

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
STATEWIDE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD
OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER
800 NAZIH ZUHDI DR.
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
May 11, 2026**

The Statewide Charter School Board met in regular session at 1:21 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 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
John Hadden, Assistant Attorney General

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

3. **(Action) Discussion and possible action regarding the minutes of the April 13, 2026, Regular Board Meeting**

Bill Pearson moved to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2026, regular board meeting. Jared Buswell seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

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

4. **Chairman’s Opening Comments**

Mr. Shellem tabled his opening comments due to time constraints.

5. **Executive Director’s Comments**

Dr. Wilkinson noted that May is appreciation month for government workers and thanked the ten full-time staff members and forty part-time staff for their support of the Statewide Charter School Board.

6. **Public Comment**

The Statewide Charter School Board shall hear public comment on any action item listed on the current board meeting agenda. Public comments will be limited to only those subject matters covered in the current meeting agenda. Public comment will not be taken on issues relating to: (1) pending litigation against SCSB or agency employees; (2) a pending grievance; (3) an employee complaint; (4) complaints against SCSB employees; (5) disciplinary action, suspension, or termination of an SCSB employee; or (6) any administrative proceeding initiated by the Board pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act. A sign-up sheet will be posted at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the Board Meeting. Sign up must be completed prior to the scheduled start time of the meeting. Only individuals who have signed up to speak will be recognized during the Public Comment period and will be recognized in the order in which they have signed in. Each speaker will be allocated three (3) minutes for presentation. The Board Chairperson may interrupt and/or terminate any presentation during public comment which does not conform to the procedures outlined under this Section. The Board Chairperson reserves and retains the right to interrupt, terminate, or postpone public comment as necessary to effectuate the management of the public meeting.

Angie Ritter with Southwest Academy Charter School expressed her gratitude for the Board’s consideration and time throughout the charter contract process and her excitement for the future of Southwest Academy Charter School.

Lance Seeright of Le Monde International School expressed concerns about Le Monde's performance framework presented at the March board meeting. Mr. Seeright mentioned his concerns with the data used and differences between the framework data and comparative data in the state report card. Mr. Seeright requested feedback on what data is being used, how it is being used, and a dialogue regarding the frameworks moving forward.

Wren Hawthorne of The Academies of Oklahoma commented about The Academies' performance framework on the agenda for today's meeting. Mr. Hawthorne noted that the framework matters beyond numbers and affects community partnerships, families, and donors. Mr. Hawthorne requested the Board work with The Academies and other schools to develop a more consistent approach to evaluating charter school performance.

Diane Beckham of Tempo Montessori Charter School expressed gratitude for the board voting to approve Tempo's charter school application and for the collaboration in the charter contract process. Ms. Beckham noted she looks forward to student-focused and collaborative work to build schools for Oklahoma children.

7. Board Spotlight – Oklahoma's youngest Registered Nurse, Hailey Cannon, and the Epic Collegiate Academy.

Shelly Hickman, Communications Director for the Statewide Charter School Board, introduced Dr. Shaun Ross, the superintendent of Epic Charter Schools. Dr. Ross addressed the board and spoke about Epic's collegiate program and the success its students have achieved, including Hailey Cannon. Dr. Ross introduced Hailey Cannon, an Epic student who has recently become the youngest Registered Nurse in the state of Oklahoma. Ms. Cannon spoke to the board about her education at Epic and her experience with the Epic Collegiate Academy. Ms. Cannon answered board questions about her success and the role Epic played and discussed her future plans, including her upcoming humanitarian mission and plan to get a doctorate or nurse practitioner license and open her own practice.

8. Presentation and possible discussion regarding the Statewide Charter School Board Working Group reports: Budget, Communications, Governance, and Horizon: Digitally Enhanced Campus

Jared Buswell, Chair of the Budget Working Group, had no update. Damon Gardenhire, Chair of the Communications Committee, reminded board members that the annual charter school conference is scheduled for November and requested school leaders and board members submit presentation proposals for the conference. Chairman Brian Shellem had no update for the Governance working group. Chairman Shellem noted that this was Britni Tomcho's official last board meeting. Ms. Tomcho had served as Chair of the Horizon: Digitally Enhanced Campus Working Group. As Horizon updates were included in the day's Agenda, no report was given at this time.

9. Administration

- a. (Action) Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the approval of the Statewide Charter School Board Charter Contract Template

Skyler Lusnia, Director of School Performance for the Statewide Charter School Board, addressed the Board to introduce the updated charter contract template and explain recent changes made. Mr. Lusnia highlighted notable changes to the template and a proposed addition to section 8.1, proposed by an attorney for multiple charter schools, related to schools' legal compliance. Board members discussed the need for the language and weighed the potential of confusion against the risk of excluding the language. Assistant Attorney General John Hadden and Deputy General Counsel Thomas Schneider both provided guidance and advice on the proposed language. Damon Gardenhire suggested the board work with NACSA and other bodies in the future for advice on contracts and best practices. Executive Director Dr. Rebecca

Wilkinson noted the efforts of staff and multiple attorneys in working on the template and discussed future plans to work with school leaders and members of the charter school community to collaborate on further contract improvements and associated legislative changes.

Damon Gardenhire moved to accept the additional language in section 8.1 of the contract template. Kitty Campbell seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

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

Bill Pearson moved to approve the charter contract template with the additions to section 8.1 included. Damon Gardenhire seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

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

- b. (Action) Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the Tempo Montessori Charter School Charter Contract

Skyler Lusnia introduced the charter contract for Tempo Montessori Charter School and announced that the only changes to be made were school-specific language and the inclusion of the language in section 8.1 approved by the board. Damon Gardenhire moved to approve the charter contract for Tempo Montessori Charter School. Jared Buswell 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

- c. (Action) Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the Southwest Academy Charter School Charter Contract

Skyler Lusnia introduced the charter contract for Southwest Academy Charter School and announced that the only changes to be made were school-specific language and the inclusion of the language in section 8.1 approved by the board. Kitty Campbell moved to approve the charter contract for Southwest Academy Charter School. Bill Pearson 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

- d. Presentation and possible discussion regarding the school opening process for the following charter school and virtual charter school:

- P3 Urban Montessori-Play Process, Progress charter school
- ThrivePoint Academy of Oklahoma virtual charter school

Dr. Cecelia Robinson-Woods addressed the Board to provide an update on the opening of P3 Urban Montessori, a charter school scheduled to open in Fall 2026. Dr. Robinson-Woods highlighted P3's new location, recent open house, projected opening enrollment, and marketing efforts. Dr. Wilkinson noted that members of the Statewide Charter School Board staff attended P3's open house and were very impressed with the school. Dr. Robinson-Woods answered board member questions and expressed her excitement for the school's opening on August 3, 2026.

Dr. William Evans addressed the Board to provide an update on the opening of ThrivePoint Academy of Oklahoma, a virtual charter school scheduled to open in Fall 2026. Dr. Evans announced the hiring of ThrivePoint's founding director, Mindy Direen. Dr. Evans highlighted the transition to a governing board, recent staff hires, and progress on the pre-operational checklist. Dr. Evans introduced Danielle Williams with Anglin PR, who discussed her role in helping ThrivePoint recruit families through a marketing campaign.

- e. Presentation and possible discussion regarding online courses certified for the Oklahoma Online Course Catalog

Dr. Lisa Daniels, the director of Horizon, addressed the Board, first addressing the recent Canvas security breach. Dr. Daniels stated that no Horizon data was believed to have been breached. Dr. Daniels thanked the legislators for reinstating the requested \$3.4 million in supplemental funding for fiscal year 2026 and providing the \$3.4 million in funding for fiscal year 2027. Dr. Daniels then explained the procedure for staff to review and certify online courses annually. Dr. Daniels

stated that preliminary findings indicated that at least 39 courses in multiple subjects would be certified in the Oklahoma Online Course Catalog but explained the review process could lead to additional courses being certified, revised, or removed if they are found to not meet standards. Mr. Shellem noted the success of the Horizon courses and high student pass rates. Dr. Daniels notified the Board of an email from a school principal praising the Horizon AP courses for their student success and increase in enrollment.

- f. (Action) Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding Horizon: Digitally Enhanced Campus and Horizon Consortium subsidy for Oklahoma students.

Dr. Daniels provided an update that surveys from the Horizon conference in March indicate that Horizon courses will significantly grow in the following academic year. She further noted that Horizon is designing 10 of its own courses which are designed to earn students college credit and career tech credentials. Dr. Daniels noted that Horizon had 12 marketplace vendors this year, compared to 6 last year. Dr. Daniels then explained the discount structure adopted to assist schools and incentivize growth, which offers a 30% discount for rural and low-income schools and 20% for legacy members. Dr. Daniels discussed the need for additional research on the efficacy of Horizon programs to inform future decision-making. Dr. Wilkinson reiterated how critical this research is for continued growth and investment in Horizon. Dr. Daniels requested a subsidy of \$1.2 million for Horizon, the same amount granted the previous year. Mr. Shellem asked how growth could be encouraged through subsidies and suggested additional incentives or growth-based discounts. Dr. Wilkinson suggested the Board give the current formula a chance to continue growing as it has seen significant growth but reiterated that further research would be instrumental in developing these incentives. Dr. Daniels answered board member questions regarding how research would be done by third-party vendors. Damon Gardenhire then moved to approve the \$1.2 million subsidy for Horizon. 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

- g. Review and possible discussion regarding the School Year 2024-2025 Annual Performance Frameworks for the following charter schools:

- Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School
- The Academies of Oklahoma
- Western Gateway Elementary School

Mr. Shellem recommended the Board table Agenda item 9g until a later date. Dr. Wilkinson further explained that if there were any question regarding the performance scores, staff would prefer to ensure the information is accurate before presenting to the Board. Mr. Lusnia explained that the 3 schools are all up for renewal and the Board has until October 2026 to approve the renewal but stated

that none of the 3 schools are up for non-renewal based on preliminary reports. Mr. Lusnia noted the June 30th deadline for the schools' renewal applications and the need to present the framework to both the Board and the schools' boards prior to that date. Board members discussed the option to present the frameworks to the schools' boards prior to the Board and the importance of verifying the data with the schools. Dr. Wilkinson explained Organizational Compliance Officer Merin Gracey's research and work on improving the performance frameworks. Following discussion, Mr. Shellem tabled Agenda item 9g until the following month.

10. Possible Executive Session – (Action) pursuant to 25 O.S. 2021, § 307(B)(7)-(8), for the purposes of engaging in deliberations and rendering a final or intermediate decision in an individual proceeding, 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, pursuant to Article II of the Administrative Procedures Act.

- a. Vote to enter Executive Session. At 2:51 P.M., Bill Pearson made a motion to enter Executive Session. Damon Gardenhire 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

- b. EXECUTIVE SESSION in accordance with 25 O.S. 2021, § 307(B)(7)-(8).

- c. Vote to exit Executive Session. At 4:05 P.M., Damon Gardenhire made a motion to exit Executive Session. Bill Pearson 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

- d. Possible action or vote regarding the Board's final decision in Case No. 2026-01.

Mr. Shellem noted that the Board had deliberated and no vote was made during executive session. Damon Gardenhire made a motion that in the matter of Proud to Partner Leadership Academy, Case No. 2026-01, sufficient facts were alleged and true by clear and convincing evidence to determine there were material breaches in regard to the academic,

financial, and organizational requirements in the charter contract. Bill Pearson 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 – No
Stephanie Savage – Yes

Mr. Shellem noted the Board’s responsibility to consider sanctions against Proud to Partner Leadership Academy for violating the charter contract. Damon Gardenhire made a motion that based on the previous finding of clear and convincing evidence, the proper course of action is termination of the contract. Amber Wise 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

Assistant Attorney General John Hadden noted that the Board’s order is not final until a formal order with findings of fact and conclusions of law was considered by the Board and following this, there is a time period for a Motion to Reconsider to be filed. Damon Gardenhire made a motion that Mr. Hadden be directed to prepare a proposed order setting forth specific findings of fact and conclusions of law to be considered by the Board at a future meeting. 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

Mr. Shellem stated that although the Board regrettably had to make this decision, the Board has no ill-will to any staff or family of Proud to Partner Leadership Academy and wishes them the best. Mr. Shellem noted the need for a special board meeting to consider the order prepared by Mr. Hadden.

11. New Business

Discussion and possible action of any item that could not have been known or reasonably foreseen prior to time of posting agenda (As defined in Oklahoma Statutes Title 25, Section 311 (A)(9)).

There was no new business.

12. Adjournment

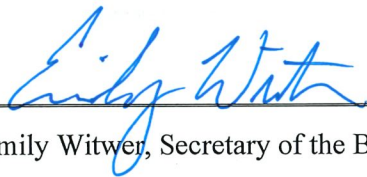
Bill Pearson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Damon Gardenhire seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

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 4:12 p.m.



Brian Shellem, Chairman of the Board



Emily Witwer, Secretary of the Board

ATTACHMENT:

OTHER GENERAL PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

**STATEWIDE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD
 REGULAR MEETING - MAY 11, 2026**

Meeting Sign-In

Please PRINT Name	Business - School - Agency	Address
Angie Ritter	Southwest Academy Charter School	Moore OK
Lance Speericht	Le Monde	Norman OK
Elizabeth Brown-Hill	The Academics of OK	Seminole
RK Robinson	P3	1425 N Kelham
Kendra Cope	OYACS	
Melissa Snipes	OYACS	
Dr. J. Robinson-Woods	P3	1425 N Kelham
Diane Beckham	Tempo Montessori	Tulsa, OK
Barry Schmeitzel	OPCSA	OKC
Wren Hawthorn	Academy of OK	
Quanysha Ruffin	P3	1425 N Kelham
Samade Taylor	" "	" "
Ember Miller	OYA	
David HARR	THREE POINT ACADEMY	
Jennifer Wilkinson	ISOK	MWC
Barney Wise	"	
Mindy Dineen	ThrivePoint	OKC
Audra Plummer	OVCA	MWC

