



Minutes State Board of Education June 18, 2026

John Robbins
President
Iowa Falls

Todd Abrahamson
Arnolds Park

Cassandra Halls
Carlisle

Jeff Henderson
Hiawatha

Jeremy Lindquist
Runnells

Mary Meisterling
Cedar Rapids

Erica Roth
Sioux Center

Cecelia Harris
Student Member (non-voting)
Spirit Lake

Beth Townsend
Iowa Workforce Development
(non-voting)

McKenzie Snow
Director and
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education meeting was held on June 18, 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: Director Snow, John Robbins, Todd Abrahamson, Cassandra Halls, Jeff Henderson, Jeremy Lindquist, Mary Meisterling, Erica Roth, Cecelia Harris and Beth Townsend (virtual).

Iowa Department of Education staff members present: John Elkin, Heather Doe, Thomas Mayes, Eric St Clair, Jay Pennington, Tina Wahlert, Angelisa Fynaardt, Amy Gieseke, Alan Spencer, Stefanie Wager, Robin Lilienthal, Kimberly Villotti, Mary Breyfogle, Celeste Mortvedt and Tana Mullen.

State Board Business Meeting

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

Motion: Mary Meisterling 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.

Cynthia Knight made a public comment.

The following reports were provided:

Nonpublic School Advisory Committee Update by Jeff Henderson

Director's Report by Director Snow

Consent Agenda

May 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes

STEM Innovation High School Amendment

OEN Cedar Rapids Prep Amendment

Horizon Science Academy Amendment

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Jeff Henderson seconded to approve the Consent Agenda.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Rules: House File 2591

Emergency Rules

Motion: Mary Meisterling made a motion and Erica Roth seconded to approve the Emergency Rules.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Notice of Intended Action

Motion: Jeff Henderson made a motion and Cassandra Halls seconded to approve the Notice of Intended Action.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

2025 Teacher of the Year

The matter was discussed.

North Iowa Area Community College Accreditation Report

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Todd Abrahamson seconded to approve continued accreditation for North Iowa Area Community College through the 2031-2032 academic year.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Iowa Lakes Community College Accreditation Report

Motion: Todd Abrahamson made a motion and Mary Meisterling seconded to approve conditional accreditation for Iowa Lakes Community College through March 2027.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

University of Iowa Educator Preparation Program Approval Report

Motion: Jeff Henderson made a motion and Cassandra Halls seconded to approve the University of Iowa educator preparation program through the 2031-2032 academic year.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Iowa Early Learning Standards – Second Read

Motion: Mary Meisterling made a motion and Todd Abrahamson seconded to approve the Iowa Early Learning Standards.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

John Robbins announced lunch break at 12:15 p.m.

Iowa's Area Education Agencies Strategic Plan

Motion: Jeff Henderson made a motion and Erica Roth seconded to approve the Area Education Agency Strategic Plan for three years and to provide an annual update.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Note: Per the Board's initial direction at its April meeting, the Department is again directed to bring before the Board a recommendation for consistent and differentiated student outcomes indicators that measure each of the strategic plan goals, as well as regional special education performance profiles, regional Targeted Support and Improvement school performance profiles, and the impact of evidence-based professional on student outcomes.

Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency Accreditation Report

Motion: Mary Meisterling made a motion and Jeff Henderson seconded to approve full accreditation to the Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency through the next review period.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Hamburg Charter High School Amendment

Motion: Jeremy Lindquist made a motion and Cassandra Halls seconded to approve the charter amendment for Hamburg Charter High School.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Charter School Renewal Process and Performance Assessment Overview

The matter was discussed.

Hamburg Charter High School Renewal Performance Report

Motion: Mary Meisterling made a motion and Erica Roth seconded to approve the renewal and performance report.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Choice Charter High School Renewal Performance Report

Motion: Todd Abrahamson made a motion and Cassandra Halls seconded to approve the renewal and performance report.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School Renewal Performance Report

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Jeff Henderson seconded to approve the renewal and performance report.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

CIVICA Career and Collegiate Academy (CIVICA Iowa, Inc.) Contract Termination

Motion: Jeff Henderson made a motion and Mary Meisterling seconded to approve the contract termination request.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

June School Budget Review Committee Update

The matter was discussed.

Legislative Update

The matter was discussed.

Student Board Representative

The matter was discussed.

Motion: Cassandra Halls made a motion and Jeff Henderson seconded to broaden the student representation to be open each year to a community college, public or nonpublic student.

Vote: The ayes were unanimous. The motion carried.

August Agenda Preview of State Board of Education Meeting

The matter was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

John Robbins
President

McKenzie Snow
Director