

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
STATEWIDE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD
OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER
800 NAZIH ZUHDI DR.
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
July 14, 2025**

The Statewide Charter School Board met in regular session at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, July 14, 2025, in the Oklahoma History Center at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Members of the Statewide Charter School Board Present:

Brian Shellem
Kathy White
Bill Pearson
Damon Gardenhire
Jared Buswell
Kitty Campbell, designee for State Auditor and Inspector, Cindy Byrd
Courtney Anderson, designee for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Ryan Walters

Others in Attendance:

Rebecca Wilkinson, Executive Director
Skyler Lusnia, Director of School Performance
Amy Gibson, Secretary to the Board
Jaycie Smith, Academic Compliance Officer
Lecrecia Schmidt, Operations Officer
Shelly Hickman, Communications Officer
Ellie Rivas, Financial Compliance Officer
Merin Gracey, Operational Compliance Officer and Special Projects

Other general public:

Paige Taylor, FOX 25 News
Brian Allen, FOX 25 News
Erwin Mason, OKC
Jennifer Wilkinson, ISOK
Robbie Rainwater, ESVCA
Kendra Cope, OYACS
Sasha Wdisabiye, NonDoc
Jennifer Palmer, Oklahoma Watch
Nuria Martinez-Keel, Oklahoma Voice
Lealon Taylor, Epic Charter Schools
Audra Plummer, OVCA
Michael Flory, Epic Charter Schools

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Brian Shellem – Present
Angie Thomas – Absent
Kathy White – Present
Bill Pearson – Present
Damon Gardenhire – Present
Jared Buswell – Present
David Rutkauskas – Present
Courtney Anderson – Present, designee for Superintendent Ryan Walters
Kitty Campbell – Present, designee for State Auditor and Inspector Cindy Byrd
David Rutkauskas – Absent

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 June 9, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

There was no discussion on the minutes of the June 9, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

Bill Pearson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.
Damon Gardenhire seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Kathy White – Yes
Bill Pearson – Abstain
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Jared Buswell – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Yes
Courtney Anderson – Yes
Brian Shellem – Yes

4. Boar Membership and Introduction

Chairman Shellem welcomed new board members William “Bill” Pearson and designee for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Courtney Anderson.

5. Chairman’s Opening Comments

Chairman Shellem welcomed those attending and commented on the work of the Board, utilizing the analogy of the Las Vegas Luxor Hotel’s beacon of light streaming in the same direction and the Board’s expectation to focus its work in one direction, education improvement.

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.

There was no public comment.

7. Board Spotlight – 2024 Annual Charter School Report

Shelly Hickman and Ben Sayeski from Education Strategy Consulting presented the 2024 Annual Charter School Report through the new interactive dashboard. Some questions related to the information and potential expansion related to the Report were asked by board members. Report highlights included academic and financial information with examples of potential use for school improvement purposes. The 2024 Annual Charter School Report was submitted to the Offices of the Governor, State Senate Pro Tempore, and Speaker of the House on June 30 as mandated in the Oklahoma Charter School Act.

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

There were no reports from the Statewide Charter School Board Working Groups. Dr. Wilkinson informed the board that the Governance Working Group would meet soon to gather information for the next legislative session. The Horizon: Digitally Enhanced Campus Working Group will seek a new chair for that committee.

9. Administration

- a. Presentation and possible discussion regarding the School Year 2023-2024 Performance Frameworks for the following virtual charter schools:

1. Oklahoma Virtual Charter Academy
2. E-School Virtual Charter Academy

Skyler Lusnia and Dr. Jaycie Smith presented the School Year 2023 – 2024 Performance Frameworks and answered questions regarding the academic, financial, and organizational components of the Frameworks. Board members commented on the low results, especially for E-School Virtual Charter Academy, and Mr. Gardenhire commented on the need for a School Improvement or Turnaround Plan with targeted and measurable goals for low performing schools.

- b. (Action) Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding consideration to secure an accounting firm to investigate and provide recommendations directly to the Statewide Charter School Board regarding Epic Charter Schools financial and organizational performance.

Skyler Lusnia and Dr. Rebecca Wilkinson provided information related to their request for approval to engage an accounting firm to provide an audit of Epic Charter Schools with the intent to report directly to the SCSB with both findings and recommendations.

Damon Gardenhire made a motion to authorize SCSB staff to retain an auditing firm to perform a comprehensive audit of Epic Charter Schools with the scope of work to include performance, financial, and operational reviews, as well as reviewing remedies or corrective actions implemented by Epic's governing board and determining whether the corrective actions taken or to be taken will stabilize Epic's operations. Mr. Gardenhire further moved that the review of potential auditing firms include a forensic auditing skill set.

Jared Buswell seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Kathy White – Yes
Bill Pearson – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Jared Buswell – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Yes
Courtney Anderson – Yes
Brian Shellem – Yes

c. Presentation and discussion regarding the Application for Initial Authorization Process

Dr. Rebecca Wilkinson presented information related to new guidance for the Application for Initial Authorization process and potential revisions for the Board's consideration.

d. (Action) Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding SCSB officer elections:

1. Chairperson
2. Vice-chairperson

Damon Gardenhire nominated Brian Shellem as Chairperson. Bill Pearson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Bill Pearson – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Jared Buswell – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Yes
Courtney Anderson – Yes
Brian Shellem – Yes
Kathy White – Yes

Kitty Campbell made a motion to nominate Damon Gardenhire as Vice-Chairperson, and Kathy White seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Jared Buswell – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Yes
Courtney Anderson – Yes
Brian Shellem – Yes
Kathy White – Yes
Bill Pearson – Yes

10. 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.

11. Adjournment

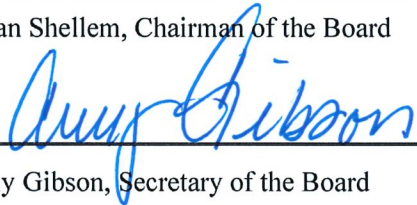
Bill Pearson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Damon Gardenhire seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Jared Buswell – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Yes
Courtney Anderson – Yes
Brian Shellem – Yes
Kathy White – Yes
Bill Pearson – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.



Brian Shellem, Chairman of the Board



Amy Gibson, Secretary of the Board