

Date: January 13, 2026



Utah State Board of Education

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

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.; Amy Magruder, Secretary; and Amy Hunt, Assistant Superintendent

Others Present: Jerry Record; Alex Record; 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.

1.2 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. During the January 8, 2026 Standards and Assessment Committee meeting several amendments were voted on. A special session of the Committee was decided to be held to finish this work.

Committee Action: Member Green moved that the committee approve the Resolution Commemorating America's 250th Birthday and her Guiding Foundational Principles, Draft 3.

Motion failed 2 to 3 with Members Earl and Green in favor and Members Reale, Brinton, and Wood opposed.

Committee Action: Member Brinton moved to amend Draft 2 to include lines 49-53 of Draft 3 to replace line 35 "further resolved" in Draft 2.

In context:

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, public education plays a vital role in preparing students to be informed, responsible, and engaged citizens who are capable of understanding the nation's founding principles and history, respecting rights of conscience, and participating thoughtfully in civic responsibilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED"

Motion passed unanimously.

Date: January 13, 2026



Committee Action: Member Brinton moved to amend line 10 to read “and that government’s sole legitimate purpose is to protect those pre-existing rights; the American system is built upon the idea that governments derive “their just powers from the consent of the governed”; and strike lines 28-31.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Chair Earl moved that lines 32-34 be stricken.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Wood moved that lines 35-37 be placed after line 14 creating a new paragraph.

In context:

“**WHEREAS**, the core political beliefs of the Founding Fathers included: ordered liberty; equality; natural rights, including defense of self, community, and nation; freedom of speech and press; and the free exercise of religion;

WHEREAS, America’s history from the past 250 years has been marked by the prevalence of faith and Divine Providence, and her history affirms a clear and firm reliance on God and the Bible;”

Motion failed 1 to 4 with Member Wood in favor and Members Earl, Green, Reale, and Brinton opposed.

Committee Action: Member Brinton moved to strike the word “constitution” on line 24 and replace with the word “nation”.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Brinton moved to strike the word “and” on line 19 and insert a semicolon before the word “thereby”.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Green moved to add “the” before “press” on line 16.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Green moved that “WHEREAS” be added after the word democracy on line 23.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Reale moved to amend lines 17-30 to read:

Date: January 13, 2026



~~“WHEREAS, the Founding Fathers recognized historical events and texts[—such as the Ten Commandments, the Mosaic Law, the New Testament, and the experiences of the ancient Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans, the English Common Law, the Magna Carta, and the English Bill of Rights—]as a basis for American law and public policy;~~

~~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;]~~

~~WHEREAS, historical primary sources—including the Northwest Ordinance of 1787—record that “religion, morality, and knowledge” are “necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind,” and therefore must be encouraged through our schools;]~~

Motion failed 1 to 4 with Member Reale in favor and Members Earl, Green, Wood, and Brinton opposed.

Committee Action: Member Wood moved that lines 17-20 be moved above line 28.

In context:

WHEREAS, the Founding Fathers recognized historical events and texts—such as the Ten Commandments, the Mosaic Law, the New Testament, and the experiences of the ancient Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans, the English Common Law, the Magna Carta, and the English Bill of Rights—as a basis for American law and public policy;

WHEREAS, historical primary sources—including the Northwest Ordinance of 1787—record that “religion, morality, and knowledge” are “necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind,” and therefore must be encouraged through our schools;

Motion passed 4 to 1 with Members Earl, Wood, Brinton, and Green in favor and Member Reale opposed.

Committee Action: Member Earl moved that line 5 be amended to add “and” before “a people, and the word “those” be amended to “these”.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Action: Member Earl moved to amend line 6 to remove the word “and” and insert “thus” before “a people.”

Motion passed unanimously.

Date: January 13, 2026



Committee Action: Member Earl moved that the Committee approve the Resolution Commemorating America’s 250th Birthday and Her Guiding Foundational Principles, Draft 2, as amended, and forward to the full Board for approval.

Motion passed 4 to 1 with Members Earl, Wood, Green, and Brinton in favor and Member Reale opposed.

Motion for the Board: That the Board approve the Resolution Commemorating America’s 250th Birthday and Her Guiding Foundational Principles, Draft 4.

Adjournment:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.