



Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 8, 2025, 1:30 P.M.

The Strata Tower at Oklahoma Commons

123 Robert S. Kerr Avenue

Oklahoma City, OK 73102

28th Floor, Conference Room 1

The Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability (the “Commission” or “CEQA”) met for a Commission meeting at 1:30 p.m., on October 8, 2025, at the offices of the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability (“OEQA”), 123 Robert S. Kerr Avenue, 28th Floor, Conference Room 1, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102. Notice of Meeting and Agenda were posted in accordance with the Oklahoma the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Secretary of Education Daniel Hamlin, Ph.D.; Kathryn Szallar; John Daniel, and Geoff Kingsley, Ken Parker

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Ashlyn Fiegenger, Ph.D.; Brian Jacoby

OEQA STAFF PRESENT: Megan Oftedal; Eric Jones; Caroline Misner; Kubra Say; Jerry Shay; Michelle Seybolt and Tatyana Blakemore

GUESTS PRESENT: Kristin Bugg; Connie Reilly; Annie Keehn; Rebecca Marie Farley; John Thompson; Melissa Reed; Toni Ivey; Kim Pennington; Aijana Henry; Jerry Mihelic; Heather Sparks

Call to Order: Secretary of Education Daniel Hamlin, Ph.D. called the October 8, 2025, meeting of the Commission to order at 1:40 p.m. Roll call established the presence of a quorum with five (5) Commission Members present as follows: Secretary of Education Dr. Hamlin; Kathryn Szallar; Geoff Kingsley; John Daniel and Ken Parker.

Welcome and Introduction of Others Present: Dr. Megan Oftedal welcomed the Commission and introduced others present at the meeting.

Discussion, and Possible Revision, and Action to: Approve Consent Agenda. The following items were presented under the Consent Agenda as these items included are considered routine in nature or had been previously discussed by the Commission and could be approved in one motion unless removed for separate consideration:

- A. Approval of Minutes of the July 16, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Commission;
- B. Ratification of the Annual Membership Payments for the Education Commission of the States and the Southern Regional Education Board;
- C. Authorization for OEQA to contract with Pearson regarding Pearson's use of OEQA's Certification Examinations for Oklahoma Educators Test Content, including authorizing OEQA to modify contracts prepared by Pearson as necessary;
- D. Ratification of the FY27 Budget and approval for OEQA to make revisions as necessary; and
- E. Ratification of the Steelman Communications Contract for Communications Services.

The Commission reviewed the Consent Agenda. Mr. Parker made a motion to: Approve the Consent Agenda of the October 8, 2025, Commission Meeting. Secretary Dr. Hamlin seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote of the Commission Members present. Those voting for the motion: Secretary Dr. Hamlin, John Daniel, Geoff Kingsley, Ken Parker, and Kathryn Szallar.

Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action: New program request – Reading Specialist Certificate Option for the Master's in the Art of Teaching at Oklahoma Baptist University. Mr. Parker made a motion to: Approve the New Program Request - Reading Specialist Certificate Option for the Master's in the Art of Teaching at Oklahoma Baptist University. Ms. Szallar seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote of the Commission Members present. Those voting for the motion: Secretary Dr. Hamlin, John Daniel, Geoff Kingsley, Ken Parker, and Kathryn Szallar.

Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action: Oklahoma City University Request to Move State Accreditation Visit from Spring 2026 to Fall 2026. Mr. Parker made a motion to: Approve Oklahoma City University's Request to Move State Accreditation Visit from Spring 2026 to Fall 2026. Mr. Daniel seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote of the Commission Members present. Those voting for the motion: Secretary of Education Daniel Hamlin, John Daniel, Geoff Kingsley, Ken Parker, and Kathryn Szallar.

Presentation Discussion and Possible Action to: Approve the publication of the dashboard for Oklahoma Educational Indicators Dashboard pursuant to 70 O.S. § 1210.531 (2024) and authorize OEQA to make any future modifications as necessary. Secretary Dr. Hamlin made a motion to: Approve the publication of the dashboard for Oklahoma Educational Indicators Dashboard pursuant to 70 O.S. § 1210.531 (2024) and authorize OEQA to make any future modifications as necessary. Ms. Szallar seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote of the Commission Members present. Those voting for the motion: Secretary Dr. Hamlin, John Daniel, Geoff Kingsley, Ken Parker, and Kathryn Szallar.

Discussion and Possible Action to: Authorize OEQA to seek Philanthropic Funding to Support the Teacher and Administrator Preparation Supports (TAPs) Initiative. Secretary Dr. Hamlin made a motion to: Authorize OEQA to seek Philanthropic Funding to Support the Teacher and Administrator Preparation Supports (TAPs) Initiative. Mr. Parker seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote of the Commission Members present. Those voting for the motion: Secretary Dr. Hamlin, John Daniel, Geoff Kingsley, Ken Parker, and Kathryn Szallar.

Discussion, and Possible Action to: Approve Request for Proposal (RFP) for Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs) for TeachForwardOK and Authorize OEQA to Modify the RFP as Needed. Ms. Szallar made a motion to: Approve Request for Proposal (RFP) for Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs) for TeachForwardOK and Authorize OEQA to Modify the RFP as Needed. Secretary Dr. Hamlin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote of the Commission Members present. Those voting for the motion: Secretary Dr. Hamlin, John Daniel, Geoff Kingsley, Ken Parker, and Kathryn Szallar.

Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Action to: Approve the Funding of Right Start Scholarships and Authorize OEQA to Work with Pearson to Implement the Process for Awarding the Scholarships to Test Takers. Mr. Parker made a motion to: Approve the Funding of Right Start Scholarships and Authorize OEQA to Work with Pearson to Implement the Process for Awarding the Scholarships to Test Takers pending statutory authority, and requiring a qualitative and quantity review by the CEQA one year from now. Mr. Daniel seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote of the Commission Members present. Those voting for the motion: Secretary Dr. Hamlin, John Daniel, Geoff Kingsley, Ken Parker, and Kathryn Szallar.

Discussion and Possible Action to: Enter into Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1), to discuss the “employment, hiring, ... or resignation” of Dr. Megan Oftedal to include Dr. Oftedal’s Annual Performance Review and compensation, and resignation.

A. Vote to Enter into Executive Session; Mr. Parker made a motion to: Enter into Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1), to discuss the “employment, hiring, ... or resignation” of Dr. Megan Oftedal to include Dr. Oftedal’s Annual Performance Review and compensation, and resignation. Secretary Dr. Hamlin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote of the Commission Members present. Those voting for the motion: Secretary Dr. Hamlin, John Daniel, Geoff Kingsley, Ken Parker, and Kathryn Szallar. Executive Session started at 3:35 p.m.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1);

C. Vote to Exit Executive Session and Re-Enter Open Session; Mr. Daniel made a motion to: Exit Executive Session and Re-Enter Open Session. Mr. Parker seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote of the Commission Members present. Those voting for the motion: Secretary Dr. Hamlin, John Daniel, Geoff Kingsley, Ken Parker, and Kathryn Szallar. Executive Session ended at 4:00 p.m.

D. Action regarding item discussed in Executive Session:

Mr. Daniel made a motion to: Take notice of Dr. Oftedal’s resignation and the CEQA’s approval for compensatory time pay out upon Dr. Oftedal’s departure. Mr. Parker seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote of the Commission Members present. Those voting for the motion: Secretary Dr. Hamlin, John Daniel, Geoff Kingsley, Ken Parker, and Kathryn Szallar.

Commission Member Geoff Kingsley left the October 8, 2025, Meeting of the Commission at approximately 4:01 p.m.

Discussion and Possible Action to: Enter into Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1), to discuss the “employment, hiring, [or] appointment” of Connie Reilly as the OEQA Executive Director, to include compensation.

A. Vote to Enter into Executive Session; Ms. Szallar made a motion to: Enter into Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1), to discuss the “employment, hiring, [or] appointment” of Connie Reilly as the OEQA Executive Director, to include compensation. Mr. Daniel seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote of the Commission Members present. Those voting for the motion: Secretary Dr. Hamlin, John Daniel, Ken Parker, and Kathryn Szallar. Executive Session started at 4:02 p.m.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1);

C. Vote to Exit Executive Session and Re-Enter Open Session; Mr. Daniel made a motion to Exit Executive Session and Re-Enter Open Session. Secretary Dr. Hamlin seconded the motion and passed unanimously by roll call vote of the Commission Members

present. Those voting for the motion: Secretary Dr. Hamlin, John Daniel, Ken Parker, and Kathryn Szallar. Executive Session ended at 4:54 p.m.

D. Action regarding item discussed in Executive Session

Secretary Dr. Hamlin made a motion to: Hire Connie Reilly as Executive Director Level II of the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability with the salary set at \$150,000 annually and with a start date of November 3, 2025. Mr. Daniel seconded the motion and passed unanimously by roll call vote of the Commission Members present. Those voting for the motion: Secretary Dr. Hamlin, John Daniel, Ken Parker, and Kathryn Szallar.

Discussion and Possible Action to: Discussion and Possible Action to: Enter into Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1), to discuss the “appointment” of OEQA Deputy Director Michelle Seybolt as a potential Interim Director, to include compensation.

This Agenda Item was moot due to there not being any gap between Dr. Oftedals end date and Ms. Reilly’s start date. The Commission did not enter into Executive Session regarding this Agenda Item or take any action with respect to this Agenda item.

Public Comments From: John Thompson; Tony Ivy; Kim Pennington; and Jerry Mihelic.

Adjournment: Mr. Parker made a motion to adjourn at 4:58 p.m. Mr. Daniel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote of the Commission Members present. Those voting for the motion: Secretary Dr. Hamlin, John Daniel, Ken Parker, and Kathryn Szallar.