

Granite School District
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Service Project

At 8:00 a.m. board members gathered at the Granite Education Foundation distribution center to complete a service project.

A work session of the Board of Education of Granite School District convened at the Adventure Hub, Millcreek Commons, 1354 E Chambers Avenue, Millcreek, Utah. President Nicole McDermott called the meeting to order at 10:51 AM, those in attendance:

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

Clarke Nelson, board member, participated electronically, periodically, as he was available.

Ben Horsley	Superintendent
Todd Hauber	Business Administrator
Dr. Mitch Nerdin	Chief of Staff
Stacy Bushell	Executive Secretary

Board Handbook Review

President McDermott asked for input regarding the board handbook. The topics discussed included:

The process for adding items to the board agenda. In board policy, Article II.D. outlines how board members can suggest topics for the agenda, sections D1 and D5. Board policy should be reflected in the board handbook. The suggested change to the handbook was, *Board Leadership* section, 2nd line: A simple majority of the board may ask the Board President to add an agenda item, and the board president will add the requested item to the agenda. The board president has discretion on other informal suggestions by board members.

Requests for information. The board leadership is aware that requests by board members for information have potential to monopolize administration's time. Simple information requests are not a problem, however, when a question requires in-depth research or analysis it could lead to an undue burden on district staff. Board leadership will work with board members and administration to determine the best response to these requests. The superintendent shares information with the entire board if it is relevant to everyone. Superintendent Horsley is supportive of board members asking questions directly to staff members. He asks that board members cc: him on these communications. This is covered in the *Communication with the Superintendent* section, #3.

Other When board members receive a patron question through email it is appropriate to cc: all board members as long as the response is directly addressed to the patron. These emails cannot become a discussion among board members. Going forward, patron concerns need to be sent to Taylor Khater instead of SLIDs. President McDermott asked board members to be aware of one another's constituency to ensure patrons receive appropriate responses from their representative board members.

Lunch break - 12:00 p.m.

Legislation: Joint Legislative Committee (JLC) Decision-Making Process

The board discussed engagement with the legislature and how to navigate opposing opinions when board members choose to engage or testify. It is helpful to clearly communicate when they are speaking on behalf of the Granite School District, the JLC, or expressing a personal position. Board members do not feel it is necessary to adopt a formal protocol for administration. They value flexibility for Ben and Todd to speak on topics because they are experts in these arenas, and they are often simply providing information. Most board members are comfortable with opposing positions among individuals. They will keep the lines of communication open between the board and administration during the legislative session. Board member Jackson prefers to avoid escalating the board's political position as a group. Board members will reach out individually to the JLC representative to share their perspectives.

Student Board Member

President McDermott led a discussion about engaging students for their input on various topics. Superintendent Horsley said there is a history of administration meeting with high school Student Body Officers (SBOs). If the board would like to engage this group of students, administration will facilitate. It would be difficult to elect or appoint a single student who would be representative of all students across the district. The collective feedback from the district SBO group would be a better method of gathering student perspectives and input. President McDermott asked the administration to enhance the SBO meetings by inviting a board member to attend monthly meetings, create a feedback loop, and invite these students to board meetings when policies or topics are pertinent. The board asked to include student leaders from Granite Connection High and will continue to brainstorm other ways to include students with diverse experiences.

Conferences and Professional Learning

Superintendent Horsley discussed professional development opportunities other than the annual NSBA conference. He shared a list of conferences district employees attend on a regular basis. Some of these conferences have content specifically for board members. Conferences are an opportunity for board members to build relationships, which is equally important as the conference content. The board will investigate other professional learning opportunities in the coming year. Administration will follow up with a survey for the board.

2026 Board Calendar, Study Sessions

Kris Nguyen presented a draft of the 2026 board meeting schedule. The board made suggestions for a final draft to be adopted at the August board meeting. The content, structure and needs for study sessions were reviewed. Board leadership will work to allocate a specific amount of time for presentations followed by time for questions and discussion. They will implement this structure for the remainder of the calendar year and then reevaluate its effectiveness.

Discussion of Committees

Todd Hauber shared an outline of a charter for committees. Implementing a charter provides clarity on the purpose, authority, membership, governing principles, responsibilities and goals of committees. Board members reviewed the current board committees and directed staff to update the website. Superintendent Horsley shared a list of internal committees with board members.

Board Evaluation and Goals

Julie Jackson presented the results of the board self-evaluation completed this week and board members shared their reactions to the results.

President Nicole McDermott adjourned the meeting at 4:03 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>