

Granite School District
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, December 2, 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 5:01 PM, 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
Karyn Winder	Board Member

The following members of the administration were present:

Ben Horsley	Superintendent
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.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS - 5:00 p.m.

Capital and Construction Update

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

Affordable Housing Update

Todd Hauber reported on potential opportunities to offer affordable housing for employees. In April an RFP for a survey tool, feasibility study and developer selection process was unsuccessful because the scope was too large. It was decided to approach each task separately. A consultant assisted with designing a survey to gather information from employees. The survey results were presented; this information will guide next steps. Going forward we could issue an RFP for a consultant to conduct a feasibility study and then partner with a municipality, a non-profit housing program, or a developer. There are other paths for affordable housing that would not require use of district property. The real estate committee will continue to consider all options, within policy, for closed schools and district property.

Board discussion:

Board members appreciated the information that was presented in this report. Some do not support utilizing public dollars for this purpose while others are open to the option. There were concerns about whether the solutions discussed would be enough to make a significant impact on employee housing concerns. These projects may be too far outside of our focus on educating students. A cautious approach to further exploration of this issue would be appropriate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President McDermott said there is need for an executive session and called for a motion.

Motion: **I move we enter Executive Session for the purpose of character and competence.**

Made by: Kim Chandler

Seconded by: Karyn Winder

Called for vote: President McDermott

Connie Burgess: Yea, Kim Chandler: Yea, Julie Jackson: Yea, Nicole McDermott: Yea, Clarke Nelson: Yea, Kris Nguyen: Yea, Karyn Winder: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 0

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

The executive session was held in Room B-217 at 6:20 p.m. Julie Jackson, Connie Burgess, Karyn Winder, Kris Nguyen, Kim Chandler, Clarke Nelson, Todd Hauber, Ben Horsley, and Nicole McDermott were in attendance.

Motion: **I move to adjourn executive session.**

Made by: Karyn Winder

Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

The executive session ended at 6:56 p.m. and the attendees returned to the Board Room.

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

The Granite School District Board of Education reconvened at 7:00 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. President McDermott invited those representing organizations to introduce themselves:

PTA

Liz Shellum and Amy Warren

GEA

Michele Jones and Brooke Funk

GAEOP

Lola Dunn

Pledge of Allegiance: Darrell Kirby

Reverence: Armstrong Rocketeers

GOOD NEWS MINUTE

Julie Jackson spoke as an elected official to a Webelos group for their communications badge. They knew who she was and how she voted at the last board meeting. She attended the last performance in Skyline's auditorium. Our investment in new facilities will create opportunities for kids.

Kim Chandler went to a PLC meeting at West Lake. It was good to see how this group works together.

Connie Burgess thanked employees, she hopes they enjoy the holiday break and come back ready to start a new semester.

Kris Nguyen attended a cultural celebration at Hillside Elementary. She went to Hunter High's musical *The Wizard of Oz*. They did a great job.

Karyn Winder said three of her piano students were in tonight's choir which was fun to see. She attended Granger's *The Adams Family* and Hunter's *Wizard of Oz* matinee which is performed for a sensory sensitive audience. There were Thank You Thursday recognitions at Bennion Elementary and Calvin Smith. She wished everyone a happy holiday and winter break.

Clarke Nelson enjoyed the start of winter sporting events, basketball, cheer, drill, wrestling, and swim. The only thing better is visiting classrooms

Nicole McDermott attended Cottonwood High and Hunter High musicals. She joined Thank You Thursday recognitions. She received a thank you turkey from a kindergarten she volunteers in.

RECOGNITIONS

2025 Holiday Card Contest Winners

The artwork created by two elementary students and two high school students was selected this year. These students were recognized and given their framed artwork along with copies of the holiday cards displaying their art.

GRANITE ELECTED OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION – None

PATRON PARTICIPATION – None

CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes, November 18, 2025

Purchases as outlined in the agenda.

Personnel

Employee Hires and Separations

Financial Reports

Purchase Order Summary

Change Order Summary

Accounts Payable Pay Vouchers

Principals's Cash Report

LAND Trust Amendments

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

Made by: Kris Nguyen

Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Amended motion: **I move to approve with removal of the volunteer position incorrectly listed on the hire report.**

Made by: Julie Jackson
Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

INFORMATION ITEM

Cottonwood High Update

Justin Pitcher, Principal and Tyler Howe reported on the pilot of a five-period block model that was implemented at Cottonwood High this school year. This is an opt-in model and allows additional options for students to start the school day later by attending periods 2-5 or attending all 5 periods therefore earning additional credit or recovering credit. They reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of this model. The pilot could be expanded to other schools, with Granger being considered for next school year.

Board Discussion

Board members had concerns about busing and other adjustments needed to allow students to take advantage of this model in addition to participating in after-school activities and sports. There was discussion about which schools may want to try this model and how it could overwhelm schools with competing challenges and priorities. Karyn Winder was shocked and questioned why Granger High was suggested as an expanded pilot when the school and community had not received communication or provided consent for this pilot program.

Superintendent Horsley said no decisions have been made to expand this pilot. Before expanding the pilot administration will go through a process to gather community and faculty feedback before implementing a five-period model.

ACTION ITEM

2027-2028 Calendar General Survey

Luke Allen, communications director and Jen Bodell, marketing director presented results of the general calendar preference survey for 2027-2028. The survey was conducted September 25 through October 14 with 7,003 responses. Based on the results, the calendar committee created two calendar options for additional feedback. If the board approves these calendar options a survey will be conducted in January.

Motion: **I move that we approve calendar A and calendar B to be distributed to our stakeholders and constituents for their feedback.**

Made by: Kim Chandler
Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

FIRST READINGS

Article X.F.6. Students with Disabilities

This is a new policy that governs special education services for students with disabilities. This policy is designed to be an overview of the key elements of special education services provided by the district that ensure students with disabilities receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE). This policy describes the district's obligations and responsibilities related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (1973), Individualized Education Programs (IEP), Child Find, and least restrictive environments (LRE) for students with disabilities. Additionally, this policy has instructions for procedural safeguards, discipline, graduation and terminations of services, and parent participation. Finally, this policy incorporates by reference the Granite District Special Education Handbook.

Motion: **I move we accept as a first reading Article X.F.6. Students with Disabilities.**

Made by: Karyn Winder

Seconded by: Julie Jackson

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Article VIII.B.12. Student Code of Conduct

The revisions to this policy are updates required due to recent changes to seclusion and restraint rules adopted by Utah State Board of Education (USBE) in R277-608 and 609. The policy outlines Emergency Safety Interventions (ESI), when to use them, how to use them, and how to report such interventions. The updates also address restorative measures and conditions for suspensions and expulsions. The policy has been updated to require parents to be present for the questioning of elementary students or students with diminished capacity when reasonable, and for the school to notify parents of disciplinary concerns as promptly as possible.

Motion: **I move to approve Article VIII.B.12. Student Code of Conduct and Discipline of students 2025 for a first reading.**

Made by: Julie Jackson

Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Article X.A.6 Learning Materials

Doug Larson explained the reasons for updates to this policy. Guidance from USBE regarding sensitive materials necessitated eliminating advance placement (AP) and international baccalaureate (IB) programs from the list of classes and the instructional materials exempted from the sensitive materials analysis.

Motion: **I move we approve Article X.A.6 Learning Materials as a first reading.**

Made by: Karyn Winder
Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Julie Jackson said she disagrees with this change. The law is vague and two laws are in conflict. She believes AP and IB classes are considered college-level courses and should be treated as such. Including those courses was not the intention. However, USBE took a position and if we do not make this change we put our teachers at risk for some sort of criminal charges. That is the only reason she will vote yes.

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

SECOND READING

Article V.C.9. Vehicle Use Standards

This policy is being updated to address safety issues and provide best practices for district employees using district vehicles. This policy indicates that district vehicles are monitored by a Global Positioning System (GPS), clarifies definitions, and expressly requires users of district vehicles take and pass the safe driving training offered by the district. Mr. Larson directed attention to the changes in section A.6. which he recommended removing for further study.

Motion: **I move that we approve Article V.C.9. Vehicle Use Standards as a second and final reading with the exception of the changes made to Section A.6.**

Made by: Kim Chandler
Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

SUPERINTENDENT and BOARD REPORTS

Superintendent Horsley attended *Hadestown* at Olympus High.

Connie Burgess – USBA’s upcoming events are JLC meeting on December 11 from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the USBA Winter Conference is January 8-9, USBA Day on the Hill is January 30, and there will be a public education day in January.

Kris Nguyen - The Budget and Finance Committee met today. The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for fiscal year 2025 is on Granite's website, under the accounting page. A printed copy will be provided to board members in January. Whittier invited board members to their reading day. Hartvigsen also invited board members to winter holidays around the world.

Karyn Winder – The Evaluation Committee met, and the superintendent evaluation was sent to board members. Superintendent Horsley’s review was held today in closed session. We appreciate Superintendent Horsley; he believes that every child can learn and is working to improve student outcomes.

Clarke Nelson – The Audit Committee report from the auditor will be on the agenda in January.

Nicole McDermott - The 8-hour workday task force is meeting on Mondays. The first focus group meetings were held this week, and they received great feedback. There are two more focus group meetings scheduled. The purpose of this task force is to gather information, they will not be making or recommending a decision.

ADJOURN

President Nicole McDermott adjourned the meeting at 9:10 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: January 6, 2026