

Granite School District

Board of Education Budget Hearing Tuesday, June 17, 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 6:02 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 - Virtually

Karyn Winder, board member, was excused.

The following members of the administration were present:

Benjamin Horsley	Superintendent
Todd Hauber	Business Administrator
Dr. Mitch Nerdin	Chief of Staff
Leslie Bell	Assistant Superintendent
Tyler Howe	Assistant Superintendent

Doug Larson, General Counsel, and Elisa Jenkins, Executive Secretary, were in attendance.

BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Brian Ipson and Todd Hauber presented the preliminary annual budget. The annual 2025-26 budget book has a balanced budget for all the funds which the board has legal responsibility/authority for. Every year the budget book contains two sections a revised budget for the current year and a proposed budget for the upcoming school year. The goal is to balance the budget. You can access the budget on the main page of the Granite School District website. Brian Ipson reviewed the budget priorities of the district, which are aligned with the strategic priorities of the district. The district has a deficit of 13.2 million in the general fund balance. There are some scheduled school rebuilds and remodels in the next few years, which are built into the capital budget priorities. The district has to levy the tax based on state statute. Granite is proposing a .006164 tax rate, which is about a \$14-million-dollar tax increase to balance the budget. The increase is about 9%, or \$106 a year for an average home. Brian Ipson and Todd Hauber are recommending approval of the budget.

BUDGET HEARING:

Public Comments:

Amiee Warren encouraged the board to approve the budget. She understands that this is a hard decision for the board to raise taxes, and she appreciates the board for all they do for Granite.

Michelle Jones, GEA President, also thanked the board for working so hard for the students and encouraged the board to pass the budget.

Nicole McDermott closed the public hearing at 6:31 p.m.

Board Discussion:

Julie Jackson asked if each elementary school will be getting at least a half-time assistant principal. Mitch Nerdin indicated that they have created a Dean of Students position. This position can do all administrative tasks as an assistant principal except supervising teachers. Each elementary school in the Granite District will have administrative support.

Julie Jackson asked how much of the budgetary savings are coming from school closures. Todd Hauber stated that it is about 1.3 million dollars.

Julie Jackson also asked if the 58.6 million dollars in the local section of the capital is going to future projects? Brian Ipson said that funding is for the pay as you go model to continue to renovate and build schools, a portion will be going to close out Cyprus and Skyline, but the rest will be going to future projects. The funds are invested in the public treasury fund while it is being held for capital projects.

There was some discussion about the wording of approving the 2024-25 budget. Todd explained that throughout the year there are grant awards that are given or taken away from the district that are not in the preliminary budget, they are saved and presented at this meeting to be adopted by the board at the end of the fiscal year, which is why the board is asked to approve the final 2024-25 budget at this meeting. The Board thanked Brian Ipson and Todd Hauber for the details of the budget and for making it clear for them to understand.

President McDermott asked if the one-time money that was in this budget will continue. Todd explained that the administrative piece will be moved to permanent money. The special education co-teach money needs another year of data and will remain on one time money. The other piece is preschool money, which they have received a grant for part of the funds and part will remain on one-time funds. The board feels that preschool programs are important.

ACTION ITEMS:

Approve the final 2024-2025 budget.

Motion: I move that we approve the final revised 2024-2025 budget as published.

Made by: Kim Chandler

Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed, Yea: 6, Absent: 1

Adopt the preliminary budget for the 2025-2026 school year

Motion: I move that we adopt the proposed 2025-2026 budget as published.

Made by: Connie Burgess

Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (nay), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), and Karyn Winder (absent)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 1, Absent: 1

Kim Chandler said there are purchases in the budget she does not approve of such as Chromebooks that increases the reliance on electronics and reduces the need for teachers which was the reason for her no vote.

Adopt the preliminary tax rates.

Motion: I move that we set the preliminary tax rate to 0.006164, subject to the changes in the State Basic Levy.

Made by: Julie Jackson

Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Called for vote: President McDermott

Vote: Connie Burgess (yea), Kim Chandler (nay), Julie Jackson (yea), Nicole McDermott (yea), Clarke Nelson (yea), Kris Nguyen (yea), and Karyn Winder (absent)

Results: Motion passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 1, Absent: 1

Kim Chander voted nay, based on her comments above.

Authorize a Truth-in-Taxation hearing to be held August 5, 2025

Motion: I move that we schedule a truth in taxation hearing to be held on August 5, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

Made by: Kris Nguyen

Seconded by: Kim Chandler

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed, Yea: 6, Absent: 1

ADJOURN:

President McDermott adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

APPROVED: July 1, 2025