

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

March 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, March 26, 2026**

The State Board of Education met in a regular meeting session on or about 1:00 p.m., Thursday, March 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, March 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 1:00 p.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 February 26, 2026, Regular Meeting of the State Board of Education.

Board Member Deatherage moved to approve the February 26, 2026, 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. SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS: (No Action)

5. Review of State Audit of the Oklahoma State Department of Education for Fiscal Year 2021: (No Action)

6. 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.

7. Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies Discussion and possible action on revisions to the Social Studies standards pursuant to 70 O.S. § 11-103.6a and OAC 210:15-3-1.

Board Member Bokek moved to approve the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies. 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. 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 Tinney moved to allow the waiver for the schools listed as agenda items 8C, 8E, 8G, and 8H. Board Member Nofire 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.**

Board Member Tinney moved to deny the waiver for the schools listed as agenda items 8A, 8B, 8D, 8F, 8I, and Bennington Public Schools. 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.**

9. **Waiver Request: Flexibility of Allocated Textbook Funds Discussion and possible action on requests for a waiver under 70 O.S. § 16-114a for textbook funding flexibility pursuant to 70 O.S. § 16-111(E).**
 Board Member Bobek moved to allow waivers for schools listed under agenda items 9A and 9B, and to deny waivers for the school listed under agenda item 9C. 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. **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 Deatherage moved to approve the request. Board Member Bobek 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. **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 Bobek moved to convene into Executive Session. Board Member Van Denhende 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. **Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law: Recommendation from the Administrative Law Judge Discussion and possible action on the proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law issued by the Administrative Law Juge pursuant to OAC 210:1-5-6(g)(2) in the matter of:**
 Board Member Carson moved to accept, in the matters of agenda items A1, A2, A3, A4, and A5, the findings of fact and conclusions of law, recommendation from the administrative law judge. Board Member Nofire 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.**

 Board Member Bobek moved to accept, in the matter of agenda item A6, the findings of fact and conclusions of law, the recommendation from the administrative law judge dismiss the application for the State Department of Education. 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.**

14. **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

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Board member Bobek moved to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Van Denhede 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, April 23, 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