

WEIAOB Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Attending:

Ashraf (Ash) Awad, Collin Bannister, Ruben Flores, Nate Humphrey, Charles Knutson, Mollie Kuwahara, William (Bill) Lyne, Sen. T'wina Nobles, Eleni Papadakis, Rep. Dave Paul, and Dr. Terri Standish-Kuon.

Staff attending:

Joel Anderson, Kimberly Hetrick, and Grace Nelson.

Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m.

Introductory Comments

Presenters: Charles Knutson

- Dr. Steven Ashby has resigned from the Board following the end of his role as Director of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.
 - Nate Humphrey has joined the Board as the new Executive Director of Washington's State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.
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Action: Approving the Meeting Agenda for October 9, 2025

Motion made to approve the Board's meeting agenda for October 9, 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Action: Approving Meeting Minutes for July 17, 2025

Motion made to approve the Board's meeting minutes for July 17, 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Presentation and Discussion: Proposed 2026 Meeting Schedule

Presenters: Joel Anderson, Charles Knutson

Materials: [Proposed 2026 Meeting Schedule](#)

- The meeting schedule was designed to accommodate Board co-chairs' schedules, the 2026 legislative session, WEIA revenue forecasts, WA Grant caseload forecasts, stakeholder meetings, and other relevant conflicts.

Action: Approving the Board's 2026 Meeting Schedule.

Motion made to approve the Board's 2026 meeting schedule.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Presentation and Discussion: 2026 Legislative Advisory Committee Update

Presenters: Joel Anderson, Charles Knutson

Materials: [2026 Legislative Advisory Committee Update](#)

- The Board agreed to form a 2026 legislative advisory committee (LAC) during its last meeting on July 17, 2025, so that it could be more responsive to legislation and budget-related issues during the 2026 legislative session.
- LAC members have met three times during the fall to discuss goals for the 2026 legislative session, determine best practices for documenting and analyzing appropriations from WEIA, and finalizing legislation to amend the Board's statute ([RCW 28B.77.310](#)).
- Regarding the state operating budget, LAC members agreed that:
 - The Board should have more information on how funding is being appropriated from WEIA, how these appropriations are changing over time, and whether these appropriations are still being spent on their originally intended purposes.
 - The Board should issue higher-level recommendations on appropriations from WEIA for the Legislature.
 - Protecting funding in WEIA for higher education will be critical given the existing budget environment.
- LAC members helped prepare a WSAC 2026 decision package and agency request legislation to amend the Board's statute and streamline Board operations. They also agreed that the Board should increase its engagement with the Legislature and Governor's office in future legislative sessions.

Comments & Questions:

- Legislative Board members expressed interest in knowing more about how funding is being appropriated from WEIA and viewed the Board as a potential source of ideas for planning the future of higher education in Washington.
- Board members reiterated the importance of protecting funding in WEIA and communicating to the Legislature that higher education cannot absorb additional funding reductions in the 2026 supplemental operating budget.

Presentation and Discussion: Career Connect Washington (CCW) Performance Update

Presenters: Andrew Clemons (ESD), Kimberly Hetrick (WSAC)

Materials: [CCW 2025 Legislative Report](#)

- CCW is working to bring education and workforce development leaders together so that more students can access meaningful, paid work experiences that lead to credentials after high school.

- Kimberly shared multiple examples of successful partnerships fostered by CCW between employers, regional networks, and sector leads.
 - Andrew shared more information about recent CCW grants and funding cuts being absorbed in the 2025-27 biennium.
 - CCW is engaging various stakeholders to collect feedback on the future of career connected learning programs and, specifically, how CCW can improve operations moving forward.
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Presentation and Discussion: 2025 Legislative Report Submission Timeline

Presenters: Joel Anderson

Materials: [2025 Legislative Report Timeline](#)

- The Board's 2025 legislative report will be circulated for feedback in mid-November and approved via email in mid-December before being submitted to the Legislature.
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Public Comment

No meeting attendees provided public comments.

Closing

Presenters: Charles Knutson

- The next Board meeting is January 8, 2026, 1:00-3:00 p.m., on Zoom.

See Appendix

Meeting Adjourned: 11:40 a.m.

Appendix A

[TVW meeting recording 10-9-2025](#)

Appendix B

2025-10-09 10:11:06 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

2025-10-09 WEIAOB Proposed 2026 Meeting Schedule

2025-10-09 10:29:51 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

2025-10-09-WEIAOB.2026.LAC_.Update.pdf

2025-10-09 10:52:53 From eleni papadakis to Everyone:

Very much appreciated!

2025-10-09 10:55:58 From Nate Humphrey to Everyone:

Definitely onboard with the coordinated effort

2025-10-09 10:56:13 From Ruben Flores to Everyone:

Agreed

2025-10-09 10:56:30 From eleni papadakis to Everyone:

Me too.

2025-10-09 10:58:16 From T'wina Nobles to Everyone:

Thank you all so much for your commitment to this work. I have Caucus Leadership at 11 am and will jump off shortly. Have a great meeting.

2025-10-09 10:59:03 From Dave Paul to Everyone:

I'm jumping off, too...so good to see everyone--and thanks for all of your advocacy for students and post-secondary education in our state!

2025-10-09 10:59:12 From Collin Bannister to Everyone:

Thank you both!!

2025-10-09 11:01:46 From Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC to Everyone:

WEIAOB Meeting Materials Archive | WSAC

2025-10-09 11:30:18 From Executive Office to Everyone:

Questions from CCW:

- Where do you see opportunity to scale career connected learning?
- What would you like to see from CCW in the future?

2025-10-09 11:33:36 From Nate Humphrey to Everyone:

Thank you both for this presentation and discussion today. I unfortunately need to drop for my next meeting, but welcome continuing this conversation on how we can support efforts to sustain and grow experiential learning opportunities for all learners.