

Granite School District
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, March 24, 2026

A study session of the Board of Education of Granite School District convened in room A14 at Eisenhower Junior High, 4351 S Redwood Road, Taylorsville, Utah. Vice President Kris Nguyen called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM, those in attendance:

Nicole McDermott	President
Kris Nguyen	Vice President
Connie Burgess	Board Member
Clarke Nelson	Board Member
Karyn Winder	Board Member

Kim Chandler and Julie Jackson, board members, joined the meeting virtually.

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.

STUDY ITEM

Budget Discussion FY27

Todd Hauber began the discussion with a review of estimated revenue for the upcoming fiscal year and then presented the preliminary budget challenges. In FY26 there was a budget disruption due to the Tax Commission denial of a 2025 property tax increase. Initiatives planned to be funded by the 2025 tax increase were delayed, reduced or supported with one time money for FY26. Proposed tax increases for FY27 will need to recover the 2025 tax rate to fund those initiatives going forward. Additionally, budget reductions may be needed to balance the budget. Brian Ipson, budget director, discussed the capital plan and reviewed changes in Truth in Taxation laws. The administration will take directions from the Board regarding priorities going into FY27.

Discussion:

Clarke Nelson would like to see an update on the analysis of plans for a second wellness center. He is concerned that by holding off on projects like this it hurts future potential for savings.

Kris Nguyen asked about costs to maintain vacant or unused properties. The cost per property is not significant, it includes custodial oversight and minimal utilities.

Nicole McDermott feels strongly that deferred maintenance is critical and needs to be addressed going forward. She supports reduced class size K-2 to 24:1 especially considering the new early literacy law.

Superintendent Horsley talked about sharper enrollment declines over the next several years. The district operates with about 10 schools more than needed, which translates to an annual cost between \$600,000 and \$1,000,000 per school. There will be a presentation at next week's board meeting to update the Board on population analysis and recommendations to adopt a plan.

ADJOURN

President Nicole McDermott adjourned the meeting at 6:20 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: March 31, 2026