

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

November 8, 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**

November 8, 2024

The State Board of Education met in special session at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 8, 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 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 7, 2024.

The following were present:

Mr. Michael Beason, General Counsel to the State Department 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
Mrs. Katie Quebedeaux, Guymon

Members of the State Board of Education not present:

Mrs. Kendra Wesson, Norman

CALL TO ORDER

State Superintendent Ryan Walters called the State Board of Education special meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. Ms. Cheadle called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

LEGAL SERVICES

Retain the professional services of Joel Wohlgemuth, of Norman Wohlgemuth, by entering into a professional services contract for the provision of legal services to the State Board of Education - Approved

Michael Beason, General Counsel, State Department of Education (OSDE), made clear Brad Clark with the Attorney General's Office has been involved since the last meeting, not only as a matter of courtesy, but just to ensure that the Board is protected, Ms. Terrie and I have been speaking with Mr. Clark. He approved the agenda and provided some modifications that were provided. In addition to that, everyone understands that this building was closed due to extenuating circumstances and with regard to continuing the meeting here with the press and public present, all of these things were approved by Mr. Clark. Also Mr. Martin with OSDE, was there to witness Mr. Clark stating that he cannot be here today because of family obligations, but he is available by phone should the Board need him.

Superintendent Walters confirmed Mr. Clark did approve the agenda, even with the pipe bursting issue, and he would be available by phone if the board needed to stop at any point.

Mr. Beason said that is correct and advised no motion would be needed, but he is available. The board can convene into executive session on Agenda 2(b) because it involves a pending client specifying the claim of *Walker, et al. v. Walters et al.* in the Supreme Court regarding inclusion of the Bible in the classrooms. If the board decides on board counsel, Agenda item 2(a), can convene into executive session to discuss hiring or move forward to open session.

Board member Lepak moved to go ahead and retain the professional services of Joel Wohlgemuth and take a vote on that particular matter. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

**Discussion and possible action to enter into Executive Session
pursuant to 25 O.S. §§ 307 (B) (4) for the purpose of discussing ending litigation
against Board members in *Walke, et al v. Walters, et al.*, Case No 122592 in the
Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma**

Convene into Executive Session

Board member Lepak moved to convene into Executive Session at 2:04 p.m. to discuss that matter for the purposes of the Board receiving legal advice from Mr. Wohlgemuth. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Return to Open Session

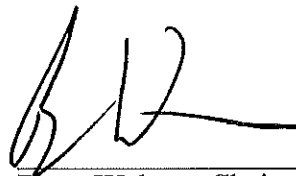
Board member Lepak moved to return to Open Session at 2:27 p.m. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Board member Lepak said members discussed advice from the new counsel on Agenda item 2(b).


ADJOURNMENT

Board member Lepak moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:27 p.m. Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday November 21, 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

