



**CANYONS**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The following minutes are a summary of the March 31, 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, March 31, 2026, beginning at 4:30 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, Board Member  
Karen Pedersen, Board Member  
McKay Robinson, Assistant Superintendent  
Leon Wilcox, Business Administrator  
Daniel Harper, General Counsel  
Charlie Evans, Director of External Relations

Excused: Jackson Lewis - Board Member; Rick Robins, Superintendent

**1. Closed Session – 4:30 pm**

- A. For the purpose of discussing collective bargaining

**MOTION: Karen Pedersen moved to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining. Katie Dahle seconded the motion. \*A vote was taken. 6 Yea (Ms. Oaks and Ms. Neibaur joined in person after the vote) The motion passed unanimously.**

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

**2. Study Session – 5:30 pm**

- A. Final 2026 Legislative Update - Charlie Evans, Director of External Relations and Susan Edwards, Public Engagement Coordinator

The 2026 Utah Legislation Session had a total of 1021 total bills and 240 of those bills will impact the District. Mr. Evans reviewed bills that passed that were district supported, bills that failed that the district opposed, and bills that passed that the district opposed. Appreciation was extended for legislators who helped in seen and unseen ways. Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#).

B. 2026-27 Land Trust and TSSP plan approval process – Alice Meridith, Director of Elementary Principals

Ms. Meridith answered questions from board members regarding an email sent to each of them with requirements for the plans, function of the repository, and deadlines. Board members will review and approve as needed. Audio available on [Diligent Community](#).

C. Canyons Innovation Center (CIC) Budget Review and Other Updates – Leon Wilcox, Business Administrator

The District has limited the amount of property tax as a funding source for the CIC renovation. Instead, the funding sources will be provided by the sale of property and a Catalyst Grant. The expected base cost for bid package #2 is \$27.5M and with the contingency and alternate options under consideration included, the total is estimated at \$29,300,000. Interior renovations will begin in April. CIC's remaining potential cost include costs for CSDTv/Media, furniture and other equipment.

Mr. Soter, CIC Business Development Specialist, reviewed the vision and mission for the center and highlighted the why behind sponsorships with CIC. The different levels of sponsorship include community donor, strategic partner, exclusive sponsor and innovative sponsor. The Canyons Innovation Center at the Point is scheduled to open the doors in August 2027. Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#).

D. Strategic Plan Focus Group Report: Human-Centered Supports – Dr. Brian McGill, Director of Student Services

The Human-Centered Supports committee focuses on employee wellness, student wellness, thrive time and behavioral support.

An ESP training was held for employees with a keynote speaker and breakout sessions. An ESP & Misc Job description study is being conducted, and an employee daycare request to extend hours beyond 4:00 pm. is under consideration. An employee assistance program was implemented with new tools, through a new provider, Magellan Health, for employees.

The committee, to align with USBE Board rule, has been researching platforms for LifeSkills Curriculum for grades 9-12. In Focus and Wayfinder are being considered. Both align with Thrive Time and Portrait of a Canyons Scholar. This will require an 18-month curriculum adoption process, and earliest adoption and implementation would happen in fall of 2027. This will include patron opportunities to review all curriculum and lessons.

Increased attendance impacts student engagement, student achievement, graduation rates and lowers dropout rates. The committee is working on establishing a work group to focus on attendance, collect data and review. This group will be comprised of multiple departments, and all levels of school administrators. Parent feedback will be included, and strategic goal setting and data monitoring will be established.

Student wellness service training has included trauma-informed best practices, restorative practices, discipline and levels of progressive behavioral intervention and reintegration plans to achieve lower safe school violations.

The Red Shoes Living program continues to recognize a variety of employee groups to bring awareness, gratitude, respect and kindness to those who are advocating for themselves and others in the district.

Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#)

**3. Business Meeting – 7:00 pm**

**4. Opening Items**

- A. Welcome
- B. Approve Agenda for March 31, 2026

**MOTION: Holly Neibaur moved to approve the agenda for March 31, 2026. Amanda Oaks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

- C. Pledge of Allegiance – Corner Canyon High, Principal Dina Kohler  
Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

- D. School Highlights – Corner Canyon High, Principal Dina Kohler  
Audio available on [Diligent community](#)

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

The following students were recognized:

- State Unified Basketball Tournament – Beetdiggers captured the win.
- CSD Middle School Intramurals. Teams from Draper Park, Albion, Eastmont and Butler captured wins. Eastmont AP Taylor Hansen coordinates the intramurals program. He was assisted by Union Assistant Principal Karlie Aardema.
- State Swimming Alta Hawks won the State title in the 200-medley relay.
- State Swimming Alta were victorious in the Special Olympics Unified Swim events.
- Congratulations to Skyla Stiehle for winning the State Championship in the Unified girls 50 freestyle.
- Brighton senior Luan Barnard won both the 200 freestyle and 100 backstroke events and set a new state record. Bengals 200 medley relay team set a new 6A record time. Luan was also named as the 6A Male Swimmer of the Year by the Utah Swimming Coaches Association.
- Brighton's Model UN won the National Security Award in recognition of their exceptional diplomacy, understanding of complex issues, and the ability to lead negotiations in one of the conference's most challenging committees. The entire team was recognized with the Award for Excellence in Preparation and Research. The Brighton Model UN advisor is Jim Hodges.
- State Speech and Debate
  - Maryann Jensen, Bengal, won first place in original oratory.
  - Corner Canyons team won second place overall in 6A.
  - Alta won third place overall in 5A.
  - Brighton won first place in the Lincoln-Douglas Debate.
  - Corner Canyon won in policy debate, congress, informative and original oratory.
  - Hillcrest won for informative.
  - Jordan High for informative.
- Middle schools performed at the Choir Assessments Festivals at Draper park Middle School.
- Butler, Draper Park and Eastmont Middle Advanced orchestras all performed at Libby Gardner Hall at the University of Utah for UMEA's State Middle School Orchestra

Festival. Butler was awarded straight Superior marks from all three judges. Draper won top marks and a Sweepstakes.

- All Canyons schools that played at the State Jazz festival earned overall Superior ratings with Brighton earning some of the highest scores of the festival
  - Jordan High's band, orchestra and choir students competed at the Heritage Festival Competition in San Diego and won big awards. Seniors Johnny Hamm and Kate Barnes received special "Maestro Awards" from the judges for standing out in their respective disciplines on stage. Jordan wind symphony took 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Jazz band took 2<sup>nd</sup> place, orchestra too second place, madrigals took second and A Capella Choir took first in Jordan's division. The choirs scores qualified them to get an invitation to compete next year at the Festival of Gold at Carnegie Hall in New York City. The choirs took the sweepstakes award in the choral competition. The band/orchestra/choir received the overall sweepstakes award for the highest combined scores across all divisions
- Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#)

## 6. Patron Comments

The following patron commented:

1. Margaret Swanicke – Canyons Administration of Elementary School Principals
2. Drew Pearson – Email Retention Policy
3. Heather Dupaix – Boundary Study
4. Justin Peck – Park Lane Elementary
5. BriAnn Denoyer – Boundary Study
6. PJ Mannion – Boundary Study
7. Brianne England – Granite Elementary
8. Kinley Garfield – Park Lane Elementary
9. Jake Garfield – Boundary Study
10. Sarah Mannion – Boundary Study
11. Shannon Herbert – Boundary Study
12. Jared Herbert – Boundary Study
13. Taylor Berhow - Boundary Study
14. Jeanette Knight – Boundary Study

Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

## 7. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes for March 3, 2026
- B. Approval of Minutes for Closed Session March 10, 2026
- C. Approval of Minutes for Granite Elementary Public Hearing March 10, 2026
- D. Approval of Minutes for Closed Session March 12, 2026
- E. Approval of Minutes for March 19, 2026
- F. Approval of Minutes for Park Lane Elementary Public Hearing March 19, 2026
- G. Approval of Hire and Termination Reports
- H. Approval of Purchasing Bids
- I. Approval of February Financial Reports
- J. Approval of 2026-2027 Proposed Bell Schedule
- K. Approval of TSSP and Landtrust Amendment for Willow Canyon Elementary
- L. Approval of TSSP and Landtrust Amendment for Alta View Elementary
- M. Approval of Canyons Innovation Center Phase 2 Renovations
- N. Approval of TSSP and Landtrust Amendment for East Sandy Elementary
- O. Approval of USBE Waiver Request for Digital Literacy

**MOTION: Andrew Edtl moved to approve the Consent Agenda Item 7A Approval of Minutes for March 3, 2026; 7B Approval of Minutes for Closed Session March 10, 2026; 7C Approval of Minutes for Granite Elementary Public Hearing March 10, 2026; 7D Approval of Minutes for Closed Session March 12, 2026; 7E Approval of Minutes for March 19, 2026; 7F Approval of Minutes for Park Lane Elementary Public Hearing March 19, 2026;**

**Item 7G Approval of Hire and Termination Reports; Item 7H Approval of Purchasing Bids; Item 7I Approval of February Financial Reports; Item 7J Approval of 2026-2027 Proposed Bell Schedule; Item 7K Approval of TSSP and Land Trust Amendment for Willow Canyon Elementary; Item 7L Approval of TSSP and Landtrust Amendment for Alta View Elementary; Item 7M Approval of Canyons Innovation Center Phase 2 Renovations; Item 7N Approval of TSSP and Landtrust Amendment for East Sandy Elementary and Item 7O Approval of USBE Waiver Request for Digital Literacy. Katie Dahle seconded the motion. The motion carries.** Documents and audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

## 8. New Business

### A. Long Range Planning Committee (Second Reading) – Leon Wilcox, Business Administrator

Mr. Wilcox highlighted key themes, community voices, and takeaway from the public hearings held at Granite Elementary and Park Lane Elementary. They are: support for keeping EEC with Granite>Albion> Brighton feeder system, stability and continuity for special education students, desire to avoid moving Granite to Quail Hollow if the plan is to have students temporarily move back to Granite while Quail Hollow is rebuilt, desire to preserve an elementary foothold in east Sandy, and calls to consider pausing consolidation of Park Lane and Willow Canyon until work can begin on a rebuild of Park Lane.

The staffing ratio information was provided for Willow Canyon Elementary and Quail Hollow Elementary buildings. Two options were provided for a possible Quail Hollow rebuild while students remain on site. The boundary proposal would align the Raintree neighborhood to feed into Albion Middle and Brighton High.

Consolidations position the District for stronger facilities and smarter stewardships. The challenges include 13 elementary schools that are at least 50 years old, the average lifespan of a school is 50-60 years, in many cases, renovating these schools would cost more than rebuilding them and with limited capital funding and 47 schools to maintain, funding would be used for reactive maintenance instead of strategic investment. Consolidating underutilized building would lower total maintenance burden, and new construction reduces lifecycle cost for decades.

Proposal A would combine Granite Elementary and Quail Hollow Elementary in the Quail Hollow Elementary building with a potential rebuild on the Quail Hollow Elementary property. Proposal B would combine Park Lane Elementary with Willow Canyon Elementary at the Willow Canyon Elementary building with a potential rebuild on the Park Lane Elementary property.

**MOTION:** Holly Neibaur moved for the Board to terminate the proposal to move Park Lane Elementary into Willow Canyon Elementary and then proceed forward with the rest of the proposal concerning Granite with a decision to be made in May. Andrew Edtl seconded the motion. \*The motion was withdrawn.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Katie Dahle moved to postpone a vote on the proposal B for Park Lane Elementary and Granite Elementary until third reading in May. Karen Pedersen seconded the motion. A vote was taken. 3 Yea (Ms. Oaks, Ms. Dahle, Ms. Pedersen) 3 Nay (Ms. Neibaur, Mr. Edtl, Ms. Shill) The motion failed.

There was discussion to the motion and remarks read on behalf of Jackson Lewis, Board member.

There was discussion concerning the original motion about the Board policy concerning whether a Board member that was declared excused for the meeting can vote to break a tie by participating electronically. Mr. Dan Harper, General Legal Counsel, read Policy 100.101 Board Governance, Meetings of the Board of Education, in Subsection 6 Electronic Meetings it states, “a Board members presence at a meeting by electronic means voice/video shall be announced at the meeting and noted in the minutes. A remote board member attending by voice/video is included in calculating a quorum.” The precedence is to set the quorum at the beginning of the meeting by attendance recorded at that time.

A vote was not taken for the original motion. \*  
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

/cc

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_ Board President  
Amber Shill

\_\_\_\_\_ Superintendent  
Rick Robins