UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES
Utah State Board of Education
January 15, 2026
12:00 to 2:00 PM

A Utah State Board of Education legislative meeting was held on January 15, 2026. Chair Hymas presided. As authorized by Utah Code Section 52-4, this meeting was held at the Utah State Board of Education, 250 E. 500 S., Salt Lake City, UT 84114. The public can access the meeting audio via the Utah State Board of Education Media's live YouTube channel. *Note: A live meeting Webcast or Audiocast is typically available while meetings are in session.*

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 Jennie Earl
Member Emily Green
Member Rod Hall
Member Cole Kelley
Member Joseph Kerry
Member Carol Lear
Member Cindy Davis

Members Absent

Member Sarah Reale

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:

Deborah Jacobsen, Darin Nielson, Adam Prows, Ashley Biehl, Vanessa Barnes, Sam Urie, David Lowell, Jason Strate, Debbie Davis, Greg Connell, Todd Hauber, Lisa Cluff, Mark Clement, Teri Rhodes, Susan Edwards, John Hughe, Lexi Cunningham, Joey Wadge, Matthew Hyrey, Diana Timothy, Marie Steffensen, Susan Pulsipher, Tamra Watson, David Hodges, Ben Kipp, Lisa Poppleton, Glynis Bawden, Annie Young, Todd Hauber, Jen Tolluda Irwin, Cheryl Cluff, Mazy Ann Lee, Lisa Cluff, Mary Laura Newman, Peter Christie, Sharah Mesery, Rita Wright, Jerry Rapier, Mellissa Salgnero, Adam Sherlock, Mychael Johnson, Nicole Dumas, Larissa Trout, Stewart Shelley, Alison Neville, Rob and Lisa Campbell, Pamela Gee, Julie Gale, Neshan Harner, Logan Meyers, Lynne Larson, Lehua Estrada, Corinne Penka, Matthew Hartviqsen, Laurieann Thorpe, Annie Burbidge Reane, Ashley Farmer, Emily Larsen, Race Handerson, Emma Tripp, Jackson Clarkson, and Royce Van Tassell.

Opening Business

Chair Hymas called the meeting to order at 12:08 PM. He welcomed the public and board members to the forum. He shared an overview of the legislative session and board members' participation protocol.

Budget Priorities

Utah State Board of Education 5% Reduction Process

Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent of Policy, and Dale Frost, MSP Administrator, discussed the funding priorities. In accordance with the Budgetary Procedures and Money Management Acts, the Utah State Board of Education provides the legislature with funding requests/prioritizations for the current and next fiscal year.

The Executive Appropriations Committee has directed all subcommittees to reduce their base budgets by 5%, requiring the public education system to identify $295.8 million in ongoing reductions. The Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee is requesting that the State Board of Education provide recommended cuts for consideration at the January 21, 2026, meeting.

Revenue estimates for the 2026 General Session show limited available funding due to federal tax changes and previously adopted base budget adjustments—including a 4.2% WPU inflationary increase—which have already consumed all new revenue. The

Stabilization Account holds funds, but statutory triggers do not allow its use for this purpose.

The Board is asked to submit proposed reductions by January 16, 2026, and be prepared to present a brief overview and answer questions during the meeting.

MOTION was made by Member Bollinger and seconded by Member Boggess that the Board

1) make reductions in the following:
    1. Utah Private Course Choice Empowerment ($8,895,800.00),
    2. Software Licenses for Early Literacy ($10,631,400.00),
    3. UPSTART ($45,100.00), and
    4. 5% cut to Utah Fits All ($6,100,000.00) and reallocate to fund the Board's funding priorities.
2) Reallocate the one-time funding for Excellence in Education and Leadership Supplement ($144, 558, 600.00) to the Board's Prioritized Paraprofessional Program.
3) Direct staff to coordinate with Executive Branch staff to recommend reductions to UPSTART funding ($24 million) and reallocate to early literacy programs.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Green that the Board add a fourth reduction item.

4) to make reductions in Digital Teaching and Learning Programs in the amount of $18,352,400.00 and reallocate those funds to the Board's funding priorities.

The motion failed.

1 IN FAVOR: Member Boggess.

12 OPPOSED: Members Reale, Brinton, Wood, Kelley, Boothe, Earl, Hall, Longacre, Lear, Hymas, Kerry, and Bollinger.

2 ABSTAINED: Members Green and Davis.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION was made by Member Longacre and seconded by Member Kerry that the Board postpone the 5% Reduction Process agenda item until a meeting with the USBE and the Public Education Appropriations committee chairs is held.

The motion failed.

6 IN FAVOR: Members Hall, Kerry, Longacre, Brinton, Kelley, and Earl.

9 OPPOSED: Members Reale, Green, Wood, Boothe, Davis, Lear, Hymas, Boggess, and Bollinger.

MOTION TO ADJOURN was made by Member Kerry.

The motion failed.

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

8 OPPOSED: Members Reale, Lear, Bollinger, Wood, Boggess, Boothe, Davis, and Earl.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Kerry and seconded.

1) To make reductions in Private Course Choice Empowerment (8,895,800), Software Licenses for Early Literacy (10,631,400), Upstart Administrative Funds (45,100), and a 5% reduction to Utah Fits All (6,100,000), and reallocate to fund the Board's funding priorities.

2) Reallocate the one-time funding for the Excellence in Education and Leadership Supplement (144,558,600) to the Board's Prioritized Paraprofessional Program.

3) Direct staff to coordinate with Executive Branch staff to recommend reductions to UPSTART funding (24 million) and reallocate to early literacy programs.

MOTION TO DIVIDE was made by Member Kerry and seconded by Member Hall.

The motion carried.

9 IN FAVOR: Members Hall, Kerry, Longacre, Brinton, Earl, Green, Wood, Davis, and Boggess.

5 OPPOSED: Members Reale, Boothe, Lear, Hymas, and Bollinger.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Kelley.

FIRST DIVIDED MOTION

1) To make reductions in Private Course Choice Empowerment (8,895,800), Software Licenses for Early Literacy (10,631,400), Upstart Administrative Funds (45,100), and a 5% reduction to Utah Fits All (6,100,000), and reallocate to fund the Board's funding priorities.

The motion carried.

9 IN FAVOR: Members Brinton, Reale, Wood, Boothe, Davis, Lear, Hymas, Boggess, and Bollinger.

6 OPPOSED: Members Green, Hall, Longacre, Kerry, Earl, and Kelley.

SECOND DIVIDED MOTION

2) Reallocate the one-time funding for the Excellence in Education and Leadership Supplement (144,558,600) to the Board's Prioritized Paraprofessional Program.

The motion carried.

9 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Wood, Boothe, Davis, Lear, Boggess, Bollinger, Hall, and Earl.

6 OPPOSED: Members Hymas, Kelley, Kerry, Brinton, Green, and Longacre.

THIRD DIVIDED MOTION

4) Direct staff to coordinate with Executive Branch staff to recommend reductions to UPSTART funding (24 million) and reallocate to early literacy programs.

The motion carried.

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

1 OPPOSED: Member Kerry.

MOTION TO ADJOURN was made by Member Kerry and seconded by Member Longacre.

The motion failed.

6 IN FAVOR: Members Kelley, Hall, Kerry, Longacre, Hymas, and Lear.

9 OPPOSED: Members Reale, Brinton, Green, Bollinger, Wood, Boggess, Boothe, Davis, and Earl.

MOTION was made by Member Earl and seconded by Member Kerry that the Board remove the following from the 2026 Prioritized Funding Requests as follows:

- Pupil Transportation requested: -$32 million
- Adobe Creative Cloud requested: -$2.25 million

And to reduce the following requests: Critical FTE (reduce by $2.5 million), Master Pilot (reduce to $2.4 million).

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Wood and seconded by Member Bollinger that the Board remove the Master Pilot reduction from the list.

The motion carried.

9 IN FAVOR: Members Green, Reale, Wood, Boothe, Hall, Lear, Hymas, Boggess, and Bollinger.

5 OPPOSED: Members Earl, Kelley, Brinton, Longacre, and Kerry.

1 ABSENT: Member Davis.

MOTION TO DIVIDE was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Lear.

The motion carried.

12 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Wood, Boothe, Davis, Hall, Longacre, Lear, Boggess, Green, Brinton, Kerry, and Bollinger.

3 OPPOSED: Members Earl, Kelley, and Hymas.

FIRST DIVIDED MOTION

That the Board remove the following from the 2026 Prioritized Funding Requests as follows:

- Pupil Transportation requested: -$32 million

The motion failed.

2 IN FAVOR: Members Earl and Hymas.

11 OPPOSED: Members Green, Wood, Boothe, Davis, Hall, Longacre, Lear, Boggess, Brinton, Kerry, and Bollinger.

2 Absent: Members Reale and Kelley.

SECOND DIVIDED MOTION

That the Board remove the following from the 2026 Prioritized Funding Requests as follows:

- Adobe Creative Cloud requested: -$2.25 million

The motion carried.

8 IN FAVOR: Members Wood, Boothe, Davis, Earl, Hall, Lear, Hymas, and Brinton.

4 OPPOSED: Members Green, Bollinger, Longacre, and Kerry.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Boggess.

2 ABSENT: Members Reale and Kelley.

THIRD DIVIDED MOTION

That the Board reduce the following requests: Critical FTE (by $2.5 million) and Master Pilot (to $2.4 million).

The motion failed.

4 IN FAVOR: Members Brinton, Green, Earl, and Longacre.

9 OPPOSED: Members Kerry, Wood, Boothe, Davis, Hall, Lear, Hymas, Boggess, and Bollinger.

2 ABSENT: Members Reale and Kelley.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION was made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Bollinger that the Special Needs Opportunity Scholarship administration be reduced by $3,809,900 and recommend a statutory change to move the administration of the program to USBE for a cost of the remaining $300,000 and suggest a move of the Adult Education Program into USHE.

MOTION TO DIVIDE

The motion carried.

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

1 ABSTAINED: Member Earl.

2 ABSENT: Members Reale and Kelley.

FIRST DIVIDED MOTION

That the Special Needs Opportunity Scholarship administration is reduced by $3,809,900.

The motion carried.

11 IN FAVOR: Members Brinton, Green, Longacre, Wood, Boothe, Davis, Hall, Lear, Hymas, Boggess, and Bollinger.

1 OPPOSED: Member Kerry.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Earl.

2 ABSENT: Members Reale and Kelley.

SECOND DIVIDED MOTION

That the Board recommend a statutory change to move the administration of the Special Needs Opportunity Scholarship program to USBE for a cost of the remaining $300,000.

The motion carried.

9 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Longacre, Bollinger, Hymas, Wood, Boggess, Boothe, Davis, and Hall.

4 ABSTAINED: Members Earl, Kerry, Green, and Brinton.

2 ABSENT: Members Reale and Kelley.

THIRD DIVIDED MOTION

That the Board suggest a move of the Adult Education Program into USHE.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Kerry, requesting that the Board leadership agendize a study of the Adult Education Program determine an appropriate location.

The motion carried.

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

1 ABSTAINED: Member Earl.

2 ABSENT: Members Reale and Kelley.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member (none) that the Board amend #1 motion from Member Bollinger be reallocated to any of the Board's funding request priorities 3-8 except for the WPU.

The motion carried.

10 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Bollinger, Wood, Boggess, Boothe, Davis, Hall, Green, Brinton, and Earl.

3 OPPOSED: Members Hymas, Kerry, and Longacre.

2 ABSENT: Members Reale and Kelley.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION was made by Member Bollinger and seconded that the Board remove #1 WPU Value Increase (requested 100% increase) from the prioritized funding request (2% increase from the 4% WPU).

The motion failed.

3 IN FAVOR: Members Bollinger, Boggess, and Wood.

10 OPPOSED: Members Green, Brinton, Boothe, Davis, Earl, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, and Kerry.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Lear.

2 ABSENT: Members Reale and Kelley.

MOTION TO ADJOURN.

The motion failed.

6 IN FAVOR: Members Davis, Kerry, Longacre, Green, Bollinger, and Hymas.

6 OPPOSED: Members Boggess, Boothe, Brinton, Hall, Wood, and Earl.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Lear.

2 ABSENT: Members Reale and Kelley.

Chair Hymas passed the gavel to Vice Chair Bollinger.

Vice Chair Bollinger passed the gavel to Chair Hymas.

MOTION was made by Member Hall and seconded by Member Wood that the Board reallocates the Computer Science Innovative ($4,000,000) to the Critical FTE Needs funding request.

The motion failed.

6 IN FAVOR: Members Brinton, Green, Hymas, Earl, Hall, and Boggess.

6 OPPOSED: Members Wood, Boothe, Davis, Longacre, Lear, and Bollinger.

2 ABSENT: Members Reale and Kelley.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Kerry.

MOTION was made by Member Earl and seconded that the Board move to the next agenda item.

The motion carried.

9 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Longacre, Kerry, Bollinger, Hymas, Boothe, Davis, Earl, and Hall.

2 OPPOSED: Members Wood and Boggess.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Kelley.

3 ABSENT: Members Reale, Brinton, and Green.

Standard Revision Process

MOTION was made by Member Earl that the Board send out a survey for public feedback about the mathematics standards pathways.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Longacre and seconded by Member Lear that the Board amend the survey to add a question to the survey asking, “With which district or charter are you associated?”

The motion carried.

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

2 ABSENT: Reale and Green

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Lear that the Board amend to add the following questions, “with which district or charter are you employed” for teachers/administrators and “which district or charter do your children attend” for parents.

The motion carried.

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

1 OPPOSED: Member Hymas.

2 ABSENT: Members Reale and Green.

MOTION, AS AMENDED

The motion passed unanimously.

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

2 ABSENT: Members Reale and Green.

MOTION was made by Member Earl that the Board approve 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 that funding for this review be considered.

The motion carried.

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

3 OPPOSED: Members Bollinger, Boothe, and Lear.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Davis.

2 ABSENT: Members Reale and Green.

MOTION TO ADJOURN was made by Member Kerry and seconded.

The motion failed.

6 IN FAVOR: Members Kerry, Bollinger, Hymas, Davis, Earl, and Hall.

6 OPPOSED: Members Wood, Boothe, Brinton, Boggess, Kelley, and Longacre.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Lear.

2 ABSENT: Members Reale and Green.

MOTION was made by Member Brinton and seconded by Member Boggess that the Board amend for the remainder of the 2026 Legislative Session, the USBE weekly legislative meetings be held at the USBE Board Room instead of the Capitol Complex, and that the 90-minute time limit be removed to allow for flexible adjournment.

The motion failed.

6 IN FAVOR: Members Brinton, Kelley, Hall, Kerry, Longacre, and Boggess.

6 OPPOSED: Members Wood, Earl, Hymas, Bollinger, Boothe, and Davis.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Lear.

2 ABSENT: Members Reale and Green.

MOTION TO DIVIDE was made by Member Kerry and seconded by Member Bollinger.

The motion failed.

13 OPPOSED: Members Wood, Kelley, Earl, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, Boggess, Brinton, Kerry, Bollinger, Boothe, Lear, and Davis.

2 ABSENT: Members Reale and Green.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Member Kerry made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

2 ABSENT: Members Reale and Green.

The Executive Assistant took the minutes.
The minutes are pending approval.