

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

November 20, 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, November 20, 2025**

The State Board of Education met in a regular meeting session on or about 1:00 p.m., Thursday, November 20, 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, November 19, 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 9:30 a.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 Van Denhende, seconded the motion. **The motion was approved** with all members voting in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions. **APPROVED.**

4. BOARD—ADMINISTRATIVE:

State Board of Education—Administrative (Action) Discussion and possible action on the proposed regular meeting dates throughout 2026. Title 25 O.S. § 311, Title 70 O.S. §3-102.

(a)(action) Discussion and possible action on the proposed regular meeting schedule throughout 2026.

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

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 Bobek 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. Library-Media Specialist Certification Exemption Discussion and possible action on requests for approval for exemption from library media certification requirements pursuant to 70 O.S. § 3-126, for the 2025-2026 school year:

Board Member Carson moved to approve the request. Board Member Deatherage seconded the motion. **The motion was approved** with all members voting in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions. **APPROVED.**

8. Library-Media Services Waiver Discussion and possible action on requests for library-media services exemptions pursuant to OAC 210:35-5-71; OAC 210:35-7-61; OAC 210-35-9-71 for the 2025- 2026 school year:

Board Member Bobek moved to approve the request for one year only. 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.**

9. Petition for a Four-Day School Week Discussion and possible action on requests a waiver from 70 O.S. § 1-105 regarding instructional days and to implement a day-to-hour calendar for the 2025-2026 school year, pursuant to OAC 210:10-1-4(b).

Board Member Bobek moved to approve 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, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

10. Flexibility of Allocated Textbook Funds Discussion and possible action on requests for a statutory waiver for flexibility in the use of allocated textbook funds pursuant to Title 70 § 16-114a for the 2025-2026 school year:

Board Member Bobek moved to approve the request. 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.**

11. Accreditation Warnings Discussion and possible action on issuing accreditation warnings to the following schools pursuant to OAC 210:35-3-201:

Board Member Carson 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, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

12. Private School Accreditation Discussion and possible action on accreditation approval for the following private schools

Board Member Bobek moved to approve the request. 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.**

13. Math and Literacy Screeners Request for approval of literacy screeners pursuant to 70 O.S. §§ 1210.508C(A) and (B) and 70 O.S. § 1210.520(A) and math screener pursuant to 70 O.S. § 1210.907.

Board Member Bobek moved to approve the suggested literacy screeners and math screener. 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.**

14. 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 transition into Executive Session. 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.**

15. Vote to Acknowledge Return to Open Session

Board Member Bobek moved to return from Executive Session. 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.**

16. 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 15, and to set the matters for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. Board Member Tinney 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.**

17. Dismissal Upon reaching an agreed settlement, OSDE requests dismissal of the previous Application to Revoke the teaching certificate and certificate number of:

Board Member Carson moved to accept the settlement agreement and to dismiss the application to revoke subject to the agreed probationary terms. Board Member Tinney 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.**

**18. Litigation Discussion and possible action regarding the pending litigation in Walke, et. al. v. Superintendent, et. al., No. MA-122592; Randall, et. al., v. Superintendent, et. al., No. MA123237; and Ford, et. al. v. Superintendent, et. al.
(No Action)**

19. Discussion and possible action regarding Executive Secretary

Board member Bobek moved to approve the appointment of Dr. Hembree as the Executive Secretary to the State Board of Education. Board member Tinney 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.**

20. 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.)

21. ADJOURNMENT:

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

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday, December 18, 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.

Lindel Fields, Chairperson of the Board

Jennifer Hembree, Acting Executive Secretary