

**Granite School District  
Board of Education Meeting  
Tuesday, May 6, 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 p.m., those in attendance:

Nicole McDermott	President
Kris Nguyen	Vice President
Connie Burgess	Board Member
Kim Chandler	Board Member
Karyn Winder	Board Member

Julie Jackson and Clarke Nelson, board members, were excused.

The following members of the administration were present:

Ben Horsley	Superintendent
Todd Hauber	Business Administrator
Leslie Bell	Assistant Superintendent
John Welburn	Assistant Superintendent

Doug Larson, General Counsel, and Stacy Bushell, Executive Secretary, were in attendance. Dr. Mitch Nerdin, Chief of Staff, was excused.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### **Construction & Capital Update**

Justin Naegle, Architecture, Engineering, and Construction Director, presented information about current construction and capital projects. Chris Kartchner, BDK, updated the board on progress of the Cyprus and Skyline High rebuilds. The Cyprus faculty toured the site last week and they are looking forward to moving to the new building.

### **Magna Elementary Update**

Ben Peters, principal, presented an update on rebranding at Magna elementary. A survey was conducted in the fall to gather feedback about a name and mascot for the school. Survey results show that top recommendations are Magna STEAM Elementary or Cyprus STEAM Elementary. The favored mascot is a bulldog. The preferred school colors are blue and yellow.

Board Discussion: Kris Nguyen said as she has visited with community members, she is not strongly persuaded to choose either elementary or academy for the school's name. She would like to keep the name Magna. Several board members believe using the academy title will help to bring awareness to the efforts and changes being made to the curriculum focus, educational opportunities and reconstitution of the faculty.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President McDermott said there is need of an executive session and called for a motion.

**Motion:** **I move we enter Executive Session for the purpose of character and competence and negotiations.**

Made by: Kim Chandler  
Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for voice vote: President McDermott

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

The meeting adjourned and the board convened an Executive Session in Room B-217 at 5:49 p.m. Those in attendance were Todd Hauber, Kim Chandler, Karyn Winder, Connie Burgess, Kris Nguyen, Ben Horsley, and Nicole McDermott.

**Motion:** **I move we adjourn executive session.**

Made by: Kim Chandler  
Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott  
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

The executive session ended at 6:55 p.m. and board members returned to the boardroom for the general session.

### **GENERAL BOARD MEETING**

The Granite School District Board of Education reconvened at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom. President Nicole McDermott welcomed all in attendance for this session. She excused Julie Jackson and Clarke Nelson, however, Julie Jackson arrived at 7:25 p.m. President McDermott invited those representing organizations to introduce themselves:

GEA	Michelle Jones, Jessica Dunn, Barbara Antonetti, and Sarai Peterson
GAEOP	Gayna Breeze, Diane Gilmore
GESPA	Breezy Davis, Riley Ogden, and Jessica McClintic
GEF	Jadee Talbot, Christi Green, Terri Heyduk, and Katharine Newton
Elected Officials	Mayor Kristie Overton, Senator Karen Kwan

Pledge of Allegiance: Lindsay Nield

Reverence: Gearld Wright STEM Academy Music Club

## **GOOD NEWS MINUTE**

Kim Chandler attended the GEA open house and town hall meetings.

Connie Burgess attended the GTI tour. She highlighted the CEO students who will host a trade show on Friday, May 9 at the Shops at South Towne.

Kris Nguyen attended the bus driver appreciation event and the faculty tour of Cyprus, Cyprus Unites night. She thanked teachers who do other important things in their communities. There will be an open house, One Last Walk Through at Cyprus on Friday, May 16, 2025

Karyn Winder attended NSBA and town hall meetings. She attended track meets. She appreciates the opportunities for competitions we provide for student athletes. Additionally, when touring the GTI she noticed a significant number of Taylorsville students who attend these programs. She recognized her sister who is the College Career Counselor at Taylorsville and is retiring this year. She teaches Taylorsville students about opportunities available to them.

Nicole McDermott attended the Granite Art Show and an ensemble performance. She acknowledged the various employee recognition days, thanking those who work in education.

## **RECOGNITIONS**

### **Academic All-State**

Instrumental Music: Ella Anderson (Cyprus)

Speech & Debate: Haylie Whitney (Cyprus)

Music: Andrew Poulson (Cyprus)

Theatre: Tatum Castro (Hunter)

Girls Track and Field: Brynn Poulson, Lily Shawcroft (Cyprus), Paige Meaders (Granger), Evelyn Clayton, Johanna Harbour, Noelle Harbour (Olympus)

Boys Track and Field: Andrew Poulson (Cyprus), Ethan Ostler (Granger), Tennyson Stewart (Olympus), Andrew Crouch, Carson Stewart, Davis How, Jonah Fearnley, Oliver Currit (Skyline), Kai Makowski, Sawyer Cook (Taylorsville)

Baseball: Cody Densley (Cyprus)

Softball: Daniella Armstrong (Granger), Adison Comer (Olympus), Megan Sterzer (Taylorsville)

Boys Soccer: Andrew Norton, Jonathan Dansie (Olympus), Jax Jameson (Skyline)

Boys Volleyball: Jackson Dance, Warner Wilson (Skyline), Radley Johnson (Taylorsville)

Girls Golf: Sunnie Ivins (Cottonwood), Teralynn Petersen (Hunter)

Boys Tennis: Spencer Thompson (Cottonwood), Aaron Johnson (Cyprus), Spencer Bentley (Granger), Alex Sylvester (Hunter), Nicolas Rodgers (Kearns), Elijah Pingree (Olympus), Laszlo Otis-Pasternak, Tai Jansen (Skyline), Parker Marcrum, Roberto Perkins (Taylorsville)

### **School Crossing Guards**

Chief Randy Porter recognized 115 school crossing guards from six police agencies across Granite School District including: Murray, South Salt Lake City, Taylorsville, Unified Police Department, West Jordan, and West Valley.

### **Excellence in Education, Governors Award**

Luca DalCanto was recognized for receiving the Excellence in Education, Governors Award for innovation. Luca developed an app about chess, works as a webmaster, runs a math tutoring business and published a science fiction novel, Sola. He plans to study engineering at Perdue University in the fall.

### **Friend of Education**

Superintendent Horsley recognized Senator Karen Kwan who is attentive to the needs of Granite School District and is on the forefront of help work to obtain funding for security measures. She cares about the mental health needs of students and is responsive during the legislative session.

### **Granite Education Foundation Partners**

Jadee Talbot, Director, recognized Rich Simon and Dani Whirl from Discover. As one of the longest standing partners of the foundation, Discover sponsors the student shop-a-thon, over 1,000 meal kits monthly, and the Santa Sack program.

### **Years of Service**

Superintendent Horsley recognized President Nicole McDermott for 15 years of service in Granite School District.

## **GRANITE ELECTED OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION**

Mayor Kristie Overson, Taylorsville, thanked the board and administration for the opportunity to tour the GTI and attend the budget luncheon. She appreciates this yearly budget lunch as an opportunity to hear about district needs. Granite helps to shape and mold the young residents in Taylorsville. She thanked the board for the partnership shared between Granite and Taylorsville City.

Senator Karen Kwan thanked the Board for the honor, she appreciates the work of the board. The tour of the GTI was amazing, she will do all she can to share information about these offerings and work to get money to support education. It is needed as deserved to take care of kids.

## **PATRON PARTICIPATION**

Robyn Ivins, Murray, spoke to the board, her children have attended Woodstock elementary, Bonneville junior high and Cottonwood high school over the past 24 years. Two of her daughters have taught in Granite, her children are products of this district. She expressed gratitude to the Granite Board of Education, superintendents, principals, and the excellent teachers who have given her children a stellar education. She thanked them for giving their time, energy and passion to this wonderfully diverse school district.

Michele Jones, GEA President, spoke on behalf of the association. She expressed appreciation for the move toward inter space bargaining over the past several years. Though this approach is time intensive, it yields deeper, more meaningful outcomes. One example is the reduction of K-2 FTE from 27.5 to 24, this will support teachers and benefit students' learning experiences. She thanked the board for their willingness to collaborate and for keeping shared interest focused on students and families.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

Minutes, April 1, 15, 22, and 29, 2025  
Purchases as outlined in the agenda  
Change Order as outlined in the agenda.

Personnel:

1. Employee Hires and Separations
2. Leaves of Absence

Financial Reports as outlined in the agenda

Comprehensive Support and Improvement Low-Performing Student Group, School Plans

Foreign Exchange Agencies for 2025-2026

School LAND Trust Amendments

School LAND Trust Plans for 2025-2026

Ratification of Compensation Agreements

1. Granite Education Association (GEA)
2. Granite Education Support Professionals Association (GESPA)

**Motion:** **I move that we accept the Consent Agenda.**

Made by: Kris Nguyen

Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Karyn Winder spoke about the GEA agreement bringing attention to the last miscellaneous item in the agreement which speaks about a study looking at lengthening the teacher contract day. "I highlight this because the study mentioned is a big deal to me. It is really, really important. I hope this study is done with the intentionality to open the door to bring our contract in line with other districts. I hope there is sincerity from the GEA on this and that this time next year the study isn't simply swept under the rug and discarded. This is a concern for me, so I want to speak to that. I am grateful we are studying this, this year, as it is a big deal to me and I just want to publicly voice my support and bring that study to everybody's attention as it's at the very, very, very end of the tentative agreement. So, I will be voting to support this, but I just wanted to explain that little piece and why it is important to me".

Kim Chandler commented that the consent agenda contains many items. She has concerns about some software purchases on the consent agenda. There have been technology issues over the past several days with accessing the website to review the LAND Trust plans, because she has not been able to review the plans, she cannot vote for them and will therefore abstain from the vote. She recognized the collaborative efforts that have gone into the GEA Agreement. She thanked those on both sides who worked so hard to get it to this point.

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Yea - 5, Abstain-1 , Absent 1

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Administrative Appointments**

Appointments will be effective July 1, 2025.

Michelle Searle	Principal	Transition Services
Briana Cauley	Assistant Principal	Bennion & Crestview Elems.

**Motion:** **I move that we accept the action item of administrative appointments.**

Made by: Karyn Winder  
Secounded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott  
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

## **FIRST READINGS**

### **Article IX.A.1.p Parental and Postpartum Recovery Leave**

**Motion: I move that we approve as a first reading Article IX.A.1.p. Parental and Postpartum Recovery Leave.**

Made by: Karyn Winder  
Secounded by: Julie Jackson

Called for vote: President McDermott  
Results: Motion Passed Yea – 6, Absent - 1

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

**Motion: I move that we accept Article VIII.A.24. Electronic Devices and Acceptable Use of Technology 2025 as a first reading.**

Made by: Julie Jackson  
Secounded by: Kris Nguyen

Julie Jackson said this policy was changed last year to include cell phones and those changes have been appreciated. She believes schools can continue to improve implementation of this policy which will bring positive outcomes.

Kim Chandler said “When we passed this policy initially, I voted against it, I had concerns then, I still have those same concerns. Tonight, I feel like I am voting simply on this addition that we are adding. To me it surrounds what Julie just described and our intention to study our use of technology in schools and I am very supportive of that so I will be supporting the changes to this policy tonight. I just wanted to be clear, I do still have the same concerns I had in the past.

Called for vote: President McDermott  
Results: Motion Passed Yea – 6, Absent - 1

## **SECOND READINGS**

### **Article V.A.6 Guardians in Schools**

**Motion: I move that we accept Article V.A.6. Guardians in Schools as a second reading and final reading.**

Made by: Kim Chandler  
Secounded by: Julie Jackson

Called for vote: President McDermott  
Results: Motion Passed Yea – 6, Absent - 1

## **SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD REPORTS**

Superintendent Horsley acknowledged teacher appreciation week. Recent events have included 30-year recognitions, town hall meetings, and the annual budget luncheon. South Kearns' PTA received a \$30,000 grant for new soccer goals. Seyyed Shriffi, teacher was selected as Discovery Channel's National teacher of the year. It was a great day today when one of his students at Granger High said hello to him.

Julie Jackson said the evaluation committee has completed Todd Hauber's evaluation.

Kim Chandler said that SL County canceled the last meeting. Lodestone Regional Park will be opening a mountain bike trail.

Connie Burgess went to USBA where they are working on a manual to build better school boards. They discussed advocacy efforts.

Kris Nguyen reported the budget committee will meet in June. The PTA changed their structure and leadership will be changing. She thanked Kimberly Swensen who has served on the PTA board and 2 terms as Region5 President. Kimberly will be an area director. Liz Shellum will be the new Region 5 president. The PTA state convention is tomorrow and Thursday.

Karyn Winder said the Benefits committee will meet on Monday. She elaborated on the work of the evaluation committee. As a board, they hire two employees, the superintendent and business administrator. Earlier the evaluation committee completed a review of their business administrator. The board values Todd Hauber for his role, he had a big task when he came to this position to implement better processes and procedures, to work with directors by bringing a new culture. He is an awesome advocate on the hill, he is well respected and makes sense of the legislation and fiscal matters. She thanked him for joining our team at Granite.

Nicole McDermott said Law and Policy worked on the policies that were read tonight. The DCC meeting is next Tuesday at West Lake. The audit committee met; school audits are almost complete.

## **ADJOURN**

President McDermott adjourned the meeting at 8:40 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: June 3, 2025