

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES

Utah State Capitol Complex

February 13, 2025

A Utah State Board of Education legislative meeting was held on February 13, 2025. Vice Chair Wood presided. As authorized by Utah Code 52-4, this meeting was held at the Utah State Capitol Complex Senate Committee Room 210 Salt Lake City, UT 84114. The public can hear the audio of the meeting through live YouTube streaming.

Members Present

Board Chair Matt Hymas

First Vice-Chair Molly Hart

Second Vice-Chair LeAnn Wood

Member Christina Boggess

Member Amanda Bollinger

Member Carol Lear

Member Jennie Earl

Member Sarah Reale

Member Rod Hall

Member Randy Boothe

Member Joseph Kerry

Members Online

Member Cindy Davis

Member Joann Brinton

Member Cole Kelley

Member Emily Green

Executive Staff Present

Sydnee Dickson, State Superintendent

Scott Jones, Deputy Superintendent

Elisse Newey, Deputy Superintendent

Minutes were taken by:

Cybil Prideaux, Executive Assistant

Leah Voorhies, Deputy Superintendent

Others Present:

Kelsey James, Deborah Jacobsen, Carson Miller, Michelle Beus, Ashley Biehl, Vanessa Barnes, Sam Urie, Greg Connell, Todd Hauber, Jason Strate, Lisa Cluff, Jerry Record, Lexi Cunningham, Teri Rhoades, Patricia Franks, Dale Frost, and Royce Van Tassell.

Opening Business

Vice Chair Wood called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM. She welcomed the public and board members to the forum. He shared an overview of the legislative session and board members' participation protocol.

Legislator's Review of Bills

Representative Mark Strong spoke to the Board about his bill and answered questions about HB 344 School Fees Amendments - This bill amends provisions related to school fees.

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ requires a local education agency (LEA) to, beginning for the 2026-2027 school year:
 - ensure that a student has at least one option at the student's school to complete all required courses and credits without paying a fee or a waiver; and
 - clearly disclose any fee related to a course or activity in the description of the course or activity in the LEA's registration materials;

- ▶ prohibits an LEA from:
 - charging a student a fee for certain non-fee courses; or
 - charging a general fee or charging or increasing a fee to a student to supplement or supplant a fee the LEA is prohibited from charging;
- ▶ allows an LEA to charge a student a fee for certain expenses, under certain circumstances, including for:
 - expenses beyond the common delivery of instruction;
 - fee courses;
 - instructional supplies;
 - extracurricular activities;
 - a discretionary project; and
 - other additional expenses;
- ▶ repeals duplicative language regarding fees for textbooks; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Representative Katy Hall spoke to the Board about her bill and answered questions about [H.B. 497](#) -- Public Education Compliance (*Rep. Hall, K.*).

This bill amends and enacts provisions expanding the authority of the State Board of Education (state board) to address local education agency compliance.

This bill:

- ▶ requires the state board to use an existing compliance framework to address reports or allegations of noncompliance;
- ▶ requires the state board to develop a system to prioritize certain complaints to the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission;

- ▶ requires a school district or charter school to provide information to the state board that is necessary for the state board to fulfill a statutory data gathering, compliance, or reporting requirement; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Board Rule Waiver

Ashley Biehl, Assistant Attorney General and Anthony Sudweeks, Co-Director, Wallace Stegner Academy reported on the board rule waiver request.

Wallace Stegner Academy Waiver Request (New)

MOTION was made by Member Hall and seconded by Member Kerry that the Board approve Wallace Stegner Academy - Sunset Satellite Campus' request for a waiver from Utah Admin. R277-552-6 (7)(a) and (b).

The motion passed unanimously.

In favor: Members Boggess, Bollinger, Boothe, Brinton, Davis, Earl, Green, Hall, Hart, Hymas, Kelley, Kerry, Lear, Reale, and Wood.

Budget Priorities

2025 Legislative Session Budget and Requests for Appropriations Processes and Actions

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.

Review of Legislation

Elisse Newey, Deputy Superintendent of Policy, and Greg Connell, Policy Analyst, lead the review of legislation discussion.

1. [HB 399](#) - Stoddard - School Attendance Amendments
2. [SB 37](#) - Fillmore - Minimum Basic Tax Rate Amendments
3. [HB 455](#) - Pierucci - Utah Fits All Scholarship Program Amendments
4. [HB 344](#) - Rep. Strong - School Fees Amendments
5. [SB 111](#) - Millner - Public Education Governance Amendments
6. [HB 181](#) - Watkins - Waiver Bill
7. [HB 303](#) - Acton - Public School Directory Sharing Amendments
8. [HB 381](#) - Welton - Civics Education Amendments
9. [HB 233](#) - Peck - School Curriculum Amendments
10. [HB 168](#) - Defay - Artificial Intelligence Task Force
11. [HB 184](#) - Miller - School Trust Land Amendments*
12. [HB 228](#) - Lisonbee - Public Education Immunization Amendments (TF)
13. [HB 209](#) - Peck - Homeschool Amendments (TF)

Action on Legislation

MOTION was made by Member Hart and seconded by Member Reale that the Board opposes [S.B. 111](#) -- Public Education Governance Amendments (Sen. Millner, A.), pending further changes.

The motion carried.

In favor: Members Boggess, Bollinger, Brinton, Earl, Green, Hall, Hart, Hymas, Kerry, Lear, and Reale.

Opposed: Member Boothe.

Abstain: Member Wood.

Absent: Members Davis and Kelley.

Adjournment

Member Earl made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:27 PM.

Cybil Prideaux, Board Executive Assistant
The minutes were approved March 6, 2025.