights – Sprucewood Elementary, Principal Cathy Schino**

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DF5SCB71E9F3>

**6. Canyons Strong Recognitions – Jeff Haney, Director, and Kirsten Stewart, Associate Director of Communications**

The following students and staff were recognized:

- Andy Markus, National ESP of the Year
- Alta High School Color Guard - State Champions
- State UTA PTA Reflection Winners
  - Albion Middle, Henry Slabert – 3D Visual Arts
  - Willow Canyon Elementary, Piper Bramer – 3D Arts
  - Alta High, Lucy Denzer – Photography
  - Albion Middle, Kiera Monson – Photography
  - Canyon View Elementary, Zachary Eds - Photography

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DF5SCD71E9F5>

## 7. Patron Comments

The following patrons were recognized:

- Alli Weaver – School Conditions
- Megan Malan – School Conditions
- Jen Archuleta – School Conditions
- Jessica Smith – Concerns

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DF5SCF71E9F7>

## 8. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes for March 18, 2025
- B. Approval of Hire and Termination Reports
- C. Approval of Student Overnight Travel
- D. Approval of Purchasing Bids
- E. Approval of Lease Agreement with Cottonwood Heights Parks and Recreation Service Area
- F. Approval of Administrative Appointments
- G. Approval of TSSP Amendment for Willow Canyon Elementary

**MOTION:** Andrew Edtl moved to approve consent Agenda Item 8A Approval of Minutes for March 18, 2025; Item 8B Approval of Hire and Termination Reports; Item 8C Approval of Student Overnight Travel; Item 8D Approval of Purchasing Bids; Item 8E Approval of Lease Agreement with Cottonwood Heights Parks and Recreation Service Area; Item 8F Approval of Administrative Appointments; Item 8G Approval of TSSP Amendment for Willow Canyon Elementary. Karen Pedersen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Documents available on BoardDocs.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DF5SCH71E9F9>

## 9. New Business

- A. Long Range Planning Update – Study of Boundary Enrollment, School Consolidation and Potential School Closures (First Reading) – Leon Wilcox, Business Administrator

There continues to be a decline in enrollment and reports show that from 2018-19 to 2024-25 there has been a decline of 1,724 students in Canyons School District. There are two major reasons cited for the decline which are increasing housing prices/interest rates and the declining birth rate. The preferred elementary school size includes three to four classes per grade with 425-567 students per school. The District currently has 10 schools under 375 students per school. The Facility Condition Index (FCI) score was shared for each of these 10 schools. The average elementary school, large or small enrollment, is approximately \$1,203,300 million per year.

The complexity of the Dual Language Immersion (DLI) impact was reviewed. Spanish remains a popular option but enrollments for Chinese and French are declining. DLI is the most expensive program offered by the District which requires a supplement of 15 FTE's or \$1.6 million per year.

The boundary study timeline, Utah Code 53G-4-402(24) was reviewed. The District is considering options to addressing the declining enrollment through studying boundary changes, school consolidations and potential school closures. A study of the DLI which is considered a special enrollment program will be reviewed to considered consolidations or closure of the program. Information will be sent to all parents whose boundaries may be affected. Also, open

houses will be scheduled for the 2025-2026 school year to inform parents and staff of information impacting their schools. Presentation and documents on BoardDocs.  
<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DF5SGK72A1F3>

B. Emergency Management Team Update – Jeff Haney, Director of Communications

The Emergency Management Team (EMT), is made up of the members of the Board of Education, District Administrators, and representatives of the schools and their purpose is to continuously evaluate safety plans and protocols in the District. This team oversees the crisis response guidelines for coordination, checklist, practice drills and site-specific safety plans. The Board of Education's facility-improvement plan allowed CSD to rebuild schools with safety in mind. CSD schools are built seismically safe, have state-of-the-art surveillance systems, and automatic locks that require employees to have ID badges to gain entry.

The District provides the community with incident response and updates through informing the Board, Cabinet, and District Operations Team. A team is dispatched to the scene for on-the-ground updates, provide information and work with first responders. The Student Wellness Service Department evaluates the need for crisis counseling at the scene and support at the schools. Parents receive information about the incident. Notes from the debrief with school employees and responding staff are shared with the EMT.

The current school safety projects include, school safety specialists (HB61), Guardian program, panic buttons, bullet resistant glass (HB84), school safety amendments passed during 2025 legislature (HB40), TCU Alert notification system, ID badge information repository, and door-check assignments. Presentation available on BoardDocs.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DF5SGV72AD76>

C. Update on the Superintendent Listening Tours – Superintendent Rick Robins

Dr. Robins addressed topics such as class sizes, facility needs, Special Education, support staff, and English learners that have been brought to his attention during the Superintendent listening tours. Additional feedback during the tours included teacher appreciation for additional planning time, fallout from unfunded mandates from the Legislature, addressing tech issues and concerns in schools, and employee health benefits. A list of employee driven changes was reviewed for the current and 2025-2026 school year. Presentation available on BoardDocs.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DF5SH372B493>

D. IT committee Update and Discussion – Superintendent Rick Robins

The District, has been a “Common Sense” school district, for four years, committed to teaching digital citizenship and the responsible use of technology. This program requires professionally trained teachers, teach all students across two grade levels six digital citizenship lessons or teach all students across three grade levels three digital citizenship lessons. School-based Digital citizenship Coordinators share monthly tips/resources with families.

Canyons is committed to partnering with parents and will be seeking input on preferred Chromebook filtering practices for elementary's, now through April 30, 2025. The district is asking for feedback from School Community Councils, building leadership teams, individual

parents and employees can also provide input through the “Your Schools, Your Voice” portal on the CSD website and feedback will also be accepted at [communications@canyonsdistrict.org](mailto:communications@canyonsdistrict.org).

The Administration is recommending going out for an RFP for a technology filtering system, do a deep dive on third party app agreements, explore a three strike suspension for student inappropriate searches and determine other appropriate levels of discipline for misuse of technology. Presentation available on BoardDocs.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DF6MVY5D1CF5>

**10. Staff Comments**

- A. Superintendent Report

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DF5SD271EA0A>

- B. Business Administrator Report

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DF5SD571EA0D>

**11. Board Comments**

- A. The President will recognize individual Board members for reports

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DF5SD971EA11>

**12. Closing Items**

- A. Adjourn

/cc

ATTEST

Amber Shill

Board President

Rick Robins

Superintendent