

Minutes State Board of Education February 12, 2026

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 February 12, 2026, 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, Todd Abrahamson, Cassandra Halls, and Grace Bechtel. Brian Kane and Mary Meisterling attended virtually.

Iowa Department of Education staff members present: McKenzie Snow, John Elkin, Heather Doe, Thomas Mayes, Eric St Clair, Tina Wahlert, Jay Pennington, Angelisa Fynaardt, Cassandra Cline, Stefanie Wager, Robin Shaffer Lienthal, Tom Bredfield, Kyle Morin, Barbara Ohlund, Buffy Campbell, 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 Todd Abrahamson 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.

Nonpublic School Advisory Committee Update, by Brian Kane.

Consent Agenda

January 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Religious Groups Exempt from School Standards

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Todd Abrahamson seconded to approve the Consent Agenda.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Rules: Chapter 120

Motion: Todd Abrahamson made a motion and Mary Meisterling seconded to amend Chapter 120.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Workforce Training and Economic Development Fund Report and Plan

Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the Workforce Training and Economic Development Fund Report and Plan.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Charter School Contract Approval – Future Frontiers

Motion: Todd Abrahamson made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the Future Frontiers Contract.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Charter School Contract Approval – Horizon Science Academy Cedar Rapids

Motion: Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Todd Abrahamson seconded to approve the Concept Schools for the formation of Horizon Science Academy Cedar Rapids Contract.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Charter School Contract Approval – STEM Innovation High School

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Brian Kane seconded to approve the STEM Innovation High School Contract.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

John Robbins announced a break until 10:45.

Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency Accreditation Progress Report

The matter was discussed.

Teacher of the Year 2026 Introduction

The matter was discussed.

January School Budget Review Committee Update

The matter was discussed.

State Board of Education Student Member: Postsecondary Readiness and Transition Opportunities


The matter was discussed.

Student Member Addition to Community College Advisory Committee and Nonpublic School Advisory Committee

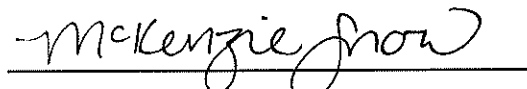
Motion: Brian Kane made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded for an application be developed to select a student member for both the Community College Advisory Committee and Nonpublic School Advisory Committee.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.



John Robbins
President



McKenzie Snow
Director