



CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The following minutes are a summary of the September 16, 2025, Canyons Board of Education meeting.

To listen to the entire board meeting, including all comments made during the meeting, please go to Diligent Community at <https://canyonsdistrict.community.highbond.com/Portal/>

The Board of Education of Canyons School District met in a board meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, beginning at 4:30 pm at 9361 S 300 E, Sandy, UT 84070.

Those in attendance were:

Amber Shill, Board President
Amanda Oaks, Vice President
Andrew Edtl, Vice President
Jackson Lewis, Board Member
Holly Neibaur, Board Member
Karen Pedersen, Board Member
Rick Robins, Superintendent
McKay Robinson, Assistant Superintendent
Leon Wilcox, Business Administrator
Daniel Harper, General Legal Counsel
Charlie Evans, Director of External Relations

Excused: Katie Dahle, Board Member

1. Closed Session – 4:30

- A. For the purpose of discussing deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems

MOTION: Karen Pedersen moved to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems. Andrew Edtl seconded the motion. *A vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously. (Ms. Neibaur joined electronically) [Diligent Community](https://canyonsdistrict.community.highbond.com/Portal/)

*Persons in Attendance: All Board Members, Rick Robins – Superintendent, Leon Wilcox – Business Administrator, Daniel Harper – General Legal Counsel, Charlie Evans – Director of External Relations, McKay Robinson - Assistant Superintendent, Jeff Haney – Director of Communications and Susan Edwards – Public Engagement Coordinator

2. Study Session – 5:00 pm

Holly Neibaur joined for a portion of Study Session

- A. Annual Open Meetings Training (State Statute) – Dan Harper, General Legal Counsel

Training for the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act is required by state statute, Utah Code 52-4-101 and the presiding officer of the Board of Education is responsible to ensure the

annual training requirements are reviewed. The purpose for the Act is to require government entities take actions openly and ensure deliberations allow for an open public process. Mr. Harper presented updated clarifications and revisions to the UOPMA. Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#)

B. Annual Title IX report and Athletic Manual and Website update – Dr. Tom Sherwood, Director of High School Principals

Dr. Sherwood reported that all five high schools are within the 10% recommended thresholds for proportionality of sports participation and enrollments. The facilities provided by the District are equitable with the new construction of the softball clubhouse at JHS and there were no other specific areas of concern. Similar programs are funded equally with public funds and fees for similar programs are also equalized in the district fee schedule.

In recent years Canyons has added boys & girls lacrosse, competitive cheer, and boys' volleyball to the sanctioned activities. The District has been able to maintain reasonable proportionality but may need to consider adding additional supports for female specific activities. CSD will send out an interest questionnaire to all female students in grade 8-11 during fall of 2025 to gather data to inform potential expansion efforts. Document available on [Diligent Community](#)

C. Annual Nutrition Report – Sebasthian Varas, Director of Nutrition Services

Mr. Varas reviewed the Nutrition Services organizational chart and indicated that the department is almost fully staffed, which is helping provide better service for students. The National School Lunch Program and The National School Breakfast Program requires school lunches meet meal pattern and nutrition standards based on the latest Dietary Guidelines for Americans. National school lunch reimbursement rates are lower and at pre-Covid rates. The District has a healthy fund balance that is helping mitigate the additional expenses. Additional measures are being taken to keep cost down; for example, switching from disposable trays to reusable dishes.

State legislation (HB222) mandates breakfast alternate models for schools with over 30% free and reduced eligibility. Breakfast in the classroom is currently provided at East Midvale, Midvalley, Copperview, and Sandy.

New legislation requirements are being implemented, pursuant to HB 100, students who qualify for reduced priced meals, maybe through a grant system, will be provided lunch at no cost; and HB402 introduced restrictions on food additives in Utah public schools.

Canyons continues to provide the Seamless Summer Program despite a decline in participation, the Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Program, and the Alternate Breakfast Meal Service Program in qualifying schools.

The Canyons Café provides breakfast and lunch for employees or patrons at the district and a catering program provides meals for trainings or meetings held at the district office.

Nutrition Education Services continue to provide nutrition education throughout CSD schools by having registered dietitians in the classroom, planning promotions for school cafeterias, and developing tools for distributing nutrition education in the school community. This year's motto is "Build a healthy body with school meals."

The free and reduced lunch percentages have changed from the 2023-2024 school year from 23.51% free and 4.31% reduced, to an increase to 26.17% free and a decrease to 4.00% reduced for the 2024-2025 school year, and then to a decrease of 22.57% free and an increase of 5.37% reduced for the 2025-2026 school year. There are concerns about federal legislation changing thresholds that may potentially eliminate Canyon schools qualifying for free and reduced status.

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a non-pricing meal service option for schools allowing to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications. Qualifying schools in CSD include Copperview, Midvale, East Midvale, Midvalley, Sandy and Midvale Middle schools.

Nutrition Services provides meals to CSD daycare at Corner Canyon, Jordan and Brighton.

The District is experiencing an increase in school meal program debt, which means at the end of the year more families are not paying their school lunch bill. Donations to help offset the negative meal accounts include donations from private donors.

The Nutrition Services Department has been fiscally responsible in managing expenses, which has led to a positive Nutrition Services fund balance equivalent to 6 months. Federal rule allows the District to have a positive funds balance equivalent to 3 operating months. To utilize the funds, a written plan will be designed to include improving services for meal programs, large equipment renovation for kitchens and improving labor conditions such as wages, benefits, uniforms, etc. Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#).

3. Business Meeting – 7:00 pm

4. Opening Items

- A. Welcome
- B. Approve Agenda for September 16, 2025

MOTION: Amanda Oaks moved to approve the agenda for September 16, 2025. Andrew Edtl seconded the motion. Yea (Mr. Lewis, Mr. Edtl, Ms. Shill, Ms. Oaks, and Ms. Pedersen) Not Present (Ms. Neibaur) The motion carries. [Diligent Community](#)

- C. Pledge of Allegiance – Hillcrest High School, Principal Brenda McCann
- D. School Highlights - Hillcrest High School, Principal Brenda McCann

Ms. Neibaur joined the meeting electronically

5. Canyons Strong Employee Recognitions – Jeff Haney, Director, and Kirsten Stewart, Associate Director of Communications

The following employees were recognized:

- Sept 17, 2025 – Constitution Day will be observed throughout the State and throughout Canyons School District
- Sept 11th – Remembrances were reviewed
- Sept 16th – IT Professionals Day
- HVAC Heroes – Zach Lindgren, Brandon Wolf, Dan Bray, Casey Hat, Bob Ellis
- Derek Chandler Utah First Place – National Veteran Affairs Art Competition Veteran Recovery through Art Therapy
- Fred Lowry – Support and Service for Canyons Education Foundation
- Jordan and Hillcrest Homecomings this week
- Superintendent Robins – Utah School Library Association, Administrator of the Year

6. Patron Comments

The following patrons commented:

- Krista Pippin, Canyons Education Association President – Negotiations
- Taylor Berhow – Boundary Study
- Brooke Eastham – Boundary Study
- Shelly Christensen – Boundary Study
- Isaac Carcoran – Boundary Study
- Kari Boyd-Peak – Jordan Baseball Field
- Brittney Jarrett – Boundary Study
- Jake Garfield – Boundary Study
- PJ Mannion – Boundary Study
- Sarah Mannion – Boundary Study
- Meg Pack – Boundary Study
- Kinley Garfield – Boundary Study
- Christie Taylor – Boundary Study
- Stephanie Johnson – Boundary Study
- Ashley Hellstrom – Boundary Study
- Natalie Anderson – Boundary Study
- Alicia Patrick – Boundary Study
- Melanie Griffith – Boundary Study
- Lara Miller - ECC

Remarks available on [Diligent Community](#)

7. Consent Agenda

- Approval of Minutes for September 2, 2025
- Approval of Hire and Termination Reports
- Approval of Purchasing Bids
- Approval of August Financial Reports
- Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Canyons School District and Alpine School District regarding Suncrest busing
- Approval of Consideration for Closing Granite Elementary
- Approval of Consideration for Closing Park Lane Elementary
- Approval of Canyons Innovation Center Naming and Branding
- Approval of Ridgecrest Elementary TSSP/Landtrust Amendment
- Approval of East Midvale Elementary TSSP/Landtrust Amendment
- Approval of Life Skills Academy Landtrust Amendment
- Approval of LEA Specific Licenses and Endorsements
- Approval of Crescent Elementary TSSP/Landtrust Amendment

MOTION: Amanda Oaks moved to approve the Consent Agenda Item 7A Approval of Minutes for September 2, 2025; Item 7B Approval of Hire and Termination Reports; Item 7C Approval of Purchasing Bids; Item 7D Approval of August Financial Reports; Item 7E Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Canyons School District and Alpine School District regarding Suncrest busing; Item 7F Approval of Consideration for Closing Granite Elementary; Item G Approval for Consideration for Closing Park Lane Elementary; Item H Approval of Canyons Innovation Center Naming and Branding; Item I Approval of Ridgecrest Elementary TSSP/Landtrust Amendment; Item J Approval of East Midvale Elementary TSSP/Landtrust Amendment; Item K Approval of Life Skills Academy Landtrust Amendment; Item L Approval of LEA Specific Licenses and Endorsements; Item M Approval of Crescent Elementary TSSP/Landtrust Amendment. Andrew Edtl seconded the motion. Yea (Mr. Lewis, Mr. Edtl, Ms. Shill, Ms. Oaks, and Ms. Pedersen) Not Present (Ms. Neibaur) The motion carries. [Diligent Community](#)

8. New Business

- A. Policy Update: Policy—300.04—Copyright; Policy—300.05—Emergencies and Safety Procedures; Policy—300.10—Named Gifts and Memorials; Policy—400.31—Evaluation of Licensed Personnel; Policy—400.32—Evaluation of Administrative Personnel, Policy—500.06—Technology Resources – Electronic Devices and Network Acceptable Use (Students); Policy-500.35-Student Attendance (Second Reading, Possible Action) – Jeffrey Christensen, Assistant Legal Counsel

Ms. Neibaur joined the meeting in person

Mr. Christensen briefly reviewed the information presented at the first reading and there have been no questions or changes since that meeting.

MOTION: Andrew Edtl moved to adopt Policy Update: Policy—300.04—Copyright; Policy—300.05—Emergencies and Safety Procedures; Policy—300.10—Named Gifts and Memorials; Policy—400.31—Evaluation of Licensed Personnel; Policy—400.32—Evaluation of Administrative Personnel, Policy—500.06—Technology Resources – Electronic Devices and Network Acceptable Use (Students); Policy-500.35-Student Attendance. Holly Neibaur seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. [Diligent Community](#)

- B. Strategic Plan Discussion and Legislative Report – Superintendent Robins

Superintendent Robins presented an overview of the current state of the District, highlighting successes and challenges. Canyon's students outpaced Utah peers on year-end tests by up to 15 percentage points. 73 % of the students who have taken the ACT score 18 or above, which ranks as the number one district in Utah. The District is committed to building state of the art schools with current projects including the Jordan High field house, black box theater, and secure vestibule; Eastmont Middle's interior remodel; Hilcrest High's stadium and track upgrade; and Corner Canyon's field house and play fields. Employee morale has increased by 24% in teacher job satisfaction in the last three years. The superintendent reviewed declining enrollment and changing demographic trends, which are reflected in data such as 29% economically disadvantaged, 11% Special education, 5% 504's, 5% homeless and 11% multi-lingual learners.

The District challenges and opportunities data for 2024-2025 include 31% chronically absent students, 42% chronic absenteeism in high schools; 32% secondary students with multiple F grades; math and science proficiency in grades 3-8, down 2.3%; and 241 District-level hearings for student discipline. The Superintendent highlighted state vs. federal education priorities for 2025.

Students are finding connection and purpose through career-focused learning and the Canyons Innovation Center at the Point will continue to strengthen opportunities to gain an advantage in advancing college and career readiness. Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#).

9. Staff Comments

- A. Superintendent Report
B. Business Administrator Report

10. Board Comments

- A. The President will recognize individual Board members for reports

11. Closing Items

- A. Adjourn 9:15pm

/cc

ATTEST

Amber Shill Board President

Rick Robins

Superintendent

Pending Approval