

Granite School District
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, July 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 7:01 PM, those in attendance:

Connie Burgess: Present, Kim Chandler: Present, Julie Jackson: Present,
Nicole McDermott: Present, Clarke Nelson: Present, Kris Nguyen:
Present, Karyn Winder: Present.

Ben 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 Stacy Bushell, Executive Secretary, were in attendance.

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

President McDermott acknowledged members of PTA and GAEOP who were in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance: John Welburn

Reverence: Austyn Terrant

GOOD NEWS MINUTE

Julie Jackson has been excited to see activities continue at our high schools during the summer. There are many opportunities provided to our students year-round.

Kim Chandler recognized those who work throughout the summer to prepare and take care of all that needs to be done.

Connie Burgess enjoyed the Granite Youth Symphony concert. It was beautiful.

Kris Nguyen toured the new Cyprus high school. Projects at Cyprus, Brockbank and Magna are in high gear. There are many summer programs available to our students and families.

Karyn Winder talked about summer reading, where students can check out books from their school library and the school lunch program. These programs are a benefit to families.

Clarke Nelson said that all school audits are complete, and responses are coming in from principals. They are awesome.

Nicole McDermott attended the Granite Youth Symphony tour. Their director, who has been teaching for 40 years retired and this was his last tour, it was so much fun.

RECOGNITIONS

National History Day Qualifiers

Sophia Arce-Larreta, Daniella Armstrong, Darby Armstrong, Wesley Candelaria, Evan Duffy, Oliver Gibbons, Sarinna Goleman, Maylan Jessop, Anhkhoa Le, John McNeill, Paige Meaders, Kyle Lin Nhan, Jonathan Nielsen, Alex Orbiso, Amber Pederson, Mindy Phan, Melinda Reay, Kai’Nalu Siu, April Stevenson, Micah Tien, Grace Winder, and Sarah Zhang

GRANITE ELECTED OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION - None

PATRON PARTICIPATION - None

CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes, June 3 & 17, 2025

Purchases as outlined in the agenda.

Change Orders as outlined in the agenda.

Personnel: Employee Hires and Separations

Financial Reports:

Purchase Order Summary

Change Order Summary

Accounts Payable Pay Vouchers

Principals Cash Report

Monthly Budget Report

2026 Graduation Schedule

2025-2026 Employee Salary Schedules

Kim Chandler said she is concerned about Equal Opportunity Schools and mobile hot spots. Superintendent Horsley responded that the mobile hot spots provide internet access to impoverished students. There are filters in place and the speeds do not provide excessive access to allow streaming but are adequate for students to access Canvas. The funding is provided through a state grant.

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

Made by: Kris Nguyen

Seconded by: Karyn Winder

Called for vote: President McDermott

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

Focus Communications

Rick Anthony, Chief Information Officer, provided the board with a summary of the Focus communication platform features. There are universal features for phone, text, email and app messaging. Soon we will have native text message capabilities, allowing replies and individual messaging between parents and schools. Message translation is available in over 100 languages. Other features include text to speech translation, polling and sign-up, with responses available in real time. Focus communication is currently available within the Granite SD application.

Board Discussion:

Board members were happy to have a single app for parents to communicate and access academic information about students. Karyn Winder said she was the one who had been asking for this starting 8-9 years ago. So, for those who have been around for a while this was a big request. While she is sad and frustrated it took so long, she is excited and looking forward to this information resource for parents, teachers, and administrators.

Strategic Plan Update

Superintendent Horsley presented an update on the Granite Strategic Plan. Data on the strategic impact measured within each priority was included. Literacy, mathematics performance, and personalized competency-based learning were measured within the plan's academic priority. Tiered interventions and support, attendance, and sense of belonging were evaluated for the social skills and dispositions priority. Within talent development priority data was collected on employee recruitment and retention. Employee participation in professional learning and evaluation exceeded goals in all areas. Each school designs their individual continuous improvement plan to align with priorities, objectives and strategies outlined in the Graduation of Granite strategic plan.

SECOND READINGS

Article II.M Disposition of Real Property

Motion: I move we approve Article II.M Disposition of Real Property as a second and final reading with the addition of the words in no particular order at the end of the first paragraph Section B.

Made by: Kim Chandler

Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Article VIII.A.15 Student Dress Guidelines

Motion: I move we approve as a second and final reading Article VIII.A.15 Student Dress Guidelines.

Made by: Karyn Winder
Seconded by: Kim Chandler

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

SUPERINTENDENT and BOARD REPORTS

Superintendent Horsley gave a shout-out to the curriculum department, they received recognition for their work on parent engagement efforts. He is excited about increased graduation rates.

Julie Jackson said the evaluation committee will be sending board self-evaluations to board members. These need to be completed by Sunday for review at the board retreat on Tuesday. She shared concerns about SB37.

Kim Chandler said the Parks and Recreation meeting was postponed in June, they will meet in July.

Connie Burgess said that USBA will host a webinar tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. Leadership training will be held in September at Ruby's Inn.

Clarke Nelson attended the USBA delegate assembly, it is positive. He wished Superintendent Horsley a happy birthday and thanked him for his efforts.

Nicole McDermott said the board will hold their retreat on Tuesday. She recognized John Welburn and presented him with a gift wishing him well in retirement.

ADJOURN

President Nicole McDermott adjourned the meeting at 8:49 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>