

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2026

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chairman Cook, Senators Woodward, Carlson, Burtenshaw, Zito, Ward-Engelking, and Semmelroth

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Chairman Lent and Senators Nichols

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Vice Chairman Cook** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 2:02 p.m.

H 785 **Education – Adds to existing law to establish provisions regarding inappropriate online behavior by students and to prescribe a process for student discipline by the school district or public charter school. Senator Ben Toews** presented the bill which would give public schools the ability to discipline students over inappropriate online behavior on school time and property. **Senator Toews** walked the Committee through the definitions, and the disciplinary options. The bill gave guidance and offered discretion for deciding case-by-case bases.

MOTION: **Senator Woodward** moved to send **H 785** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Burtenshaw** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

H 846 **Education – Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding student enrollment counts. Representative Barbara Ehardt** presented the bill which would remove students who had been absent for ten consecutive days at the beginning of the school year from enrollment counts. She added that there would be exceptions for students excused for sickness.

MOTION: **Senator Semmelroth** moved to send **H 846** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Woodward** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT: **Senator Carlson** asked for unanimous consent to remove **H 711** from the agenda. There were no objections.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business at this time, **Vice Chairman Cook** adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Senator Cook
Vice Chair

Lauren Young
Secretary