Minutes of the Regular Meeting of

STATEWIDE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD
OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER
800 NAZIH ZUHDI DR.
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
June 8, 2026

The Statewide Charter School Board met in regular session at 1:01 p.m. on Monday, June 8, 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
Jared Buswell
Marshall Baker
Damon Gardenhire
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
Shelly Hickman, Communications Director
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 - Absent
   Jared Buswell – Present
   Marshall Baker – Present
   Damon Gardenhire – Present
   Kitty Campbell - Absent, 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. **(Action) Discussion and possible action regarding the minutes of the following board meetings:**

   a. April 29, 2026, Special Board Meeting
   b. May 11, 2026, Special Board Meeting
   c. May 11, 2026, Regular Board Meeting
   d. May 20, 2026, Special Board Meeting

   Bill Pearson moved to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2026, special board meeting, May 11, 2026, special board meeting, May 11, 2026, regular board meeting, and May 20, 2026, special board meeting as presented. Jared Buswell seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

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

4. **Chairman's Opening Comments**

   Mr. Shellem noted that Saturday was the 82nd anniversary of D-Day and played a brief video of General Eisenhower's message to the troops. Mr. Shellem reminded the Board of the magnitude of that day and expressed his gratitude for veterans' service. Mr. Shellem encouraged the Board to not give up, embrace the fight, and do what is right for the students of Oklahoma.

5. **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.

   Rachel Brainard expressed concerns about the Board's termination of the charter contract with Proud to Partner Leadership Academy. Ms. Brainard noted her frustrations with the administrative process and stated that she did not feel as though the people affected by the decision were heard. Ms. Brainard discussed the people and families who were involved and her pride in the work done and the students served. Ms. Brainard expressed her desire for public trust to be built by people being heard and accountability from the Board.

6. **Board Spotlight – Known Oklahoma Charter School Expansion for Existing Charter Schools, Fiscal Years 2027-2029**

   Shelly Hickman, Communications Director for the Statewide Charter School Board, presented data on known upcoming charter school expansions. Ms. Hickman noted a recent article from a news organization, The 74 Million, that highlighted charter school student performance in Oklahoma. This led Ms. Hickman to gather information on the current charter market. Ms. Hickman shared data that, compared to the 2024-2025 school year, in which charter schools had 8% of the market share, the market share for 2026-2027 was estimated to be 10%. Ms. Hickman noted known expansions in multiple Oklahoma charter schools through 2029, including The Academies of Oklahoma, Santa Fe South, John Rex, Harding Charter Prep, Tulsa Honor Academy, and new charter schools ThrivePoint Academy, P3 Urban Montessori, Puentes y Puertas, Tempo Montessori, and Southwest Charter. Ms. Hickman shared that these expansions account for approximately 3,000 new charter seats in the coming years.

7. **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, had no update. Executive Director Dr. Rebecca Wilkinson had no update for the Governance or Horizon Working Group.

8. **Administration**

   a. (Action) Review, discussion, and possible action regarding Performance Frameworks for the following charter schools and virtual charter schools:
      i. Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School
      ii. Academies of Oklahoma
      iii. Western Gateway Elementary School
      iv. Virtual Preparatory Academy of Oklahoma
      v. Dove Virtual Academy
      vi. Insight School of Oklahoma
      vii. E-School Virtual Charter Academy

   Skyler Lusnia, Director of School Performance for the Statewide Charter School Board, addressed the Board to introduce the 2024-2025 Performance Frameworks for three charter schools and four virtual charter schools. The schools had overall performance scores of 83.35%, 75.51%, 74.23%, 60.81%, 91.64%, 75.88%, and 69.82%, respectively. Mr. Lusnia noted that two of the schools, Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School and Academies of Oklahoma, are up for renewal this year. Dr. Wilkinson added that while some schools had struggled, two of them had voluntarily made leadership changes to help support the schools. Dr. Wilkinson also commended Dove Virtual for their high score and recently graduating 24 students. Mr. Lusnia answered board members' questions regarding the weights of scores, data sources and timelines, context of scores, and virtual schools' student engagement policies and the need for an analysis into virtual school performance.

   b. (Action) Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the renewal decision for Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School.

Mr. Lusnia introduced Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School's letter of intent for renewal and noted that they had received a sufficient score to allow for a letter rather than an application for renewal. The letter requested the maximum renewal term of ten years. Dr. Wilkinson recommended the 10-year term as the school serves incarcerated students and staff visits have shown that the school is working diligently under the tough circumstances they have. Bill Pearson moved to approve a 10-year term renewal for Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School. Courtney Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Amber Wise – Absent
Bill Pearson – Yes
Courtney Anderson – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Brian Shellem – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Absent
Jared Buswell – Yes
Stephanie Savage – Yes
Marshall Baker – Yes

c. (Action) Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the Oklahoma Youth Academy charter contract, if applicable.

Skyler Lusnia introduced the proposed charter contract for Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School and announced that the only changes to be made were school-specific language and the change to a 10-year term. Jared Buswell moved to approve the charter contract for Oklahoma Youth Academy Charter School as presented. Bill Pearson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Amber Wise – Absent
Bill Pearson – Yes
Courtney Anderson – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Brian Shellem – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Absent
Jared Buswell – Yes
Stephanie Savage – Yes
Marshall Baker – Yes

d. (Action) Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the renewal decision for Academies of Oklahoma.

Mr. Lusnia introduced The Academies of Oklahoma's letter of intent for renewal and noted that they had received a sufficient score to allow for a letter rather than an application for renewal. The letter requested the maximum renewal term of ten years as well as an additional school site. Mr. Lusnia then introduced The Academies' superintendent, Wren Hawthorne. Mr. Hawthorne addressed the board, presenting the school's vision and discussing the school's prior expansion. Mr. Hawthorne discussed the plans to open a Canadian County site in 2027 or 2028 with Board approval. Mr. Hawthorne highlighted The Academies' over $11 million in recent grant support and the academic success of its students. Mr. Hawthorne answered board members' questions regarding the challenges with expansion. Board members then discussed the proposed renewal, potential issues that may arise from longer contract terms for all schools, and the need for expanded accountability and oversight for longer terms. Damon Gardenhire initially made a motion to approve both the 10-year renewal and additional site, but after guidance from counsel on the language of the agenda item, rescinded this motion. Damon Gardenhire then moved to approve only the 10-year renewal term for The Academies of Oklahoma. Bill Pearson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Amber Wise – Absent
Bill Pearson – Yes
Courtney Anderson – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Brian Shellem – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Absent
Jared Buswell – Yes
Stephanie Savage – Yes
Marshall Baker – Yes

e. (Action) Review, discussion, and possible action regarding the appointment of a closing officer for Proud to Partner Leadership Academy.

Dr. Wilkinson notified the Board that they must move forward with a closing officer to handle multiple tasks for the closure of Proud to Partner Leadership Academy. Dr. Wilkinson asked the Board to allow her to appoint an initial closing officer and contract with an additional third party if needed to act as a final closing officer. Dr. Wilkinson stated her intention to appoint Ellie Rivas, the Statewide Charter School Board's Financial Compliance Officer, as the interim closing officer. Marshall Baker moved to appoint Dr. Wilkinson to identify an interim closing officer and contract with a final closing officer for Proud to Partner Leadership Academy. Damon Gardenhire seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Amber Wise – Absent
Bill Pearson – Yes
Courtney Anderson – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Brian Shellem – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Absent
Jared Buswell – Yes
Stephanie Savage – Yes
Marshall Baker – Yes

f. Presentation and discussion regarding the Board's actions and achievements over the previous two years.

Dr. Wilkinson announced that the Board has completed its second year and highlighted some of the Board's accomplishments. Dr. Wilkinson noted that the Board had built its staff, introduced all full-time staff members, and acknowledged the nearly forty part-time employees serving the Board. Dr. Wilkinson highlighted the Board's move to an interactive charter school report, updates to the school application process, notable legislative efforts which led to the passage of HB3372 for school facilities, and Horizon's continued work saving school districts millions of dollars. Dr. Wilkinson concluded with the three major things the Board would be focusing on in the coming year: overhauling the performance framework reports, developing the Horizon research center, and implementing HB3372.

9. 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.

10. Adjournment

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

Amber Wise – Absent
Bill Pearson – Yes
Courtney Anderson – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Brian Shellem – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Absent
Jared Buswell – Yes
Stephanie Savage – Yes
Marshall Baker – Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 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 - JUNE 8, 2026
Meeting Sign-In

Please PRINT Name	Business - School - Agency	Address
Stacy Doyle	E- school	2403 S Division St Guthrie
Melissa Simmons	OVACS	
Rachel Brainard		
Eric Hudson	E-school	2403 S. Division Guthrie
Emma Murphy	Media - Oklahoma Voice	
Rev. James Grayson, SR		
Kylie Sanders	Eschool	"
Wren Hawthorne	Academy of OK	
Jennifer Wilkinson	ISOK	MWC
Omre Oztvrk	Dove Virtual	Warr Acres