

Date: January 8, 2026



The meeting was conducted in a hybrid format via Zoom and Basement West at USBE.

Members Present: Chair Jennie Earl, Vice Chair Joann Brinton, Member Sarah Reale, Member LeAnn Wood, Member Emily Green

Committee Staff: Leah Voorhies, Deputy Superintendent; Jennifer Wadsworth, Policy Advisor; Angela Doan, A.A.G.; Andrea Curtin, Secretary; and Amy Hunt, Assistant Superintendent

Others Present: Jerry Record; Alex Farah; Meghan Everett; Molly Basham; Melissa Garber; Mike Spencer; Milo Maughan; Cathy Gray; Tanya Semerad; Ellen Bailey; Jennie DeFriez, and close captioner.

Chair Jennie Earl called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

INFORMATION: Public Comment

There was no public comment for this meeting.

8.2 ACTION: R277-700, The Elementary and Secondary School General Core (Amendment)

Committee Discussion: Revisions are needed to update requirements and timeline for the new civics course as required by H.B. 381 Civics Education Amendments. The changes will allow LEAs to begin offering the new course starting in 2027-2028. Timeline will be included in backup for reference. Staff presented R277-700, The Elementary and Secondary School General Core, Draft 1, for consideration and approval. Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-501\(1\)\(b\)](#); [53E-4-202](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#).

Committee Action: Member Brinton moved That the Committee approves R277-700, The Elementary and Secondary School General Core, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion for the Board: That the Board approve R277-700, The Elementary and Secondary School General Core, Draft 1 on second and final reading.

8.3 ACTION: R277-717, High School Course Grading Requirements (Amendment)

Committee Discussion: Staff shared ongoing questions from the field highlighting confusion in the language concerning grade replacement, particularly whether students must repeat an entire course or may repeat only the term(s) in which a low grade was earned. Clarity is also needed regarding what qualifies as a “comparable course” to

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ensure consistent interpretation and implementation across LEAs. Staff presented R277-717, High School Course Grading Requirements, Draft 1, for consideration and approval. Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3; 53E-3-401\(4\)](#).

Committee Action: Member Reale moved to add the words “led by” before the words “a licensed educator” on line 42.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Brinton moved that the Committee approves R277-717, High School Course Grading Requirements, Draft 1, as amended, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion for the Board: That the Board approve R277-717, High School Course Grading Requirements, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

8.4 ACTION: Instructional Paraeducator Standards Update

Committee Discussion: Staff shared that the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) has established Standards for Instructional Paraeducators, giving guidance on supervision and training. These Standards are incorporated in R277-324 with the intention of providing competency requirements for Utah’s instructional paraeducators. The original Standards were created and adopted in 1985. The last review and revision occurred in 2015.

There is no state statute or Board rule regarding a timeline for updating the Standards. However, as shared with the Standards and Assessment Committee in October, during the revision of the USBE Paraeducator Manual, completed in 2023, LEA representatives and community partners expressed concerns about outdated language in the Standards. They also mentioned the need to expand the Standards and related competencies, including the addition of special education-specific competencies.

After sharing the feedback from our education partners with USBE leadership, our team collaborated with LEA representatives and community partners to review and draft updates to the Standards. We met every other week, beginning our work in January 2024. Staff shared the draft with the field and the Board for feedback. No recommendations for further changes have been made.

Committee Action: Member Earl moved, under Standard 1, Skills item B, remove the words “learning styles”.

Motion passed 4 to 1 with Member Reale opposed.

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Committee Action: Member Wood moved to change Standard 2 Skills 3 language to read, “Adhere to the legitimate exercise of constitutional, legal, or civil rights of children, youth, and their families.”

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Brinton moved that the Committee approve the proposed Utah Standards for Instructional Paraeducators, as amended, and forward to the full Board for approval.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion for the Board: That the Board approve the proposed Utah Standards for Instructional Paraeducators.

8.5 ACTION: R277-324, Paraprofessional/Paraeducator Programs, Assignments, and Qualifications (Amendment)

Committee Discussion: R277-324 incorporates, by reference, the Paraeducator Standards. The Standards have recently been updated, and the rule needs to be amended to incorporate the new Standards. Staff presented R277-324, Paraprofessional/Paraeducator Programs, Assignments, and Qualifications, Draft 1, for consideration and approval. Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [53E-3-501\(1\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)

Committee Action: Member Wood moved to amend line 4, by striking the words, “and Oversight Category”.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Brinton moved that the Committee approves R277-324, Paraprofessional/Paraeducator Programs, Assignments, and Qualifications, Draft 1 as amended, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion for the Board: That the Board approve R277-324, Paraprofessional/Paraeducator Programs, Assignments, and Qualifications, Draft 2 on second and final reading.

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8.6 ACTION: Resolution Commemorating America's 250th Birthday and Her Guiding Foundational Principles

Committee Discussion: Board members Emily Green, Erin Longacre, and Christina Boggess brought forward a resolution commemorating American's 250th birthday and her guiding foundational principles for the Committee's approval.

Committee Action: Member Reale moved that the Committee retain page one from Draft 1, the last "Whereas" statement, and the "Resolved" statement of the original draft, and substitute the rest of the document with new proposed language.

Motion passed 4-1 with Member Green opposed.

Committee Action: Member Reale moved to delete paragraph 8 and amend paragraph 1 to read, "WHEREAS, celebrating 250 years since America's founding, the Utah State Board of Education acknowledges and remembers the guiding and foundational principles and truths that have established and given birth to America's freedom and success as a nation. A people cannot remain free without a thorough knowledge of those principles."

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Wood moved that paragraph 2 be amended to read: "WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence boldly and clearly identified the political philosophy of America when it stated, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness", and that government's sole legitimate purpose is to protect those pre-existing rights;", and that paragraph 9 be stricken.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Chair Earl moved to retain paragraph 3 as it stands.

Motion passed unanimously

Committee Action: Member Green moved to retain paragraph 4 as it stands.

Motion passed 4 to 1 with Member Reale opposed.

Committee Action: Member Reale moved strike paragraph 5a.

Motion passed 4 to 1 with Member Green opposed.

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Committee Action: Member Brinton moved to amend paragraph 5 to read “WHEREAS, America was founded as a Constitutional Republic, establishing separation of powers and federalism under a written constitution, and thereby avoiding the fatal tendencies of a democracy; the stability of our Republic relies upon self-governance, a principle requiring that citizens govern their own conduct according to moral virtue and internal conscience—a "moral and religious people" being, as the Founders noted, the only people capable of sustaining a free Constitution;”

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Wood moved to strike paragraphs 6 and 7.

Motion passed 4 to 1 with Member Green opposed.

Committee Action: Member Reale moved to strike paragraph 10 and replace it with the following after paragraph 13, “WHEREAS, public education plays a vital role in preparing students to be informed, responsible, and engaged citizens, capable of understanding the nation’s history, respecting right of conscience, and participating thoughtfully in civic responsibilities;”.

Committee Action: Member Green moved to table the vote until after a break.

Motion passed unanimously. The motion above by Member Reale was not ever voted on.

Committee Action: Chari Earl moved to postpone discussion of this document until a special session to be held before the February Board meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Please see the current draft after this meeting attached for reference.

Motion for the Board: No motion for the Board came from this meeting.

8.7 DISCUSSION: Standards Revision Process

Committee Discussion: Committee members discussed the standards revision process and proposed possible changes. Although this was a discussion item two motions for the Committee were made.

Committee Action: Member Reale move to ask Board Leadership to add an action item to next week’s agenda to vote to send out a survey for public feedback about the mathematics standards pathways.

Motion passed unanimously.

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Committee Action: Member Green moved to ask Board leadership to add an action item to the agenda of the January 15th meeting that the Utah mathematics draft standards undergo a full, independent review by external expert mathematicians with demonstrated experience in international mathematics standards and curriculum development, and that this review not be limited to internal Utah-based processes and also the possible funding of this review.

Motion passes unanimously

Motion for the Board: This was an information item and there is no motion for the Board.

Adjournment:

Committee Action: Member Brinton made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passes unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.