

Granite School District
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, June 2, 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	Board President
Kris Nguyen	Vice President
Connie Burgess	Board Member
Kim Chandler	Board Member
Karyn Winder	Board Member

Julie Jackson, board member, arrived at 5:04 pm. Clarke Nelson, board member, was excused.

The following members of the administration were present:

Dr. Mitch Nerdin	Chief of Staff
Leslie Bell	Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Tyler Howe	Assistant Superintendent

Todd Hauber, Business Administrator, arrived at 5:02. Ben Horsley, Superintendent, was excused. Doug Larson, General Counsel, and Stacy Bushell, Executive Secretary, were in attendance.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Capital and Construction Update

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

Special Education Update

Dr. Bryce Day reported on the current funding shortfall in the Special Education Department. The shortfall is a result of state formula cuts, undercounting of our students, and adjustments to Medicaid eligibility. Additionally, there has been a rapid increase in students with intensive needs over the past three years. Historically as need increased, class rosters were allowed to exceed the preferred cap, para support was impacted minimally, district staff were reduced, and programs that don't provide IEP mandated services were reduced. The next steps to address this shortfall include resource reallocation, adjusting caseload assignments, budgeting paraeducator allotments, and implementing digital SCRAM systems.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: **I move we enter executive session for the purpose of negotiations.**

Made by: Kim Chandler

Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed Connie Burgess: Yea, Kim Chandler: Yea, Julie Jackson: Yea,
Nicole McDermott: Yea, Kris Nguyen: Yea, Karyn Winder: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, (Clarke Nelson absent)

President McDermott excused those not participating in the executive session. The executive session began at 6:10 p.m. Julie Jackson, Kim Chandler, Connie Burgess, Kris Nguyen, Mitch Nerdin, Todd Hauber, Karyn Winder, Stacy Bushell, and Nicole McDermott were in attendance.

Motion: I move to adjourn executive session.

Made by: Karyn Winder

Seconded by: Julie Jackson

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent:1

The executive session adjourned at 6:16 p.m. and board members took a dinner break.

GENERAL BOARD MEETING

The Granite School District Board of Education reconvened at 7:05 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, Amy Warren, and Kylie Jones

GEA: Michele Jones

Pledge of Allegiance - Chris Larsen

Reverence - Cottonwood High, One Act Play

GOOD NEWS MINUTE

Julie Jackson went to graduation reviews where counselors talked about individual student progress toward graduation. Today she attended a professional development conference with our teachers. Our teachers are great and truly experts at their craft.

Kim Chandler said so much time and work went into graduation events as thousands of Granite students graduated last week. Armstrong elementary students attempted to break the land speed record for a Lego train, it was fun, she hopes they will try again.

Connie Burgess said graduations were wonderful. Concerts held in May were wonderful to attend. The Granite Education Foundation recognized students who have faced and overcome significant challenges with the Absolutely Incredible Kid awards, a Taylorsville High student was the overall winner.

Kris Nguyen attended graduations for Cyprus, Hunter, and Granite Transition Services (GTS). The students at GTS are eligible for four additional years in school where they learn skills to

increase their potential for independence in adulthood; she thanked teachers and staff for their time and talents which help all students.

Karyn Winder said May is a remarkably busy month. Graduation reviews are one of her favorite meetings of the year. Granger had 650 graduates and her cheeks got tired from smiling and shaking hands. Granger network night was fun to attend.

Nicole McDermott appreciates all that schools put into graduation activities. The graduation walks at elementary schools were a highlight. She also attended the CTE open house.

RECOGNITIONS

Fine Arts State Top Finishers

Kjersti Parkes, Drama Teacher at Hunter High for Women in War production which was 1st in region, and second at State for 5A.

State Theater: Tristen Sharp, Grace Forbush, Ainsley Call, Maddie Roberts, Rory Shober, and Betty Taylor (Cottonwood High), Ninja Nu'Usila, Garrett Nelson, Judson Smith (Olympus High) and Brecklynn Barbadillo (Taylorsville High), Cottonwood High 1 Act, and Hunter High 1 Act.

National Reflections Award of Excellence Winner

Jett Afflerbach, Upland Terrace Elementary

National Qualifiers for the National History Day Competition

Marlowe Pugh (Bonneville Junior), Hannah Allison and Audrey Hennessy (Granger), Lydia Barhtolomew, Danile Luo, Hailey Park, Emily Tan, and Chloe Zou (Skyline)

Shape Utah Teachers of the Year

Miles Borcik, PE Specialist, Granger Elementary, Rochelle Deeter, Adaptive PE Specialist, Hartvigsen School, Whitney Mitchell, Health, Cyprus High School

Spring Academic All-State Athletes

Baseball: Macquire Stanley (Kearns), Christopher Hatch and Jaxon VandenAkker (Olympus)

Girls Golf: Jocelyn Coffey (Cyprus), Kate Parkinson (Granger), Isabelle Mille (Hunter), Amelia Linford (Skyline), and Callie Tolman (Taylorsville)

Boys Lacrosse: Chase Taylor (Olympus) and Cash Grandon (Skyline)

Girls Lacrosse: Anna Lowry (Olympus)

Boys Soccer: Kimball Marberger and Mathis Fisher (Olympus)

Softball: Jaedin Mugleston (Olympus), and Maya Jacobsen (Skyline)

Boys Tennis: Brian Hsiao (Cottonwood) and McGuire Stanley (Kearns)

Boys Track & Field: Mason Brown and Owen Murphy (Cyprus), Leo Jacobsen (Olympus), Aidan Nguyen (Skyline), Elijah White (Skyline), Edward Stout, Elliot Stout, and Madden Moore (Taylorsville)

Girls Trach & Field: Brittany Mendez (Cyprus), Amelia Okeson and Grace Winder (Granger), Presley Castro, Gracie Harding and Madeleine Taylor (Hunter), Ruby Brockbank, Audrey Edwards, and Tressa Slight (Olympus), Alexis Larson (Skyline)

Boys Volleyball: Tyler Johnson (Taylorsville)

State Sterling Scholars

Naomi (Mimi) Mills, Skilled and Technical Sciences, Olympus High
Johnathan Chen, Business & Marketing, Skyline High

UCET Outstanding Coach Award

Chris Larsen and Rachel Lowry introduced Mayra Sanchez, Technology Coach at Granger Elementary and recipient of the UCET Outstanding Coach Award.

University of Utah's 2026 Outstanding Public School Teacher

Kirsten Federico, Kindergarten, Driggs Elementary

GRANITE ELECTED OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION - none

PATRON PARTICIPATION

Krysta Dimick, parent at Morningside Elementary, is concerned about FTE allocations and the case load of a special education teacher. Interventions provided for her child were effective. Children should not suffer because of decreased funds. Administrators should not have errors of this magnitude. Cuts should be made to administration not school staff.

Katie Fortenberry, educator and parent, is concerned about how special education cuts will impact her student. She was devastated to hear that Morningside would lose paras and a valuable teacher next school year. She asked the board to provide one-time funding, prioritize para and special education teacher positions, and give oversight into the reassignments.

CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes - May 5, 12, 19, 2026

Purchases as outlined in the agenda.

Personnel

- Employee Hires and Separations
- Leave of Absence
- LEA Specific Licenses
- Reappointment of Superintendent

Financial Reports

- Purchase Order Summary
- Change Order Summary
- Accounts Payable Pay Vouchers
- Principals Cash Report
- Monthly Budget Report
- 2026-2027 Calendar Revisions
- 2026-2027 LAND Trust Plans
- 2026-2027 Springboard Continual Improvement Plans
- 2027 Graduation Schedule
- Donation, Olympus High, 1993 9' NY Steinway Piano
- Easement, Granite Technical Institute Annex Building - Rocky Mountain Power
- LAND Trust Amendments
- Ratification of Compensation Agreement with Granite Education Association

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

Made by: Julie Jackson

Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Karyn Winder read the following statement, "Tonight I am voting to approve the ratified agreement because of my deep commitment to our teachers. Our educators are amazing, hard-working, and dedicated to the success of our students, and they have my full support. I also want to address my growing concerns regarding the current dynamic between GEA leadership and the board from my perspective. While public statements often mention a desire for collaboration, recent interactions have felt increasingly adversarial and confrontational rather than collaborative. Partnership requires mutual effort and shared recognition. When the board takes difficult political steps to support our educators, it is disheartening to see the GEA take credit for the things that actually come for the school board. Despite these ongoing leadership challenges and strong feelings of frustration and disappointment with GEA leadership, I refuse to let administrative friction stand in the way of supporting our frontline staff. My yes vote tonight is a direct reflection of my appreciation for our teachers and everything they do for our schools." Kim Chandler said she shares Karyn's concerns. She is also concerned about language in the negotiated agreement regarding the surplus process. She hopes this will be addressed in the future. She does not support renewal of the Panorama licenses. Julie Jackson shares concerns about the surplus process.

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed Yea: 5, Nay: 1 (Chandler), Absent: 1 (Nelson)

ACTION ITEMS

Administrative Appointments

Administrative Appointment effective June 22, 2026

Elizabeth Swensen

Director, Nutrition Services

Administrative Appointments effective July 1, 2026

Briana Cauley

Principal, Whittier Elementary

David Everett

Principal, Calvin Smith Elementary

Motion: I move to approve the Administrative Appointments.

Made by: Kris Nguyen

Seconded by: Kim Chandler

Called for vote: President McDermott

Results: Motion Passed. Yea:5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 (Jackson and Nelson)

School Name Change, Rosecrest Elementary - Tabled

School Name Change, Woodrow Wilson Elementary - Tabled

INFORMATION ITEMS

2026-2027 Tentative Budget Presentation

Todd Hauber and Brian Ipson presented the tentative budget which included information and statements to fulfill statutory requirements for a tax increase. Todd Hauber presented each requirement.

The Granite School District Budget Officer intends to state in the public meeting that the tentative budget includes a proposed tax increase that exceeds the certified tax rate per 59-2-919(4)(a)(ii).

Todd Hauber, Business Administrator stated the following: "The tentative budget that we are presenting to you today includes a proposed tax increase that exceeds the certified tax rate." per 59-2-919(4)(a)(ii). *Reference recording at - 1:08:42*

The approximate amount of tax increase is \$21,688.055.

See the FY Tentative Budget Presentation slide #6: HB236 Requirements - 59-2-919(4)(b)(i)(B) *Reference recording at 1:10:35*

The purpose of the tax increase is to fund various operational and capital priorities - see the published Property Tax Impact Schedule for further details.

See the FY Tentative Budget Presentation slide #6: HB236 Requirements - 59-2-919(4)(b)(i)(B) *Reference recording at 1:10:35*

The approximate percentage of tax increase will be 11.2% higher than the certified tax rate.

See the FY27 Tentative Budget Presentation slide #7. *Reference recording at - 1:15:55*

Property Tax Impact Schedule [LINK](#)

See the FY27 Tentative Budget Presentation slide #5. *Reference recording at - 1:09:51*

A Truth in Taxation hearing will be held on August 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed tax increase.

See the FY27 Tentative Budget Presentation slide #8. HB236 Requirements - 59-2-919(4)(b)(i)(D) *Reference recording at - 1:06:55 and 1:22:20*

Other Requirements:

HB236 Requirements – 59-2-919(4)(b)(ii). See the FY27 Tentative Budget Presentation slide #9.
HB236 Requirements – 59-2-924(1)(s). See the FY27 Tentative Budget Presentation slide #10.
HB236 Requirements – 59-2-924-(8)(a)(ii) and (c). See the FY27 Tentative Budget Presentation slide #11.

Brian Ipson then reviewed the budget priorities, revenue, budget expenditures, budget reductions, and one-time funding. Mr. Ipson outlines the property tax increase summary, property tax rate, and revenue. The numbers presented are based on current estimates with actual numbers expected to be available in mid-June.

FIRST READINGS

Article IX.A.1.p. Parental, Postpartum Recovery, Adoption, and Foster Leave

This first reading updates the existing Parental and Postpartum Recovery leave policy to bring our policy into compliance with newly passed state bill HB329. These changes do not take away any existing leave and augment the existing policy to include additional leave for employees who are adopting a child under six years of age and employees who take in a foster child. The policy establishes how leave can be allocated when two district employees jointly foster or adopt the same child. This policy passed by the Board within the past year will need five Board members to approve reconsidering the policy according to District Policy, Article II.D.

Motion: I move to bring back Article IX.A.1.p. for a reading to amend.

Made by: Julie Jackson
Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (Nelson)

Motion: I move to approve Article IX.A.1.p. Parental, Postpartum Recovery, Adoption, and Foster Leave for a first reading.

Made by: Julie Jackson
Seconded by: Karyn Winder

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (Nelson)

Fiscal Policy Manual - Section 16. Food and Beverage Purchases

This first reading updates the section of the Fiscal Policy Manual that governs food and beverage purchases. This section of the manual establishes policy governing the use of public funds to purchase food and beverages and ensures that the district is compliant with Internal Revenue Service's laws, regulations, and publications. These changes clarify when food and refreshments can be provided to employees and update the purchasing thresholds to correspond to purchasing threshold changes made in previous sections this year.

Motion: I move to approve Fiscal Policy Manual - Section 16. Food and Beverage Purchases as a first reading.

Made by: Kim Chandler
Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1 (Nelson)

SECOND READING

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

This section of the Fiscal Policy Manual is being updated to establish policy and procedures on collection of lunch debt. Also, this update will clarify that outstanding lunch debt will not affect whether a student can participate in graduation and walk to receive their diploma.

Motion: I move to approve the updates to Fiscal Policy Manual - Section 12. Collection of Accounts Receivable and Other Debts as a second and final reading.

Made by: Kim Chandler
Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed. Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

BOARD REPORTS

Mitch Nerdin shared graduation numbers, 4,285 diplomas and 25 certificates of completion were awarded at 11 schools and programs. He highlighted the negotiated agreement Appendix G, it outlines how Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) are to run in the Granite School District which will lead to improved student outcomes.

Kim Chandler reported on the Parks and Recreation meeting, there is new leadership. The group discussed challenges with E-bikes and E-scooters,

Connie Burgess reminded board members of the USBA delegate assembly on Friday at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

Karyn Winder said the ROCK wellness challenge winning school was Fox Hills Elementary. Paige from Moss Elementary and Ben from Frost Elementary were individual winners.

Nicole McDermott reminded employees to get a wellness check before December. June and July are a great time to do it.

ADJOURN

President Nicole McDermott adjourned the meeting at 8:56 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: July 7, 2026