

Minutes of the Special Meeting of
STATEWIDE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD
OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER
800 NAZIH ZUHDI DR.
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
April 29, 2026

The Statewide Charter School Board met in special session at 9:07 a.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at the Oklahoma History Center at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Members of the Statewide Charter School Board Present:

Brian Shellem
Bill Pearson
Amber Wise
Jared Buswell
Britni Tomcho
Damon Gardenhire
Kitty Campbell, designee for State Auditor and Inspector, Cindy Byrd
Courtney Anderson, designee for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Lindel Fields
Stephanie Savage

Others in Attendance:

Rebecca Wilkinson, Executive Director
Skyler Lusnia, Director of School Performance
Emily Witwer, Secretary to the Board
Merin Gracey, Organizational Compliance Officer
Lecrecia Schmidt, Operations Officer
Jaycie Smith, Academic Compliance Officer
Ellie Rivas, Financial Compliance Officer
Lisa Daniels, Director of Horizon: Digitally Enhanced Campus
Shelly Hickman, Communications Director
Thomas Schneider, Deputy General Counsel
Scott May, Assistant Attorney General
John Hadden, Assistant Attorney General
Kwame Mumina, Attorney for Proud to Partner Leadership Academy, Inc.
Cynthia D'Antonio, Attorney for Proud to Partner Leadership Academy, Inc.
Sharri Coleman, Board President for Proud to Partner Leadership Academy
Dawn Bowles, Superintendent for Proud to Partner Leadership Academy

Other general public in attendance are shown as an attachment.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Brian Shellem – Present
Bill Pearson – Present
Amber Wise - Present
Jared Buswell – Present
Britni Tomcho – Present

Damon Gardenhire – Present
Kitty Campbell - Present, designee for State Auditor and Inspector, Cindy Byrd
Courtney Anderson – Present, designee for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Lindel Fields
Stephanie Savage – Present

2. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, Salute to the Oklahoma State Flag, and Moment of Silence

3. Hearing/Individual Proceeding and Decision: *In re: Termination of Charter Contract with Proud to Partner Leadership Academy, Inc., the governing board for Proud to Partner Leadership Academy Charter School, Case No. 2026-01.*

Damon Gardenhire moved to authorize Assistant Attorney General John Hadden to open the record, answer board questions, and answer objections in the individual proceeding. Bill Pearson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Brian Shellem – Yes
Courtney Anderson– Yes
Bill Pearson – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Yes
Jared Buswell – Yes
Britni Tomcho – Yes
Amber Wise – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Stephanie Savage – Yes

John Hadden opened the hearing record for Case No. 2026-01 at 9:13 A.M. Brian Shellem asked board members if there was any reason they could not objectively hear the case and all members answered in the negative. Attorneys Thomas Schneider and Scott May introduced themselves on behalf of the Petitioner, the Statewide Charter School Board (“SCSB”). Attorneys Kwame Mumina and Cynthia C’Antonio introduced themselves on behalf of the Respondent, Proud to Partner Leadership Academy, Inc. (“PTPLA”). Brian Shellem explained the rules of the proceeding and the Board took notice of the applicable administrative rules. Luke Epps, a court reporter with Professional Reporters, was present and transcribed the proceeding. Witnesses for both parties were all sworn in by the court reporter. Mr. Schneider and Mr. Mumina made opening statements on behalf of their clients. Mr. Schneider invoked rule 777:1-1-9(k)(2)(B) to exclude witnesses. All witnesses other than the party’s designated representatives were sequestered until their testimony was taken.

Mr. Schneider called Dr. Rebecca Wilkinson as Petitioner’s first witness. Dr. Wilkinson testified as to her experience in the education field, PTPLA’s application and contract history, PTPLA’s early operations, a fight that occurred at the school, concerns with PTPLA’s special education services, and her site visits to the school and observances at these visits. Dr. Wilkinson answered board members’ questions regarding her testimony. Mr. Mumina cross-examined Dr. Wilkinson and asked additional questions regarding her previous testimony. Ms. D’Antonio conducted the direct examination of Dr. Wilkinson for Respondent. Dr. Wilkinson testified further about PTPLA’s special education services, her site visits and observations, the school’s contract requirements, and PTPLA’s child nutrition program. Mr. Schneider conducted the redirect examination and Dr. Wilkinson again answered board members’ questions regarding her testimony. Dr. Wilkinson was then dismissed as a witness.

Mr. Schneider called Dr. Jaycie Smith as Petitioner’s next witness. Dr. Smith testified as to her experience in the education field, her communications with the State Department of Education (“SDE”) regarding PTPLA, concerns with PTPLA’s special education and compensatory services,

PTPLA's accreditation deficiencies, her site visits and observances, her review of PTPLA student transcripts and state test results, and FERPA violations. Mr. Mumina cross-examined Dr. Smith and asked additional questions regarding her previous testimony. Ms. D'Antonio conducted the direct examination of Dr. Smith for Respondent. Dr. Smith testified further about her communications with PTPLA regarding FERPA violations, PTPLA's compensatory services, and special education deficiencies. Dr. Smith was then dismissed as a witness.

Mr. Schneider called Amy Young as Petitioner's next witness. Ms. Young testified as to her role with the SDE and previous education experience, PTPLA's accreditation history and deficiencies, and her communications regarding these issues. Mr. Mumina cross-examined Ms. Young and asked additional questions regarding her previous testimony. Ms. D'Antonio conducted the direct examination of Ms. Young for Respondent. Ms. Young testified further about PTPLA's accreditation deficiencies. Ms. Young was then dismissed as a witness.

Mr. May called Katherine Black as Petitioner's next witness. Ms. Black testified as to her role with the SDE, her experience with PTPLA, and issues with PTPLA's budget and financial reporting. Mr. Mumina cross-examined Ms. Black and asked additional questions regarding her previous testimony. Ms. D'Antonio conducted the direct examination of Ms. Black for Respondent. Ms. Black testified further about PTPLA's financial reporting and deadlines. Ms. Black answered board members' questions about her testimony. Ms. Black was then dismissed as a witness.

Mr. Schneider called Skyler Lusnia as Petitioner's next witness. Mr. Lusnia testified as to his role with the SCSB, notifications to PTPLA regarding deficiencies, communications with PTPLA, PTPLA's contract and terms, and PTPLA's budget and financial concerns. Mr. Mumina cross-examined Mr. Lusnia and asked additional questions regarding his previous testimony. Ms. D'Antonio conducted the direct examination of Mr. Lusnia for Respondent. Mr. Lusnia testified further about PTPLA's notice of probation and procedural history. Mr. Schneider conducted the redirect for Petitioner and Mr. Lusnia testified about meetings with PTPLA and the progression of school inquiries and audits. Mr. Lusnia answered board members' questions about his testimony. Mr. Lusnia was then dismissed as a witness and the prosecution rested its case.

Mr. Mumina called Dr. Sharri Coleman as Respondent's first witness. Dr. Coleman testified as to her work and education experience, her role with PTPLA, PTPLA's founding, site visits by SCSB staff, her relationship with Dawn Bowles, PTPLA's opening and growing pains, communications with SCSB staff, her meeting with Brian Shellem, SCSB's board meetings involving PTPLA, PTPLA's funding and staffing, and the procedural history of the probation and notice of intent to terminate. Mr. May cross-examined and Dr. Coleman and asked additional questions regarding her previous testimony. Dr. Coleman answered board members' questions about her testimony. Dr. Coleman was then dismissed as a witness.

Ms. D'Antonio called Tahri Hooks-Gresham as Respondent's next witness. Ms. Hooks-Gresham testified as to her experience as the parent of a PTPLA student and the student's experience with other schools prior to PTPLA. There was no further examination and Ms. Hooks-Gresham was dismissed as a witness.

Ms. D'Antonio introduced written statements from witnesses Jennifer Thornton, Holle Waddell, and Anita Kirkpatrick in lieu of their testimony. Both sides rested for the evening and indicated only one witness, Dawn Bowles, was left to testify.

- 4. Possible Executive Session** – pursuant to 25 O.S. 2021, § 307(B)(7)-(8), for the purposes of discussing matters or receiving evidence where disclosure of information would violate federal or state law and engaging in deliberations, rendering a final or intermediate decision in an individual

proceeding pursuant to Article II of the Administrative Procedures Act.

An executive session was not held and no action was taken.

- 5. Administration.** (Action) Discussion and possible action regarding a continuation of the meeting in the event the parties do not rest and the hearing is not concluded within the allotted time on April 29, 2026. In the event of a continuance, an announcement shall be made regarding the date, time, and place of the continued meeting in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

Brian Shellem discussed the need to schedule a date for the continued meeting to complete the proceedings. Board members and counsel for both parties discussed their availability and Brian Shellem announced that the continued meeting would be held on May 11, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. prior to the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

6. Adjournment

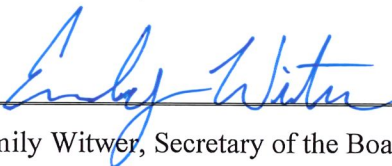
Jared Buswell moved to suspend the current hearing. Courtney Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Amber Wise – Yes
Britni Tomcho – Yes
Bill Pearson – Yes
Courtney Anderson – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Brian Shellem – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Yes
Jared Buswell – Yes
Stephanie Savage – Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.



Brian Shellem, Chairman of the Board



Emily Witwer, Secretary of the Board

ATTACHMENT:

OTHER GENERAL PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

**STATEWIDE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD
 SPECIAL MEETING - APRIL 29, 2026**

Meeting Sign-In

Please PRINT Name	Business - School - Agency	Address
Tahai Hooks - Graduate	PTPIA	
BARRY WISE	B Wise Fitness LLC	
Nuria Martinez-Keel	Oklahoma Voice	OKC
Jericah Prossley	PTPIA	
Neriyah Mitchell	PTPIA	
Sobhan Baidi	OSRC	
Marva Williamson	PTPIA	OKC