

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

February 26, 2026



**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 26, 2026**

The State Board of Education met in a regular meeting session on or about 9:30 a.m., Thursday, February 26, 2026, 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, February 25, 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. Wes Nofire, Park Hill
Mr. Brian Bobek, Oklahoma City
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, Kingfisher
Mr. Mike Tinney, Norman

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 January 22, 2026, Regular Meeting of the State Board of Education.

Board Member Brian Bobek moved to approve the January 22, 2026, board meeting minutes. Board Member Ryan 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.**

4. SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS: (No Action)

5. DEPARTMENT—ADMINISTRATIVE:

State Department of Education—Administrative (No Action) Departmental

Updates from the Deputy Superintendents:

Dr. Romel Muex-Pullen, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction

Ms. Kristen Stephens, Deputy Superintendent of Operations.

6. 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 Van Denhende 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.**

7. 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 Deatherage moved to convene into Executive Session. 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.**

8. Acknowledge Return to Open Session:

Superintendent of Public Instruction of Fields acknowledged a return to open session.

9. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law Motion to accept the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law issued by the Administrative Law Judge based on evidence and testimony presented at revocation hearing:

Board Member Bobek moved to accept, in the matter of OSDE v. Ronald Sanders, the findings

of fact and conclusions of law, recommendation from the administrative law judge. 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.**

10. Applications to Revoke Teacher Certificates and Certificate Numbers Motions for 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 persons named in Agenda Items 9(a) – 9(d):

Board Member Bobek moved to revoke the teaching certificate and certificate numbers of persons named in Agenda Items 9(a) through 9(d) and Agenda Item 8(a). 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.**

11. Dismissals by OSDE Motion requesting an Order to Dismiss the Application for an emergency order summarily suspending the teacher certificates and certificate numbers and applications to revoke pursuant to OAC 210:1-5-6(g)(2) and reinstating the teaching certificate and certificate number of persons listed under Agenda Item 10(a):

Board Member Carson moved to deny the Department’s motion requesting an Order to Dismiss the Application for an emergency order summarily suspending the teacher certificates and certificate numbers and applications to revoke pursuant to OAC 210:1-5-6(g)(2) and reinstating the teaching certificate and certificate number of persons listed in Agenda Item 10(a) and to allow the matter to proceed to a revocation hearing. 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. 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

13. ADJOURNMENT:

Board member Van Denhende moved to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Bobek 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, March 26, 2026, 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, Executive Secretary