Granite School District

Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, August 4, 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, 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

Doug Larson, Policy and Legal Services Director, 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.

Title I Update
Dr. Joan Bramble explained this history of the Title I federal funding allocation that supports low-income students. Granite School District received 15.3 million dollars last school year. The largest portion of Granite's funding (41%) goes to schools with the other portions for required set-asides and optional set-asides. Schools are ranked by poverty level and school funding allocations are determined by eligibility and ensuring those designated are given enough funds to effectively operate a Title I program. Each year Title I designations are revisited because Title I funding is determined by poverty levels and poverty levels in communities are dynamic. The list of rankings for this school year was included in the presentation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – none

The meeting adjourned for dinner break.

GENERAL BOARD MEETING - 7:00 p.m.

The Granite School District Board of Education reconvened at 7:01 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, Kylie Jones, Amy Warren, and Maria Evans
GEA: Michele Jones

Pledge of Allegiance - Kylie Jones

Reverence - Connie Burgess

GOOD NEWS MINUTE

Julie Jackson is excited for everyone to get back to school.

Kim Chandler thanked everyone for putting in long hours to get ready for the start of school. She thanked those who took time to meet with her.

Connie Burgess thanked the Granite Education Foundation for the new teacher supplies.

Kris Nguyen attended the administrator kickoff, Superintendent Horsley, Dr. Howe and President McDermott provided keynote addresses. There were great breakouts with excellent training. It was great to see the excitement for this school year.

Clarke Nelson is looking forward to the board retreat this Friday.

Nicole McDrmott said she appreciates administrators for the extraordinary amount of work they do for our students. She attended the presentation on minimizing technology in K-2 classrooms. She attended the new teacher orientation. These new teachers are so energetic, and we are excited to have them with us.

RECOGNITION

National Procurement Institute Award
David Bundy, Purchasing Department

GRANITE ELECTED OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION - none

PATRON PARTICIPATION

Street Fortenberry addressed the Board on behalf of Special Education students and their families. He is concerned that students will have less support this year. Parents do not know what to expect, he wants to know that his child will be included, successful, and cared for.

Heidi Smith read a statement from Mary Anne Davies. She urged the board to avoid unnecessary segregation and to expand resources for vocational rehabilitation for transition age students.

President McDermott granted Julie Jackson a few minutes for personal privilege to share a statement with the Board.

Julie Jackson is running for the House of Representatives; she won the primary election and is unopposed in the general election and will therefore resign her seat at the end of December 2026.

President McDermott accepted Julie Jackson's resignation effective December 31, 2026. The board will take applications beginning August 5 through August 19. Interviews will be on August 25 with time reserved on September 1 for a second round of interviews.

CONSENT ITEMS

Minutes, July 7, 2026
Purchases as outlined in the agenda.
Change Order as outlined in the agenda.
Personnel:
    Employee Hires and Separations
Financial Reports:
    Purchase Order Summary
    Change Order Summary
    Accounts Payable Pay Vouchers

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

Made by: Kris Nguyen
Seconded by: Julie Jackson

Kim Chandler said she does not support the TeachFX contract.

Called for vote: President McDermott
Results: Motion Passed. Yea: 5, Nay: 1 (Kim Chandler)

INFORMATION ITEM

Population Analysis Consultant
Steve Hogan, Planning and Boundaries Director, stated that the district selected MGT as the consultant to conduct population analysis and provide recommendations to the board. The MGT representatives; Chris Grigo, Dr. Lance Richards, and Christine Steenport presented an overview of the services they will provide.

President McDermott summarized that MGT will provide unbiased analysis which will allow the board to receive recommendations based on their data and community engagement by September 2027. School closures will not take effect until August 2028. A document outlining expectations of the board will be drafted by board leadership and shared with board members.

FIRST READINGS

Article VII.G.1. Annual Student Population Analysis Procedures
This first reading updates the existing policy to clarify student population analysis procedures, establishes deadlines for creating a study list and other District processes, and establishes deadlines for Board actions related to boundary changes and for school closures. Changes related to deadlines are in conformity with statutes and provide clarity regarding District procedures. In addition, the policy is intended to provide maximum input from parents and the community.

Clarke Nelson recommended changing the language from *sooner* to *at least* in sections F.1. and G.1.

Motion: **I move to approve Article VII.G.1. Annual Student Population Analysis Procedures as a first reading with the Clarke Nelson amendment.**

Made by: Julie Jackson
Seconded by: Kim Chandler

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

Article VIII.A.24. Electronic Devices and Acceptable Use of Technology
This first reading updates the existing electronic devices policy to conform to state law. This policy establishes separate policy exceptions for high school electronic devices use and requires schools to designate an area where electronic devices may be used during non-instructional time. This policy also requires schools to adopt accountability practices to ensure they are compliant with state and district goals.

Motion: **I move we approve Article VIII.A.24. Electronic Devices and Acceptable Use of Technology for a first reading**

Made by: Julie Jackson
Seconded by: Kris Nguyen

Kim Chandler recommended a change to C.7.: state *law* and district goals.

Amended Motion: **I move to approve with that improvement.**

Made by: Julie Jackson
Seconded by: Kim Chandler

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

Article VIII.A.18. Student Travel
This first reading updates the existing Student Travel policy to include a change required by a new state law regarding fee waivers and action plans. Under these changes, students who qualify for fee waivers and wish to attend a second trip in one school year will need to follow an action plan with school administration to provide service to the school community.

Motion: **I move we approve Article VIII.A.18. Student Travel as a first reading.**

Made by: Connie Burgess
Seconded by: Julie Jackson

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

Article VIII.A.3. Fees in Public Schools
This first reading updates the existing policy on fees in public schools to reference the fee waiver and action plan changes in the student travel policy.

Motion: **I move we accept Article VIII.A.3. Fees in Public Schools as a first reading.**

Made by: Kris Nguyen
Seconded by: Clarke Nelson

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

SUPERINTENDENT and BOARD REPORTS

Superintendent Horsley said as a follow-up for parents at the July board meeting, a meeting was held with Special Education staff to hear parents' ideas and concerns. The Administrator kickoff was awesome. The new teacher's orientation was good, but he is the worst dancer! Granite was invited to collaborate on an Olympic initiative sponsored by Ken Garff to focus on reading. The Skyline performing arts building will be finished earlier than expected. A ribbon cutting is planned next week. He thanked neighbors for their patience. Congratulations to our district, students made a 70% gain in proficiency.

Kris Nguyen reminded board members of the board's retreat this Friday.

Julie Jackson sent a board evaluation survey to ELT. She will resign from USBA leadership next week.

Nicole McDermott reminded board members to meet at Twin Peaks for service project at 8:00 a.m. on Friday. An agenda will be coming. There were 123 responses from administrators on the board evaluation question she sent. The feedback will be discussed.

ADJOURN

President Nicole McDermott adjourned the meeting at 8:44 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: September 1, 2026