

**Granite School District
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, June 3, 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
Julie Jackson	Board Member
Clarke Nelson	Board Member
Karyn Winder	Board Member

The following members of the administration were present:

Ben Horsley	Superintendent
Todd Hauber	Business Administrator
Dr. Mitch Nerdin	Chief of Staff
Leslie Bell	Assistant Superintendent
John Welburn	Assistant Superintendent

Doug Larson, General Counsel, and Stacy Bushell, Executive Secretary, were in attendance.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Construction & Capital Update

Justin Naegle, Architecture, Engineering, and Construction Director, and Chris Kartchner, BDK, updated the board on progress of capital projects.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - none

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. President McDermott invited those representing organizations to introduce themselves:

PTA	Kimberly Swensen
GEF	Sean Neal, Christi Green, and Carrie Johnson
Elected Officials	Carol Moss

Pledge of Allegiance: Shawn Nielson

Reverence: Gearld Wright STEM Academy Music Club

GOOD NEWS MINUTE

Julie Jackson Skyline completed testing in the new building and it was very successful. The community has expressed appreciation for the ways their input was valued and considered. Kim Chandler attended the Redwood community carnival where there were lots of bounce houses and many of attendees celebrating the past 72 years. She helped at Wright elementary field day. The Valley Crest community council will mostly remain at the new Spanish DLI school which is key in the transition. Graduations kept board members busy. She recognized that traffic at the Maverik Center was difficult.

Connie Burgess congratulated the CEO students at GTI, they hosted a trade show in May. She appreciates what the GTI offers to our students. Graduations were a highlight; the students were wonderful, and the ceremonies didn't last too long so that was great.

Kris Nguyen attended the Orchard Elementary celebration; it was a beautiful sendoff. Cyprus held a community night with mini reunions and other fun events as they close the old campus and prepare to move to the new school. Each graduation ceremony was unique; there was a heartfelt program at transition services, high school graduations were so enjoyable, the students at Granite Connect overcome challenges to graduate.

Karyn Winder attended graduations at Granger, Hunter, and Kearns. She attended choir concerts and community council meetings. A teacher at Farnsworth elementary received a grant to teach debate and hold a competition. The principal at Hunter elementary emailed, she celebrated the success of co-taught kindergarten. The GTI tour and budget meeting were helpful, she thanked those who attended. The benefits committee reported on wellness challenges for employees; Fox Hills elementary won the most recent challenge.

Clarke Nelson said the Cottonwood Community night was a tremendous success. There was an incredible feeling of community.

Nicole McDermott helped at South Kearns elementary field day. She went to Beehive elementary where students researched favorite school lunches. She attended the GTI open houses for the construction class, they were very impressive. She wished graduates at Kearns, Taylorsville and Granite Peaks well in their futures.

RECOGNITIONS

Discovery Educator of the Year

Seyyed Sharifi, Special Educator at Hartvigsen school

Sorenson Legacy Award

Lisa Noyes, BTS Specialist (Theatre)

Joshua Miller, Music and Technical Theatre, Hunter High School

Utah Association of Career and Technical Education, CTE Teacher of the Year

Shawn Kennedy, Graphic Design and Printing, Skyline High

Latinos in Action (LIA) Teacher of the Year

Anna Kendall, LIA Teacher, Bonneville Junior High

Granite Education Foundation Partners

Carrie Johnson recognized Jana Lisenby who represented the Lisenby family of The Foundation 4 Life. For over a decade Foundation 4 Life has supported the foundation by purchasing a delivery truck, providing hundreds of volunteer hours annually, and donating over \$1.7 million during the past decade.

Friend of Education

Superintendent Horsley recognized Representative Anthony Loubet as a Friend of Education, thanking him for his time and service during the legislative session. He was open, kind and responsive to our questions and requests.

GRANITE ELECTED OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION

Carol Moss shared her concern for teachers with the board. Unfortunately, many teachers are choosing to leave the profession because they do not feel appreciated or respected for their expertise. Regarding recent legislation on sensitive materials, Representative Moss believes this legislation is excessive and does not allow for local control. Some of the novels that were challenged this year are on the College Board literary list and have been taught in schools for decades. She asked the board and administration to respect students and teachers by allowing them to read these novels.

PATRON PARTICIPATION - none

CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes, May 6 and 20, 2025

Purchases as outlined in the agenda

Change Orders as outlined in the agenda.

Personnel:

1. Employee Hires and Separations
2. LEA Specific Licenses
3. Leaves of Absence

Financial Reports as outlined in the agenda

Easement, Granite Peaks/ Granite Connection, Fence

FY 25 Fraud Risk Assessment

LAND Trust Amendments

Lease Agreement: Western Hills, Unified Police Department

Property Sale: GTI Home, 6325 W Cape Ridge, WVC, UT 84128

Renaming Magna Elementary to Magna STEAM Academy

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

Made by: Julie Jackson

Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Karyn Winder commented on the lease agreement for the Western Hills property. She believes that decisions about property use should go through a public process beyond communication with the community affected. She suggested these items could be reported in board meetings during the Administrative Reports and prior to board approval.

Kris Nguyen commented on the Magna Elementary name change. Although the community council recommended a different name, she feels strongly about using a name that will honor the history of Magna and emphasize the change in expectations and academic focus.

Kim Chandler commented on the Magna Elementary name change. She would prefer to use the name suggested by the community. Additionally, she expressed her opposition to several purchases such as electronica curriculum, AI software, and Panorama.

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed 6 yay, 1 nay (Kim Chandler)

ACTION ITEMS

Administrative Appointments

Appointments will be effective July 1, 2025.

Christine Christensen	Director of Community Schools	
Kathy Hommes	Principal	Gourley Elementary
Francesca Hall	Assistant Principal	Hunter & Pleasant Green Elems.
Alex Heugly	Assistant Principal	Fox Hills & Gourley Elems.
Christine Kent	Assistant Principal	Arcadia Elementary
Ricky Rindlisbacher	Assistant Principal	Lake Ridge Elementary

Administrative Transfers

Transfers will be effective July 1, 2025

Alison Milne	Principal	Frost Elementary
Brandon Moore	Principal	Arcadia Elementary
Allison Banks	Assistant Principal	Beehive Elementary
Annie Orton	Assistant Principal	Jackling Elementary
Anna Pendleton	Assistant Principal	Valley Crest Elementary
Allison Rohner	Assistant Principal	Plymouth Elementary
Melanie Roybal	Assistant Principal	Rolling Meadows & Wilson Elems.

Motion: I move we accept the action item of Administrative Appointments and Transfers.

Made by: Kris Nguyen

Seconded by: Clarke Nelson

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Dr. Mich Nerdin introduced Christine Christensen, newly appointed Director of Community Schools. This position will be funded by United Way (UW). Leadership at United Way requested an administrator with experience in community school programs. Ms. Christensen was recommended because of her work with the South Salt Lake Promise initiative. Christine Christensen then introduced her guests in attendance.

Dr. Tyler Howe introduced newly appointed administrators who then introduced their guests.

2025-2026 Calendar Change

This change was needed to add a legislative day on September 2, 2025 for professional development and teacher planning time.

Motion: **I move that we accept the 2025-2026 Calendar change.**

Made by: Conie Burgess

Seconded by: Kris Nugyen

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

INFORMATION ITEM

Population Analysis Committee (PAC) Report

Steve Hogan, Planning and Boundaries Director, reviewed the schools identified for the Area 5 Study. The presentation included a list of community outreach efforts. For this study a subcommittee consisting of parent school community council members and a teacher representative from each school was formed. The subcommittee's role is to help PAC understand nuances and competing interests that may exist in each school community, it is not a decision-making body, their feedback is considered along with all other voices in the community. The PAC is considering closure of 2-3 schools along with boundary adjustments. Out of boundary students are assured of the opportunity to remain in their new boundary school in 2026. Next steps were listed with final action anticipated to be in December 2025.

Board Comments: Julie Jackson thanked Steve Hogan for his engagement with the community in Area 5. Unfortunately, as the subcommittee was created, they overlooked notifying the entire area which seemed secretive to some. She recognized a broader notification would have been better. The subcommittee has provided very helpful feedback. She invited patrons to contact board members or the PAC with their concerns.

FIRST READINGS

Article II.M Disposition of Real Property

Motion: **I move that we approve as a first reading, Article II.M Disposition of Real Property.**

Made by: Karyn Winder

Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Article VIII.A. 15 Student Dress Guidelines

Motion: **I move that we approve Article VIII.A.15 Student Dress Guidelines as a first reading.**

Made by: Julie Jackson

Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed

SECOND READINGS

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

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

Made by: Karyn Winder
Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed

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

Clarke Nelson asked whether the qualifier language in section C5 is necessary. President McDermott agreed, it is not needed and suggested that the word chance should also be removed.

Motion: I move we accept as a second and final reading, Article VIII.A.24. Electronic Devices and Acceptable Use of Technology 2025 with the proposed amendments with respect to the second sentence in C.5.

Made by: Clarke Nelson
Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed

SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD REPORTS

Superintendent Horsley reported on his focus as he is completing his first year as superintendent. In the coming months there will be a report regarding the work of SALT and efforts to prop up identified BOOST schools. He is pleased with testing scores and is committed to focusing on improved instruction. This year we implemented Safe School lite which is targeted for students who may need alternative placement or redirection when they cause disruption at school. He thanked the board for their backing as we work to redirect resources to improve instruction. This year district staffing was reduced, and the proposed budget will fund class size reduction in K-2 and provide more leadership in our schools. We are focused on the alignment of coaching to advance our culture of coaching for teachers and staff. We appreciate relationships with state officials and key stakeholders in our communities as we call on them for support. It is exciting to move forward with the Magna STEAM Academy and the magnet Spanish DLI school. Initiatives like these show our community that we are committed to differentiation to better serve all students. It is because of our great staff members, administrators, teachers, PTA and other community leaders that we are able to do great things. It is an honor to lead this district.

Clarke Nelson said the elementary school audit reports are complete. Secondary school audits will be finished in the coming weeks.

Karyn Winder reported on benefits committee, the health focused challenges encourage individuals and schools to participate in the competition with funding for the program coming from late enrollment fees.

Kris Nguyen reported that the budget and finance committee met today. The information from the meeting is available on BoardBooks for all board members to review.

Connie Burgess reminded board members that the delegate assembly will be Friday and Saturday; all board members are invited to attend.

Kim Chandler attended the Parks and Recreation meeting this month. They are exploring development of the Jordan Parkway for water sports. The county encourages families to sign up for the My County Pass for children up to age 18. The county wants to explore additional resource sharing with school districts.

Julie Jackson appreciates the support she receives to engage in legislative work. The evaluation committee will be sending evaluation forms to board members. The District Community Council was well attended; they discussed electronic devices policy.

Nicole McDermott said that the Law and Policy Committee will be reviewing the travel policy. She reminded everyone of the budget hearing on June 17 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

President McDermott adjourned the meeting at 9:42 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: July 1, 2025