



## CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The following minutes are a summary of the August 19, 2025, Canyons Board of Education meeting. To listen to the entire board meeting, including all comments made during the meeting, please go to BoardDocs at <http://www.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf>

The Board of Education of Canyons School District met in a board meeting on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, beginning at 5:30 pm at 9361 S 300 E, Sandy, UT 84070.

**Those in attendance were:**

Amber Shill, Board President  
Andrew Edtl, Vice President  
Katie Dahle, Board Member  
Jackson Lewis, Board Member  
Holly Neibaur, Board Member  
Karen Pedersen, Board Member  
Rick Robins, Superintendent  
Leon Wilcox, Business Administrator  
Daniel Harper, General Legal Counsel

Excused: Charlie Evans, Director of External Relations

**1. Closed Session – 4:30**

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

**MOTION: Katie Dahle moved to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. Karen Pedersen seconded the motion. \*A vote was taken. 6 Yea (Ms. Pedersen, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Oaks, Mr. Edtl, Ms. Dahle, Ms. Shill) 1 Not present (Ms. Neibaur joined the meeting after the roll call vote) The motion carries.**

\*Persons in Attendance: All Board Members and Rick Robins – Superintendent, Leon Wilcox – Business Administrator, joined after roll call.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DKHUU5CFBB4>

**2. Study Session – 5:30 pm**

- A. Elementary Technology Proposal – Superintendent Rick Robins and Assistant Superintendent McKay Robinson

A timeline for the Elementary Technology proposal was reviewed from the time the Board gave direction for Administration to the present. An Elementary Tech Advisory Committee was formed to gather additional information and insights from parents, teachers, and district employees, highlighting various perspectives on technology usage in elementary schools for grades K-5. The committee is not a decision-making group, and the information gathered is to help the Board make decisions regarding tech usage in elementary schools.

The District asked teachers to eliminate Chromebook “free use” time for students who complete classwork early and blocked multiple categories, such as media file sharing, video, TV and music. The District is committed to providing regular Digital Citizenship update and information to families and audit classrooms for quality and quantity of screentime.

At the request of the community more than 500 sites have been reviewed for content as requested through the Technology Connect Portal. Information Technology, Instructional Support and Administration meet weekly to review the requests. The District will be implementing Bark, which will traverse CSD Google accounts, including emails and files, for such issues as cyber bullying. A three-strike rule is being implemented to provide opportunity for a student to correct the behavior.

The Board of Education discussed three fundamental questions which are: 1) Do we consider technology to be an essential and valuable part of our educational ecosystem? 2) If technology is essential for student success, should parents be allowed to opt their children out of using it (e.g., Chromebooks) during the school day? 3) What about after hours? This would include homework, projects, etc.

Recommendations were given for four main areas: 1) Strengthen transparency, training and communication 2) Align and improve filtering, monitoring and access protocols 3) Support instructional balance and student well-being and 4) Reinforce Digital Citizenship and student accountability. Presentation available on BoardDocs.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DKHMY5CFBC5>

- B. Innovation Center Update – Leon Wilcox, Business Administrator  
This agenda item was moved to New Business Agenda Item D

**3. Business Meeting – 7:00 pm**

**4. Opening Items**

- A. Welcome  
B. Approve Agenda for August 19, 2025

**MOTION:** Andrew Edtl moved to approve the agenda for August 19, 2025, with the exception of moving Study Session Item 2B Innovation Center Update will be moved to New Business item 8D and New Business Item Canyons Innovation Center Update and Naming/Branding Discussion (Fourth Reading, Possible Action) will move respectively to 8E. Holly Neibaur seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DKHMY5CFBC5>

- C. Pledge of Allegiance – Albion Middle School, Principal Eric Gardner  
<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DKHMY5CFBC5>

- D. School Highlights - Albion Middle School, Principal Eric Gardner  
<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DKHMY5CFBC5>

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

The following students and staff were recognized:

- Canyons in the News for Back-to-school festivities
- All 5 CSD High Schools make the U.S. News & World Report “Best Schools List”
- Best of State Hillcrest High School Theater

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DKHMY5CFBC5>

**6. Patron Comments**

The following patrons commented:

- Krista Pippin, CEA President and Executive Board– Introduced Susan Hardy Smith

- Milenko Novakovich – Property Tax

Presentation available on BoardDocs.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DKHMH5CFBD8>

## 7. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes for August 5, 2025
- B. Approval of Minutes for Truth in Taxation August 5, 2025
- C. Approval of Hire and Termination Reports
- D. Approval of Student Overnight Travel
- E. Approval of Purchasing Bids
- F. Approval of July Financial Reports
- G. Approval of Sale of Property
- H. Approval of 2025-26 Early Learning Plan

**MOTION:** Katie Dahle moved to approve the Consent Agenda Item 7A Approval of Minutes for August 5, 2025; Item 7B Approval of Minutes for Truth in Taxation August 5, 2025; Item 7C Approval of Hire and Termination Reports; Item 7D Approval of Student Overnight Travel with removal of Alta Marching Band; Item 7E Approval of Purchasing Bids; Item 7F Approval of July Financial Reports; Item 7G Approval of Sale of Property; Item 7H Approval of 2025-26 Early Learning Plan. Holly Neibaur seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Documents available on BoardDocs.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DKHMK5CFBDA>

## 8. New Business

- A. Elementary Brain Booster and Prep Time Update – Alice Meridith and Sally Sansom, Director of Elementary Principals

A task force was created for the 2023-2024 school year for the purpose of responding to elementary teacher feedback, negotiation teams authorized the creation of a task force to explore options for increasing elementary planning time. The task force priorities included increasing teacher planning time, maximizing instructional time, maintaining professional development and maintaining PLC time.

A survey was sent to Instructional Technicians, BTS teachers, classroom teachers and principals. The feedback for impact on students, impact on instruction, and impact on the community was reviewed.

Dr. Amber Roderick-Landward reviewed highlights for the Arts, Playworks, STEM and Library curriculum. Presentation available on BoardDocs.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DKHN8S5EBB35>

- B. Strategic Plan Discussion and Legislative Report – Superintendent Robins  
*This agenda item was tabled for another meeting.*
- C. Policy Update: Policy-500.24-Student Overnight Travel (Third Reading, Possible Action) – Jeff Christensen, Assistant Legal Counsel

The Policy Committee recommends student overnight travel be approved through the District Administration. The new District Committee will include the Business Administrator, Assistant Superintendent, Director of High Schools and all high school principals. Criteria for a travel appeal narrowed to reception of an invitation based on placement in the top eight positions in a UHSAA sanctioned state tournament or in the top five positions based on Rank Power Index (RPI) among teams. Due to the increasing costs of travel, minor adjustments were made to the

policy to allow flexibility in both lodging and transportation. To increase safety for students, language was added to require two deep leadership with students in locations where venue security may not be present, such as cities or beaches and a new chaperone agreement was developed.

**MOTION: Andrew Edtl moved to approve Policy Update: Policy-500.24-Student Overnight Travel. Karen Pedersen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Presentation and documents available on BoardDocs.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DKHN975ECB8F>

- D. Innovation Center Update – Leon Wilcox, Business Administrator  
*This agenda item was tabled for another meeting.*
- E. Canyons Innovation Center Update and Naming/Branding Discussion (Fourth Reading, Possible Action) – Kirsten Stewart, Associate Director of Communications

This learning center will be a cross-disciplinary collision space where students work hands-on with industry leaders to gain professional experience, discover new solutions to real-world problems and acquire the credentials and habits needed to lead and innovate in today's changing workplace. Virtual focus groups were conducted from Aug 5-13, 2025, and consisted of 13 participants representing industry leaders, professionals, current/former students. The feedback for all the names under consideration was reviewed. The Board of Education through an elimination process narrowed it down to two names, the Innovation Point at Canyons and Canyons Innovation Center.

**MOTION: Holly Neibaur moved to approve the name Innovation Point at Canyons. Katie Dahle seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Presentation available on BoardDocs.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DKHN9D5ED241>

#### **9. Staff Comments**

- A. Superintendent Report  
<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DKHN9D5ED241>
- B. Business Administrator Report  
<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DKHMW75CFBEE>

#### **10. Board Comments**

- A. The President will recognize individual Board members for reports  
<https://go.boarddocs.com/ut/canyons/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=DKHMB5CFBF2>

#### **11. Closing Items**

- A. Adjourn

/cc

ATTEST

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Amber Shill Board President

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Rick Robins Superintendent