



CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The following minutes are a summary of the March 19, 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 public hearing on Tuesday, March 19, 2026, beginning at 6:00 pm at Park Lane Elementary, 9955 S. 2300 E. Sandy, UT 84092.

Those in attendance were:

Amber Shill, President
Katie Dahle, Board Member
Jackson Lewis, Board Member
Holly Neibaur, Board Member
Karen Pedersen, Board Member
McKay Robinson, Superintendent
Leon Wilcox, Business Administrator

Excused: Amanda Oaks – Vice President, Andrew Edtl - Vice President, Daniel Harper, General Counsel, Charlie Evans, Director of External Relations

1. Presentation/Patron Comments – 6:00 p.m.

Presentation

Mr. Wilcox reviewed information regarding the boundary changes and school consolidation/closures. The District is striving to maintain optimal class sizes, a full menu of academic opportunities for every child, while at the same time maximizing the uses of taxpayer-funded buildings without jeopardizing teaching and learning quality. When school enrollment drops, some of the challenges that arise are staffing classes at a size that allow personal attention, ability to offer programs families value and sustaining specialized supports. Elementary enrollments have declined and are expected to continue to decline for the next few years, driven primarily by slowing birth rates and soaring housing prices.

The District's funding is based on state-legislated formulas. The largest funding sources is the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU). For every student enrolled for 180 days in 2026-2027, the District will receive \$4,870 per student from the state. Canyons School District had 659 fewer students in 2025-2026 than the previous year, translating to \$3.2 million less in funding. Projections are for 567 fewer students in 2026-2027, translating to \$2.7 million less in funding next year.

The District has been belt-tightening, while redeploying District Office staff to work in schools. Canyons also has absorbed District-level administrative positions, reassigned District Office employees to work in schools, delayed technology and equipment replacement to extend their use, and place hiring freezes in place to prioritize finding positions for employees if schools are consolidated.

The proposal would combine Park Lane with Willow Canyon in the Willow Canyon building. The implementation target date would be for the 2027-2028 school year. The estimated combined enrollment would be approximately 579 students (534 General Ed plus 45 ACC). The Park Lane ACC would stay with the community and feeder and move with Park Lane.

Program choice and access is tied to enrollment. Keeping the status quo would lead to larger class sizes, reduced targeted intervention, small group instruction, split grade classrooms (one teacher covering two grades simultaneously), limited access to specialized staff and property tax increases.

The following revised recommendations reflect months of review and input from employees, families and the community. The proposal would combine two under-capacity schools into one school, providing sustainable enrollment. It will preserve the Eastmont and Jordan feeder pattern. The safe site design at Willow Canyon will allow separate bus and patron drop off/pick up areas. An estimated 100 Park Lane students could still walk. Willow Canyon's two preschools would need to relocate. This option would lay the groundwork for possible rebuild of Park Lane starting in 2029 and completed in fall 2031. The proposed new school would be built on the current building footprint which will strengthen the Eastmont Middle and Jordan High feeders into east Sandy. There is insufficient space to build the new facility while the existing school remains in operation. Waiting to combine schools until the construction starts would make things harder to optimize class sizes and preserve programs and student services.

Strategic consolidations today will protect student opportunity while laying the foundation for rebuilding neighborhood schools tomorrow.

Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#).

Patron Comments

The following patrons commented:

- 1) Gioconda Velez
- 2) Diane Nahalewski
- 3) Spencer Shore
- 4) Tara Regginello
- 5) Emily Hansen
- 6) Tristen Farrington
- 7) Randy Moore
- 8) Sarah Mannion
- 9) Shannon Herbert
- 10) Devon Lewis
- 11) Ann Barr
- 12) Jeanette Knight
- 13) Wesley Reid
- 14) Elizabeth Reid
- 15) Jessica Smith
- 16) Iva Williams
- 17) Jake Garfield
- 18) Lisa Niederhauser
- 19) Laura Anderson
- 20) Jared Herbert
- 21) Leo Herbert
- 22) Analisa Edmonds
- 23) Ron Baker
- 24) Connie Baker
- 25) James Longstaff
- 26) Erin Kuhlmeier
- 27) Tessa Rees
- 28) Kinley Garfield

- 29) Taylor Burkhaw (2)
 - 30) Karissa Gardner
 - 31) Amanda May
 - 32) Anniston Haderlie
 - 33) Cami Haderlie
 - 34) Catherine Lantis
 - 35) Melanie Griffith
- Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

2. Closing Items

A. Adjourn 7:30 p.m.

/cc

ATTEST

_____ Board President
Amber Shill

_____ Superintendent
McKay Robinson