

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

February 27, 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, February 27, 2025**

The State Board of Education met in a regular meeting session at 9:43 a.m. on Thursday, February 27, 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 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

The following were present:

Mr. Michael Beason, General Counsel to the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE)
Ms. Hanna Roberts, General Counsel to the State Board of Education
Mr. Chad Kutmas, General Counsel to the State Board of Education
Ms. Amy London, Executive Secretary

Members of the State Board of Education present:

State Superintendent, Ryan Walters, Chairman of the Board
Mr. Zachary Archer, Hammon
Ms. Sarah Lepak, Claremore
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, Kingfisher
Mr. Mike Tinney, Norman
Mr. Chris Van Dehende, Tulsa

Others in attendance are shown as an attachment.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL:

State Superintendent Ryan Walters called the State Board of Education regular meeting to order and roll call at 9:43 a.m. Executive Secretary Amy London called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, OKLAHOMA FLAG SALUTE, PRAYER:

Superintendent Walters welcomed everyone to the meeting and let Board Members and all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, a salute to the Oklahoma Flag, and Prayer.

3. STATE SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS:

Acknowledged new Board Members:

Deatherage, Tinney, and Van Dehede

Request to the Attorney General:

Requested guidance from Attorney General Drummond regarding President Trump's executive order on taxpayer-subsidized illegal immigration.

Impact on Federally Funded Programs: Asked if the executive order affects federally funded programs in Oklahoma, such as Title I, school nutrition, and English language proficiency programs.

Compliance Steps: Requested steps to ensure compliance with the executive order as an agency.

Position Statement: Expressed support for President Trump's efforts to control illegal immigration and manage spending, with a commitment to implementing his executive orders in Oklahoma schools.

Social Studies Standards Vote:

A vote will be held on new social studies standards to ensure students receive a well-rounded education. The standards aim to teach American exceptionalism, civics, and constitutional principles. They will provide an accurate and balanced view of historical events while reinforcing American values.

Educational Goals:

The new standards are designed to equip students with knowledge and critical thinking skills. Encouragement for support of these rigorous standards to maintain the full and true context of America's founding principles.

Teacher Certification Issues:

A critical vote will address revoking teacher certificates.

Oklahoma will uphold high professional and ethical standards for teachers. Teachers must provide a safe and appropriate environment; those who cannot meet these standards will not remain in the classroom.

Commendation for the Board's commitment to student safety and ensuring a safe learning environment.

4. **BOARD – ADMINISTRATIVE:**

Board member Deatherage moved to table the January 28, 2025 board meeting minutes until the March 27, 2025 regular board meeting to allow for the three new board members to review. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes.

5. **CONSENT DOCKET:**

Discussion and possible action on the following deregulation applications, statutory waivers, and exemptions for the 2024-2025 school year - **70 O.S. § 3-104**; **Oklahoma Administrative Code 210:35-1-4**:

- (a) Request approval on exceptions to State Board of Education teacher certification regulations to permit of emergency (provisional) certificates - **70 O.S. § 6-187**. Board member Lepak moved to approve the Emergency (provisional) certificates. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Archer, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED**

- (b) Request approval for Oklahoma Cost Accounting System (OCAS) late penalty waiver requests for school districts not meeting the September 1 submission deadline. **70 O.S. § 5-135.2** and **Oklahoma Administrative Code 210:25-5-4**. Board member Tinney moved to approve the waiver requests for school districts not meeting the September 1 submission deadline. Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Archer, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED**

- 1) Peavine Public School, Stillwell, OK - **APPROVED**
- 2) Cherokee Immersion School, Tahlequah, OK - **APPROVED**
- 3) Lone Wolf Public School, Lone Wolf, OK - **APPROVED**
- 4) Guthrie Public School, Guthrie, OK - **APPROVED**
- 5) Porum Public School, Porum, OK - **APPROVED**
- 6) WK Jackson Public School, Oklahoma City, OK - **APPROVED**
- 7) Savanna Public School, Savanna, OK - **APPROVED**
- 8) Virtual Prep Academy of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, OK - **APPROVED**
- 9) Fort Supply Public School, Fort Supply, OK - **APPROVED**

6. **ACCREDITATION STANDARDS**

- (a) The State Department of Education is presenting and requesting approval of the proposed Oklahoma Academic Standards for Science (OAS-S) and Social Studies (OAS-SS) - **70 O.S. § 11-103.6a**

- 1) Presentation of Oklahoma Academic Standards for Science and Social Studies; **Sharon Morgan**, M. Ed, NBCT, Program Director, Standards and Learning and **Brenda Beymer-Chapman, J.D.**, NBCT, Project Manager, Social Studies & Personal Financial Literacy

After discussion, Board member Deatherage moved to table this matter until the next regular meeting. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. The motion failed with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, no; Ms. Lepak, no; Mr. Tinney, no; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, no; Superintendent Walters, no.

Board member Lepak then moved to approve the recommendation request. Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, no; Mr. Archer, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes.

7. **LEGAL SERVICES –State Department of Education**

- (a) Presentation of monthly report on complaints filed, and status thereof, regarding alleged violations of 70 O.S. § 24-157 and administrative rule prohibiting race and sex discrimination - **70 O.S. § 24-157; Oklahoma Administrative Code 210:10-1-23. NONE FILED**

8. **LEGAL SERVICES –State Board of Education**

- (a) Vote 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 Lepak moved to convene into Executive Session.

Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED**

- (f) Vote to Acknowledge Return to Open Session. Board member Lepak moved to return to Open Session. Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following vote: The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Archer, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED**

- (b) Application for an emergency order summarily suspending the teacher certificates and certificate numbers and application to revoke of **1) Dylan Nagode; 2) Terah Wright; 3) Clifton Harris; 4) Yolanda Dunbar**

Board member Lepak moved to approve the emergency order summarily suspending teaching certificates and certificate numbers and application to revoke, as well as refer to a hearing officer and a time and date be set for **item 8(b)**

1 through 4. Board member Lepak moved to approve the emergency order summarily suspending the teaching certificates and certificate numbers and application to revoke. Van Dehende seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED**

- (c) Consent Order to Accept Voluntary Surrender teacher certificates and certificate numbers of **1) Traci Schall; 2) Adrian Waller; 3) America Fulmer; 4) Sheila Raines**

Board member Lepak moved to accept the Voluntary Surrender of teacher certificates and certificate numbers for **item 8(c) 1 through 4.**

Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED**

- (d) Motion to Withdraw Application for Emergency Order to Summarily Suspend Teaching Certification **1) Courtney Peck**

Board member Lepak moved to withdraw the Application for Emergency Order to Summarily Suspend Teaching Certification of Courtney Peck. Board member Tinney seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED**

- (e) Final Board determination after Hearing Officer's proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law and on the teacher certificate and certificate number of **1) Stephen Gainor**

Board member Lepak moved to accept the Hearing Officer's proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law and to revoke the teacher certificate and certificate number of Stephen Gainor. Member Van Denhende seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Archer, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED**

- (g) Discussion and possible action regarding the matters discussed in the Executive Session. – Reflected actions taken are noted above accordingly to each item as listed.

9. **NEW BUSINESS** (not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting the agenda) – **25 O.S. § 311 - NO NEW BUSINESS**

10. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Individuals signed up to give a one minute public comment included Jennifer Dougherty, Aryia Asma, Eric Wright, Ryan Kerr, Bob Linn, Alysa Powell, Judy Heiman, Robert Heiman, Ed Moore, Laurena Starks.

11. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Board member Lepak moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes, Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will convene at the State Department of Education-State Board Room, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Ryan Walters, Chairperson of the Board

Amy London, Chief Executive Secretary