

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
of the  
State Board of Education  
  
July 24, 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, July 24, 2025**

The State Board of Education met in a regular meeting session on or about 9:34 a.m., Thursday, July 24, 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, July 23, 2025.

The following were present:

Mrs. Jacki Phelps, Interim General Counsel to the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE)

Mr. Chad Kutmas, General Counsel to the Oklahoma State Board of Education

Dr. Jennifer Hembree, Interim Executive Secretary

Members of the State Board of Education present:

State Superintendent, Ryan Walters, Chairman of the Board

Mr. Ryan Deatherage, Kingfisher

Mr. Mike Tinney, Norman

Mr. Chris Van Dehede, Tulsa

Ms. Becky Carson, Edmond

Members of the State Board of Education absent:

Ms. Sarah Lepak, Claremore

Mr. Zachary Archer, Hammon

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 on or about 9:34 a.m. Interim Executive Secretary Jennifer Hembree called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum. Ms. Hembree also made note of a minor typo in the original agenda uploaded online and stated that it was amended and posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

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

Superintendent Walters 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 prayer.

3. **STATE SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS:**

Superintendent Walters began his remarks by providing an update on teacher recruitment numbers since July of 2024. The data will not be finalized for another month or two, but Oklahoma has recruited approximately 4,000 new teachers. The Superintendent furthered his remarks by highlighting massive efforts to recruit the best teachers for Oklahoma.

Superintendent Walters made comments regarding continued Summer School Programs that have been showing success across the state.

Superintendent Walters also highlighted the steps that his administration is taking to provide relief to Oklahoma families regarding the funding of school meals. Superintendent Walters expressed the need for a solution that prevents parents from being triple taxed on school meals. Superintendent Walters stated that this is not a funding problem, but it is a spending problem as school districts are failing to provide these meals to students. The Board Members discussed the new requirements by Walters's administration with the Superintendent.

Superintendent Walters also shared his concerns regarding the standards of California and New York, as teachers are moving from such places to Oklahoma. The Superintendent is now requiring those teachers to expressly align with Oklahoma standards and values. The Board Members also discussed the existing requirements of teachers.

The final update that Superintendent Walters shared was regarding the American Virtual Academy—a new private school that promotes patriotism and American values. Superintendent Walters went on to applaud Oklahoma in allowing parents to choose the best schools for their children.

4. **BOARD – ADMINISTRATIVE:**

(a) Discussion and possible action on the minutes of the June 24, 2025, regular State Board of Education meeting.

Board Member Carson moved to approve the June 24, 2025, board meeting minutes. Board Member Deatherage seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the



following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

**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 Carson moved to approve the Emergency (provisional) certificates. Board member Deatherage seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

**\*This item was postponed and discussed after Agenda Item 8.**

**6. ACCREDITATION STANDARDS**

- (a) Request approval of deregulation from OAC 210:35-29-2 for the 2025-2026 school year to have an Abbreviated School Day for Alternative Education:

- 1) Newcastle Public Schools, McClain County
- 2) Healdton Public Schools, Carter County
- 3) Piedmont Public Schools, Canadian County
- 4) Purcell Public Schools, Carter County

Board member Deatherage moved to approve items one (1) through four (4). Board member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

- (b) Request approval for exemption from library media certification requirements pursuant to 70 O.S. § 3-126, OAC 210: 35-5-71, OAC 210: 35-7-61, OAC 210: 35-9-71 for the 2025-2026 school year:

- (1) Arapaho-Butler Public Schools, Custer County
- (2) Cyril Public Schools, Caddo County
- (3) Fairview Public Schools, Major County
- (4) Middleberg Public Schools, Grady County
- (5) Celora Public Schools, Delaware County
- (6) Freedom Public Schools, Woods County
- (7) Lindsay Public Schools, Garvin County
- (8) Oklahoma School for the Deaf, Murray County
- (9) Yukon Public Schools, Canadian County
- (10) New Lima Public Schools, Seminole County
- (11) Mustang Public Schools, Canadian County
- (12) Vian Public Schools, Sequoyah County
- (13) Carnegie Public Schools, Caddo County
- (14) Dover Public Schools, Kingfisher County
- (15) Adair Public Schools, Mayes County
- (16) Temple Public Schools, Cotton County
- (17) Snyder Public Schools, Kiowa County
- (18) Cache Public Schools, Comanche County
- (19) Adair Public Schools, Mayes County
- (20) Osage Hills Public Schools, Osage County

Board Member Carson moved to approve items one (1) through eleven (11). Board Member Tinney seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

Board Member Carson moved to approve items twelve (12) through eighteen (18) pending documentation of their plan within ten days. Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

Board Member Carson moved to approve items nineteen (19) and twenty (20). Board Member Tinney seconded the motion. Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

- (c) Request a statutory waiver concerning Cooperative Agreements for Alternative Education pursuant to 70 O.S. § 1210.568 for the 2025-2026 school year:
- (1) Pawnee Public Schools, Pawnee County
  - (2) Clayton Public Schools, Pushmataha County
  - (3) Caney Public Schools, Washington County

Board Member Van Dehende motioned to approve the request for items one (1) and two (2) and to deny the request for item three (3). Board Member Deatherage seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

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

- (a) Discussion and presentation regarding two (2) Resolutions from the Oklahoma Advisory Council on American Indian Education (“OCAIE”)

No action was taken in regard to this item.

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

- (a) 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 Deatherage moved to convene into Executive Session. Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

- (h) Vote to Acknowledge Return to Open Session.

Board member Van Dehende moved to return to Open Session. Board member Deatherage seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following vote: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

- (g) Consideration of transfer request denial pursuant to 70 O.S. § 8-102.2(E) and OAC 210:10-18-1.1.
- Bethany Public Schools



Superintendent Walters moved to grant the appeal of the transfer to Bethany Public Schools and accept the transfer. Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

- (b) Application for an emergency order summarily suspending the teacher certificates and certificate numbers and application to revoke: **(1) Michael Fraley; (2) Christopher Sanders; (3) Jacob Doshier; (4) Ryan Matthias; and (5) Stephanie Jessup.**

Board member Tinney moved to approve the emergency order temporarily suspend 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 **(1) Michael Fraley; (2) Christopher Sanders; (3) Jacob Doshier; (4) Ryan Matthias; and (5) Stephanie Jessup.** Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

- (c) Consent Order to Accept Voluntary Surrender teacher certificates and certificate numbers of **(1) Aron Percy; (2) Myra Flores-Harmona; and (3) Sean Hamm**

Board member Tinney moved to accept the Voluntary Surrender of the teacher certificates and certificate numbers of **(1) Aron Percy; (2) Myra Flores-Harmona; and (3) Sean Hamm.** Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

- (d) Orders regarding Dismissal of the Application for an emergency order summarily suspending the teacher certificates and certificate numbers and application to revoke of: **(1) Kristy Rochell; (2) Jamie Stepp.**

Board Member Tinney motioned to agree to the dismissal of the Application for an emergency order summarily suspending the teacher certificates and certificate numbers and application to revoke **(1) Kristy Rochell and (2) Jamie Stepp.** Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

- (e) Motions to dismiss the Application for an emergency order summarily suspending the teacher certificates and certificate numbers and applications to revoke of: **(1) Michael Briglin; (2) Roger Jessie.**

Board Member Tinney moved to dismiss an application for emergency suspension in lieu of a reprimand for **(1) Michael Briglin and (2) Roger Jessie.** Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

- (f) Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law from Administrative Law Judge Timothy Houchin: **(1) Nicholas Plank; (2) Kelly Bacot; (3) Jaelah Rose; (4) Trent Winters; (5) Roger Carroll.**

Board member Tinney moved to accept the findings of fact and conclusions of law in regard to **(2) Kelly Bacot.** Board member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, no; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Superintendent Walters, no. **APPROVED.**

Board Member Tinney moved to accept the findings of fact and conclusions of law in regard to (1) **Nicholas Plank**; (3) **Jaelah Rose**; (4) **Trent Winters**; and (5) **Roger Carroll**. Board Member Van Dehende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Dehende, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Superintendent Walters, yes. **APPROVED.**

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

10. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Individuals signed up to give a one-minute public comment included: Sean Cummings, Vicky Steward, Matt Haster, Mike Howe, Peggy Howe, Eliza Howe, Jill Larsen, Aaron Baker, Linda Woodrow, Jessica Scott.

11. **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.. The meeting will convene at the State Department of Education-State Board Room, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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Ryan Walters, Chairperson of the Board

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Jennifer Hembree, Acting Executive Secretary