UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES
Utah State Board of Education
January 22, 2026
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

A Utah State Board of Education legislative meeting was held on January 22, 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 the meeting is in session.*

Members Present

Board Chair Matt Hymas
First Vice-Chair Vacant
Second Vice-Chair LeAnn Wood
Member Rod Hall
Member Christina Boggess
Member Amanda Bollinger
Member Randy Boothe
Member Jennie Earl
Member Sarah Reale
Member Cindy Davis
Member Joann Brinton
Member Cole Kelley
Member Joseph Kerry
Member Carol Lear

Members Absent

Member Emily Green

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, Ashley Biehl, Vanessa Barnes, Sam Urie, David Lowell, Greg Connell, Lisa Cluff, Cheri Rieben, Todd Call, Amy Hunt, and Angela Doan.

Opening Business

Chair Hymas called the meeting to order at 9:16 AM. 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 Deborah Jacobsen, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, 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 and be prepared to present a brief overview and answer questions during the meeting.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Bollinger that the Board adopt Line 15 on the LFA Recommendation sheet and recommend a full refund of the Competency-Based Education Grants Discontinuation, and also repeal all relevant code and add it to the USBE Continuation Worksheet as follows:

- Line 15, Competency-Based Education Grants Discontinuation, ($2,093,100), Eliminates the full program

The motion carried.

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

1 OPPOSED: Member Kerry.

MOTION was made by Member Earl and seconded by Member Boggess that the Board recommend a 100% reduction to the Foundation Programs.

				$46,749,300	
7	Related to Basic Realignment - Charter School Base Funding	($7,865,000)		($40,254,900): 2.2% cut to district/charter Digital Teaching and Learning and Charter School Base Funding removal, and Pupil Transportation To & From by 10% reduction	53F-2-510; 53F-2-707
				Transportation To & From by 10% reduction	
9	Related to Basic Realignment - Pupil Transportation To & From	($12,564,700)		($40,254,900): 2.2% cut to district/charter Digital Teaching and Learning and Charter School Base Funding removal, and Pupil Transportation To & From by 10% reduction	53F-2-510; 53F-2-707
33	Support Staff Efficiencies	($1,035,000)		Eliminates nine FTEs in the System Standards and Accountability line item	
USBE-Utah School For the Deaf and Blind					
34	USDB Steps and Lanes Revision	($1,140,800)		Replaces USDB FY27 Steps and Lanes increase with the standard state salary adjustment	53E-8-302

The motion failed.

7 IN FAVOR: Members Wood, Kelley, Earl, Hall, Hymas, Brinton, and Bollinger.

7 OPPOSED: Members Lear, Boggess, Boothe, Longacre, Reale, Davis, and Kerry.

MOTION was made by Member Kelley and seconded by Member Kerry that the Board direct staff to provide the Board with ratios of classroom teachers (measured on classes taught, not FTE), administration, and support staff for LEAs and Charters.

The motion carried.

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

4 OPPOSED: Members Lear, Hymas, Reale, and Boothe.

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MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded that the Board recommend a reduction to the National Board-Certified Teacher program in the amount of $296,300 and reallocate it to the Board's priorities.

The motion carried.

8 IN FAVOR: Members Wood, Kelley, Earl, Hall, Boggess, Brinton, Bollinger, and Hymas.

6 OPPOSED: Members Kerry, Lear, Davis, Reale, Longacre, and Boothe.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION was made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Lear that the Board recommend a reduction of $50,000 to the National Board-Certified Teacher program in the LFA recommendations.

The motion failed.

5 IN FAVOR: Members Wood, Bollinger, Lear, Davis, and Boothe.

9 OPPOSED: Members Reale, Kelley, Earl, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, Boggess, Brinton, and Kerry.

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MOTION was made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Lear that the Board recommend a reduction to the programs listed on the LFA recommendations document on Lines 18-30 as follows:

18	Subsidy Program Elimination	($54,000)	Eliminates the full program
USBE- Policy, Communication, & Oversight			
19	Student Support Services Correction	($4,000)	Comp and ISF FY26 correction
20	Policy and Communication Optimization	($100,000)	Surplus of nonlapsing balances, reduction in ongoing appropriation
21	School Turnaround and Leadership Development Act Optimization	($1,000,000)	Surplus of nonlapsing balances, reduction in ongoing appropriation
USBE- Science Outreach			
22	Leonardo Museum Closure	($598,100)	Eliminates the full funding for the museum
USBE- State Board and Administrative Operations			
23	Financial Operations FTE Vacancy	($114,000)	Eliminates vacant FTE
USBE- State Charter School Board			
24	Statewide Charter School Training Programs Revision	($400,000)	Eliminates the full funding to the organization
USBE- Statewide Online Education Program			
25	Statewide Online Education Program Amendments - Student Course Capacity	($211,300)	Funding Item Follow-Up Report
26	Statewide Online Education Program Amendments	($117,400)	Funding Item Follow-Up Report
USBE-Statewide Technology Contracts			
27	Elementary Reading Assessment Software Tools Optimization	($100,000)	Surplus of nonlapsing balances, reduction in ongoing appropriation
28	IT Academy Closure	($500,000)	2025 Interim Accountable Budget Process program elimination
29	K-12 Computer Science Initiative	($146,100)	Funding Item Follow-Up Report
30	K-12 Computer Science Optimization	($244,100)	Surplus of nonlapsing balances, one-time reduction

MOTION TO POSTPONE was made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Kerry until the Board receives information from staff about the number of affected FTE.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

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MOTION was made by Member Bollinger and seconded by Member Kelley that the Board recommend a reduction to Foreign Exchange ($1,902,500), Prostart ($375,300), Center for the School of the Future ($200,000), Partnerships for Students Success ($3,044,000), STEM Endorsement ($1,200,000), and IT Academy ($500,000).

MOTION TO DIVIDE was made by Member Longacre and seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

FIRST DIVIDED MOTION that the Board recommend a reduction to Foreign Exchange ($1,902,500).

The motion carried.

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

1 OPPOSED: Member Kerry.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Earl.

2 ABSENT: Members Green and Boggess.

SECOND DIVIDED MOTION that the Board recommend a reduction to Prostart ($375,300).

The motion carried.

10 IN FAVOR: Members Lear, Reale, Brinton, Bollinger, Hymas, Boothe, Wood, Kelley, Davis, and Hall.

2 OPPOSED: Members Kerry and Longacre.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Earl.

2 ABSENT: Members Green and Boggess.

THIRD DIVIDED MOTION that the Board recommend a reduction to the Center for the School of the Future ($200,000),

The motion carried.

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

3 OPPOSED: Members Kerry, Kelley, and Brinton.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Earl.

2 ABSENT: Members Green and Boggess.

MOTION TO POSTPONE was made by Member Kerry and seconded. *(withdrawn motion)*

FOURTH DIVIDED MOTION that the Board recommend a reduction to Partnerships for Students Success ($3,044,000).

The motion failed.

4 IN FAVOR: Members Bollinger, Boothe, Hymas, and Kelley.

9 OPPOSED: Members Reale, Earl, Kerry, Wood, Lear, Davis, Hall, Longacre, and Brinton.

2 ABSENT: Members Boggess and Green.

FIFTH DIVIDED MOTION that the Board recommend a reduction to STEM Endorsement ($1,200,000).

The motion carried.

10 IN FAVOR: Members Reale, Kelley, Hall, Hymas, Brinton, Wood, Bollinger, Lear, Davis, and Boothe.

2 OPPOSED: Members Longacre and Kerry.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Earl.

2 ABSENT: Members Boggess and Green.

SIXTH DIVIDED MOTION that the Board recommend a reduction to the IT Academy ($500,000).

The motion carried.

10 IN FAVOR: Members Wood, Bollinger, Boothe, Reale, Kelley, Earl, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, and Brinton.

2 OPPOSED: Members Kerry and Davis.

3 ABSENT: Members Boggess, Green, and Lear.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Kerry and seconded by Member Hall that the Board would only recommend the reduction of the surplus funds as they currently stand and not ongoing appropriations for items 20, 21, 27, and 30.

- 20, Policy and Communication Optimization ($100,000), Surplus of nonlapsing balances, reduction in ongoing appropriation
- 21, School Turnaround and Leadership Development Act Optimization ($1,000,000), Surplus of nonlapsing balances, reduction in ongoing appropriation
- 27, Elementary Reading Assessment Software Tools Optimization ($100,000), Surplus of nonlapsing balances, reduction in ongoing appropriation
- 30, K-12 Computer Science Optimization ($244,100), Surplus of nonlapsing balances, one-time reduction

The motion carried.

10 IN FAVOR: Members Bollinger, Boothe, Reale, Kelley, Earl, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, Kerry, and Davis.

3 ABSTAINED: Members Boggess, Earl, and Brinton.

2 ABSENT: Members Green and Wood.

MOTION, AS AMENDED

That the Board recommend a full reduction to the programs listed on the LFA recommendation document on lines 18-19, 22-26, 28-29, and for items 20, 21, 27, and 30,

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recommend only the reduction of the one-time surplus funds as they currently stand and not ongoing appropriations:

18. Subsidy Program Elimination, 19. Student Support Services Correction, 20, Policy and Communication Optimization, 21. School Turnaround and Leadership Development Act Optimization, 22. Leonardo Museum Closure, 23. Financial Operations FTE Vacancy, 24. Statewide Charter School Training Programs Revision, 25. Statewide Online Education Program Amendments - Student Course Capacity, 26. Statewide Online Education Program Amendments, 27. Elementary Reading Assessment Software Tools Optimization, 28. IT Academy Closure, 29. K-12 Computer Science Initiative, 30. K-12 Computer Science Optimization.

The motion carried.

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

1 ABSTAINED: Member Boggess.

2 ABSENT: Members Green and Wood.

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MOTION was made by Member Bollinger and seconded by Member Brinton that the Board:

1. recommend to PEA that if SB 107 (Senator Stratton) passes, that the Education Commission study the remaining programs and make reduction recommendations for the 2027 session; and

2. Submit two reduction recommendation plans to PEA:

Plan 1: The current budget reduction recommendations

Plan 2: a reduction percentage to all remaining programs based on the percentage needed to meet the target amount.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Earl and seconded by Member Kelley that the Board amend for 2b that the remaining programs do not include USDB.

The motion carried.

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

1 OPPOSED: Member Kerry.

2 ABSENT: Members Green and Wood.

MOTION TO DIVIDE the above recommendations 1 and 2. *No opposition to divide*.

FIRST DIVIDED MOTION

1. That the Board recommend to PEA that if SB 107 (Education Legislation Advisory Commission Amendments - Senator Stratton) passes, that the Education Commission study the remaining programs and make reduction recommendations for the 2027 session.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION was made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Lear that the Board

1) Work collaboratively to do a comprehensive study of programs, including gathering stakeholder input, over the next year, and during that year, recommend either 1 or 2 to PEA.
2) And to communicate to PEA that the Utah State Board of Education respectfully requests that no new legislative education programs or initiatives requiring funding be created in the 2026 Legislative Session without being requested or endorsed by the Utah State Board of Education.

The motion carried.

9 IN FAVOR: Members Bollinger, Boothe, Reale, Hall, Longacre, Boggess, Kerry, Davis, and Lear.

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

1 ABSENT: Member Green.

SECOND DIVIDED MOTION

2. That the Board submit two reduction recommendation plans to PEA:

   Plan 1: The current budget reduction recommendations

   Plan 2: a reduction percentage to all remaining programs based on the percentage needed to meet the target amount.

The motion carried.

8 IN FAVOR: Members Bollinger, Boothe, Reale, Kelley, Hall, Hymas, Brinton, and Davis.

3 OPPOSED: Members Longacre, Kerry, and Boggess.

2 ABSTAINED: Members Wood and Earl.

2 ABSENT: Members Green and Lear.

MOTION was made by Member Boggess and seconded by Member Kelley that the Board direct staff to work with a legislator to produce code that would allow a tax exemption for families who do not use public education up to the amount of the WPU per child, but not more than the family's income tax obligation.

The motion failed.

4 IN FAVOR: Members Boggess, Bollinger, Reale, and Boothe.

8 OPPOSED: Members Wood, Kelley, Earl, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, Brinton, and Kerry.

1 ABSTAINED: Member Davis.

2 ABSENT: Members Green and Lear.

MOTION TO AMEND was made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Bollinger that the Board add "presently and as a long-term alternative to UFA to be considered by PEA."

The motion failed.

5 IN FAVOR: Members Wood, Bollinger, Boothe, Davis, and Reale.

8 OPPOSED: Members Kelley, Earl, Hall, Longacre, Hymas, Boggess, Brinton, and Kerry.

2 ABSENT: Members Green and Lear.

Adjournment

Member Bollinger made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.

The motion passed unanimously.

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

2 ABSENT: Members Green and Lear.

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