



CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The following minutes are a summary of the September 15, 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 September 15, 2026, beginning at 6:15 pm at 9361 S 300 E, Sandy, UT 84070.

Those in attendance were:

Amanda Oaks, Vice President
Katie Dahle, Board Member
Holly Neibaur Hayes, Board Member
Karen Pedersen, Board Member
Jackson Lewis, Board Member – joined electronically
McKay Robinson, Superintendent
Leon Wilcox, Business Administrator
Dan Harper, Legal Counsel

Excused: Amber Shill, President; Andrew Edtl, Vice President; Charlie Evans, Director of External Relations

1. Closed Session – 6:00 pm

- A. For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange or lease of real property

MOTION: Jackson Lewis moved to going into closed session for the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange or lease of real property. Karen Pedersen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

*Persons in Attendance: All Board Members and McKay Robinson – Superintendent, Leon Wilcox – Business Administrator, Daniel Harper – General Counsel, Mindy Robison - Assistant Superintendent, Tiffany Midgley – Director of Human Resources.

Audio available on [Diligent Community](https://canyonsdistrict.community.highbond.com/Portal/)

2. Study Session – 6:15 pm

- A. Annual Open Meetings Training (State Statute) – Dan Harper, General Legal Counsel

Training for the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act is required by state statute, Utah Code 52-4-101 and the presiding officer of the Board of Education is responsible to ensure the annual training requirements are reviewed. The purpose for the Act is to require government entities to take actions openly and ensure deliberations allow for an open public process. Mr. Harper presented updated definitions and revisions to the UOPMA.

Presentation available on [Diligent Community](https://canyonsdistrict.community.highbond.com/Portal/)

- B. Annual SCC Training (State Statute) – Susan Edwards, Community Engagement Coordinator

Annual training for the School Community Councils (SCC) is scheduled for September 8th and October 7th, 2026. The SCC's are responsible for creating a plan for the School Land Trust, providing a final report from the previous year, discussing safe walking routes and proposing any necessary amendments. They review and advise on additional plans, such as TSSP, positive behaviors, digital citizenship, electronic device plan, school safety and attendance. A timeline of when the plans are due was reviewed.

Guest speaker Margaret Bird, co-author of "The Forgotten Forever Gift to Public Schools," provided a brief history on how the founding fathers set aside land for the purpose of financially supporting public education. Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#)

C. School Safety and Digital Report – Susan Edwards, Community Engagement Coordinator

Ms. Edwards provided packets for the Board of Education, which included specific primary and secondary school reports for the 2025-2026 school year for each board member's assigned area. Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

D. Annual Title IX report – Dr. Tom Sherwood, Director of High School Principals

The three prongs of Title IX are proportionality, expansion and accommodating interests. Dr. Sherwood reviewed proportionality for the District in relation to participation, facility conditions, and financial data. The District continues to promote girls' sports with a special emphasis through poster communication, increased efforts to promote and celebrate in feeder programs and specifically promote non-tryout girls' sports. The District seeks input through surveys to determine interests and aligns those results with digital/outreach, alignment/liaison and survey/growth. Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#)

E. Policy Update: Policy 300.02-Access to Public Records and Retention/GRAMA; Policy 400.02-Nondiscrimination/Policy 500.01-Nondiscrimination; Policy 500.35-Student Attendance – Jeff Christensen, Assistant Legal Counsel

Policy 300.02-Access to Public Records and Retention/GRAMA

This policy needs to be updated to address the retention and amendment of records. The recommendation is to update the definition of documents, electronically stored information and a record. Each employee of the District is considered the custodian of all records created or received in his/her official capacity as an employee. The first step is to adopt RAMP and then meet with departments regarding the information and then decide whether the District will deviate from RAMP.

Policy 400.02-Nondiscrimination/Policy 500.01-Nondiscrimination

The Utah Admin Code R277-123 Process for Reporting Violations of Statute and Board rule requires that a hotline complaint be submitted directly to the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) public education hotline and referred by the Internal Audit Department to the District for a response. A CSD Report Bullying Complaint will be defined as a complaint submitted to the CSD's online Report Bullying link on the District's website or the Your Voice Hotline Complaint. Upon receipt of report, the District will investigate report using procedures from the Nondiscrimination Policy.

Policy 500.35-Student Attendance

The updated policy focuses on adding statutory definitions from Utah Code 53G-6-201, which are absence, attendance validated program, chronic absenteeism, educational services, instructional day, instructional hours, learner validated enrollment measurement, online course, tardy, teacher of record, and valid excuse. The policy adds language for LEA accountability measures, student check-in and check-out processes. To maximize instructional time and ensure student safety, early check-outs should be kept to a minimum and reserved for essential appointment or emergencies.

Presentation and documents available on [Diligent Community](#)

3. Business Meeting – 7:00 pm

4. Opening Items

- A. Welcome
- B. Approve Agenda for September 15, 2026

MOTION: Katie Dahle moved to approve the agenda for September 15, 2026. Holly Neibaur Hayes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

- C. Pledge of Allegiance – Sandy Elementary, Principal Elenoa Pua

Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

- D. School Highlights – Sandy Elementary, Principal Elenoa Pua

Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

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

The following students and staff were recognized:

- Information Technology (IT) Professional Day – appreciation expressed for IT Department
- Jordan High Fieldhouse and Black Theater had the highest attendance for any ribbon cutting last week with over 2,000 students, staff and community members in attendance.
- Students throughout the District recognized Patriot Day in remembrance of the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001.
- Constitution Day will be recognized in civics and history lessons on Sept 17, 2027.
- Hillcrest High – Luciana Gonzales and Nivedita Bakshi are two major contenders for the State 5A Championships in girls tennis.
- Corner Canyon High volleyball team aims to repeat as 6A champions.
- The following students received a perfect 36 on the ACT: Gabriel Carlton – Alta High, Oliver Collings – Alta High, Sydney Hanks – Corner Canyon High, Miles Higginson – Brighton High, Zhuocheng Wang – Hillcrest High
- Canyons Education Foundation – “Mont L. Millerberg Classic” will be held at Wasatch Mountain State Park for a fundraising event.

Presentation available on [Diligent Community](#)

6. Patron Comments

The following patrons commented:

- Lizz Huff – Canyon View Elementary
- Cora Whitmer – Peruvian Park 4th grade
- Amber Sposeto – Dual Immersion

Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

7. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes for September 1, 2026
- B. Approval of Hire and Termination Reports
- C. Approval of Purchasing Bids
- D. Approval of August Financial Reports

- E. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Canyons School District and Alpine School District regarding Suncrest busing
- F. Approval of LEA Specific Licenses

MOTION: Karen Pedersen moved to approve the Consent Agenda Item 7A Approval of Minutes for September 1, 2026; Item 7B Approval of Hire and Termination Reports; Item 7C Approval of Purchasing Bids; Item 7D Approval of August Financial Reports; Item 7E Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Canyons School District and Alpine School District regarding Suncrest busing; Item 7F Approval of LEA Specific Licenses. Jackson Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Audio available on [Diligent Community](#)

8. New Business

- A. Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Update (Third Reading, Action Requested) – Dr. McKay Robinson, Superintendent

The third reading of the proposal for a short-term solution for the Dual Language Immersion program would be as follows:

- A two-class cohort when target numbers are met (at least 50 students committed to the target DLI language and at least 19 students for the non-immersion neighborhood class).
- A one-class cohort when target numbers are not met (50 and at least 19). The one class cohort will be capped at 30 students.

January 15, 2027 will be the target date to determine if the enrollment targets of 50/19 students are met for the incoming first grade. If a first grade class has a one class cohort, March 15, 2027 will be the target date to determine if enough students are committed to moving back to a two class cohort for second grade. Any elementary two class cohort that decreases to 30 student or below, due to attrition, will be moved to a one class cohort the following year.

The Board of Education and Administration have worked hard to find creative and workable ways of preserving the program while balancing legal requirements, optional programs, real life and current challenges.

Dr. Lora Tuesday-Heathfield, reviewed all the survey results and provided of summary of considerations.

Superintendent Robinson reviewed the purpose of a target language magnet school would be to consolidate scattered DLI strands into a single, high-profile site. These can be done by one language or with all languages offered. The magnet school features, pros and cons and considerations were presented.

MOTION: Katie Dahle moved to approve that registration for Dual Immersion first grade classes starting in the 2027-2028 school year, and moving forward each year afterwards, will have at least 50 students committed to the target language and at least 19 for the non-immersion neighborhood class, for a two-class cohort. If those targets are not met by January 15, we will move the program to a one class cohort model of 30 students in the one target language class and at least 19 in the non-immersion neighborhood class. Also approve implementing a final date of March 15 of the noted school year as the deadline for moving back to a two-class cohort as the students enter second grade for the upcoming school year. Any elementary two class cohort that decreases to 30 students or below through attrition, regardless of grade, would move to a one class cohort the following school year. This allows for appropriate hiring and FTE allocation. Jackson Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion to the motion before the vote was taken.

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 8:45 pm

/cc

ATTEST

Amber Shill President

McKay Robinson Superintendent