

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of
STATEWIDE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD
OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER
800 NAZIH ZUHDI DR.
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
July 30, 2024**

The Statewide Charter School Board met in special session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, in the Oklahoma History Center at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Members of the Statewide Charter School Board Present:

Brian Shellem
Kathleen White
Becky Gooch
Damon Gardenhire
Jared Buswell
Dr. Kitty Campbell, designee for State Auditor and Inspector, Cindy Byrd
Ryan Walters
Jared Lepak
Angie Thomas

Others in Attendance:

Rebecca Wilkinson, Executive Director
Amy Gibson, Secretary to the Board
Jaycie Smith, Academic Compliance Officer
Skyler Lusnia, Financial Compliance Officer
Lecrecia Schmidt, Operations Officer
Shelly Hickman, Communications Officer

Other general public:

Murray Evans, The Oklahoman
Reed Downey
David Oakley, LegisOK
Tulsa World
Kyle Crusoe, OAG
Maggi Williams, OAG
Kennedy Thomason, Oklahoma Voice
Randy Alvaicato, PTPLA
Thomas Schneider, OAG
Jennifer Palmer, Oklahoma Watch
Rachell Breinerd, PTPLA
Jordan Dawson, Church Alive
Brooke Dawson
Marva Williamson, PTPLA
Bennett Brinkman, NonDoc

Gemma Bernardino, PTPLA
John Tautfest, OSDE
Dawn Bowles, PTPLA
Sherri Coleman, PTPLA
Charlesetta Jossell, PTPLA
Andy Weber, KOCO
Francisco Hildalgo, KOCO

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Brian Shellem – Present
Angie Thomas – Present
Kathleen White – Present
Becky Gooch – Present
Damon Gardenhire – Present
Jared Buswell – Present
Ben Lepak – Present
Dr. Kitty Campbell – Present
Superintendent Walters – Present

2. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, SALUTE TO THE OKLAHOMA STATE FLAG, AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

3. OPENING MEETING ACT and OPEN RECORDS ACT TRAINING – Dr. Jaycie Smith presented Open Meeting Act and Open Record information to the Statewide Charter School Board.

4. OPENING COMMENTS – Chairman Brian Shellem – Mr. Shellem thanked each Board member for their willingness to serve on the Board. Mr. Shellem also thanked Dr. Wilkinson and the staff of the Statewide Charter School Board for all their hard work and dedication to the Board. Mr. Shellem read an article out of the Harvard Business Review about David Banister. He reminded the Board and all in attendance that our mindset is greater than ourselves.

5. (ACTION) Discussion and possible action regarding the Statewide Charter School Board Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Purpose Statement, Core Values, and Measures of Success. Damon Gardenhire, Kitty Campbell and Brian Shellem worked on the document together. This document can be considered a working document and can be amended later if need be. There are three or four themes within these statements. First, focus on academic quality and excellence. Second, a culture and environment that encourages innovation. Three, a culture and environment that provides as many options to Oklahoma families as possible so they can look for the best education that fits their family’s needs. Four, what do we want at the end of the day?

Ben Lepak made a motion to approve the entire document to include the Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Purpose, Measures of Success, and Core Values as presented by the committee. Becky Gooch seconded the motion. The motion carries with the following votes:

Angie Thomas – Yes
Kathleen White – Yes
Becky Gooch – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Jared Buswell – Yes

Ben Lepak – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Yes
Superintendent Walters – Yes
Brian Shellem – Yes

11. (ACTION) Discussion and possible action regarding the Statewide Charter School Board Authorization and Authorization Renewal Application and Guidance. Dr. Wilkinson informed the board that the documents were built on Senate Bill 516, the Revised Oklahoma Charter School Act.

Damon Gardenhire made a motion to accept both the Guidance for Application for Authorization and the Guidance for Authorization Renewal documents. Superintendent Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Brian Shellem – Yes
Jared Buswell – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Angie Thomas – Yes
Ben Lepak – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Yes
Superintendent Walters – Yes
Kathy White – Yes
Becky Gooch – Yes

10. (ACTION) Discussion and possible action regarding the request to amend the charter contract to add grades nine and ten for Proud to Partner Leadership Academy. Dr. Wilkinson introduced Superintendent Dawn Bowles from PTPLA to the Board. Superintendent Bowles presented the need to add grades nine and ten to their current contract. PTPLA seeks to transform the lives of high school students so they are empowered to believe in themselves and prepare to lead beyond high school.

Ben Lepak made a motion allowing PTPLA to include grades nine and ten through a contract amendment. Damon Gardenhire seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes.

Brian Shellem – Yes
Jared Buswell – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Angie Thomas – Yes
Ben Lepak – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Yes
Superintendent Walters – Yes
Kathy White – Yes
Becky Gooch – Yes

7. (ACTION) Discussion and possible action regarding pending litigation related to St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School and the Supreme Court’s June 25, 2024, ruling, including without limitation substitution of the Board for the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board in such litigation and appeal of the Supreme Court’s ruling to the United States Supreme Court. There was discussion regarding clarification of representation from the Attorney General’s office. There was discussion about assuming the previous Board’s responsibilities as of July 1, 2024, to include litigation.

Mr. Lepak made a motion to formally substitute the Statewide Charter School Board for the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board in all pending litigation involving the SVCSB and St. Isidore of Seville

Catholic Charter School. Superintendent Walters Seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Brian Shellem – Yes
Jared Buswell – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Angie Thomas – Yes
Ben Lepak – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Yes
Superintendent Walters – Yes
Kathy White – Yes
Becky Gooch – No

Ben Lepak made a motion that the Statewide Charter School Board pursue an appeal of the Oklahoma Supreme Courts June 25, 2024, ruling to the United States Supreme Court. Angie Thomas seconded the motion.

Brian Shellem – Yes
Jared Buswell – Abstain
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Angie Thomas – Yes
Ben Lepak – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Yes
Superintendent Walters – Yes
Kathy White – Yes
Becky Gooch – No

8. (ACTION) Discussion and possible action regarding legal counsel through 74 O.S. § 20i. Brian Shellem informed the Board Thomas Schneider from the Attorney General’s Office was present. In normal circumstances, the AG would provide counsel to the Board. However, due to a conflict of interest, this board should have outside counsel.

Ben Lepak made a motion to retain Cheryl Plaxico and Alliance Defending Freedom and continue on since they were already counsel of record. Jared Buswell seconded the morion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Brian Shellem – Yes
Jared Buswell – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Angie Thomas – Yes
Ben Lepak – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Yes
Superintendent Walters – Yes
Kathy White – Yes
Becky Gooch –Yes

Ben Lepak made a motion to move through the 20i process to retain Dan Carsey/Hall Estill to represent the SCSB for the purposes of normal duties. Ryan Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Brian Shellem – Yes

Jared Buswell – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Angie Thomas – Yes
Ben Lepak – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Yes
Superintendent Walters – Yes
Kathy White – Yes
Becky Gooch – Yes

6. (ACTION) Discussion and possible action regarding the Oklahoma Supreme Court's June 25, 2024, ruling in regard to rescission of the St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School Charter Contract.

Ben Lepak made a motion to table this item until such time that all litigation regarding St. Isidore is concluded. Damon Gardenhire seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Brian Shellem – Yes
Jared Buswell – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Angie Thomas – Yes
Ben Lepak – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Yes
Superintendent Walters – Yes
Kathy White – Yes
Becky Gooch – No

9. (ACTION) Discussion and possible action regarding Statewide Charter School Board Committees. Chairman Shellem informed the Board of the need for committees led by Members. The committees suggested were a budget committee, an advocacy committee, Horizon committee, authorization committee, and a governance committee. Dr. Wilkinson suggested the Board establish at least two committees today. She suggested the budget and the advocacy committee.

Damon Gardenhire made a motion to establish two committees with assignments by the Chair, a communications committee and a budget committee. Jared Buswell seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Brian Shellem – Yes
Jared Buswell – Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Angie Thomas – Yes
Ben Lepak – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Yes
Superintendent Walters – Yes
Kathy White – Yes
Becky Gooch – Yes

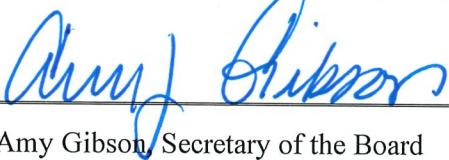
12. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m. Ben Lepak made a motion to adjourn. Damon Gardenhire seconded the motion, and the motion carried with the following votes:

- Brian Shellem – Yes
- Jared Buswell – Yes
- Damon Gardenhire – Yes
- Angie Thomas – Yes
- Ben Lepak – Yes
- Kitty Campbell – Yes
- Superintendent Walters – Yes
- Kathy White – Yes
- Becky Gooch – Yes



Brian Shellem, Chairman of the Board



Amy Gibson, Secretary of the Board