

Granite School District
Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, July 7, 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 5:04 PM, those in attendance:

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

Karyn Winder participated virtually, Julie Jackson arrived at 5:22 p.m. and Kim Chandler was excused.

The following members of the administration were present:

Ben Horsley	Superintendent
Todd Hauber	Business Administrator
Mitch Nerdin	Chief of Staff
Leslie Bell	Assistant Superintendent

Tyler Howe, Assistant Superintendent and Doug Larson, Policy and Legal Services Director, were excused. Stacy Bushell, Executive Secretary, was in attendance.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Joan Bramble presented, Granite is in the fourth year of implementing the Strategic Plan. Sub-committees in each area of focus are working to evaluate the measures of progress we look at to determine movement toward our goals. Drafts of changes from subcommittees were included in the presentation.

Wellness Center Update

Todd Hauber reviewed the history and purposes of the Granite Wellness Center. The recent performance data and quarterly report were discussed. Insurance premium savings are used to subsidize costs, currently \$430,000 per year. An analysis for adding a second wellness center was completed by Premise Health. They concluded that adding a second site is a utilization optimization decision which could enable Granite to fully capture value from existing population. Board members asked for a timeline to possibly add another center.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Motion: **I move we go to executive session for the purpose of real estate.**

Made by: Julie Jackson
Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed, Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 (Chandler and Winder)

President McDermott excused those in attendance for the administrative session. The executive session convened at 6:14 p.m. Those in attendance were Clarke Nelson, Stacy Bushell, Ben Horsley, Nicole McDermott, Kris Nguyen, Connie Burgess, Julie Jackson, Mitch Nerdin, and Todd Hauber.

Motion: I move we adjourn executive session.

Made by: Kris Nguyen
Seconded by: Clarke Nelson

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 (Chandler and Winder)

The executive session concluded at 6:36 p.m. Board members took a short dinner break.

GENERAL BOARD MEETING p.m.

The Granite School District Board of Education reconvened at 7:04 p.m. in the Boardroom. President Nicole McDermott welcomed all in attendance for this session and called for a roll call of board members; Karyn Winder participated online and Kim Chandler was absent. Doug Larson joined this session. President McDermott invited those representing organizations to introduce themselves:

PTA: Liz Shellum, Amy Warren, and Kylie Jones
GESPA: Breezy Davis, Rylie Ogden, Stacie Fearnley, and Brandon Wolf UESPA

Pledge of Allegiance: Mandee Cossa

Reverence: President Nicole McDermott

GOOD NEWS MINUTE

Karyn Winder wished a happy summer to employees.

Kris Nguyen went to Summer Scholars at Jackling Elementary. Teachers taught math and reading skills, the students were heavily engaged and enjoyed the session. Almost all student assessment scores went up. Granite students were in parades on the 4th of July.

Connie Burgess said it was fun to see students on the floats. She wants everyone to have a great summer.

Julie Jackson sends kudos to the Kearns marching band; they marched in two parades. She participated in the Millcreek parade with the Skyline Student Body Officers.

Nicole McDermott thanked teachers who ran the Granite Youth Symphony summer music program. They had a great time in San Francisco with worthwhile learning experiences. She said we have incredible maintenance teams working on our schools over the summer.

RECOGNITIONS

Utah School Employees Association

Lorelei White: Outstanding ESP of the Year for Transportation
Kaylee Mismash: Outstanding ESP of the Year for Health & Student Services
Stacie Fearnley: Outstanding ESP of the Year for Nutrition Services
Dana Canino: Honorary Award
Rylie Ogden: REACH National Award

GRANITE ELECTED OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION - none

PATRON PARTICIPATION

Danielle Houseman said budget cuts are not a good idea. These are cuts without analysis and will not save money. She asked the board to exhaust every option and translate care into action.

Laura Elizabeth Moreno said when schools invest in special education, everyone benefits. For many families these classes are the only option for safe and inclusive learning.

Phillip Dimick said there was a community-wide call to action and hundreds of signatures were collected. Students should not bear consequences of administrative failure. He asked for a full audit of IEPs. He believes it is unclear if Granite can meet legal obligations. He wants transparency about how the situation occurred. (Petition included with agenda backup in BoardBook)

Katie Fortenberry talked about the types of comments included in the petition. She said that special education services will change the course of a child's life.

Amy Call advocated for families in her area. She asked the board to ensure decisions are guided by student needs. There should be greater transparency about validating funding.

Kate Adams said parents are exhausted, advocating for our students' needs. We know what happens when students do not receive the services they require. Accommodation cannot be denied and parents need to know the law.

Megan Alsop has children who receive special education services. She received services as a student. She is concerned. Every student deserves equal opportunities, and support is needed for every child to succeed.

Yvette Romero Coronado, a precinct 6 constituent, is concerned about immigration enforcement and hopes social workers can respond appropriately. She hears concerns about students having no access to phones during school leading to student avoidance and guilt. Students are bullying classmates with treats to call ICE. This issue has impact on faculty and staff who need support and clear guidance.

Paul Taylor said as an administrator, he understands the struggle to allocate resources. In 2024-2025 his school had to make cuts and chose to cut pay instead of services. He asked board members to look at all the possible solutions and to please do it right.

Breezy Davis thanked the board for recognizing education support professionals tonight. She appreciates collaboration on the negotiated agreement. The process matters as much as the outcome.

CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes for June 2 and 16, 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

2026-2027 Comprehensive School Improvement, Continual Improvement Plans

2026-2027 LAND Trust

2026-2027 YESS Community Council Exemption Request

GESPA Tentative Agreement

Property Sale, CTE Built Home, 6309 W Cape Ridge, West Valley City

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

Made by: Julie Jackson

Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott

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

ACTION ITEMS

Administrative Appointments and Transfers

Administrative appointments effective July 2026.

Sabrina Felsted	Principal	Moss Elementary
Kimberlee Hill	Principal	Jackling Elementary
Alyssa Longstaff	Principal	Bonneville Junior High
Mandee Cossa	Assistant Principal	Lake Ridge Elementary
Jennette Fordham	Assistant Principal	Granger Elementary
Ryan Hunt	Budget Director	Finance Department

Administrative transfers effective July 8, 2026.

Mary Basso	Assistant Principal	Granger High School
Erin Tanner	Assistant Principal	Olympus High School
Jake Brown	Principal	Wasatch Junior High
Jordan Kjar	Assistant Principal	Bonneville Junior High

Motion: I move to accept the administrative appointments and transfers.

Made by: Connie Burgess

Seconded by: Julie Jackson

Called for vote: President McDermott

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

SECOND READINGS

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

This second reading updates the existing Parental and Postpartum Recovery leave policy to bring our policy into compliance with newly passed state bill HB329. These changes 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.

Motion: I move we approve Article IX.A.1.p. Parental, Postpartum Recovery, Adoption, and Foster Leave as a second and final reading.

Made by: Julie Jackson

Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Called for vote: President McDermott

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

Fiscal Policy Manual - Section 16. 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 we approve Fiscal Policy Manual - Section 16. Food and Beverage Purchases for a second and final reading.

Made by: Julie Jackson

Seconded by: Connie Burgess

Called for vote: President McDermott

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

SUPERINTENDENT and BOARD REPORTS

Superintendent Horsley thanked individuals and groups. Amber Tuckness and other amazing educators of the Granite Youth Symphony, the students performed at a high level. Wasatch principal Mary Basso and her team for hosting GYS. Janet Volwaller and her staff at the GEC Café for their services. The GEC Café will close to make room for student programs. Clark and Christy Ivory Foundation for support of summer reading. Associations collaboration implementation of a new payroll timeline.

Clarke Nelson said the audit committee is finalizing the risk assessment and rolling out the audit plan for the next fiscal year.

Julie Jackson said the delegate assembly approved of a list of priorities; special education , education stabilization plan, support for literacy efforts, and at-risk funding. At the board retreat board members will conduct a self-evaluation.

ADJOURN

President Nicole McDermott adjourned the meeting at 8:22 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: August 4, 2026