



DRAFT MINUTES

EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE

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.

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.

Yea - 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

Nay - 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.