



Meeting Minutes

Utah State Board of Education

A regular meeting of the Utah State Board of Education was held on January 7, 2026. Chair Hymas presided. As authorized by Utah Code Section 52-4, this meeting was held at the state board offices, located at 250 E. 500 S, Salt Lake City, Utah. The public can view the discussion through live [YouTube](#) streaming.

Members Present

Board Chair Matt Hymas
First Vice-Chair Vacant
Second Vice-Chair LeAnn Wood
Member Christina Boggess
Member Amanda Bollinger
Member Randy Boothe
Member Joann Brinton
Member Emily Green

Member Jennie Earl
Member Sarah Reale
Member Rod Hall
Member Cole Kelley
Member Joseph Kerry
Member Carol Lear
Member Cindy Davis

Executive Staff Present

Molly Hart, State Superintendent
Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent
Elisse Newey, Deputy Superintendent
Leah Voorhies, Deputy Superintendent

Minutes were taken by:

Cybil Prideaux, Executive Assistant

Others Present

Rob Campbell, Cammy Whitchurch, Laurieann Thorpe, Sylvia Read, Triana Butler, Sarah Haley Nitta, Julie Cluff, Diane Freeman, Kristen Clark, Lindsay Butrum, Jerry Record, Aaron Brough, Greg Connell, Jennifer Wadsworth, Alex Farrah, Carson Miller, Shanda Stenger, Jamie Workman, Royce Van Tassel, Bethany Marker, Dakota Cambruzzi, Malia Hite, Amy Hunt, Ashley Biehl, Angela Doan, and Deborah Jacobsen.

Opening Business

Chair Hymas called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

Member Message

Member Emily Green shared the January message.

Employee Recognition

Superintendent Hart announced the Employee of the Month: Jerry Record.

Acknowledgement of Student Artwork

This month, we are highlighting the schools from our University of Utah Region. We have art from the Canyons School District displayed, primarily from Willow Canyon Elementary. The BTS Arts teacher, Jaime Wizner, works with students on visual arts and science standards to create art based on hibernation and migration.

The second highlight is a video coming from the Granite School District. BTS Arts teacher Michelle T. Al-Safadi from Gourley Elementary used the holiday season to touch on social studies standards, creating art projects and music for students to perform about holidays around the world.

Public Comment for USBE

The Board heard from Rob Campbell, Cammy Whitchurch, Laurieann Thorpe, Sylvia Read, Triana Butler, Kristen Clark, and Lindsay Butrum.

- The public may sign up to share public comments at publiccomment@schools.utah.gov.
- The public may send written public comments to the Board at board@schools.utah.gov
- Public comments are limited to 2 minutes per person.
- A comment can express support or dissent for regulatory action.
- Individuals should refrain from using public comments to complain about personnel issues or attack or defame another individual.
- Speakers making a highly detailed or complex comment should also consider providing a written outline of their words to the Board.
- Please remember that children may hear your comments. Be thoughtful and professional.
- Keep your comments appropriate for a general audience. If you have material with explicit language or content, submit such material in writing to the Board at board@schools.utah.gov

Finance Committee Report/Recommendations – (Items duplicated from the December 5, 2025, meeting.)

ACTION: Approve Small School District Capital Projects for FY26

MOTION was made by Member Davis that the Board approve the FY26 Small School District Capital Projects as recommended by the review panel.

The motion passed unanimously.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Wood, Kelley, Boothe, Davis, Earl, Hall, Longacre, Lear, Hymas, Boggess, and Bollinger.

3 ABSENT: Members Green, Brinton, and Kerry.

ACTION: R277-726, Statewide Online Education Program (Amendment)

MOTION was made by Member Davis that the Board approve R277-726, Statewide Online Education Program, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Boothe that the Board direct staff to review and update the homeschool definition in Board rule R277-100.

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Wood, Brinton, Kelley, Boothe, Davis, Green, Earl, Hall, Longacre, Lear, Hymas, Boggess, and Bollinger.

1 ABSENT: Member Kerry.

MOTION, AS AMENDED

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Wood, Brinton, Kelley, Boothe, Davis, Green, Earl, Hall,

Longacre, Lear, Hymas, Boggess, and Bollinger.

1 ABSENT: Member Kerry.

Law and Licensing Committee Report/Recommendations – (Items duplicated from the December 5, 2025, meeting.)

ACTION: R277-304, Teacher Preparation Programs (Amendment)

MOTION was made by Member Bollinger that the Board approve R277-304, Teacher Preparation Programs, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Boothe, Davis, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Lear, Hymas, Boggess, and Bollinger.

1 ABSENT: Member Kerry.

Standards and Assessment Committee Report/Recommendations – (Items duplicated from the November 25, 2025, meeting.)

Child Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking Instructional Materials Approval

MOTION was made by Member Earl that the Board approve the following:

- 24846, Boundary Town School Kids K-2 Human Trafficking Curriculum
- 24847, Boundary Town School Kids K-2 Child Sexual Abuse Curriculum
- 24848, Boundary Town School Kids 3-6 Child Sexual Abuse Curriculum
- 24849, Boundary Town School Kids 3-6 Human Trafficking Curriculum

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Earl and seconded by Member Green that the Board approve recommending that PCAU update their curriculum to read,

“Q: How would a child feel if an adult kept telling them that they are worthless?

A: They may start to think that what is being said is true.

Q: If a child believed that they were worthless, what do you think might happen?

A: Hurt themselves, hurt others, lower self-esteem, and a hard time making friends.

Q: If a child has been emotionally harmed, how could they respond?

A: Ask a parent or trusted adult for help, make new friends, try something new that could help you to feel successful, and remember the very best things about yourself and remind yourself of those things every day.

Q: Is a child EVER worthless?

A: NO. No matter what anyone ever says to or about you, you are special and valuable.

3 Explain: These are things that can negatively affect a child's life. Though it may not leave a long-lasting physical mark, emotional abuse can have a long-lasting impact. We don't have to believe the bad things people say about us, but words do have power. This is why we want to tell a trusted adult if someone is saying mean things to us, and we need to be careful about what we say to or about others. Children do abuse other children. When it happens in school and repeatedly, sometimes it's called "bullying" but it is still abuse, and it's not okay.

Hearing mean things said over and over can have an effect on a child but children can get help and they can still grow up believing in themselves."

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Boothe, Davis, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Lear, Hymas, Boggess, and Bollinger.

1 ABSENT: Member Kerry.

MOTION, AS AMENDED

The motion carried.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Boothe, Davis, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Lear, Hymas, and Bollinger.

1 OPPOSED: Member Boggess.

1 ABSENT: Member Kerry.

Standards and Assessment Committee Report/Recommendations – (Items duplicated from the December 5, 2025, meeting.)

ACTION: R277-609, Standards for LEA Discipline Policy (Amendment)

MOTION was made by Member Earl that the Board approve R277-609, Standards for LEA Discipline Policy, Draft 2, on second and final reading.

The motion carried.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Boothe, Davis, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Lear, Hymas, and Bollinger.

1 OPPOSED: Member Boggess.

1 ABSENT: Member Kerry.

R277-709, Education Programs Serving Youth in Care (Amendment)

MOTION was made by Member Earl that the Board approve R277-709, Education Programs Serving Youth in Care, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Boothe, Davis, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Lear, Hymas, Boggess, and Bollinger.

1 ABSENT: Member Kerry.

CTE Course Standards Approval - Business Leadership 1 & Retailing 1, AI Standards

MOTION was made by Member Earl that the Board approve the CTE standards, Business Leadership 1, Draft 2, Retailing 1, Draft 2, and Artificial Intelligence, Draft 2.

MOTION was made by Member Green and seconded by Member Boggess that the Board add #4 “Discuss the different ways that AI can be prompted to produce desired content”

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Wood and seconded by Member Boggess that the Board insert in “responsible use of AI” the following: “which includes recognizing when to use AI, using appropriate prompts to produce desired output, determining accuracy of information.....”

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Boothe, Davis, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Lear, Hymas, Boggess, and Bollinger.

1 ABSENT: Member Kerry.

MOTION, AS AMENDED

The motion carried.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Boothe, Davis, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Lear, Hymas, and Bollinger.

1 OPPOSED: Member Boggess.

1 ABSENT: Member Kerry.

Monthly Budget Report

Monthly Budget Report

In accordance with the Money Management Act and the Budgetary Procedures Act, the Utah State Board of Education provides a report on the status of funds for its internal budgets.

Discretionary Funds Report

The Utah State Board of Education maintains a Discretionary Funds account. In

accordance with the Money Management Act and the Budgetary Procedures Act, the Utah State Board of Education is provided with the status of the funds. This is a perpetual action item to facilitate motions by board members to utilize available funds in a consistent and allowable manner.

Course Choice Empowerment Enrollment Exceeds Current Appropriation

SB 137 (2025 General Session) created the Course Choice Empowerment Program. The appropriation for this program is \$8.95MM, of which 8% was to go to the vendor of choice—Odyssey. Odyssey needed more time to ensure readiness of systems to manage the program, so USBE staff took the program administration back, temporarily, until April 1, 2026. Arizona State University has enrolled private school students in courses and the amount of enrollments is projected to exceed the available funding for this year. SB 137 established that the legislature can appropriate a supplemental during the next legislative session to cover the additional enrollment levels and associated costs.

<https://cobi.utah.gov/2026/4710/overview>

<https://le.utah.gov/~2025/bills/static/SB0137.html>

Excerpt:

2) Notwithstanding Subsection (1) and subject to future budget constraints, the Legislature shall: (a) consider enrollment projections provided by the authorized online course providers to account for enrollment growth during the appropriations process; and (b) provide a supplemental appropriation to adequately fund the Statewide Online Education Program when the enrollment amount exceeds the projected enrollment amounts provided by the authorized online course providers.

State Charter School Board Quarterly Budget Report

SCSB Budget to Actual

Follow Up Items:

- Overview of Authorizing Role
- SCSB Staff
- SCSB Travel

Consent Calendar

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Boothe that the Board approve the consent calendar.

The motion passed unanimously.

14 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Boothe, Davis, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Lear, Hymas, Kerry, Boggess, and Bollinger.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION was made to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

2026 General Legislative Session Preparation

Representative Macpherson spoke to the board members about the bills he has drafted for the 2026 General Session.

Chair Hymas passed the gavel to Vice Chair Bollinger.

Vice chair Bollinger passed the gavel to Chair Hymas.

Requests for Statutory Changes

MOTION was made by Earl and seconded by Member Kerry that the Board remove "Repeal Utah Code 53E-6-604(6)" from our legislative request list.

Context of Utah Code 53E-6-604(6)"

(6) Notwithstanding any other provision in this section, the state board shall make rules, in

accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, that require an LEA to notify the state board, UPPAC, and the educator of a complaint from a parent against an educator alleging a violation of educator licensing standards.

The motion failed.

7 IN FAVOR: Members Brinton, Kelley, Davis, Earl, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, and Kerry.

6 OPPOSED: Members Lear, Boggess, Bollinger, Green, Reale, and Boothe.

2 ABSTAINED: Members Davis and Wood.

MOTION was made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Boothe that the Board direct staff to work with legislators to define criteria that constitute a hazardous route and amend the transportation statute to allow districts to optionally include these, along with the required distance routes for subsidized funding.

The motion carried.

13 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Wood, Kelley, Boothe, Davis, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Lear, Hymas, Boggess, and Kerry.

2 ABSENT: Members Brinton and Bollinger.

Executive Session (closed in accordance with the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act)

The motion was made by Member Kelley and seconded by Member Kerry that the Board move into executive session for the purpose of

- a person's character, competence, or health;
- pending or imminent litigation;
- certain matters regarding the acquisition or sale of real property, including water rights or shares;

- the deployment of security personnel, devices, or systems;
- an investigation of alleged criminal conduct;
- the receipt or review of an ethics complaint if the public body is the Independent Legislative Ethics Commission;
- certain matters under the jurisdiction of a legislative ethics committee; and
- certain deliberations and decision-making involved in the procurement process.

Upon the voice vote of Members Lear, Reale, Boggess, Boothe, Kerry, Wood, Lear, Brinton, Earl, Green, Longacre, Hymas, Davis, Kelley, and Bollinger, the Board entered a closed session at 5:19 PM.

The following individuals were also present: Molly Hart, Cybil Prideaux, Kelsey James, Ashley Biehl, Ben Rasmussen, and Angela Doan.

MOTION was made by Member Kerry and seconded by Member Kelley that the Board come out of the executive session.

Upon voice votes of Members Lear, Boggess, Boothe, Davis, Lear, Earl, Green, Longacre, Hymas, Kelley, Kerry, Brinton, and Bollinger, the Board came out of the executive session at 7:33 PM.

Executive Session Action Items

Educator Licenses

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Kerry that the Board approve the UPPAC consent calendar.

The motion carried.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre,

Hymas, Kerry, and Bollinger.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Boggess.

2 ABSENT: Members Boothe and Davis.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Kelley that the Board adopt the UPPAC recommendation for:

- **Case No. 22-1891**

UPPAC recommends the educator's license be reinstated.

The motion passed unanimously.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, Boggess, Kerry, and Bollinger.

3 ABSENT: Members Boothe, Reale, and Davis.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Hall that the Board adopt the UPPAC recommendation for:

- **Case No. 24-2105**

UPPAC recommends the educator's license be suspended for not less than one (1) year.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION was made by Member Hall and seconded by Member Green that the Board issue a Letter of Reprimand.

The motion carried.

8 IN FAVOR: Members Brinton, Kelley, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, and Kerry.

3 OPPOSED: Members Bollinger, Wood, and Lear.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Boggess.

3 ABSENT: Members Boothe, Reale, and Davis.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Kerry that the Board adopt the UPPAC recommendation for:

- **Case No. 24-2176**

UPPAC recommends that the educator receive a reprimand for a period of not less than two (2) years from the date the educator's license was originally flagged. (December 13, 2024).

The motion passed unanimously.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, Boggess, Kerry, and Bollinger.

3 ABSENT: Members Reale, Boothe, and Davis.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Kerry that the Board adopt the UPPAC recommendation for:

- **Case No. 25-2188**

UPPAC recommends the Board accept the voluntary surrender of the educator's license.

The motion passed unanimously.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, Boggess, Kerry, and Bollinger.

3 ABSENT: Members Boothe, Reale, and Davis.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Kerry that the Board adopt the UPPAC recommendation for:

- **Case No. 25-2228**

UPPAC recommends that the educator receive a reprimand for a period of not less than two (2) years from the date the educator's license was originally flagged. (April 11, 2025).

The motion passed unanimously.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, Boggess, Kerry, and Bollinger.

3 ABSENT: Members Boothe, Reale, and Davis.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Kerry that the Board adopt the UPPAC recommendation for:

- **Case No. 25-2256**

UPPAC recommends the educator's license be suspended for not less than one (1) year.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION was made by Member Kerry and seconded by Member Kelley that the Board receive and review the letter dated March 17, 2025, and the correspondence before making a decision on this case.

The motion carried.

10 IN FAVOR: Members Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, Boggess, and Kerry.

2 OPPOSED: Members Lear and Bollinger.

3 ABSENT: Members Boothe, Reale, and Davis.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Kelley that the Board adopt the UPPAC recommendation for:

- **Case No. 25-2286**

UPPAC recommends the educator's license be suspended for not less than three (3) years.

The motion passed unanimously.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, Boggess, Kerry, and Bollinger.

3 ABSENT: Members Boothe, Reale, and Davis.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Kerry that the Board adopt the UPPAC recommendation for:

- **Case No. 25-2292**

UPPAC recommends the educator's license be suspended for not less than three (3) years.

The motion passed unanimously.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, Boggess, Kerry, and Bollinger.

3 ABSENT: Members Boothe, Reale, and Davis.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Kelley that the Board adopt the UPPAC recommendation for:

- **Case No. 25-2325**

UPPAC recommends the Board accept the voluntary surrender of the educator's license.

The motion passed unanimously.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, Boggess, Kerry, and Bollinger.

3 ABSENT: Members Boothe, Reale, and Davis.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Kelley that the Board adopt the UPPAC recommendation for:

- **Case No. 25-2247**

UPPAC recommends the Board accept the voluntary surrender of the educator's license.

The motion passed unanimously.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, Boggess, Kerry, and Bollinger.

3 ABSENT: Members Boothe, Reale, and Davis.

Appointments

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Kelley that the Board appoint Brooke B. Grossinger, for a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, to the Advisory Council for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

The motion passed unanimously.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, Boggess, Kerry, and Bollinger.

3 ABSENT: Members Reale, Boothe, and Davis.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Kelley that the Board appoint Davis Long to the Digital Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Hymas,

Boggess, Kerry, and Bollinger.

3 ABSENT: Members Reale, Boothe, and Davis.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN was made by Member Earl and seconded by Member Kelley.

The motion passed unanimously.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Earl, Green, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, Boggess, Kerry, and Bollinger.

3 ABSENT: Members Reale, Boothe, and Davis.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

The executive assistant took the meeting minutes.

The minutes are pending approval.

