

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

April 23, 2026



**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPT. OF EDUCATION
OLIVER HODGE BUILDING
2500 NORTH LINCOLN BOULEVARD, SUITE 500 CR-2
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

Meeting Minutes Thursday, April 23, 2026

The State Board of Education met in a regular meeting session on or about 9:30 a.m., Thursday, April 23, 2026, in the Legal Conference 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, April 22, 2026.

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 to the Oklahoma State Board of Education

Members of the State Board of Education present:

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

Members of the State Board of Education absent:

Mr. Wes Nofire, Park Hill

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 March 26, 2026, Regular Meeting of the State Board of Education.
Board Member Bobek moved to approve the March 26, 2026, board meeting minutes.
Board Member Deatherage, 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. **DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES—DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS—ADMINISTRATIVE: (No Action)**
Updates from the Deputy Superintendents:
Dr. Romel Muex-Pullen, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction
Ms. Kristen Stephens, Deputy Superintendent of Operations.
6. **Emergency Waiver Request: Fewer Than 166 Days for 2025-2026 Discussion and possible action on the Emergency Waiver Request submitted by Beggs Public Schools pursuant to 70 O.S. § 1-109(E).**
Board Member Bokek moved to approve the emergency waiver submitted by Beggs Public Schools based on conditions beyond the control of the school district. Board Member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**
7. **Waiver Request: Day-to-Hour Calendar (Fewer Than 166 Days for 2026–2027) Discussion and possible action on day-to-hour calendar waiver requests under 70 O.S. § 1-105.**
Board Member Bobek moved to allow the waiver for the schools listed as agenda items 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, and 7E. Board Member Tinney seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**
8. **Waiver Request: Alternative Education Abbreviated Day Waiver 2026-2029.**
Board Member Deatherage moved to allow waivers for schools listed under agenda items 8A and 8B for a single year instead of three years requested by each school district. Board Member Carson seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

9. **Accreditation Approval for New Private School Discussion and possible action on accreditation approval for A Step Above Learning Center private school(s) pursuant to 70 O.S. § 3-104(A)(7) and OAC 210:35-33-1.**
Board Member Bobek moved to approve the accreditation for A Step Above Learning Center. Board Member Van Denhede seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhede, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**
10. **Emergency (Provisional) Teacher Certification Discussion and possible action on request for exceptions to the State Board of Education teacher certification regulation to permit emergency (provisional) certificates 70 O.S. 6-187(G):**
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 Denhede, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**
11. **Discussion and possible action to convene into Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. §§ 307(b)(4), (7), and (8) for the purpose of discussion possible action on the following issues:**
Board Member Van Denhede moved to convene into Executive Session. Board Member Bobek seconded the motion. **The motion was approved** with all members voting in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions. **APPROVED.**
12. **Acknowledge Return to Open Session:**
Superintendent of Public Instruction of Fields acknowledged a return to open session.
13. **Revoke Teaching Certificates and Certificate Numbers Discussion and possible action on the mandatory revocations pursuant to 70 O.S. § 3-104(A)(6)(a) and 70 O.S. § 3.104.1 of the teaching certificate and certificate numbers of Brogan Sears and Serena Cator.**
Board Member Bobek moved to accept the mandatory revocation of teaching certificate and certificate numbers of teachers listed under agenda items 9A1 and 9A2, pursuant to 70 O.S. § 3-104(A)(6)(a) and 70 O.S. § 3.104.1. Board Member Van Denhede seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhede, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**
14. **Dismissal by OSDE Discussion and possible action on dismissal of the application for an emergency order summarily suspending the teacher certificates and certificate numbers and application to revoke pursuant to OAC 210:1-5-6(g)(2) and reinstating the teaching certificate for Anthony Arnold.**
Board Member Carson moved to accept the dismissal of the application for an emergency order summarily suspending the teacher certificates and certificate numbers and application to revoke pursuant to OAC 210:1-5-6(g)(2). Board Member Bobek seconded the motion. **The motion carried** with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhede, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**
15. **Application for Emergency Order to Suspend and Set for Hearing Discussion and possible action on the application for emergency order to suspend and set for hearing pursuant to OAC 210:1-5-6(d)(1) for Maschielle Brakefield.**

Board Member Deatherage moved to approve the application for the emergency order to immediately suspend the teaching certificate and certificate number and set the matter to a hearing before an administrative law judge. Board Member Van Denhende seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

16. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law: Recommendation from the Administrative Law Judge.

Board Member Bobek moved to accept the findings of fact and conclusions of law upon the recommendation from the administrative law judge concerning persons listed under agenda items 6D1 and 6D2. Board Member Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Deatherage, yes; Mr. Van Denhende, yes; Mr. Bobek, yes; Ms. Carson, yes; Mr. Tinney, yes; Superintendent Fields, yes. **APPROVED.**

17. 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.)

None

18. ADJOURNMENT:

Board member Bobek moved to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Van Denhende 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, May 28, 2026, 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.

Lindel Fields, Chairperson of the Board

Jennifer Hembree, Executive Secretary