

Sep 4, 2026



The meeting was conducted in-person.

Members Present: Cindy Davis, Cole Kelley, Matt Hymas, Randy Boothe, and Christina Boggess (CB – present unless noted).

Committee Staff: Scott Jones, Deborah Jacobson, and Cammy Wilcox.

Others Present: Sam Urie, Aaron Brough, Greg Connell, Kira Bennett, Michael Iwasaki, Cole Shakespear, Todd Hauber, Elna Shelley, Tim Davis, John Palmer, Jared Felt, Dale Frost, Mark Waddoups, Don Modde, and Carson Miller.

Committee Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

USBE Staff Highlights:

- Cole Shakespear, Fiscal Monitor Manager, Financial Operations
- Elna Shelley, Financial Analyst, Financial Operations

Public Comment:

There were no requests for public comment.

4.2 State Fiscal Year 2026 Discretionary Carry Forward Balance Status and Approval for Use

Committee Discussion: Staff presented information regarding the Board's discretionary funds, explaining that balances become available following fiscal year-end close activities. Staff reviewed the available balances and previously approved projects with the Committee for consideration of whether funding should be continued, repurposed, or reallocated.

The Committee discussed funding needs for onsite security guard services and general and legal contingency reserves, including the use of one-time discretionary funds and whether the contingency funds could be combined for greater flexibility. The Committee also reviewed previously approved discretionary funding, including \$50,000 for translation services and remaining awards from the 250th anniversary student essay contest. Staff were directed to continue efforts to distribute the outstanding student awards for at least one additional year.

The Committee requested that staff bring a recommendation to the full Board in October regarding funding for the items included in the Committee motion, which may include reallocating unrestricted funds from other areas of the agency. Staff will also report on whether the agency is legally compliant with website and telephone translation requirements and whether the \$50,000 designated for translation services may be reallocated.

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**Committee Action:****Member Hymas Motion:**

The Committee recommends that the Board approve the following discretionary fund allocations:

- Continuing a contingency fund of \$200,000;
- Continuing a legal contingency fund of \$250,000;
- Allocating \$100,000 to support the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction;
- Allocating \$150,000 to continue onsite security guard services at the USBE office; and
- Establishing a \$100,000 building operations budget for fiscal year 2027 to cover various replacements and repairs.

The Committee further recommends dissolving the ROI and translation projects previously funded through discretionary funds.

Motion: Passed unanimously

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board approve the following discretionary fund allocations:

- Continuing a contingency fund of \$200,000;
- Continuing a legal contingency fund of \$250,000;
- Allocating \$100,000 to support the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction;
- Allocating \$150,000 to continue onsite security guard services at the USBE office; and
- Establishing a \$100,000 building operations budget for fiscal year 2027 to cover various replacements and repairs.

The Committee further recommends dissolving the ROI and translation projects previously funded through discretionary funds.

4.3 Wasatch Math 1010 Waiver Pilot and Proposed UDRC Research Project

Committee Discussion: Staff reviewed the Wasatch School District waiver approved by the Board in 2023, which allows high school juniors to take Math 1010 (Introductory College Algebra) in place of Secondary Math 3, providing a pathway to Math 1050 (College Algebra) during their senior year.

Staff followed up on Chair Davis's request to consider commissioning a formal Utah Data Research Center (UDRC) study to evaluate whether the Math 1010 pathway improves math achievement and postsecondary attainment. Available data from Utah Valley University (UVU) and Wasatch School District indicates strong high school performance and increased concurrent enrollment participation but does not

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yet provide sufficient information on long-term postsecondary outcomes. Because the pilot cohorts took Math 1010 between 2023 and 2025, college entrance data will begin to mature in 2026–2027, with four-year college completion data anticipated around 2028–2030.

Committee Action:**Member Davis Motion:**

The Committee recommends the Board approve a two-phased evaluation plan for the Wasatch Math Waiver Pilot:

- **Phase 1 (Immediate/Near-Term Request):** Direct USBE and USHE staff to collaborate and report near-term college matriculation, math course placement, and first-year post-secondary retention rates for the 2024 and 2025 Wasatch High School graduating cohorts.
- **Phase 2 (Longitudinal Research Project):** Formally request that the Utah Data Research Center (UDRC) tag the Wasatch pilot cohorts, alongside an appropriate matched control group, to evaluate long-term post-secondary degree completion, math attainment, and workforce outcomes once cohort data matures (2028–2030).

Motion: Passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board approve a two-phased evaluation plan for the Wasatch Math Waiver Pilot:

- **Phase 1 (Immediate/Near-Term Request):** Direct USBE and USHE staff to collaborate and report near-term college matriculation, math course placement, and first-year post-secondary retention rates for the 2024 and 2025 Wasatch High School graduating cohorts.
- **Phase 2 (Longitudinal Research Project):** Formally request that the Utah Data Research Center (UDRC) tag the Wasatch pilot cohorts, alongside an appropriate matched control group, to evaluate long-term post-secondary degree completion, math attainment, and workforce outcomes once cohort data matures (2028–2030).

4.4 Public Education Equalization Stabilization Restricted Fund

Committee Discussion: At its May 22, 2026, special Finance Committee meeting, the Committee directed staff to return with additional information and potential options for establishing guardrails for the Education Stabilization Fund. The Committee continued its discussion at the August 2026 Finance Committee meeting and requested that the item return to the September Finance Committee agenda as an action item for further consideration and possible recommendation to the Board.

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Committee Action:**Member Kelley Motion:**

The Committee recommends that the Board work with the Legislature to implement protocols around the education stabilization account to ensure it:

- Must have a direct correlation to education funding
- Only be appropriated to the USBE or public education line items

Motion: Passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board work with the Legislature to implement protocols around the education stabilization account to ensure it:

- Must have a direct correlation to education funding
- Only be appropriated to the USBE or public education line items

4.5 R277-421, Out-of-State Tuition Reimbursement (Amendment & Continuation)

Committee Discussion: Staff presented R277-421, Out-of-State Tuition Reimbursement, Draft 1, as part of the rule's five-year review. Staff reviewed proposed amendments intended to update and simplify the reimbursement process and presented the draft rule for the Committee's consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [53G-6-305](#)

Committee Action:**Member Kelley Motion:**

That the Committee continue and approve R277-421, Out-of-State Tuition Reimbursement, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for continuation and approval on second and final reading.

Motion: Passed unanimously with Member Boggess abstaining.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board continue and approve R277-421, Out-of-State Tuition Reimbursement, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

4.6 R277-424, Indirect Costs for State Programs (Amendment and Continuation)

Committee Discussion: Staff presented R277-424, Indirect Costs for State Programs, Draft 1, as part of the rule's five-year review. Staff recommended continuation of the rule and reviewed proposed technical amendments to align the rule with current best practices and federal indirect cost requirements.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-501\(1\)\(e\)](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#)

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Committee Action:**Member Boothe Motion:**

That the Committee continue and approve R277-424, Indirect Costs for State Programs, Draft 1, on first reading, and forward to the Board for continuation and approval on second and final reading. – CB absent

Motion: Passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board continue and approve R277-424, Indirect Costs for State Programs, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

4.7 R277-477, Distributions of Funds from the Trust Distribution Account and Administration of the School LAND Trust Program (Amendment)

Committee Discussion: Staff presented R277-477, Distributions of Funds from the Trust Distribution Account and Administration of the School LAND Trust Program, Draft 1. Staff reviewed proposed amendments recommended by the Trust Lands Advisory Committee (TLAC) to provide greater clarity and consistency in program administration, including allowable uses of funds, training requirements, deadlines for new schools, and school community council responsibilities.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401](#); [53F-2-404](#)

Committee Action:**Member Boothe Motion:**

That the Committee approve R277-477, Distributions of Funds from the Trust Distribution Account and Administration of the School LAND Trust Program, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading. – CB absent

Motion: Passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board approve R277-477, Distributions of Funds from the Trust Distribution Account and Administration of the School LAND Trust Program, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

4.8 R277-491, School Community Councils (Amendment & Continuation)

Committee Discussion: Staff presented R277-491, School Community Councils, Draft 1, as part of the rule's five-year review. Staff recommended continuation of the rule and reviewed proposed amendments recommended by the Trust Lands Advisory Committee (TLAC) to provide greater clarity and consistency in the administration of the School LAND Trust Program.

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Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#); [Title 53G, Chapter 7, Part 12](#)

Committee Action:

Member Boothe Motion:

That the Committee continue and approve R277-491, School Community Councils, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for continuation and approval on second and final reading. – CB absent.

Motion: Passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board continue and approve R277-491, School Community Councils, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

4.9 R277-706, Regional Education Service Agencies (Continuation)

Committee Discussion: Staff presented R277-706, Regional Education Service Agencies, as part of the rule's five-year review. Staff recommended continuation of the rule and presented it for the Committee's consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: [Art X Sec 3](#); [53G-4-410](#); [53E-3-401\(4\)](#)

Committee Action:

Member Kelley Motion:

That the Committee continue R277-706, Regional Education Service Agencies, on first reading, and forward to the Board for continuation on second and final reading. – CB absent.

Motion: Passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: That the Board continue R277-706, Regional Education Service Agencies, on second and final reading.

4.10 FY27 School District Property Tax Rate and Truth-in-Taxation Information

Committee Discussion: Staff presented an overview of Utah's Truth in Taxation system and the role of property taxes in school district budgets. Staff also reviewed school districts proposing increases to their certified tax rates.

4.11 Recognition of Progress, Achievements, or Improvements

Staff were recognized for their exceptional dedication and efforts in successfully completing the FY2026 financial close.

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4.11.1 INFORMATION: Program Monthly Report (PMR) on USIMS

Committee Information: Staff provided an update on the Utah Schools Information Management System (USIMS) project and ongoing efforts to modernize USBE data systems and improve data access and reporting.

Other Committee Action:**Member Kelley Motion:**

The Committee directs staff to add an action item to the October Finance Committee agenda to present information on the impact of quasi-governmental entities, including PIDs, TIFs, HTRZs, and RDAs, on education funding. - CB absent.

Motion: Passed unanimously

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.