

Granite School District

Board of Education Meeting August 25, 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 welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 4:03 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 Windr	Board Member

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

Doug Larson, Policy and Legal Services Director, and Trinda Burdett, Executive Secretary, were in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance: Aimee Warren

INTERVIEWS

The board conducted interviews for the Precinct I Board Member position. Amber Book, Erin Doty, Benjamin Ungricht, Hannah Paisley Zoulek, Courtney Vichess, Allison Armstrong, Matthew Tracy, Janelle Williamson, Elena Leppard, Colby Wilson, and Marilyn Taft were interviewed.

Interviews were concluded, and the board took a recess at 7:15 pm. The session resumed at 7:39 pm.

The Superintendent thanked those in attendance, as well as those participating remotely or viewing the recording. He reminded everyone of the process that each Board member independently scored the candidates. The current goal is to determine which candidates will be invited for a second interview. Based on scoring, there is a natural break; the top candidates in alphabetical order are Elena Leppard, Marilyn Taft, Benjamin, Ungricht, and Janelle Williamson.

Board members expressed their thanks for the many qualified candidates who applied and interviewed. Clarke Nelson voiced his concerns regarding the legal requirements we are bound to for identifying our top candidates. He hopes for changes to those regulations so that we can have a better process in the future. It was unanimously agreed that all four of these candidates would be invited for second interviews, scheduled for Tuesday, September 1, 2026.

ADJOURN

President Nicole McDermott adjourned the meeting at 7:52 pm.

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: September 1, 2026