

Minutes State Board of Education July 16, 2025

John Robbins
President
Iowa Falls

Brooke Axiotis
Vice President
Des Moines

Todd Abrahamson
Arnolds Park

Cassandra Halls
Carlisle

Brian J. Kane
Dubuque

Mary Meisterling
Cedar Rapids

Grace Bechtel
Student Member (non-voting)
Lake Mills

Beth Townsend
Iowa Workforce Development
(non-voting)

McKenzie Snow
Director and
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education meeting was held on July 16, 2025, at the Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. The meeting was conducted in person, with remote access information provided in the notice of the meeting.

State Board members present: John Robbins, Brooke Axiotis, Brian Kane, Mary Meisterling, Todd Abrahamson, Cassandra Halls, and Grace Bechtel. Beth Townsend attended virtually.

Iowa Department of Education staff members present: McKenzie Snow, John Elkin, Tina Wahler, Eric St Clair, Heather Doe, Thomas Mayes, Sandra Hurtado-Peters, Amy Gieseke, Barbara Ohlund, Maryam Rod Szabo, Angelisa Fynaardt, Betsy Lin, Leisa Breitfelder, Kim Villotti, Liza Garcia and Jeremy Anzevino.

State Board Business Meeting

John Robbins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to approve the agenda.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

John Robbins announced public comment for 30 minutes.

No public comment was made.

The following reports were provided:

Director's Report, by Director Snow.

Consent Agenda

June 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the Consent Agenda.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Charter School Progress Report – History of Charter School Amendments

The matter was discussed.

Charter School Amendment Request: Red Barn Schoolhouse

Motion: Mary Meisterling made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to approve the amendment request.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Charter School Amendment Request: Opportunity Education Network – Cedar Rapids Prep

Motion: Todd Abrahamson made a motion and Cassandra Halls seconded to approve the amendment request.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Charter School Amendment Request: Opportunity Education Network – Des Moines Prep

Motion: Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to approve the amendment request.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Charter School Amendment Request: CIVICA – Cedar Rapids

Motion: Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Mary Meisterling seconded to approve the amendment request.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Charter School Withdrawal Request: CIVICA Des Moines

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Cassandra Halls seconded to approve the withdrawal request.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

John Robbins announced a break until 10:20 a.m.

Area Education Agency Accreditation Report – Great Prairie

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to grant continued accreditation to Great Prairie Area Education Agency.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Area Education Agency Accreditation Report – Mississippi Bend

Motion: Mary Meisterling made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to grant continued accreditation to Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Area Education Agency Accreditation Report – Green Hills

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to grant continued accreditation to Green Hills Area Education Agency.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Area Education Agency Accreditation Report – Prairie Lakes

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Mary Meisterling seconded to grant conditional accreditation to Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency through July 16, 2026, with required improvement actions completed.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

John Robbins announced a lunch break until 12:39 p.m.

Area Education Agency Accreditation Report – Keystone

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Mary Meisterling seconded to grant continued accreditation to Keystone Area Education Agency.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Area Education Agency Accreditation Report – Central Rivers

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Cassandra Halls seconded to grant continued accreditation to Central Rivers Area Education Agency.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Area Education Agency Accreditation Report – Heartland

Motion: Mary Meisterling made a motion and Cassandra Halls seconded to grant continued accreditation to Heartland Area Education Agency.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Area Education Agency Accreditation Report – Grant Wood

Motion: Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Todd Abrahamson seconded to grant continued accreditation to Grant Wood Area Education Agency.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Area Education Agency Accreditation Report – Northwest

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to grant continued accreditation to Northwest Area Education Agency.

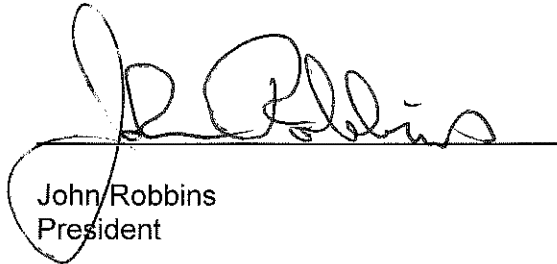
Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Grand View University Educator Preparation Program Approval

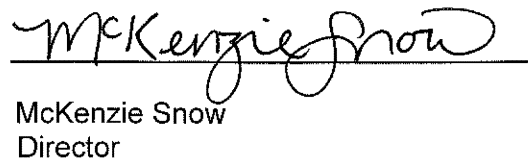
Motion: Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Cassandra Halls seconded to approve the Grand View University Educator Preparation Program.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.



John Robbins
President



McKenzie Snow
Director