

**Minutes  
State Board of Education  
March 13, 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 March 13, 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, Mary Meisterling and Grace Bechtel. Beth Townsend attended virtually.

Iowa Department of Education staff members present: McKenzie Snow, John Elkin, Heather Doe, Thomas Mayes, Tina Wahlert, Jay Pennington, Angelisa Fynaardt, Cassandra Cline, Amy Gieseke, Robin Shaffer Lilienthal, Tom Bredfield, Kyle Morin and Jeremy Anzevino.

**State Board Business Meeting**

John Robbins called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Motion:** Cassandra Halls made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the agenda.

**Vote:** The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

John Robbins announced public comment for 30 minutes.

Amanda Benton made a public comment.

Cynthia Knight made a public comment.

The following reports were provided:

Director's Report, by Director Snow.

**Consent Agenda**

**February 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

**Appeal Decision 5232 (In re: Long Term Suspension of E.K.)**

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

**Vote:** The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

**Fiscal Year 2027 Area Education Agency Budget Approval – Great Prairie**

**Motion:** Mary Meisterling made a motion and Todd Abrahamson seconded to approve the Great Prairie Area Education Agency budget.

**Vote:** The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

**Fiscal Year 2027 Area Education Agency Budget Approval – Grant Wood**

**Motion:** Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Mary Meisterling seconded to approve the Grant Wood Area Education Agency budget.

**Vote:** The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

John Robbins announced a 10-minute break.

**Fiscal Year 2027 Area Education Agency Budget Approval – Heartland**

**Motion:** Todd Abrahamson made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the Heartland Area Education Agency budget.

**Vote:** The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

**Fiscal Year 2027 Area Education Agency Budget Approval – Prairie Lakes**

**Motion:** Brooke Axiotis a motion and Todd Abrahamson seconded to approve the Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency budget.

**Vote:** The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

**Fiscal Year 2027 Area Education Agency Budget Approval – Green Hills**

**Motion:** Todd Abrahamson made a motion and Mary Meisterling seconded to approve the Green Hills Area Education Agency budget.

**Vote:** The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

**Fiscal Year 2027 Area Education Agency Budget Approval – Northwest**

**Motion:** Mary Meisterling made a motion and Todd Abrahamson seconded to approve the Northwest Area Education Agency budget.

**Vote:** The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

John Robbins announced a lunch break until 12:11.

**Fiscal Year 2027 Area Education Agency Budget Approval – Mississippi Bend**

**Motion:** Todd Abrahamson made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency budget.

**Vote:** The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

### **Fiscal Year 2027 Area Education Agency Budget Approval – Central Rivers**

**Motion:** Mary Meisterling made a motion and Cassandra Halls seconded to approve the Central Rivers Area Education Agency budget.

**Vote:** The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

### **Fiscal Year 2027 Area Education Agency Budget Approval – Keystone**

**Motion:** Todd Abrahamson made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded to approve the Keystone Area Education Agency budget.

**Vote:** The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

### **Southeastern Community College Interim Accreditation Report**

**Motion:** Cassandra Halls made a motion and Todd Abrahamson seconded to grant continued accreditation for Southeastern Community College.

**Vote:** The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

### **Charter School Contract Amendment Request – Distinctive Innovation Academy**

**Motion:** Todd Abrahamson made a motion and Mary Meisterling seconded to approve the amendment request for Distinctive Innovation Academy.

**Vote:** The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

### **Charter School Contract Amendment Request – Great Oaks High School and Career Center – Des Moines – South**

**Motion:** Brooke Axiotis made a motion and Cassandra Halls seconded to approve the amendment request for Great Oaks High School and Career Center – Des Moines – South.

**Vote:** The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

### **Charter School Contract Termination Request – Opportunity Education Network (OEN) – Davenport Prep**

**Motion:** Mary Meisterling made a motion and Todd Abrahamson seconded to approve the contract termination request for OEN – Davenport Prep.

**Vote:** The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

### **Career and Technical Education Secondary Education Impact Report**

The matter was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

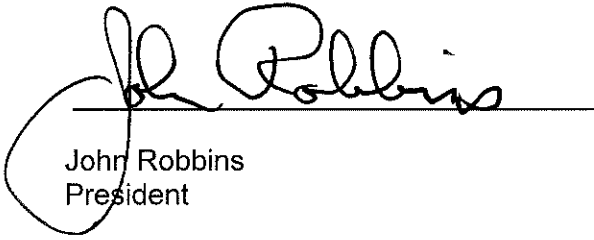
---

John Robbins  
President

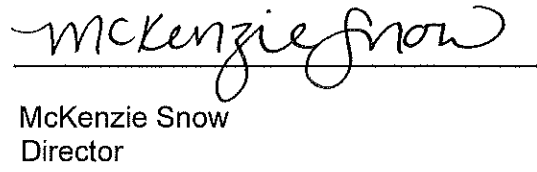
---

McKenzie Snow  
Director

Meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.



John Robbins  
President



McKenzie Snow  
Director