

**Granite School District
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 2026**

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 5:00 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

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Joan Bramble presented an update on Granite's strategic plan sharing data on leading indicators. In March the focus is on ELA and math proficiency, increasing regular attenders by ten percent and retaining 85% of teachers. KariLee Pate, principal at Beehive Elementary, shared the impact of BOOST support. Beehive was recognized in the top five for high proficiency and are no longer listed for a springboard designation. Adding a full-time assistant principal helped with leadership, building community relationships, discipline and behavior support, which allows the principal to visit classrooms more frequently. This year having an instructional coach made a significant difference to improve teacher practices and build teachers' capacity.

School Name Change

Luke Allen reported that in 2025 school administration and the communications department engaged the Woodrow Wilson Elementary community to see if a name change would be valued. After conducting surveys, the recommended name is South Salt Lake Elementary.

Board comments: Board members were not enthusiastic about the recommendation. It does not seem to accomplish goals for marketing, positive recognition and to attract students. Further study is not required; however, it would be helpful to engage the city and school community council for additional ideas that would reflect community identity and values.

Meeting adjourned for a dinner break.

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	Holly Beezley and Kylie Jones
GEA	Michele Jones
GAEOP	Gayna Breeze and Lola Dunn
Elected Officials	Mayor Mick Sudbury (Magna) Megan Olsen, Magna City Council Sharla Bynum, South Salt Lake City Council

Pledge of Allegiance - Steve Sandberg

Reverence - Granite Connection High, Roberto Perez, Brian Cortez and Michael Aeros

President McDermott requested a moment of silence for the Cyprus community.

GOOD NEWS MINUTE

Julie Jackson recognized the Olympus High boys' basketball team for winning the state championship. Skyline's robotics club, a new team, placed in the top six in the competition.

Kim Chandler attended a play at Hunter Junior High. There was a lot of cheering and support. Our athletes are doing great; keep up the good things you are doing.

Connie Burgess enjoyed the unified basketball competition at Olympus High with teams from around the state.

Kris Nguyen highlighted district responders who were on the scene today. She was so impressed with the help they provided. They know how to respond, and she is thankful for their work.

Karyn Winder shared that she spent many hours at the region and state 5A swim meets. Granger has a very small team, but 2 women relays qualified for state, and they had a region champ. It was fun to cheer on all the Granite teams. Olympus High won state, Skyline and Kearns were second and third.

Clarke Nelson answered questions in a group and was asked, "What can we do to support schools?" His response was to accentuate the positive. In the face of tragic circumstances, we have amazing people who show up. Granite Connection principal, Dave Beck requires all students to deliver a graduation speech. Listening to students' speeches was inspiring; he shared several quotes from their speeches.

Nicole McDermott enjoyed visiting with teachers. She attended *Peter and the Starcatcher* at Taylorsville where there are beautiful new seats in the auditorium. She thanked Superintendent Horsley and Todd Hauber for the time they spent with the legislature.

RECOGNITIONS

High Median Growth Percentile (MGP) Schools for 2024-2025

Valerie Bergera, Student Assessment Director, recognized schools that achieved High MGP for last school year.

Elementary schools: Rosecrest, Cottonwood, Frost, Truman, Eastwood, and Moss

Junior High schools: Churchill, Granite Park, and Wasatch

High school: Skyline

Academic All-State for Winter

Aaron Whitehead, Athletic Specialist, introduced All-State students.

Bian Hsiao (Cottonwood), Beckham Bayles, Riley Woodman (Cyprus), Amelia Okeson, Christy Nguyen, Grace Winder (Granger), Angelina Chheng, Presley Castro (Hunter), Zackery Kahl (Kearns), Asher Barlow, Caden Jackson, Hannah Perry, Maren Johnson (Olympus), Benjamin Wakefield, Cole Bishop, Danica Bihari, Isabelle Reynolds, Keira Jameson, Ryli Jonart (Skyline), and Joshua Johnson (Taylorsville)

National Board-Certified Teachers

Anne Reese introduced teachers who earned National Board Certification; Joni Andrews, Chantal Esquivas, Abigail Ford, Deborah Gatrell, Tracy Jensen, and Justin Wheatley.

UACTE Administrator of the Year

James Taylor introduced Mandy Chapple who was recognized as the UACTE Administrator of the Year.

GRANITE ELECTED OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION- none

PATRON PARTICIPATION

Trina Christensen introduced herself, she is running for a seat on the state school board.

CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes – February 3 & 17, 2026

Purchases as outlined in the agenda

Personnel

Employee Hires and Separations

Financial Reports

Purchase Order Summary

Change Order Summary

Accounts Payable Pay Vouchers

Principals Cash Report

Monthly Budget Report

GEA Negotiation Team

GESPA Negotiating Team

LAND Trust Amendments

Sale of CTE Built Home

Motion: I move we accept the Consent Agenda.

Made by: Karyn Winder
Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

ACTION ITEMS

Administrative Appointments

Appointment effective March 18, 2026

David Bundy Director, Purchasing and Warehouse

Appointments effective July 1, 2026

Scott Chalmers Principal, Granite Technical Institute
Kathryn Gardner Assistant Principal, Preschool Services

Motion: I move that we accept the administrative appointments.

Made by: Connie Burgess
Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Todd Hauber, Mandy Chapple and Emily Ripko introduced the newly appointed administrators who then introduced their guests.

Curriculum Adoption, Elementary Science

Dr. Noelle Converse and Christine Drummond, Curriculum and Instruction directors, reviewed the presentation from last month and shared the comments received over the past thirty days.

Motion: I move that we adopt the Mystery Science curriculum as recommended.

Made by: Julie Jackson
Seconded by: Karyn Winder

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

FIRST READINGS

2026-2027 Student Fee Schedules

Dr. Tyler Howe and Steve Perschon, School Leadership and Improvement director, presented the 2026-2027 school fee schedules. Changes to high school fees are driver's education fee from \$195 to \$250 and addition of the athletic sports pass for home games. There were changes to CTE class fees for new course offerings. Wording on the elementary fees schedule was changed to comply with legislation. Non-waivable fees are being added for skill certification and licenses. Beginning in the 2026-27 Granite will fulfill the requirement to offer at least one pathway for 27 credits that fulfill graduation requirements and does not require payment or waiver of any fees.

Discussion: Julie Jackson appreciates the free fee pathway. It would be helpful to enhance the registration platform listing class fees where students make course selections. Karyn Winder prefers in-person classes but appreciates that online classes allow compliance. Clarke Nelson said the amount of effort that goes into fees is wasteful, there shouldn't be fees for any student.

Motion: I move that we approve as a first reading the 2026-2027 Student Fee Schedules.

Made by: Karyn Winder
Seconded by: Julie Jackson

Comments: President McDermott said it would be nice to know class fees at the time of registration. She asked when school spend plans are due. Spend plans are due before fall registration. While line-item expenditures have been included in internal school reports, going forward this detail will be available on the public-facing side.

Board members discussed challenges with extracurricular activities and the associated fees and costs. Our priority as a school district is academics and we realize that athletics, arts and other activities add to students' experience, provide opportunities to students who would not otherwise participate, and help students feel connected to school which increases student success.

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Article VI.B.1 Payroll and Accounting

This is a consolidation of policies regarding payroll and accounting. The policies are combined and edited for clarity, and to streamline policy regarding paychecks and pay periods.

Motion: I move we approve Article VI.B.1 Payroll and Accounting for a first reading.

Made by: Julie Jackson
Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

Fiscal Policy Manual — Section 12. Collection of Accounts Receivable and Other Debts

Changes to this section update and clarify policy and procedure on collection of student debt.

This update will clarify which debts are sent to collections and what action should be taken for a negative lunch account balance.

Motion: I move we approve the Fiscal Policy Manual - Section 12 Collection of Accounts Receivable and Other Debts as a first reading.

Made by: Kim Chandler
Seconded by: Karyn Winder

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Unanimously

SECOND READING

2027-2028 School Calendar Adoption

Motion: I move we approve calendar B for the 2027-2028 School year as a second and final reading.

Made by: Karyn Winder

Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Julie Jackson said she is voting no to represent the Olympus network preference.

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed, Yea: 6, Nay: 1 (Julie Jackson)

SUPERINTENDENT and BOARD REPORTS

Superintendent Horsley congratulated Leslie Bell and the arts department for including a hip-hop dance team in the upcoming showcase. Chick-fil-A in West Valley, donated gift cards for Granite students he thanked the store owner for his generosity. Cyprus Credit Union, Granite Education Foundation partners, provided Jazz game tickets for teachers. The Olympus High State Championship game was exciting they have an outstanding coach and team. As follow up for the extended day pilot proposed at Plymouth, he received feedback from all board members. Dr. Nerdin and Dr. Howe will meet with the community to design a plan. Caucuses will be March 17, please participate. Association leaders gave input on the pay date change and messaging will go to employees this week. Our hearts are with the families, and the entire Cyprus community following the tragedy this morning. Participation in the Facebook town hall meeting was surprising, since this has reached so many we anticipate doing more in the future.

Julie Jackson said District Community Council will be March 24.

Connie Burgess reminded board members of the USBA regional meeting on March 11.

Kris Nguen said the budget will be the topic at the March study session.

Karyn Winder said insurance costs are up. There will be a 13% increase in costs, the committee is studying options. Despite this, Granite benefits are still very competitive.

Clarke Nelson reported that audits are being conducted at schools and reports are coming in.

Nicole McDermott said there are good recommendations coming from the 8-hour Task Force.

ADJOURN

President Nicole McDermott adjourned the meeting at 9:32 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