

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
of the  
State Board of Education**

**December 18, 2025**



**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OKLAHOMA STATE DEPT. OF  
EDUCATION OLIVER HODGE BUILDING  
2500 NORTH LINCOLN BOULEVARD  
STATE BOARD ROOM, SUITE 1-20  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

**Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 18, 2025**

The State Board of Education met in a regular meeting session on or about 1:00 p.m., Thursday, December 18, 2025, in the Board Room of the Oliver Hodge Education Building at 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 9:29 a.m. on Wednesday, December 17, 2025.

The following were present:

Ms. Jacki Phelps, General Counsel to the Oklahoma State Department of Education  
Mr. Ryan Leonard, General Counsel to the Oklahoma State Board of Education  
Dr. Jennifer Hembree, Executive Secretary

Members of the State Board of Education present:

State Superintendent, Lindel Fields, Chairman of the Board  
Mr. Mike Tinney, Norman  
Mr. Chris Van Denhende, Tulsa  
Ms. Becky Carson, Edmond  
Mr. Wes Nofire, Park Hill  
Mr. Brian Bobek, Oklahoma City  
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, Kingfisher

Others in attendance are shown as an attachment.

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL:**

State Superintendent Lindel Fields called the State Board of Education regular meeting to order on or about 1:00 p.m. Executive Secretary Jennifer Hembree called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, OKLAHOMA FLAG SALUTE, MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Superintendent Fields welcomed everyone to the meeting and led Board Members and all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, a salute to the Oklahoma Flag, and a moment of silence.

**3. BOARD – ADMINISTRATIVE:**

State Board of Education—Administrative (Action) Discussion and possible action on the minutes of the November 20, 2025, Regular Meeting of the State Board of Education.

Board Member Ryan Deatherage moved to approve the November 20, 2025, board meeting minutes. Board Member Carson, seconded the motion. **The motion was approved** with all members voting in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions. **APPROVED.**

**4. SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS: (No Action)**

5. **DEPARTMENT—ADMINISTRATIVE:**  
State Department of Education—Administrative (No Action) Departmental Updates from the Deputy Superintendents: Dr. Romel Muex-Pullen, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction and Ms. Kristen Stephens, Deputy Superintendent of Operations.
6. **Emergency (Provisional) Teacher Certification**  
**Discussion and possible action on requests for exceptions to the State Board of Education teacher certification regulations to permit emergency (provisional) certificates. 70 O.S. § 6-187(G):**  
  
Board Member Deatherage moved to approve the request. Board Member Van Denhende seconded the motion. **The motion was approved** with all members voting in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions. **APPROVED.**
7. **Oklahoma Cost Accounting System (OCAS) Penalty Waivers**  
**Discussion and possible action on requests for OCAS penalty waivers pursuant to 70 O.S. § 5-135.2(B) and OAC 210:25-5-4:**  
  
Board Member Bobek moved to disapprove the request. Board Member Van Denhende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, no; Superintendent Fields, yes. **DISAPPROVED.**
8. **Discussion and possible action to convene into Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. §§ 307(b)(4), (7), and (8) for the purpose of discussing possible action on the following issues:**  
  
Board Member Bobek moved to transition into Executive Session. Board Member Van Denhende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**
9. **Vote to Acknowledge Return to Open Session**  
  
Board Member Deatherage moved to return from Executive Session. Board Member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion was approved** with all members voting in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions. **APPROVED.**
10. **Applications to Revoke Teacher Certificates and Certificate Numbers Applications for emergency orders pursuant to OAC 210:1-5-6(d)(1) summarily suspending the teaching certificates and certificate numbers and setting the matters before a hearing officer of:**  
  
Board Member Nofire moved to issue emergency suspension of teaching certificates of the persons named in Agenda Item 9, and to set the matters for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. Board Member Deatherage seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

**11. Motion to Dismiss**

**Respondent requests dismissal of the Application to Revoke and requests reinstatement of her teaching credentials:**

Board Member Bobek moved to deny the respondent request for dismissal of the Application to Revoke and the request for reinstatement of the teaching credentials of the persons named in Agenda Item 11 and to have the matter proceed to a revocation hearing. Board Member Deatherage seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

**12. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law**

**Motion to accept the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law issued by the Administrative Law Judge based on evidence and testimony presented at revocation hearing:**

Board member Bobek moved to dismiss the Application to Revoke certificates for persons named in Agenda Item 12 under the condition of one year probation with the details of the one year probation to be determined. Board member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Nofire, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

**13. New Business (Any business not known about which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting of the Agenda pursuant to Title 25 O.S. § 311.)**

**14. ADJOURNMENT:**

Board member Bobek moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Deatherage seconded the motion. **The motion was approved** with all members voting in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions. **APPROVED.**

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 9:30a.m. The meeting will convene at the State Department of Education-State Board Room, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

---

Lindel Fields, Chairperson of the Board

---

Jennifer Hembree, Executive Secretary