

**UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

USB E Study Session

March 8, 2024  
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

The Utah State Board of Education held an electronic state board meeting on March 8, 2024. As Utah Code 52-4 authorized, this meeting was held electronically with an anchor location at 250 E 500 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84114. Vice-chair Earl and Chair Moss presided. The meeting was streamed live to the public.

**Members Present**

Chair James Moss	Member Randy Boothe
First Vice Chair Molly Hart	Member Carol Barlow Lear
Second Vice-Chair Jennie Earl	Member Kristin Norton
Member Christina Boggess	Member Emily Green
Member Brent Strate	Member Cindy Davis
Member LeAnn Wood	Member Matt Hymas
Member Sarah Reale	

**Members Absent**

Member Joseph Kerry  
Member Natalie Cline

**Executive Staff Present**

Sydnee Dickson, State Superintendent  
Patty Norman, Deputy Superintendent  
Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent  
Leah Voorhies, Assistant Superintendent  
Darin Nielsen, Assistant Superintendent  
Kelsey James, Board's Communications Coordinator

**Minutes were taken by:**

Cybil Prideaux, Board Secretary

**Others Present**

Ben Rasmussen, Michelle Beus, Jennifer Thronsen, Julie Clarke, Christine Elegante, Krista Hotelling, Molly Basham and Denice Mageden.

**Opening Business**

Vice-chair Earl called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m.

**Study Session**

5.1. **INFORMATION & ACTION: R277-406, Early Learning Program and Benchmark Assessments (Amendment)**

The USBE staff shared an overview of the benchmark assessments and recommended updating the rule to provide additional clarity to expectations surrounding literacy instruction in the early grades.

**MOTION** was made by Member Davis and seconded by Member Hymas that the Board approve R277-406, Early Learning Program and Benchmark Assessments, Draft 3, on the second and final reading.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION** was made by Member Strate and seconded by Member Lear that the Board postpone to the April board meeting on R277-406, Draft 5.

The motion carried with Members Earl, Hart, Hymas, and Wood opposed. Members Boggess, Cline, and Kerry were absent.

**Adjournment MOTION** was made by Member Earl and seconded by Member Hymas that the Board adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

The Board secretary took the minutes.  
The minutes were approved April 4, 2024.