



MINUTES

HOUSE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 12, 2026 | 2:00 p.m. | 120 Senate Building

Members Present:

Rep. R. Neil Walter, Chair
Rep. Ariel Defay, Vice Chair
Rep. Tiara Auxier
Rep. Joseph Elison
Rep. Sahara Hayes
Rep. Karianne Lisonbee
Rep. Matt MacPherson
Rep. Tracy J. Miller
Rep. Carol S. Moss

Rep. Nicholeen P. Peck
Rep. Karen M. Peterson
Rep. Val L. Peterson
Rep. Candice B. Pierucci
Rep. Jason E. Thompson
Rep. Doug Welton

Staff Present:

Finn Rose, Managing Policy Analyst
Tisha Gibby, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Walter called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Peck moved to approve the February 9, 2026, minutes. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 7.

Yeas - 8

Rep. J. Elison
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 0

Absent - 7

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. J. Thompson

1. 1st Sub. H.B. 197 School Materials Amendments(*Peck, N.*)

[HB0197 handout](#)

Rep. Peck presented the bill.

Daniel Neville-Rehbehn, Utah Library Association, spoke to the bill.

Corinne Johnson, Utah Parents United, spoke in favor of the bill .

Phyllis Kimpel, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Aaron Bullen, parent, spoke to the bill.

Jean Rivera, Utah Moms for America, spoke in favor of the bill.

Diane Matson, librarian, speaking on her own behalf, spoke in favor of the bill.

Dona Gallegos, parent, spoke to the bill.

Laurene Starkey, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Kristin Richey, Eagle Forum, spoke to the bill.

Chelsea Hagman, school librarian, speaking on her own behalf, spoke against the bill.

Nicole Allen, educator, speaking on her own behalf, spoke against the bill.

Rep. Lisonbee raised a point of order.

Joe LaSure, resident, spoke to the bill.

Amy Watson, Utah Library Association, spoke against the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Lisonbee moved to replace HB0197S01 with HB0197S04. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 13

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. J. Thompson
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

Rep. A. Defay
Rep. C. Pierucci

MOTION: Rep. Lisonbee moved to pass HB0197S04 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 4 - 2.

Yeas - 9

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. J. Thompson
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 4

Rep. J. Elison
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. R. Walter

Absent - 2

Rep. A. Defay
Rep. C. Pierucci

2. 1st Sub. H.B. 219 Higher Education Civics Amendments(*Ballard, M.G.*)

Rep. Melissa Ballard presented the bill.

Dalane England, United Women's Forum, and Eagle Forum, spoke in favor of the bill.

Brad Asay, American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Utah, and AFT Utah College Council, spoke against the bill.

Kyle Killebrew, instructor at Utah Tech University, speaking on his own behalf, spoke against the bill.

Christy Henshaw, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Katie Mazzie, Utah System of Higher Education (USHE), spoke to the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Peck moved to pass HB0219S01 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 3 - 0.

Yeas - 12

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. J. Thompson
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 3

Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. K. Peterson

Absent - 0

3. H.B. 36 Gold Medal Schools Pilot Program(Hall, K.)

Rep. Katy Hall presented the bill.

MOTION: Rep. MacPherson moved to replace HB0036 with HB0036S01. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 13

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. J. Thompson
Rep. R. Walter

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

Rep. N. Peck
Rep. D. Welton

MOTION: Rep. MacPherson moved to pass HB0036S01 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 13

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. J. Thompson
Rep. R. Walter

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

Rep. N. Peck
Rep. D. Welton

4. H.C.R. 11 Resolution Urging Healthy Activities in Schools(Hall, K.)

Rep. Hall presented the resolution.

MOTION: Rep. Miller moved to pass HCR011 out favorably.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Lisonbee moved to hold HCR011. The substitute motion failed with a vote of 3 - 11 - 1.

Yeas - 3

Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. R. Walter

Nays - 11

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. J. Thompson

Absent - 1

Rep. D. Welton

Rep. Miller's underlying motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 14

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. J. Thompson
Rep. R. Walter

Nays - 0

Absent - 1

Rep. D. Welton

5. 1st Sub. H.B. 399 Prohibition Against Student Character Tracking and Grading Systems(Lee, T.)

[HB0399 FAQ handout](#)

[HB0399 presentation](#)

Rep. Trevor Lee presented the bill with the assistance of Lisa Bruns, independent researcher and investigative journalist.

Tiffany Boyd, resident of Tennessee, provided additional information on the bill.

Kelly Schenkoske, independent researcher, further clarified the bill.

Priscilla West, education researcher, gave more information on the bill.

Rep. Lisonbee raised a point of order.

Christy Henshaw, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Megan Jensen, part of the prevention team at Davis Behavioral Health, and speaking on her own behalf, spoke against the bill.

Wendy Hart, parent, spoke in favor of the bill.

Susannah Burt, Utah Prevention Advisory Committee, spoke to the bill.

Kim Chandler, school board member, speaking on her own behalf, spoke against the bill.

LaVar Christensen, former legislator, spoke to the bill.

Julie Behling, parent, spoke in favor of the bill.

Aimee Warren, Utah Parent Teacher Association, spoke against the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Thompson moved to hold HB0399S01. The motion passed with a vote of 15 - 0 - 0.

Yeas - 15

Nays - 0

Absent - 0

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. J. Thompson
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. D. Welton

6. H.B. 312 Civics Education Modifications(Auxier, T.)

Rep. Auxier presented the bill with the assistance of Rep. Welton.

Jennie Earl, Board Member, Utah State Board of Education, spoke to the bill.

Yvette Romero Coronado, resident, spoke to the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Pierucci moved to replace HB0312 with HB0312S02. The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 14

Nays - 0

Absent - 1

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. J. Thompson
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. D. Welton

Rep. J. Elison

MOTION: Rep. Pierucci moved to amend HB0312S02 with Amendment #1. The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 1.

Amendment 1

1 . Line 640 through 648:

640 (C)political stability and peaceful transfer of power;
641 (D)quality of life and opportunity for citizens; and
642 (E)contributions to global peace and prosperity.
643 (e)(Beginning in the 2028-2029 school year, and in)In accordance with Subsection (8), the
644 state board shall (ensure)prioritize instruction in American history and government for students
645 (occurs) as appropriate and may (includes)include the study of the historical and philosophical context in
646 which the founding documents were created, with the state board determining the
647 specific grades and frequency of instruction within grades 3 through 12, including:
648 (i)analysis of religious and philosophical references contained in founding

Yeas - 14

Nays - 0

Absent - 1

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. J. Thompson
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. D. Welton

Rep. J. Elison

MOTION: Rep. Pierucci moved to pass HB0312S02 out favorably as amended. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 1 - 1.

Yeas - 13

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. A. Defay
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. N. Peck
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. J. Thompson
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 1

Rep. S. Hayes

Absent - 1

Rep. J. Elison

7. H.B. 440 School Lunch Amendments(Auxier, T.)

Rep. Auxier presented the bill.

Ben Horsley, Superintendent, Granite School District, spoke to the bill.

Sarah Stroup, Utah Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, spoke to the bill.

Tiana McCall, licensed clinical social worker and school social worker, spoke to the bill.

Neil Rickard, Child Nutrition Advocate, Utahns Against Hunger, spoke to the bill.

Lexi Cunningham, Utah School Superintendents Association (USSA), and Utah School Boards Association (USBA), spoke against the bill.

Emily Bastian, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Kava Tukuafu, teacher, speaking on her own behalf, spoke against the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Lisonbee moved to replace HB0440 with HB0440S01.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Miller moved to hold HB0440. The substitute motion failed with a vote of 4 - 8 - 3.

Yeas - 4

Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. R. Walter

Nays - 8

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. J. Thompson
Rep. D. Welton

Absent - 3

Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. N. Peck

Rep. Lisonbee's underlying motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 12

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. J. Thompson
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 0Absent - 3

Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. N. Peck

MOTION: Rep. Lisonbee moved to amend HB0440S01 with Amendment #3. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 3.

Amendment 3

1. Line 302 through 308:

302 kindergarten or grade 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.
303 (b)"School lunch target goal" means a minimum standard that each elementary school
304 seeks to achieve by:
305 (i)providing a student with a minimum of 20 minutes of {seated}eating time to
306 consume lunch; and
307 (ii)scheduling lunch recess to occur immediately prior to the lunch period in the
308 daily schedule.

2. Line 315 through 321:

315 (C)the survey results from the survey described in Subsection (c)(i);
316 (ii)plan how each school can work toward achieving the school lunch target goal; and
317 (iii)create a plan for the school's lunch and recess times, including:
318 (A)how much {seated}time a student will have to eat lunch; and
319 (B)if midday recess will be before or after lunch;
320 (b)ensure that the meeting described in Subsection (2)(a):
321 (i)is open to members of the public; and

Yeas - 12

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. J. Thompson
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 0Absent - 3

Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. N. Peck

MOTION: Rep. Lisonbee moved to pass HB0440S01 out favorably.

Rep. Lisonbee withdrew the motion.

MOTION: Rep. Miller moved to amend HB0440S01 as amended with Amendment #1. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 3.

Amendment 1

1. Line 368:

368 physical education, or other physical activities from an elementary school student if:
369 (a)the restriction is consistent with the elementary student's:
370 (i)IEP; or
371 (ii)Section 504 accommodation plan;{-or}
372 (b)there is an immediate or significant risk to the health or safety of the elementary
373 student or others{-}; or
(c)the student engaged in poor behavior during recess or a physical education class.

Yeas - 12

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. J. Thompson
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. D. Welton

Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. N. Peck

MOTION: Rep. Lisonbee moved to amend HB0440S01 as amended with Amendment #2. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 3.

Amendment 2

1. Line 309 through 318:

309 (2)A school community council and a charter trust land council shall:
310 (a)hold a school lunch planning meeting to:
311 (i)review and discuss:
312 (A)the state board's model policy on health and wellness; and
313 {(B)the research the state board provides in under Subsection (3), on recess }-
314 {schedules and student eating time; and}
315 {(C)}{(B)the survey results from the survey described in Subsection (c)(i);
316 (ii)plan how each school can work toward achieving the school lunch target goal; and
317 (iii)create a plan for the school's lunch and recess times, including:
318 (A)how much seated time a student will have to eat lunch; and

2. Line 336 through 351:

336 (d)hold the meeting described in Subsection (2)(a):
337 (i)once per year for five years; or
338 (ii)until the school community council's plan meets the school lunch target goal; and
339 (e)after holding the meeting described in Subsection (2)(a), instruct the principal of each
340 school to:
341 (i)send a signed, written assurance to the state board on the agreed upon plan
342 discussed at the meeting; and

(ii)if the school community council cannot meet the school lunch target goal, submit a signed, written assurance to the state board and the Education Interim Committee explaining the reasons the school community council was unable to implement the school lunch target goal.

343 {(ii)if the school community council does not agree to work toward the school lunch}
344 {target goal, provide a signed, written assurance to the state board detailing why}
345 {the school community council failed to implement the school lunch target goal.}
346 {(3)The state board shall:}
347 {(a)research best practices in schools on:}
348 {(i)recess scheduling; and}
349 {(ii)student eating time; and}
350 {(b)provide the results of the research described in Subsection (4)(a) to each school}
351 {community council in accordance with this section.}

Yeas - 12

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. J. Thompson
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 0Absent - 3

Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. N. Peck

MOTION: Rep. Lisonbee moved to pass HB0440S01 out favorably as amended. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 5 - 3.

Yeas - 7

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. J. Thompson

Nays - 5

Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. D. Welton

Absent - 3

Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. N. Peck

MOTION: Rep. Pierucci moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 12

Rep. T. Auxier
Rep. S. Hayes
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. M. MacPherson
Rep. T. Miller
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. K. Peterson
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. C. Pierucci
Rep. J. Thompson
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. D. Welton

Nays - 0Absent - 3

Rep. A. Defay
Rep. J. Elison
Rep. N. Peck

Chair Walter adjourned the meeting at 6:09 p.m.