



CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The following minutes are a summary of the June 2, 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, June 2, 2026, beginning at 5:00 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
McKay Robinson, Superintendent
Leon Wilcox, Business Administrator
Charlie Evans, Director of External Relations

Excused: Rick Robins – Superintendent and Dan Harper – Legal Counsel

1. Closed Session – 5:00 pm

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

MOTION: Karen Pedersen 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. *A role call vote was taken. 6 Yea (Mr. Lewis, Mr. Edtl, Ms. Shill, Ms. Oaks, Ms. Dahle, Ms. Pedersen) 1 Not Present (Ms. Neibaur Hayes) *A vote was taken. The motion carries.

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

2. Study Session – 5:15 pm

Ms. Neibaur Hayes joined the meeting

- A. Foundation Board Annual Report – Denise Haycock, Foundation Development Office

The Canyons Education Foundation (CEF) Board currently has 25 members providing a depth of experience and diversity. Total assets including cash donations, endowment fund, donor

scholarship endowment funds, grants, and in-kind donations total \$3,077,910. Fundraising events include the Annual Gala, Golf Tournament and Fun Runs.

CEF supports students through resource closets, holiday support, Unified Sports, scholarships, college application fees and special requests such as individual student needs or mental health support. CEF supports teachers, ESP's and Teacher of the Year, Foundation Innovation Grants, DonorsChoose projects, new Teacher event, classroom supplies, ACE Scholarship, Special Education awards/fair, and Canyons Innovations Center. Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#)

B. Strategic Plan Focus Group Report: Operating Systems – Leon Wilcox, Business Administrator

This summer the Skyward Q (Qmlative) update will transition for the student system and is scheduled to be ready for back-to-school registration on August 3, 2026. Information Technology provided a demonstration of what parents will see when they go online. Information from the calendar survey conducted in April was reviewed. Information for students who reside in Canyons boundaries but attend school in a neighboring District and students who attend a Canyons school but resides in a neighboring district was reviewed for the last 8 years.

Ms. Kirsten Stewart, Associate Director of Communications, reviewed the District's specific efforts to recruit, retain and provide the best experience for students and families. Marketing strategies have included organic and paid advertising targeting families with school-aged children in Canyons and surrounding communities. Community engagement included outreach to homeschooled families, participation in community events, and preschool, kindergarten open houses to name a few. Success has been measured through social media interactions, phone calls, net-gain in out-of-district enrollments and growth in confirmed permit applications. The number of CSD students attending public charter schools, homeschooling trends, capture rate of K-12, and preschool enrollment were reviewed. Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#)

C. Superintendent Listening Tour Review – Dr. McKay Robinson, Superintendent

This agenda item was moved to New Business Item 8A

D. Policy Update: Policy—300.03—School Wellness; Policy—500.06—Technology Resources—Electronic Devices and Network Acceptable Use (Students) – Jeff Christensen, Assistant Legal Counsel

Policy 300.03- School Wellness requires an update adding a statutory nutritional requirement prohibiting food additives in foods sold, donated, offered, or served in public schools beginning in 2026-2027 school year.

Policy 500.06 – Technology Resources – Electronic Devices and Network Acceptable Use (Students) – This policy is updated in accordance with S.B. 69 School Device Revisions (2026), adding applicable definitions and modifying the District's policy for use of personal cellular devices in middle schools. Specific edits include adding the definitions of AI glasses; cellphone, classroom hours; emerging technology; parent-accessible monitoring system; pre-approved content filtering system; school hours; and smart watch. Pursuant to Utah code S53G-7-227, a student may not use a cellphone, smartwatch, AI glasses, or emerging technology at a school during classroom hours unless an exception applies. CSD will adopt a bell-to-bell band for middle schools. However, high schools have exceptions for personal device use as outlined in the Board Policy, consistent from previous school years. During classroom hours, personal

electronic devices must be off or on silent and out of sight or stored, unless a teacher specifically allows device use for an educational purpose. Students may use devices before school, during lunch, and during passing periods between classes, so long as such use is not disruptive. Presentation and documents available on [Diligent Community](#)

- E. Transition Life Skills Academy and Entrada to Bella Vista building for the 2027-28 school year (First Reading) – Dr. Tom Sherwood, Director High School Principals

Mr. Sherwood highlighted the benefits of transitioning LSA and Entrada in the same building. They include increasing capacity to accept Diamond Ridge and Entrada students, opportunities for federal funding crossovers, LSA students' potential for diploma, and a bus stop location near Bella Vista building. Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

3. Business Meeting – 7:00 pm

4. Opening Items

- A. Welcome
B. Approve Agenda for June 2, 2026

MOTION: Holly Neibaur Hayes moved to approve the agenda for June 2, 2026. Amanda Oaks moved to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Pledge of Allegiance – Mindy Robison, Assistant Superintendent

Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

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

The following employees were recognized:

- Brad Snow – Appreciation for service on the Canyons Education Foundation Board
- Terry Brown – 1st Place at Utah School Bus Safety Skills Competition
- Ashton Brown, Tonja Wade, Rae Henline, Becky Scroggin, Lane Brown, Wendy Christiansen and Principal Dr. Ashley Lennox – Assisted 1st grade student in a crisis.
- Christina Van Dam, Instructional Coach – directed the “Granny Awards”
- 58 retirees were recognized at the annual CSD Banquet
- Reid Newey, Canyons Innovation Center Director, inducted into the Utah State University Hall of fame for basketball career that still ranks among the Aggies all-time players.
- Science of Reading Awards presented to: Bernice Allen – CSD Instructional Supports, ELA Specialist; Leigh Ann Fisher – CSD Instructional Supports, ELA Specialist; Tiffany Smith – Granite Elementary, second-grade teacher; Tamara Coombs – Bella Vista Elementary, kindergarten teacher and Peton Dahlmeier – Altara Elementary, kindergarten teacher
- Brooke Grant, Union Middle Theater teacher – received the Utah Valley College of Education Alumni Award
- Ryan Wilde – produced the behind the scenes of Hillcrest’s recent production of “Phantom of the Opera.” CSDtv’s debut documentary, called “behind the Mask: The Making of Hillcrest’s ‘Phantom of the Opera’

Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#)

6. Patron Comments

The following patrons commented:

1. Dennis Lugodimos – District 5 Candidate
2. Jason Maldonado – Schools closing

3. Brianne England – Granite Elementary

Audio available on Diligent Community

7. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes for May 19, 2026
- B. Approval of Hire and Termination Reports
- C. Approval of Purchasing Bids
- D. Approval of Business Administrator Contract from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2028
- E. Approval to commit proposed property tax increase revenues in General Fund Balance
- F. Approval of Administrative Appointments

MOTION: Amanda Oaks moved to approve the Consent Agenda Item 7A Approval of Minutes for May 19, 2026; Item 7B Approval of Hire and Termination Reports; Item 7C Approval of Purchasing Bids; Item 7D Approval of Approval of Business Administrator Contract from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2028; Item 7F Approval of Administrative Appointments. Karen Pedersen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Documents and audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

8. New Business

Ms. Oaks left the meeting

- A. Superintendent Listening Tour Review – Dr. McKay Robinson, Superintendent

The Superintendent Listening Tour included 28 schools and 7 employee groups. Over the last six months the staff expressed appreciation for additional planning time, addition of assistant principals, childcare benefits, and greater attention to employee wellness. They also expressed continued stressors such as SPED workload, class sizes, low enrollment, staffing shortages, compensation inequities for ESP's/paras and increased student behavior issues. A list of changes made over the past four years due to feedback from the listening tours included additional planning time, pay increase, expanded parental/personal leave, and ThriveTime curriculum. Special Education 504's, boundary study, class sizes, student behavior, dual immersion, planning prep time and building square footage increase with no additional staff continue to be a topic of discussion. Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#)

- B. 2026-27 Budget Update (Second Reading) – Leon Wilcox, Business Administrator
 - i. Proposed intent property tax increase statement and tax impact schedule:
 - 1. Statement to exceed certified tax rate
 - 2. Approximate amount of increase will be \$6,871,000
 - 3. Approximate percentage of increase will be 5.8%

Mr. Wilcox made the following statement “The 2026-2027 Tentative Budget for Canyons School District includes a proposed tax rate increase. The increase will be for approximately \$6,871,000. The percentage increase will be approximately 5.8%. The Truth-In-Taxation hearing will be held on August 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the District Offices.”

The Property Tax Impact Schedule can be found on the District website, Diligent Community, hard copy handouts, District bulletin board and the Utah Public Website. An amount of \$2,161,000 will be used for a 0.75% COLA increase for all employees and \$210,000 will be used to hire two teachers at the Canyons Innovation Center (CIC). The Capital Fund revenues will increase by \$4,500,000 and will be used to fund general obligation debt. Debt Service revenues will decrease by a corresponding \$4,500,000. As debt retire over the next few years, the District will use funds to rebuild/renovate aging elementary schools.

The average home in Canyons School District boundaries increased \$30,000 dollars from last year from \$740k to \$770k. Property tax statements line item "Canyons School District" will increase approximately \$70; line item "Canyons School Debt SVCE" will decrease approximately \$38; State basic School Levy will increase approximately \$11 and is set by the State; and line item "UT Charter School -Canyons" will increase by a few dollars. The projected total net increase from 2025 to 2026 on the average home is approximately \$37. When the certified tax rate is finalized and the Basic Rate is set by the State the numbers could change slightly.

The tax increase revenues are required to be held in a restricted account in the General fund. A request for Board approval is on the Consent agenda to approve a committed fund balance. The revenues cannot be spent until after the August 4th tax hearing. If tax increase passes pay will be issued retroactive as per the employee negotiated agreements.

A lunch price increase is proposed for this budget. The last increase occurred for the 2020-21 school year but did not go into effect until 2022-23 years as lunch was subsidized by the Federal government during Covid.

The enrollment for students this year was 31,506 and projected enrollment for the next five years show a continual decrease in students. State revenues will only increase slightly due to the loss in students.

The General Fund budget is estimated to be \$412,823,453. Due to the loss of enrollment, the District will employ 53 fewer teachers. Other areas will need to be balanced and enrollment decreases. A majority of the General fund is spent on personnel with 89.2% of the fund going towards salaries and benefits

The District's final expenditures are expected to be 2%-3% under budget which is consistent with previous years. Utah Code 11-14-310(c) allows for remaining debt service fund revenues to be used for technology.

The Elementary class size for 2025-26 were reviewed. The District is striving to keep class sizes low.

The FY26 budget will seek adoption at the June 16th meeting on a tentative basis. Final approval will be requested at the August 4, 2026, Truth-In-Taxation hearing.

Presentation and documents 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 8:50 pm

/cc

ATTEST

_____ Board President

Amber Shill

_____ Superintendent

McKay Robinson