

Granite School District
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, October 7, 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 5:07 PM, those in attendance:

Nicole McDermott	Board 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:

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

Doug Larson, General Counsel, and Stacy Bushell, Executive Secretary, were in attendance. Ben Horsley, Superintendent was excused for administrative session.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Capital and Construction Update

Justin Naegle, Architecture, Engineering, and Construction Director, and Chris Kartchner, BDK, presented information about current construction and capital projects.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President McDermott said there is need of an executive session for the purposes of security, real estate and pending litigation, she called for a motion.

Motion: **I move we enter executive session for the purpose of security, real estate and pending litigation.**

Made by: Kim Chandler

Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Those attending the executive session were Julie Jackson, Kim Chandler, Connie Burgess, Kris Nguyen, Karyn Winder, Clarke Nelson, Todd Hauber, Doug Larson, Mitch Nerdin, Roger Brooks, Jared Wright, Stacy Bushell, and Nicole McDermott

Motion: **I move we end the executive session.**

Made by: Kris Nguyen
Seconded by: Karyn Winder

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

The executive session ended at 6:13 p.m. and board members recessed for a dinner break.

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 and called for a roll call of board members; all board members were present. Superintendent Horsley was present. President McDermott invited those representing organizations to introduce themselves:

PTA	Liz Shellum, Holli Meza, Amy Warren, and April Flores
GEA	Michele Jones, Cheryl Jindell, Shannon Garner, and Dayna Schoel
GAEOP	Gayna Breeze, Diana Pennington, Amanda Pennington, and Francisca Rodriguez

Pledge of Allegiance – Amy Warren

Reverence – Hartvigsen students, video of prerecorded musical number.

GOOD NEWS MINUTE

Julie Jackson said it has been exciting to recognize how much our patrons love their schools. We want to provide the best education possible to our students. It's been great to have legislators in our classrooms over the past month. She appreciates those who took time to visit.

Kim Chandler checked in with the community council at Dos Mundos Academy. They are implementing new things and keeping some traditions from Valley Crest. As part of a learning activity in a special education class at Granger elementary, the students chose to send letters to a board member (Kim) with questions. She replied to their letters answering their questions and then the teacher Ms. Parker, invited her to visit their classroom. They were so welcoming, it was a really fun experience.

Connie Burgess accompanied Senator Blouin when he visited four schools in her area.

Kris Nguyen attended the Hunter network fall event. It was amazing with performances, mascots, and a lot of community participation. She attended ribbon cuttings at Magna elementary, Brockbank junior high, and Cyprus high. She is so proud of her community, she thanked the principals at these schools for their hard work and support. Matt Hymas, State board member, visited Cyprus high and it was great to have him.

Karyn Winder participated in school community councils. She attended the Unified soccer tournament at Hunter High school. It was so fun to watch with everyone cheering for the participants. She attended the GEF shop-a-thon at Kohl's which is made possible by a \$100K donation from Discover card and other partners.

Clarke Nelson was invited to a network meeting with principals in the Cottonwood network. He enjoyed observing the decisions about learning, transition and leadership strategies. They are passionate experts and their passion for educating students was inspiring to him.

Nicole McDermott attended the Cyprus network activities. She was invited to a reading event at Fox Hills where the Superintendents of Rock performed for students. She attended and presented at the USBA Leadership Academy. She recognized Superintendent Horsley who was awarded the Chamber West Hall of Fame recognition.

GRANITE ELECTED OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION - none

PATRON PARTICIPATION

Dayna Shoell, Jackling, reading interventionist, thanked the Board, she appreciates the cooperative spirit between the Board, administration and GEA specifically transparency about FTE adjustments, funding for class size K-2, direction on ICE, classroom funds, vote to increase tax as the legislature is decreasing funding. 45 minutes of planning time, visiting schools and volunteering, and willingness to negotiate with GEA. Teachers depend on association leaders.

Sarah Harman spoke on behalf of a 100-community member group in the Eastwood area. Their concerns are met with conjecture instead of data. Their concerns include teacher turnover at Oakridge, unsafe walking routes, and lack of transportation capacity She distributed a handout to board members.

Danielle Housman, Morningside parent, urged the board to pause the Area 5 study and extend it one full school year. She believes the recommendations do not meet the study's stated goals. Strong schools should be protected. She believes that parents of traditional students at Morningside were not included in early discussions. There is skepticism about the resources needed to support a DLI magnet and little community buy-in. She asked the board to reframe the study, use creative visioning, keep families in Granite, give every child a reason to stay and make space for solutions that strengthen and don't shrink our district.

Kimberly Evason is a parent at Eastwood, and she asked the Board to work together to make Granite stronger. Eastwood has a gold STEM designation. The school has spaces modified for this purpose, they teach programming at all grade levels and hold events like Art night and STEAM fest. The community wants to build Eastwood and Granite School District.

Andy May is a parent at Morningside; opposed to closing. The objectives of the study have not been met. This recommendation would move the school from 90% full to 40% full. The school is in a central location with easy pick up and drop off. Enrollment is stable and rising. He believes in-district enrollment should be valued over in boundary enrollment. The September 2 presentation posted by PAC puts an emphasis on attracting students from out of district. Parents and teachers were not consulted and therefore parents don't trust the process.

Kerry Koleo, Morningside parent, asked the board to pause. There are more questions to be answered. The data points need to be studied.

Stephanie Valentine, Eastwood parent, thanked the board for listening and meeting with them. She believes Eastwood, a school in the top 2% with impact that spans many communities, should have a chance to be rebuilt. They collected 1620 signatures to keep the school open. Canyon Rim Academy (charter school) has over 500 students and is expanding. Parents have the same vision for Eastwood. She asked the board not to accept defeat; the future depends on what we do today.

Kate Miyagi's student asked the board, what is the reason for closing Morningside because there are a bunch of other schools that are not very full. Ms. Miyagi reminded the board that in February the PAC gave two options: to proceed with a study or to take a year off for more in-depth study. There are momentous questions, and the PAC did not answer these questions for Morningside. The school is still needed in this area.

Vanessa Dobson said everyone loves their schools and Granite has some really high performing schools. East side residents are tired of change, when Millcreek closed she tried to get her student into William Penn, and it was full. They found Morningside, it is a wonderful community school. The recommendation to close Morningside doesn't include a plan for its programs. The community is losing confidence. She asked the board to take a pause and plan for the east side.

Nastasya Mangone, Eastwood alumni and parent. spoke on behalf of the Eastwood advocacy group and said that no true PAC study was conducted. Eastwood parents have gathered measurable and intentional data (she provided a handout). There are critical flaws in the PAC's conclusions. She thinks community perception is that the decision has already been made. This recommendation only makes sense from a financial standpoint and feels like financial triage.

Jen Robinson, Morningside parent asked why the board would dismantle a whole family public school option amid the school choice conversation. The three tracks offered support all different strengths, needs and abilities allowing all students to be served in one school.

CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes, September 2 and 16, 2025

Purchases as outlined in the agenda.

Personnel:

Employee Hires and Separations
Leaves of Absence
LEA Specific Licenses

Financial Reports:

Purchase Order Summary
Change Order Summary
Accounts Payable Pay Vouchers
Principals' Cash Report
Monthly Budget Report

LAND Trust Amendments

Taylorsville TEC Appointments

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

Made by: Karyn Winder
Seconded by: Julie Jackson

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 1 (Kim Chandler)

INFORMATION ITEMS

Staffing Report

Dr. Patrick Flanagan presented on staffing for the 2025-2026 school year. He shared data about the number of positions and applicants, new hires, and teacher experience and education levels. Granite's salary and benefits package is competitive, and the collective efforts of the Granite Board of Education and GEA have a positive influence on Granite's ability to recruit teachers.

Population Analysis Committee Update

Steve Hogan presented a review of the PAC community outreach efforts, the steps taken so far, and the recommendations previously presented to the board. The ALC program is being studied further, including the potential of expanding and enhancing the services we provide to advanced learners. As a result, we will no longer pursue consolidation of the ALC program. Instead, the District will maintain two separate program locations on the east side of the district. A new location for the current Morningside ALC program is yet to be determined. Community input continues to prompt more conversations and additional considerations by PAC. At their next meeting the PAC will consider whether it is feasible to move the ALC program to Eastwood and the DLI program to Oakridge. This is not a new recommendation, but this question and discussion are the next step in this study process.

Board Discussion: Board members appreciate the community engagement in this process. At this point in time board members are still gathering information and have not decided on the current PAC recommendation. Board members still want to see options and data; there is a lot of information that continues to be gathered. They are committed to being open to all options with students at the center of any decision they will make.

FIRST READING

Article V.C.1. Discrimination and Harassment

Motion: **I move that we approve as a first reading Article V.C.1. Discrimination and Harassment.**

Made by: Karyn Winder

Seconded by: Clarke Nelson

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

SECOND READING

Article VIII.A.18 Student Travel

Patron Comment:

Leah Terrant, choir teacher at Taylorsville High, addressed the board on behalf of performing arts teachers. The current requirement for one student per bed is cost prohibitive. While they agree it is ideal to have 3 students per room most accommodations are not set up this way. In addition, when traveling to a busy venue this requirement makes it even more difficult to obtain a sufficient number of rooms. Other school districts allow 2 students per bed, and this allowance would alleviate many of the constraints they face.

Discussion:

The board policy as written broad enough to allow for adjustments on implementation. Administrative memorandums give guidance on how policy should be followed. The issues raised by the performing arts teachers will be addressed in the administrative memo.

Motion: **I move we approve Article VIII.A.18 Student Travel as a second and final reading.**

Made by: Kim Chandler

Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed. Yea: 7, Nay: 0

SUPERINTENDENT and BOARD REPORTS

Superintendent Horsley thanked patrons for attending this board meeting and provided input on important issues. For the first time since implementation of the Strategic Plan we met our goals, and a celebration will be held. Granite is fully staffed with only a handful of openings. The fall staffing adjustments were minimized because of conservative projections last spring. He met with the teachers who had a change in assignment due to necessary staffing adjustments, he thanked them for their professionalism and dedication to teaching. This year district leaders are visiting classrooms to observe instruction on a regular basis, prior to staff meetings, going to BOOST schools, and he has concluded site visits to all junior high schools and will continue with site visits to elementary and high schools.

Julie Jackson said the evaluation committee will meet tomorrow to finalize the superintendent's evaluation and timeline. A meeting will be scheduled, and feedback will be shared with the superintendent in December. District Community Council is coming up later this month.

Kim Chandler met with Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation, nothing new was discussed.

Connie Burgess said there is a USBA Board of Directors meeting on October 17 and a JLC meeting on October 24. Registration for the USBA winter conference is happening now.

Karyn Winder said open enrollment for employee benefits is available now through October 15.

Clarke Nelson reminded everyone of the hotline available on our website to report concerns.

Nicole McDermott said the 8-hour workday committee continues to work and will be prepared with input for negotiations.

ADJOURN

President Nicole McDermott adjourned the meeting at 9:52 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 November 18, 2025.