

Granite School District
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2026

A study session 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 5:03 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:

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.

STUDY ITEMS:

Strategic Use of Technology

Dr. Noelle Converse, Curriculum and Instruction Director and Chris Larsen, Educational Technology Director, presented an overview of digital technology use during instruction. Effective frameworks are in place for technology integration. Digital technology coaches provide technology integration coaching, co-teaching, professional learning and support to all teachers. Technology is a tool to extend, enhance and engage student learning. Programs provide diagnostic assessment tools to efficiently evaluate student learning. Several examples of lessons that incorporate effective technology use in Granite schools were shown. The average time (device powered on) our students spend on a Chromebook during the school day is 71 minutes.

Board discussion:

President McDermott asked about the effectiveness of I Ready and its impact on proficiency.

Julie Jackson hears from parents who believe their students are on electronic devices all the time. She worries we are losing students because we insist on using technology. Some schools limit or completely remove technology from the classroom. There is research showing that technology is harmful to learning and development.

Connie Burgess appreciates teachers who work hard to use digital technology appropriately.

Kim Chandler thanked those who facilitated this discussion. She was looking for more information from parent's perspective. Why do we believe that the way we are using technology is the best and right way to use it? She is concerned about data collection and mining. It is difficult for parents to review digital curriculum. Gamification of learning is an issue that leads students to want to be entertained. She has observed classrooms where students only sit at a computer. She is not convinced that technology is helping our students to learn, it impedes learning. Let's explore how we can provide an alternative for parents who want no tech classrooms.

Karyn Winder said there was more information in the presentation than board members could use. It is more helpful to have highlights and takeaways to determine if use of digital technology in the classroom is effective. She hears from parents who support responsible use of technology in classrooms and do not want these tools completely removed. Karyn requested more information about how many minutes kids are on technology devices in each school.

Kris Nguyen appreciated the amount of information provided in the presentation. She asked if the amount of time on devices is what we expect and consider appropriate.

President McDermott summarized next steps to provide additional information to the Board. Gather data regarding Chromebook use by school. Survey parents and students regarding effectiveness and the amount of time technology is used in classrooms. Evaluate the research that asserts technology is hurting development and learning. Identify sources for analog textbooks. Consider how we can serve parents who do not want tech in the classroom.

Payroll Adjustment 2026-2027

Todd Hauber explained a proposal to change the timing of the 24 equal pay schedule cycle. This change better synchronizes pay dates with contract terms. When the District shifted from a monthly pay day to a semi-monthly pay day it caused all 12-month employees to be paid in advance of the actual reporting period. This practice needs to be corrected. A draft payday schedule for 2026-2027 was presented. By staggering paydays in July and August it will ease the transition for employees. Association leaders continue to meet with leadership to identify challenges and support needed. An opt-in 25 pay period schedule will be available to help affected employees with payment timing. Information about the change will be communicated to employees in advance of it taking effect. The pay day adjustment may trigger a need to update the Board policy on payment of salaries.

TRAINING

Board Ethics

Doug Larson led the annual training on board ethics found in Article II.C, Board Commitments & Ethics and code of conduct information from the Board Handbook.

Open and Public Meetings

Doug Larson reviewed the Open and Public Meetings Act, including the purpose of open and closed meetings and what can occur and be discussed in each. This completes the requirements of the annual Open Meetings training.

Community Council

This training will be conducted at another time.

ADJOURN

President McDermott adjourned the meeting at 7:56 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: February 3, 2026