



CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The following minutes are a summary of the September 1, 2026, Canyons Board of Education meeting.

To listen to the entire board meeting, including all comments made during the meeting, please go to Diligent Community at <https://canyonsdistrict.community.highbond.com/Portal/>

The Board of Education of Canyons School District met in a board meeting on Tuesday September 1, 2026, beginning at 6:15 pm at 9361 S 300 E, Sandy, UT 84070.

Those in attendance were:

Amber Shill, President
Amanda Oaks, Vice President
Andrew Edtl, Vice President
Katie Dahle, Board Member
Holly Neibaur Hayes, Board Member
Karen Pedersen, Board Member
Jackson Lewis, Board Member – joined electronically
McKay Robinson, Superintendent
Leon Wilcox, Business Administrator
Dan Harper, Legal Counsel
Charlie Evans, Director of External Relations

1. Closed Session – 6:00 pm

- A. For the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual

MOTION: Amanda Oaks moved to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. Andrew Edtl seconded the motion. 6 Yea (Ms. Dahle, Mr. Edtl, Ms. Shill, Ms. Oaks, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Pedersen) 1 Not Present (Ms. Holly Neibaur-Hayes joined after the roll call vote) The motion carries.

*Persons in Attendance: All Board Members and McKay Robinson – Superintendent, Leon Wilcox – Business Administrator, Daniel Harper – General Counsel, Charlie Evans - Director of External Relations, Mindy Robison - Assistant Superintendent, Tiffany Midgley – Director of Human Resources. Audio available on Diligent Community
Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

2. Study Session – 6:15 pm

- A. Annual Open Meetings Training (State Statute) – Dan Harper, General Legal Counsel

This agenda item was postponed to a future meeting.

- B. Update on 2026-2027 Volunteer Report - Susan Edwards, Public Engagement Coordinator

Ms. Edwards distributed the volunteer report to Board members. This report shows volunteer numbers and hours. Ashley Backman, Region 17 Utah PTA Chair introduced committee

council presidents, Betty Shaw – North Elementary, Jessica Davies – Central Elementary, Kate Robins – South Elementary, and Laura Lorin – Secondary. There were 72,921 volunteer hours recorded for the 2025-2026 school year.

Canyons PTA is seeking memberships and volunteers to serve on local committees. Membership in PTA is not limited to just parents. The Utah PTA mission is to “make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.” Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

3. Business Meeting – 7:00 pm

4. Opening Items

- A. Welcome
- B. Approve Agenda for September 1, 2026

MOTION: Holly Neibaur moved to approve the agenda for September 1, 2026. Karen Pedersen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

- C. Pledge of Allegiance – Midvalley Elementary, Principal Margaret Swanicke
Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

- D. School Highlights – Midvalley Elementary, Principal Margaret Swanicke
Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

5. Canyons Strong Recognitions – Jeff Haney, Director, and Kirsten Stewart, Associate Director of Communications

The following students and employees were recognized:

- Utah Region 7 PTA more than 70,000 service hours logged for 2025-2026 school year.
Everyone encouraged to join the PTA to support students and staff.
- Pre-school and Kindergartners highlighted for starting school
- Entrada, Peer Court, Corner Canyon Fieldhouse and Jordan High Fieldhouse highlighted

Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#)

6. Patron Comments

The following patrons commented:

- CEA President Krista Pippin and CEA Board Introduction
- Debbie Durtschi – CIC and Brighton Trimester
- Katie Wilkinson – Google Gemini

Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

7. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes for August 18, 2026
- B. Approval of Hire and Termination Reports
- C. Approval of Purchasing Bids
- D. Approval of Administrative Appointments

MOTION: Amanda Oaks moved to approve the Consent Agenda Item 7A Approval of Minutes for August 18, 2026; Item 7B Approval of Hire and Termination Reports; Item 7C Approval of Purchasing Bids; Item 7D Approval of Administrative Appointments. Katie Dahle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Documents and audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

8. New Business

- A. Policy Update: Policy 300.01-School Access (discussion of visitor management protocols) (Second Reading, Possible Action) – Jeff Christensen, Assistant Legal Counsel

The Policy Committee is recommending an update to the School Access policy by including school visitor management protocols. All visitors will be required to enter the school facilities through the front office, report immediately to the front office-controlled access point reception area and present valid government issued identification or other acceptable identification. Mr. Christensen reviewed Exhibit 1 which outlines approved forms of identification and protocols for visitors without physical photo identification. Protocol for employee facility access and parent, visitor and community accessed were reviewed. Exhibit 2 addresses exceptions to visitor management protocols.

MOVED: Katie Dahle moved to approve Policy 300.01-School Access. Holly Neibaur-Hayes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation and documents available on [Diligent Community](#)

- B. Strategic Plan Focus Group Report: High Quality Learning – Mindy Robison, Assistant Superintendent

Portrait of a Canyons Scholar is one of the High-Quality Learning committee's priorities. The 2026-2027 implementation timeline was presented for finalizing a brochure, rewriting elementary learning skills, piloting middle schools' citizenship grades and finalizing high school cord requirements.

Canyons is also prioritizing the SB241 requirement to implement an individualized reading plan for students. Instructional Supports Department created a "Read, Talk, Wonder and Solve" document that most parents received as part of back-to-school night. Canyons schools will be participating in the statewide Read-A-Thon scheduled October 2, 2026.

Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#)

- C. Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Update (Second Reading, Possible Action) – Dr. McKay Robinson, Superintendent

The ideal student enrollment for strong programs and neighborhood classes are 56 students (28/28 in immersion) and minimum of 38 (19/19 in non-immersion) which allow for attrition, moving students, teacher collaboration and student move-ins. Unfortunately, numbers across the district have been falling short of these ideal numbers. To maintain programs the District is proposing changes.

In 2025-2026, the supplemented FTE for DLI was 13, at a cost of \$1,430,000. The number of FTE and cost associated with them have been consistent for the last few years and have the potential to be higher as the enrollment continues to decline.

Proposal target numbers for an incoming first grade two-class immersion cohort is that by January 15th of each year that there are at least 50 immersion students who are committed to the program and at least 19 students in a single non-immersion classroom. The proposal includes moving to a one class immersion cohort (capped at 30 students) if by January 15 of each year an immersion class falls short of at least 50 students and/or falls short of at least 19 students in a non-immersion classroom.

At a school that has moved to a one class cohort in first grade and if by March 15th of that year there are enough students on the waitlist to meet the target numbers of 50 immersion students and 19 non-immersion students, the school can implement a two-class cohort the following year. Conversely, any school with a two-class immersion cohort that decreases to 30 students or below (regardless of grade) will move to a one class cohort the following

school year. This will allow for appropriate hiring and FTE allocation. The District is providing transparency through parent meetings with the principals and district employees which will occur in September and October. There will also be ongoing communication from the school and district.

A DLI Long-Range Planning Survey was administered to all Canyons District families and employees on Friday, August 21, 2026. The survey will remain open until Friday, September 4, 2026. The Board of Education decided to wait to take any action until after the survey results are analyzed and presented. Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#)

9. Staff Comments

- A. Superintendent Report
Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)
- B. Business Administrator Report
Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

10. Board Comments

- A. The President will recognize individual Board members for reports
Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

11. Closing Items

- A. Adjourn 9:00pm

/cc

ATTEST

_____	Board Vice President
Amanda Oaks	
_____	Superintendent
McKay Robinson	