



# DRAFT MINUTES

## EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 20, 2025 | 8:30 a.m. | 110 Senate Building

### Members Present:

Sen. John D. Johnson, Chair  
Rep. R. Neil Walter, Chair  
Sen. Heidi Balderree  
Sen. Lincoln Fillmore  
Sen. Kathleen A. Riebe  
Sen. Chris H. Wilson  
Rep. Tiara Auxier  
Rep. Ariel Defay  
Rep. Joseph Elison  
Rep. Sahara Hayes  
Rep. Michael L. Kohler  
Rep. Karianne Lisonbee  
Rep. Carol S. Moss  
Rep. Clinton D. Okerlund

Rep. Karen M. Peterson  
Rep. Val L. Peterson  
Rep. Jason E. Thompson  
Rep. Douglas Welton

### Members Absent:

Rep. Candice B. Pierucci

### Staff Present:

Finn Andrew Rose, Policy Analyst  
Micah Ann Wixom, Policy Analyst  
Mike Curtis, Managing Associate General Counsel  
Tyler Keetch, Associate General Counsel  
Jeff Van Hulten, Associate General Counsel  
Amy Hawkes, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

## 1. Committee Business

**MOTION:** Rep. V. Peterson moved to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2025, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 8.

### Yeas - 11

Rep. T. Auxier  
Sen. H. Balderree  
Rep. J. Elison  
Rep. S. Hayes  
Sen. J. Johnson  
Rep. C. Moss  
Rep. C. Okerlund  
Rep. K. Peterson  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Rep. J. Thompson

### Nays - 0

### Absent - 8

Rep. A. Defay  
Sen. L. Fillmore  
Rep. M. Kohler  
Rep. K. Lisonbee  
Rep. C. Pierucci  
Rep. R. Walter  
Rep. D. Welton  
Sen. C. Wilson

## 2. Utah Board of Higher Education Strategic Plan

[2 - 2024-2027 Strategic Plan \(Utah System of Higher Education \(USHE\)\)](#)

[2 - PRESENTATION: Utah System of Higher Education Strategic Plan \(USHE\)](#)

Geoff Landward, Commissioner of Higher Education, and Amanda Covington, Chair, Utah Board of Higher Education, gave the committee an update on the higher education system's strategic plan and answered committee questions.

Rep. Walter assumed the chair.

### **3. Draft Legislation: Higher Education Recodification**

[3 - "Higher Education Recodification" \(V012\)](#)

[3 - "Higher Education Recodification External References" \(V004\)](#)

[3 - Title 53B Recodification: Map of Sections \(Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel \(OLRGC\)\)](#)

Rep. V. Peterson presented 2025 First Special Session draft legislation, "Higher Education Recodification."

Dr. Cameron Martin, President and CEO, Rocky Mountain University, spoke in favor of the bill.

Steve Sandberg, General Counsel, Brigham Young University, spoke in favor of the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. Elison moved to favorably recommend 2025 First Special Session draft legislation, "Higher Education Recodification." The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 6.

Yeas - 13

Sen. H. Balderree  
Rep. A. Defay  
Rep. J. Elison  
Rep. S. Hayes  
Sen. J. Johnson  
Rep. K. Lisonbee  
Rep. C. Moss  
Rep. C. Okerlund  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Rep. J. Thompson  
Rep. R. Walter  
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0

Absent - 6

Rep. T. Auxier  
Sen. L. Fillmore  
Rep. M. Kohler  
Rep. K. Peterson  
Rep. C. Pierucci  
Rep. D. Welton

### **4. Legislative Audit: Alpine School District**

[4 - AUDIT: A Systemic Performance Audit of Alpine School District \(OLAG\)](#)

[4 - PRESENTATION: A Systemic Performance Audit of Alpine School District \(Office of the Legislative Auditor General \(OLAG\)\)](#)

Kade Minchey, Legislative Auditor General, and Lindsay Jaynes, Audit Supervisor, Office of Legislative Auditor General (OLAG), briefly shared legislative recommendations based on findings from the audit and answered committee questions.

**MOTION:** Rep. Thompson moved to open a committee bill file to address legislative recommendations from the Alpine School District audit. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 7.



Yeas - 12

Rep. T. Auxier  
Sen. H. Balderree  
Rep. A. Defay  
Rep. J. Elison  
Rep. S. Hayes  
Rep. K. Lisonbee  
Rep. C. Moss  
Rep. C. Okerlund  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Rep. J. Thompson  
Rep. R. Walter  
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0

Absent - 7

Sen. L. Fillmore  
Sen. J. Johnson  
Rep. M. Kohler  
Rep. K. Peterson  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. C. Pierucci  
Rep. D. Welton

## 5. Legislative Audit: Salt Lake City School District

[5 - AUDIT: An In-Depth Follow-Up Audit of the Salt Lake City School District \(OLAG\)](#)

[5 - PRESENTATION: An In-Depth Follow-Up Audit of the Salt Lake City School District \(OLAG\)](#)

Kade Minchey and Chris McClelland, Senior Audit Supervisor, OLAG, shared information on the follow-up audit and on 2025 legislation that addressed the legislative recommendations.

## 6. Legislative Audit: Tooele School District

[6 - AUDIT: A Systemic Performance Audit of Tooele County School District \(OLAG\)](#)

[6 - PRESENTATION: A Systemic Performance Audit of Tooele County School District \(OLAG\)](#)

Kade Minchey and Abigail Armstrong, Performance Audit Supervisor, OLAG, shared findings from the audit and answered committee questions.

Dr. Mark Ernst, Superintendent, Tooele County School District and Melissa Rich, President, Tooele County School District Board of Education, answered committee questions.

## 7. Utah High School Activities Association

Rob Cuff, Executive Director, and Brenan Jackson, Assistant Director, Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA), shared information on the UHSAA's governance board and how violations by a member school are handled. They also answered committee questions.

**MOTION:** Sen. Johnson moved to open a committee bill file to consider the UHSAA appeals process. The motion passed with a vote of 16 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 16

Rep. T. Auxier  
Sen. H. Balderree  
Rep. J. Elison  
Sen. L. Fillmore  
Rep. S. Hayes  
Sen. J. Johnson  
Rep. M. Kohler  
Rep. K. Lisonbee  
Rep. C. Moss  
Rep. C. Okerlund  
Rep. K. Peterson  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Rep. J. Thompson  
Rep. R. Walter  
Rep. D. Welton  
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0Absent - 3

Rep. A. Defay  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. C. Pierucci

**8. Other Items/Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Sen. Fillmore moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 16 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 16

Rep. T. Auxier  
Sen. H. Balderree  
Rep. J. Elison  
Sen. L. Fillmore  
Rep. S. Hayes  
Sen. J. Johnson  
Rep. M. Kohler  
Rep. K. Lisonbee  
Rep. C. Moss  
Rep. C. Okerlund  
Rep. K. Peterson  
Sen. K. Riebe  
Rep. J. Thompson  
Rep. R. Walter  
Rep. D. Welton  
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0Absent - 3

Rep. A. Defay  
Rep. V. Peterson  
Rep. C. Pierucci

Chair Walter adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.