

Granite School District
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, April 1, 2025

A meeting of the Board of Education of Granite School District convened in the Boardroom at the Granite Education Center, 2500 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah. President Nicole McDermott called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM, those in attendance:

Nicole McDermott	President
Kris Nguyen	Vice President
Connie Burgess	Board Member
Kim Chandler	Board Member
Julie Jackson	Board Member
Clarke Nelson	Board Member
Karyn Winder	Board Member

The following members of the administration were present:

Benjamin Horsley	Superintendent
Todd Hauber	Business Administrator
Don Adams	Assistant Superintendent

Mitch Nerdin, Chief of Staff, Doug Larson, General Counsel, and Stacy Bushell, Executive Secretary, were in attendance. Leslie Bell and John Welburn, Assistant Superintendents were excused.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: **I move we go to an executive session for the purpose of safety and security, negotiations, and litigation.**

Made by: Julie Jackson
Seconded by: Kim Chandler

Called for voice vote: President McDermott

<u>Results:</u>	<u>For:</u>	<u>Against:</u>
	Connie Burgess	
	Kim Chandler	
	Julie Jackson	
	Nicole McDermott	
	Clarke Nelson	
	Kris Nguyen	
	Karyn Winder	

The board convened an Executive Session in the boardroom at 5:03 p.m. Those present were Kris Nguyen, Connie Burgess, Kim Chandler, Julie Jackson, Doug Larson, Don Adams, Randy Porter, Mitch Nerdin, Clarke Nelson, Karyn Winder, Todd Hauber, Ben Horsley, Nicole McDermott, and Stacy Bushell.

Motion: **I move we close Executive Session.**

Made by: Karyn Winder

Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

The executive session adjourned at 6:29 p.m. and board members took a dinner break.

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

The Granite School District Board of Education reconvened at 7:02 p.m. in the Boardroom. President Nicole McDermott welcomed all in attendance for this session and called for a roll call of board members; all board members were present. She invited those representing organizations to introduce themselves:

Kimberly Swensen	PTA
Michele Jones and Haley Kelly	GEA
Kelly Oveson, Shelly Autry, Diane Gilmore,	
Amy Wolters, Virginia Glaittli, and	
Amanda Pennington	GAEOP
Jadee Talbot and Cristi Green	GEF

Pledge of Allegiance: Jadee Talbot

Reverence: Kearns Junior High advanced art students.

GOOD NEWS MINUTE

Clarke Nelson highlighted two schools; the kindergarten students at Wilson increased letter and sound recognition scores from 5% to 89%, Bonneville's musical, *High School Musical Jr.*, was tremendous, special thanks to Carolyn Peterson, Amanda Johnson and Becca Tzovaras.

Karyn Winder attended the teacher of the year surprise assembly. She congratulated Granger's Unified basketball team on state win. She stopped at Dr. Howe's birthday celebration, he orders cake for all Granger students. At Kennedy's STEAM night they had fireworks in the snow! She appreciates schools that celebrate National History Day; Granger and Skyline.

Kris Nguyen attended STEM night at Kennedy, it was fantastic. District Community Council had a great discussion. Brockbank has started their community council, they are forming some really good initiatives. She thanked parents at Hunter High who work to support students and teachers.

Connie Burgess attended unified basketball at the Delta Center. Our teams did well, she really enjoyed the event. Junior high wrestling division finals were last week, it was well organized.

Kim Chandler said it is playtime – musicals are taking place, she recognized everyone's effort and excitement for these events. She is impressed by the talent in our district.

Julie Jackson has enjoyed meeting more of her community members. A Crestview student was a school board member in the wax museum, they conducted a very professional interview. She talked to students at Skyline about chrome books and she appreciates their perspective. Nicole McDermott talked about school shows, drill performances and other performing groups who are working hard this Spring. She visited Pie Day at Jefferson Junior High. Walmart donated mini pies for the event, it was so much fun.

RECOGNITIONS

Excel Award Winners

Jadee Talbot introduced the 2024-2025 Excel Award winners; Rai Pattison (Kearns Junior), Chantal Esquivias (Olympus High), Anna Kendall (Bonneville Junior), Ana Alamo (Cottonwood El.), Carolyn Wetzel (Oakridge El), Stephanie Nykamp (Upland Terrace El.), Shellie Rush (Whittier El.), Jennifer Johnson (Hunter Junior), Meghan Allen (Kearns High), and Jennifer Christensen (Olympus High principal).

Granite Teacher of the Year

Anne Reese, Onboarding and Teacher Coaching, introduced the 2024-2025 Granite Teacher of the Year, Rai Pattison, EE teacher at Kearns Junior High school.

GRANITE ELECTED OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION TIME - none

PATRON PARTICIPATION TIME

Dr. Zackary Book, Oakridge patron, addressed the board regarding the Area 5 study. The residents in this neighborhood oppose school closure. There are alternatives to school closure and ways to increase efficiency. He highlighted the positive features of the school. He urged the board to consider community input and opinions.

Dr. Nathaniel Eschler Beverly Taylor Sorensen (BTS) teacher introduced Harlin Salizar, BTS teacher, who was with him. He and Katelin Bramble wrote a joint statement which he delivered to the board. They highlighted the importance of the BTS program in schools. Recently state funding was decreased, they encouraged the board to invest in the program to enhance and grow it within Granite.

CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes: March 4 & 18, 2025

Purchases as outlined in the agenda.

Change Orders as outlined in the agenda.

Personnel:

Employee Hires and Separations

Leave of Absence

LEA Specific Licenses

Financial reports as outlined in the agenda.

Cell Tower Contract, Hunter High

CTSO Travel

Land Purchase 2934 S Dora Street, Magna, Utah

LAND Trust Amendments

Motion: **I move we approve the Consent Agenda.**

Made by: Julie Jackson

Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Kim Chandler said she is opposed to the ELA curriculum contract.

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed Yea: 6, Nay: 1 (Kim Chandler)

ACTION ITEMS

Administrative Appointments and Transfers

Administrative appointments effective July 1, 2025.

Brittney Ambrose	Associate Director	Human Resources
Jennifer Bodell	Associate Director	Marketing (Communications & Community Outreach)
Tifny Iacona	Associate Director	Special Education
Taylor Khater	Associate Director	Parent Advocate (Communications & Community Outreach)
Jonny Matich	Associate Director	Student Services
Wyatt Bentley	Associate Director	Employee Due Process & Performance Mgmt. (Human Resources)
Michael Douglas	Associate Director	Student Assessment
Katy Timothy	Associate Director	Elementary (Human Resources)
Justin Pitcher	Principal	Cottonwood High
Jared Wright	Principal	Granger High
Amy Haider	Principal	Eisenhower Junior
Daniel Harnsberger	Principal	Jefferson Junior
Chad Rhinehart	Principal	Matheson Junior
Michelle Farmer	Assistant Principal	Cottonwood High
Sarah LaFond	Assistant Principal	Eisenhower Junior
Alyssa Longstaff	Assistant Principal	Bonneville Junior
Travis Mehlhoff	Assistant Principal	Jefferson Junior
Kris Telford	Assistant Principal	Hunter High

Administrative transfers effective July 1, 2025.

Josh Bates	Assistant Principal	Granger High
Cooper Best	Assistant Principal	Olympus High
Josh DeMoux	Assistant Principal	Brockbank Junior
Geoff Murdock	Assistant Principal	Kearns High
Ofa Nau	Assistant Principal	Roosevelt Continuation School
Gabe Guadiana	Principal	Whittier Elementary
Kristen Logan	Principal	Fremont Elementary
Allison Milne	Principal	Gourley Elementary
Katie Page	Principal	Diamond Ridge Elementary
Lee Basquin	Assistant Principal	Stansbury & Moss Elementary

Prema Chruthoti	Assistant Principal	Walker Elementary
Ana Pendleton	Assistant Principal	Lake Ridge & Valley Crest Elementary
Cory Pengelly	Assistant Principal	Silver Hills & Upland Terrace Elementary
Maegan Snodgrass	Assistant Principal	Copper Hills & Hillsdale Elementary
Nicole Woodmansee	Assistant Principal	Magna Elementary
Christi Christensen	Principal	Arcadia Elementary
Katrina Gillespie	Principal	Jackling Elementary
Matt Graham	Principal	Eastwood Elementary
Crista Holt	Principal	Wilson Elementary
Darren Johnson	Principal	Driggs Elementary
Ann Kane	Principal	Rosecrest Elementary
Megan Madsen	Principal	Plymouth Elementary
Lisa McDonald	Principal	Bennion Elementary
Aaron Wilson	Principal	Calvin Smith Elementary
Allison Banks	Assistant Principal	Beehive & Hunter Elementary
David Everett	Assistant Principal	Granger Elementary
Elisa Jennings	Assistant Principal	South Kearns & West Kearns Elementary
Jason Kemble	Assistant Principal	Bennion & Crestview Elementary
Ben Meredith	Assistant Principal	Elk Run & Penn Elementary
Beth Nielsen	Assistant Principal	Fremont & Truman Elementary
Annie Orton	Assistant Principal	Jackling & Rolling Meadows Elementary
Allison Peterson	Assistant Principal	Academy Park & Taylorsville Elementary
April Reynolds	Assistant Principal	Morningside & Smith Elementary
Melanie Roybal	Assistant Principal	Arcadia & Wilson Elementary
Natalie Thompson	Assistant Principal	Hillside & West Valley Elementary

Motion: **I move that we approve the administrative appointments and transfers.**

Made by: Karyn Winder

Seconded by: Clarke Nelson

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Sex Education Materials

Motion: **I move we approve the Sex Ed. Materials as a second and final reading.**

Made by: Julie Jackson

Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Kim Chandler is concerned about the AP Psychology curriculum standards; she encouraged board members to consider evaluating if Granite should continue to offer this class because the class standards may conflict with state law and executive orders.

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Yea: 6, Nay: 1 (Kim Chandler)

INFORMATION ITEMS

Article VII.C.2 District Property Access and Safety

Doug Larson explained the need to adopt this policy to protect students and school property from animals on school grounds. The presence of animals can result in a threat to students or damage to property. A written policy allows law enforcement to assist with compliance. At schools where animals have been restricted for 30 days, students, parents and school personnel have found it helpful.

Article VIII.A.24 Electronic Devices and Acceptable Use of Technology

Doug Larson talked about proposed updates to this policy. Potential changes in policy will emphasize that screen time in the classroom should be used for planned learning and not to keep students passively occupied.

Board members want staff to solicit feedback and gather data points regarding guidelines for integration of technology with instructional practices. The information gathered will be shared with the board as this policy is refined.

FIRST READING

Article V.A.6 Guardians in Schools

This is a new policy that is necessitated by a state law passed in 2024. The law requires that armed volunteers called School Guardians be present in District schools. Volunteers must be trained and approved by a District Security Specialist and will be provided with a monetary bonus for participating in the Guardians program.

Board members asked for adjustments to the definitions in the policy to reflect recent changes to legislation.

Motion: I move we approve V.A.6 Guardians in Schools as a first reading.

Made by: Julie Jackson
Seconded by: Karyn Winder

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Yea: 7, Nay: 0

SECOND READINGS

Article VIII.B.9 Prohibitions on Bullying, Cyberbullying, Hazing and Retaliation

Motion: I move we approve VIII.B.9 Prohibitions on Bullying, Cyberbullying, as a second and final reading.

Made by: Julie Jackson
Seconded by: Karyn Winder

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Article IX.A.1.b Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco

Motion: I move we approve as a second and final reading. Article IX.A.1.b Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco.

Made by: Karyn Winder
Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Article IX.A.4.c Corrective Action, Progressive Discipline, and Orderly Termination

Motion: I move we approve as a second and final reading Article IX.A.4.c Corrective Action, Progressive Discipline policy.

Made by: Karyn Winder
Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Fiscal Policy Manual Update

Motion: I move we accept the Fiscal Policy Manual Update as a second and final reading.

Made by: Kris Nguyen
Seconded by: Karyn Winder

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Yea: 7, Nay: 0

2025-2026 School Fee Schedules

Craig Stauffer, School Leadership and Improvement Director, shared minor amendments to the fee schedules since the reading at the March board meeting.

Board members were particularly concerned about admission fees to be charged to students attending games and performances. This would be a result of general student fees no longer being collected. Depending on budget decisions, the lost general student fee revenue could be replaced with a district allocation. President McDermott recommended a change on the property damage fees to indicate the amount is a maximum charge.

Motion: I move we approve the 2025-2026 School Fee Schedules as amended for a second and final reading.

Made by: Julie Jackson
Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Yea: 7, Nay: 0

SUPERINTENDENT and BOARD REPORTS

Karyn Winder reported on the benefits committee. There will be mammogram buses available to employees in April. Employees are accessing mental health benefits.

Kris Nguelyn said the Region PTA Awards night will be April 14 at 6:30 p.m. The Brockbank STEM mascot post today was the best thing ever. She thanked those responsible for this, it was a lot of fun for the community.

Kim Chandler attended the Parks and Rec. meeting in March she is now officially approved to serve on the board. They are currently creating subcommittees.

Julie Jackson said the evaluation committee will meet tomorrow; board members should watch for an email. USBA will hold a retreat in St. George at the end of the month.

ADJOURN

President McDermott adjourned the meeting at 9:54 p.m.

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/> and <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/2744>

APPROVED: May 6, 2025