

**Minutes of the Special Meeting
of the
State Board of Education
September 3, 2025**



**State Board of Education
Oklahoma State Department of Education
Oklahoma State Capitol
2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard, (SCR) 535
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 3, 2025**

The State Board of Education met in a special meeting session at 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at the Oklahoma State Capitol, located at 2300 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, (SCR) 535. The final agenda was posted at 9:13 a.m., on Friday, August 29, 2025.

The following were present:

Mr. Matt LaFon, Deputy General Counsel for the Office of Management and Enterprise Services
Ms. Tatyana Blakemore, Commission Secretary for The Commission of Educational Quality and Accountability

Members of the State Board of Education present:

Mr. Chris Van Dehede, Tulsa
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, Kingfisher
Ms. Becky Carson, Edmond
Mr. Mike Tinney, Norman

Members of the State Board of Education absent:

State Superintendent, Ryan Walters, Chairman of the Board
Mr. Zachary Archer, Hammon
Ms. Sarah Lepak, Claremore

Others in attendance are shown as an attachment

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

Board Member, Tinney, called the State Board of Education special meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., Secretary, Tatyana Blakemore, called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

2. **PRAYER:** Mr. Tinney welcomed everyone to the meeting and led Board Members and all present in a Prayer.

3. **LEGAL SERVICES:**

a. Discussion and possible action to approve engagement of outside legal counsel from the Attorney General's §20i list pursuant to 74 O.S. §20i; specifically, to contract with Ryan Leonard and the law firm of Leonard, Long & Cassil, PLLC for representation of the Oklahoma State Board of Education in matters as outlined by the Board, subject to Attorney General requirements and approvals.

Board Member Deatherage moved to approve engagement of outside legal counsel from the Attorney General's §20i list pursuant to 74 O.S. §20i; specifically, to contract with Ryan Leonard and the law firm of Leonard, Long & Cassil, PLLC for representation of the Oklahoma State Board of Education in matters as outlined by the Board, subject to Attorney General requirements and approvals. Board Member Van Denhende seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes. **APPROVED**

4. **BOARD ADMINISTRATION:**

a. Discussion and possible action to establish a process for the hiring of a Board Secretary pursuant to 70 O.S. §3-104 (A)(2).

Board Member Deatherage moved to approve to establish a process for the hiring of a Board Secretary pursuant to 70 O.S. §3-104 (A)(2). Board Member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes. **APPROVED**

5. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Board Member Van Denhende made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Deatherage, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes. **APPROVED**

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 9:30a.m. The meeting will convene at the State Department of Education State Board Room, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

Others in attendance

Clint & Angie Howard
Keith Olsen
Adrian Miller
Jill Larsen
Linda Keisinger
Vicki Steward — Citizen
Melissa Amon
Reagan Burns — Citizen
Ezra Marshall — Sooner State Party
Andrea Beasley/Max — Parent / Citizen
Rem Winans
Gabe Beasley
Wesley Beacky
Connie Sowell — Citizen / Parent / Grandparent
Mark McBride
Wendy Pratt — Pratt Creative
Michael Howe — Citizen
Peggy Howe — Citizen
Chad Neal — Citizen
Dylan Brown — Media / Press
Erik Parker — Legislature
Will Milam — SOS
Melissa Reed — SOS
Erin Buckman — Senate
Elizabeth Fischborn
Shawn Ashley — Quorum Call
Spencer Humphrey — KFOR
Isaac Korstjens — KFOR
Taelyr Jackson — OETA
Amber Boin — W.O.K.E.
Emma Graven — Organizing Okies
Sophia Burch
Sean Cummings — Self
Candice Joy — Self
Elisa Howell — Organizing Okies
Grayson Wheeler — KOSU
Sheena Martin — Enlighten OK
Phil Schultz — CCDP
Ed Simmons — CCDP
Lena Reese — Enlighten Oklahoma
Jessica Scott — WOKE
Carey Warner — WOKE