

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

July 31, 2024



Minutes of the Special Meeting of the

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
2500 NORTH LINCOLN BOULEVARD
STATE BOARD ROOM, SUITE 1-20
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

July 31, 2024

The State Board of Education met in a special session at 9:46 a.m. on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, in the Board Room of the Oliver Hodge Education Building at 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday, July 30, 2024.

The following were present:

Mr. Michael Beason, General Counsel to the State Department of Education
Ms. Cara Nicklas, General Counsel to the State Board of Education
Ms. Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary

Members of the State Board of Education present:

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

Members of the State Board of Education not present:

Mrs. Katie Quebedeaux, Guymon
Mrs. Kendra Wesson, Norman

Others in attendance are shown as an attachment.

CALL TO ORDER

State Superintendent Ryan Walters called the State Board of Education regular meeting to order at 9:46 a.m. Ms. Cheadle called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Information from the State Superintendent

Superintendent Walters 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 Prayer.

Superintendent Walters expressed concerns on the tragic assassination attempt of former President Donald Trump, inappropriate comments and threatening gestures made by Oklahoma teachers, school consequences for students displaying hatred behavior, State of Oklahoma cannot allow advocating assassination of a President of the United States, candidate or any elected official; update on Bibles in the classroom directive/guidelines/enforcement, and school district accountability; school districts directed to track cost and impact of illegal immigration, OSDE forthcoming guidance to ensure accurate accounting cost and burden on taxpayers and state.

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE

Minutes of the June 25, 2024, regular State Board of Education meeting - Approved

Board member Burdick moved to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2024, regular State Board of Education meeting. Board member Lepak seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

CONSENT DOCKET - Approved

Discussion and possible action on the following deregulation applications, statutory waivers, and exemptions for the 2024-2025 school year and other requests:

- (a) **Abbreviated School Day – OAC 210:35-29-2 and 210:35-3-46**
Putnam City Public Schools, Oklahoma County

3 years
Stroud Public Schools, Lincoln County
- (b) **Cooperative Agreements for Alternative Education Programs –
70 O.S. § 1210.568**

3 years
Burlington Public Schools, Alfalfa County

Fort Cobb Public Schools, Caddo County
Woodall Public Schools, Cherokee County
Kiefer Public Schools, Creek County
Seiling Public Schools, Dewey County
Fargo Public Schools, Ellis County
Granite Public Schools, Greer County
Tishomingo Public Schools, Johnston County
Wilburton Public Schools, Latimer County
Heavener Public Schools, LeFlore County
Bearden Public Schools, Okfuskee County
Avant Public Schools, Osage County
Shidler Public Schools, Osage County
Allen Public Schools, Pontotoc County
Pleasant Grove Public Schools, Pottawatomie County
Leedey Public Schools, Roger Mills County
Reydon Public Schools, Roger Mills County
Hooker Public Schools, Texas County
Yarbrough Public Schools, Texas County
Caney Valley Public Schools, Washington County

(c) **Library Media Services – OAC 210:35-5-71 and 210:35-9-71**

Dickson Public Schools, Carter County
Mill Creek Public Schools, Johnston County
Tishomingo Public Schools, Johnston County
Dover Public Schools, Kingfisher County
Agra Public Schools, Lincoln County
Crescent Public Schools, Logan County
Fairview Public Schools, Major County
Adair Public Schools, Mayes County
Ryal Public Schools, McIntosh County
Haskell Public Schools, Muskogee County
New Lima Public Schools, Seminole County

3 years

Erick Public Schools, Beckham County
Calumet Public Schools, Canadian County
Wilson Public Schools, Carter County
Kiefer Public Schools, Creek County
Chisholm Public Schools, Garfield County
Granite Public Schools, Greer County
Duke Public Schools, Jackson County
Wilburton Public Schools, Latimer County
Bokoshe Public Schools, LeFlore County
Locust Public Schools, Mayes County
McCord Public Schools, Osage County
Oak Grove Public Schools, Payne County
Crowder Public Schools, Pittsburg County
Allen Public Schools, Pontotoc County
Earlsboro Public Schools, Pottawatomie County
Central High Public Schools, Stephens County

- (d) **Library Media Specialist - 70 O.S. § 3-126**
Twin Hills Public Schools, Okmulgee County
- (e) Request approval on exceptions to State Board of Education teacher certification regulations to permit issuance of emergency (provisional) certificates - 70 O.S. § 6-187
- (f) Request approval for **For Heaven's Sake Christian School** to participate in the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities program
- 70 O.S. § 13-101.2
- (g) Request approval for **Global Harvest Christian School** to participate in the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities program - 70 O.S. § 13-101.2
- (h) Request approval for **Redbud Farm School** to participate in the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities program - 70 O.S. § 13-101.2
- (i) Request approval on flexibility to use textbook funds - 70 O.S. § 16-114a(B)
Bluejacket Public Schools, Craig County
Bartlesville Public Schools, Washington County

Board member Lepak moved to approve the Consent Docket. Board member Burdick seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Archer, yes and Superintendent Walters, yes.

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Presentation from Tulsa Public School District, discussion, and possible action on the Tulsa Public School District accreditation status for the 2022-2023 school year

Dr. Ebony Johnson, Superintendent, Tulsa Public School District (TPS) said greetings from Tulsa Public Schools (TPS), students, families, and Board of Education. Thanked Stacy Wooley, President, TPS School Board for her presence and team members Dr. Kathy Dodd-Deputy Superintendent, Sean Berkstresser-Executive Director of Information and Analytics, Joe Jennings-Chief Information and Operations Officer and new team member, Kristin Stevens-Chief Financial Officer. Due to the hard work of TPS, multiple schools collaborated to remove barriers for students, made warm welcome centers around the students, and excited TPS qualified for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision Program to provide worry-and-payment free student breakfasts and lunches. The program supports in multiple ways, helps collaborate with families, and removes barriers for students to attend school without any challenge.

Over the past year and course of this year, specific initiatives and investments were made to improve TPS student outcomes. The team member report highlighted important structural changes and shifts made to improve across the system, and ways to meet OSDE expectations outlined to improve TPS, and presentation included executive leadership team; consistent, high-quality instruction and resources to teachers; school organization and leadership, Leader Spotlight video: Dr. Rob Kaiser, Principal, Monroe Demonstration Academy, service improvement and high expectations; and concluded how TPS operates as a system, TPS culture and 2024-2025 non-negotiables.

Board members congratulated TPS team on job well done, complimented on continuation of excellent work, providing details of the future, showcasing the data process, best practices, and successes.

Superintendent Walters thanked TPS for their continued hard work, appreciated Dr. Johnson for keynoting the Inspire OK Conference and sharing implemented best practices; thanked board member Burdick for emceeding the conference and dedicated work with TPS; and TPS empowering administrators, data driven decisions, teacher guidance, resources, and trainings.

TEACH and LEARN, SPECIAL EDUCATION-FEDERAL

Presentation on the proposed revisions to the Policies and Procedures Handbook for Special Education Services

Sherri Coats, State Program Director for Special Education Services, presented overview of the proposed revisions for the Special Education policies and procedures handbook. The Office of Special Education is governed by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to provide public education to student with disabilities; OSDE is state agency responsible and authorized to implement and supervise IDEA statewide. The revisions were required by 2023 and 2024 legislation and agency policy amendments, public comment, and public hearing. Recommendations for approval will present at the August 22, 2024, State Board of Education regular meeting.

LEGAL SERVICES

Monthly report on complaints filed, and status thereof, regarding alleged violations of 70 O.S. § 24-157 and Administrative Code Rule 210:10-1-23, prohibiting race and sex discrimination

Michael Beason, General Counsel, State Department of Education (OSDE), advised an injunction issued by a court of competent jurisdiction with regard only to portions of the HB1775 statute 70 O.S. § 24-15. The injunction included striking the final sentence paragraph A1 from paragraph B1 striking the words require, striking letter B1 is C and D. It is concluded that there are still significant portions of the statutes that can be enforced by the agency and have shared my opinion with all in the chain of command that deals with enforcement. Norman Public School District submitted a request yesterday regarding a violation about an assignment pursuant to or about the word 'awoke'. Currently, we are ensuring we accommodate for a separate hearing and a mutually

agreeable time and place with the public school. This is the first type of hearing of this nature OSDE has had and will need to make sure it is completely in compliance with agency rules and fair to the district as well. A report will be provided once agency evaluation is completed.

Discussion and possible action to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. §§ 307 (B) (4) for the purpose of confidential communications with board counsel concerning requests by legislators to observe all executive sessions of the Board on July 31, 2024

- (1) Applications for an emergency order summarily suspending the teacher certificates and certificate numbers pending an individual proceeding for revocation or other action of **1) Scott Renken; 2) Alison Scott; 3) Anthony Deason; and 4) Regan Killackey** pending an individual proceeding for revocation or other action – **70 O.S. § 3-104; 75 O.S. § 314; OAC 210-1-5-6**
- (2) Consent Order to Dismiss applications to revoke teacher certificates and certificate numbers of **1) Lauren Anderson and 2) Solan Harrison** – **70 O.S. § 3-104; OAC 210:1-5-6**
- (3) Consent Order to Accept Voluntary Surrender of Oklahoma teacher certificates and certificate numbers of **1) Michael Paul Allen; 2) Stephen R. Gent; and 3) Jhovanny Fiorina** - **70 O.S. § 3-104;**
- (4) Appeals on student transfer application denial - **70 O.S. § 8-101.2;** 25 O.S. § 307(B) (8); OAC 210:10-1-18.1

**Jenks Public Schools - 24-03
Bethany Public Schools – 24-04
Newkirk Public Schools – 24-05
Pryor Public Schools – 24-06**

Cara Nicklas, General Counsel, State Board of Education advised the motion for Agenda item 9 (a) would be to go into executive session and discuss any Representatives or Senators who wish to come into executive session.

Convene into Executive Session

Board member Burdick moved to convene into Executive Session at 11:08 a.m. Board member Lepak seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Return to Open Session

Board member Burdick moved to return to Open Session at 12:41 p.m. Board member Lepak seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

No decisions were made on the matters discussed in the Executive Session. General Counsel Cara Nicklas remained in the Executive Session.

9. (a) Board member Lepak moved to **table** agenda item 9 (a). Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Discussion and possible action on the following issues:

9.(b)(1) Board member **Burdick** moved to refer the applications to revoke the teaching certificates to a hearing officer, and a time and date for the hearing on proceedings to revoke Alison Scott, Scott Renken and Anthony Deason. Board member Lepak seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

(2) Board member Lepak moved to accept voluntary surrender of the teaching certificate number 435808 by **Lauren Anderson** and to accept the surrender of the teaching certificate number 455594 by **Solan Harrison** and dismiss those hearings resulting in the revocation of those teaching privileges and accredited to schools in the State of Oklahoma effective July 21, 2024. Board member Burdick seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

(3) Board member Lepak moved to accept the Consent Order to Accept Voluntary Surrender of teaching certificate number 443210 by **Johvanny Fiorina**; certificate number 199060 by **Michael Paul Allen**, and teaching certificate 404299 by **Stephen Gent**, and dismiss the pending administration or administrative hearings for the individuals resulting in the revocation of the teaching privileges and accredited schools in the state of Oklahoma effective July 22, 2024, July 5m 2024 and July 2m 2024 respectively for each of the individuals. . Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

(4) Board member Lepak moved to **table** 9(b) (4) the appeal of the transfer applications. Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

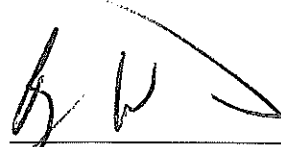
PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals signed up to speak on Agenda item #10 included Sean Cummings, Sheena Martin, Rev. Elisa Howell, Peggy Howe, Kegan Moulton, Carey Warner, Sara Cunningham and Annette Basey.

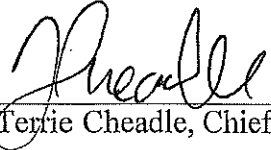
ADJOURNMENT

Board member Burdick moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 p.m. Board member Lepak seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday August 22, 2024, 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.



Ryan Walters, Chairman of the Board



Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary