

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 16, 2026

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Hawkins, Vice Chairman Handy, Representatives Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Marmon, Pickett, Hostetler, Veile, Mathias, Galaviz

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Veile

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Hawkins called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

MOTION: **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32974: **Rep. Vander Woude** presented **RS 32974**, proposed legislation regarding public schools start date.

MOTION: **Rep. Ehardt** made a motion to introduce **RS 32974**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
Chairman Hawkins turned the gavel over to **Rep. Pickett**.

RS 33138C1: **Rep. Hawkins** presented **RS 33138C1**, proposed legislation regarding school administration, alternative authorization.

MOTION: **Rep. Ehardt** made a motion to introduce **RS 33138C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
Chairman Pickett turned the gavel back over to **Chairman Hawkins**.

RS 33325: **Rep. Veile** presented **RS 33325**, proposed legislation regarding a State Seal of Excellence in Civics.

MOTION: **Rep. Ehardt** made a motion to introduce **RS 33325**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 608: **Rep. Pickett** presented **H 608**, legislation regarding the Public Schools Facilities Cooperative Fund.
Rep. Furniss spoke about difficulty accessing funds and said this legislation would make it easier to access for school safety improvements.
Rep. Pickett explained how this legislation makes changes and clarifies intent of the Public Schools Facilities Cooperative Fund. He discussed the application process and repayment.
Kevin Lancaster, Superintendent, Camas County School District, and **Marc Gee**, Superintendent, Middleton School District #134, testified in support of **H 608**.

MOTION: **Rep. Nelsen** made a motion to send **H 636** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.
Committee members discussed other facility funding and the importance of school safety.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:**

Rep. Nelsen asked unanimous consent to withdraw his motion. There being no objection, the request was granted.

MOTION:

Rep. Nelsen made a motion to send **H 608** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Furniss** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 636:

Rep. Galaviz presented **H 636**, legislation regarding school districts facility funds. She spoke about sufficient funds, savings and loans for new construction, rebuilds and deferred maintenance without burdening tax payers.

Dr. Derek Bub, Superintendent of Schools, West Ada School District, testified in support of **H 636**.

MOTION:

Rep. Nelsen made a motion to send **H 636** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members discussed gap in rural schools, distribution of funds, and a state revenue formula.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Chairman Hawkins called for a vote on the motion to send **H 636** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Furniss** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:28 am.

Representative Hawkins
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary