



MINUTES

SENATE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE

Friday, February 13, 2026 | 2:00 p.m. | 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. John D. Johnson, Chair
Sen. Heidi Balderree
Sen. Lincoln Fillmore
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Michael K. McKell

Sen. Kathleen A. Riebe
Sen. Chris H. Wilson

Staff Present:

Micah Ann Wixom, Policy Analyst
Zoe Adams, Committee Secretary
Cassie Sudekum, Committee Secretary

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

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 02:11 PM.

MOTION: Sen. Riebe moved to approve the minutes from February 12, 2026. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4

Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. K. Riebe

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. C. Wilson

1. S.B. 253 Library Materials Amendments(*McKell, M.*)

Sen. McKell presented the bill.

MOTION: Sen. McKell moved to amend SB0253 with Amendment #1. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 2.

Amendment 1

1. Line 150 through 156:

150 (1)An LEA shall:
151 (a)create and adopt a collection development policy that outlines the LEA's library
152 collection and development practices that is:
153 (i)under the direction of {the}a teacher librarian or certified language arts teacher at each school or LEA;
and
154 (ii)publicly available on the LEA's website or another publicly accessible location;
155 (b)ensure that the policy the LEA adopts under Subsection (1)(a) is in compliance with
156 Section 53G-10-103 and establishes the following standards:

Yeas - 5

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. K. Riebe

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. C. Wilson

Christy Giblon, President, Provo Education Association, spoke in favor of the bill.

Tamar Watson, Director of Communications, Utah Association of Public Charter Schools, spoke in favor of the bill.

Mark Clement, Utah School Boards Association, spoke in favor of the bill.

Deborah Gatrell, teacher, spoke in favor of the bill.

Daniel Neville-Rehbehn, Chair, Utah Library Association, spoke in favor of the bill.

Katherine Paterson, Utah Library Association, spoke in favor of the bill.

Scott Bernier, Vice President, Library and Government Relations, EBSCO Information Services, spoke in favor of the bill.

Corinne Johnson, President, Utah Parents United, spoke to the bill.

MOTION: Sen. McKell moved to pass SB0253 out favorably.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to hold SB0253. The motion failed with a vote of 2 - 3 - 2.

Yeas - 2
Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. J. Johnson

Nays - 3
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. K. Riebe

Absent - 2
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. C. Wilson

MOTION: Sen. McKell moved to pass SB0253 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 3 - 2 - 2.

Yeas - 3
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. K. Riebe

Nays - 2
Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. J. Johnson

Absent - 2
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. C. Wilson

2. H.B. 146 Mentoring and Supporting Teacher Excellence and Refinement Program Amendments(*Pierucci, C.*)

Rep. Candice Pierucci presented the bill.

[H.B. 146.pdf](#)

Amanda Bollinger, Vice Chair, Utah State Board of Education, spoke in favor of the bill.

David Bell, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Jennifer Partridge, President, Provo School Board, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Riebe moved to pass HB0146 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4
Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

Nays - 0

Absent - 3
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

3. S.B. 118 Mental Health Services in Higher Education(*Plumb, J.*)

Sen. Jen Plumb presented the bill.

[S.B. 118.pdf](#)

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to replace SB0118 with SB0118S01. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. C. Wilson

Rick Atkin, CEO, Trula, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Katie Mazzie, Associate Commissioner, Utah System of Higher Education, spoke to the bill.

MaryAnn Christensen, Executive Director, Utah Legislative Watch, spoke to the bill.

Celesta Lyman, Nutrition teacher, spoke to the bill.

Andrew Richey, Lead Coach, Trula, spoke to the bill.

Alexis Allcott, Wellness Coach Coordinator, Trula, spoke to the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to go to the next item on the agenda. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 0.

Yeas - 7

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. K. Riebe
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0

Absent - 0

4. H.B. 143 Special Education Amendments(*Peterson, K.*)

Rep. Karen Peterson presented the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to replace HB0143 with HB0143S01. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Yeas - 6

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. K. Riebe
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0

Absent - 1

Sen. D. Hinkins

Amanda Bollinger, Vice Chair, Utah State Board of Education, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to pass HB0143S01 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 0.

Yeas - 7Nays - 0Absent - 0

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. M. McKell
Sen. K. Riebe
Sen. C. Wilson

5. S.B. 268 Religious Curriculum in Schools(Weiler, T.)

Sen. Todd Weiler presented the bill with the assistance of Michael Erickson, resident.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to amend SB0268 with Amendment #1. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1.

Amendment 1

1. Line 100 through 107:

100 (v)immigrant aid; and
101 (vi)anti-lynching movements;
102 (k)United States opposition to totalitarianism, fascism, and communism;
103 {(l)United States support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;}
104 {(m)}(l)United States reconstruction of former World War II enemies;
105 {(n)}(m)the 1950s and 1960s nonviolent Civil Rights Movement; and
106 {(o)}(n)religious pluralism in contemporary America.
107 (2)An LEA shall ensure that the topics enumerated in Subsection (1) are optional.

Yeas - 6Nays - 0Absent - 1

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. K. Riebe
Sen. C. Wilson
Sen. M. McKell

Bill Duncan, Sutherland Institutes, spoke in favor of the bill.

Maryann Christensen, Executive Director, Utah Legislative Watch, spoke in favor of the bill.

Jennie Earl, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Julie Jackson, resident, Granite School Board, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Deborah Gatrell, teacher, spoke in opposition to the bill.

David Bell, teacher, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Kim DelGrosso,Utah Eagle Forum, spoke in favor of the bill.

Joseph Kerry, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Victoria Little, Wyoming resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Trevor Dykes, student, spoke in favor of the bill.

Carole Michel, resident, spoke in favor of the bill.

Sara Jones, Utah Education Association, spoke to the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to pass SB0268 out favorably.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Sen. Riebe moved to go to the next item on the agenda. The substitute motion failed with a vote of 1 - 5 - 1.

Yeas - 1
Sen. K. Riebe

Nays - 5
Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. C. Wilson

Absent - 1
Sen. M. McKell

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to pass SB0268 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 1 - 1.

Yeas - 5
Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 1
Sen. K. Riebe

Absent - 1
Sen. M. McKell

6. S.B. 269 School Board Meeting Notification Requirements(Weiler, T.)

Sen. Todd Weiler presented the bill with the assistance of Melanie Mortensen, resident.

MOTION: Sen. Balderree moved to amend SB0269 with Amendment #1. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 2.

Amendment 1

1. Line 7 through 13:

7 This Bill:
8 →requires the State Board of Education to publish an agenda before holding certain
9 meetings;
10 →requires local school boards to publish an agenda before holding {a public meeting}certain meetings; and
11 →makes technical and conforming changes.
12
13 None

2. Line 22 through 28:

22 Section . is amended to read:
23 State board meetings – Quorum requirements.
24 (1) (a) The state board shall[—]:
25 {(a)}(i) meet at the call of the [chairman]chair and at least 11 times each year[.]; and
26 {(b)}(ii) at least 72 hours before holding the meeting required under Subsection (1)(a),
27 publish an agenda for the meeting on the state board's website.
(b)The state board may disregard the requirement in Subsection (1)(a)(ii) if the emergency requirements described in Subsection 52-4-202(5) are met.
28 (2) A majority of all members is required to validate an act of the state board.

3. Line 47 through 63:

47 (i) parliamentary order and procedure;
48 (ii) ethical behavior; and
49 (iii) civil discourse.
50 (2) (a) Subject to Subsection (4), a local school board shall:
51 ~~{(a)}~~(i) adopt rules of order and procedure to govern a public meeting of the local school
52 board;
53 ~~{(b)}~~(ii) conduct a public meeting in accordance with the rules of order and procedure
54 described in Subsection (2)(a);
55 ~~{(c)}~~(iii) at least 72 hours before holding a public meeting, publish an agenda for the meeting
56 on the local school board's website; and
57 ~~{(e)}~~~~{(d)}~~(iv) make the rules of order and procedure described in Subsection (2)(a) available to
58 the public;
59 ~~{(f)}~~(A) at each public meeting of the local school board; and
60 ~~{(g)}~~(B) on the local school board's public website, if available.

(b) A local school board may disregard the requirement in Subsection (2)(a)(iii) if the emergency requirements described in Subsection 52-4-202(5) are met.

61 (3) (a) Except as provided in Subsections (3)(b) and (c), a local school board may not
62 hold a public meeting outside of the geographic boundary of the local school board's
63 school district.

Yeas - 5

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

Sen. M. McKell
Sen. K. Riebe

Lexi Cunningham, Utah School Superintendents Association and Utah School Boards Association, spoke to the bill.

Jennie Earl, resident, spoke to the bill.

Royce Van Tassel, Utah Association of Public Charter Schools, spoke to the bill.

John Larsen, Business Administrative, Jordan School District, spoke to the bill.

Jennifer Partridge, resident, spoke to the bill.

Ben Horsley, Superintendent, Granite School District, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to pass SB0269 out favorably.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Sen. Fillmore moved to adjourn. The substitute motion failed with a vote of 2 - 3 - 2.

Yeas - 2

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. L. Fillmore

Nays - 3

Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. C. Wilson

Absent - 2

Sen. M. McKell
Sen. K. Riebe

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to pass SB0269 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 3 - 2 - 2.



Yeas - 3

Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 2

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. L. Fillmore

Absent - 2

Sen. M. McKell
Sen. K. Riebe

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 5

Sen. H. Balderree
Sen. L. Fillmore
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Johnson
Sen. C. Wilson

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

Sen. M. McKell
Sen. K. Riebe

Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:27 PM.