

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
STATEWIDE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD  
OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER  
800 NAZIH ZUHDI DR.  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK  
November 10, 2025**

The Statewide Charter School Board met in regular session at 1:03 p.m. on Monday, November 10, 2025, in the Oklahoma History Center at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

**Members of the Statewide Charter School Board Present:**

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

**Others in Attendance:**

Rebecca Wilkinson, Executive Director  
Skyler Lusnia, Director of School Performance  
Merin Gracey, Interim Secretary to the Board  
Lecrecia Schmidt, Operations Officer  
Shelly Hickman, Communications Director  
Jaycie Smith, Academic Compliance Officer  
Ellie Rivas, Financial Compliance Officer  
Lisa Daniels, Director of Horizon: Digitally Enhanced Campus

**Other general public:**

Kylie Sanders, E-School	Diane Beckham, Tempo	Mary Smith, PTPLA
Virtual Charter Academy	Charter School	Sheila Williams, PTPLA
Stacy Doyle, E-School Virtual	Jenna Krom, Tempo Charter	Lafayette Williams, PTPLA
Charter Academy	School	Ashley Polk, PTPLA
Tammy Shepherd, E-School	Angie Ritter, Southwest	June Baker, PTPLA
Virtual Charter Academy	Academy Charter School	Shayla Johnson, PTPLA
Kendra Cope, OYACS	Eric Doss, OPSRC	Erika Johnson, PTPLA
Jason Mack, OKCPS	Michel Seard, Seard	Joannie Wade, PTPLA
Erik Parker, LegisOK	Construction Co.	Jennifer Thornton, PTPLA
Marsha Lyons, OKC Chapter	Wren Hawthorne, Academies	Des Chew, PTPLA
Chums, Inc.	of Oklahoma	Adria O, PTPLA
Sonya Dylan, OKC Chapter	Dawn Bowles, PTPLA	Natasha Stocks, PTPLA
Chums, Inc.	Sydney Smith, PTPLA	Lason Chew, PTPLA
Audra Plummer, OVCA	Anita Kirkpatrick, PTPLA	Alan Washington, PTPLA
Stacy Johnson	Carol Calvin, PTPLA	Charlesetta Jossell, PTPLA
Kenneth James, Deborah	William Calvin, PTPLA	Vickie Willithe, PTPLA
Brown Community School	Priscilla Metoyer, PTPLA	James Wall, PTPLA

Chandra Coleman, PTPLA

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Brian Shellem – Present  
Bill Pearson – Present  
Amber Hidy - Present  
Jared Buswell – Present  
Britni Tomcho – Present  
David Rutkauskas – Absent  
Damon Gardenhire – Present  
Kitty Campbell - Present, designee for State Auditor and Inspector, Cindy Byrd  
Courtney Anderson - Present, designee for State Dept of Education Superintendent, Lindel Fields

**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 October 13, 2025, Regular Board Meeting**

Jared Buswell made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2025, regular board meetings. Bill Pearson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Kitty Campbell – Yes  
Bill Pearson – Yes  
Courtney Anderson – Yes  
Damon Gardenhire – Yes  
Amber Hidy - Yes  
Brian Shellem – Yes  
Britni Tomcho – Abstain  
Jared Buswell – Yes  
David Rutkauskas – Absent

**4. Chairman's Opening Comments**

Chairman Shellem announced that agenda items four and five would be postponed until later in the meeting and proceeded to item six: the Board Spotlight on Deborah Brown Community School.

At the conclusion of the administration agenda items, Chairman Shellem shared holiday well wishes for Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. He encouraged everyone to thank a veteran and enjoy time with friends and family over the Thanksgiving holiday.

**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.*

Dr. Sharri Coleman read a prepared statement on behalf of Proud to Partner Leadership Academy charter school.

#### **6. Board Spotlight – Deborah Brown Community School**

Shelly Hickman provided a brief introduction to the Deborah Brown Community School, highlighting its academic rankings as detailed in the Oklahoma Charter Schools Report. Proficiency rates for African American students at the school are three times higher than those in Tulsa Public Schools. Since its inception, the school has consistently outperformed other elementary schools in the Tulsa area.

Deborah Brown founded the school in 1999, serving over 200 students from kindergarten through third grade, establishing it as one of the first charter schools in Tulsa and the state of Oklahoma. Ms. Brown exemplified the importance of a good consistent curriculum and a high-quality education.

Ms. Aisha Brown, an instructional coach at the school, guided students from kindergarten through third grade in showcasing their academic skills through a series of question-and-answer sessions and recital performances.

#### **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, noted that there was no presentation at this time. Damon Gardenhire, Chair of the Communications Committee, shared updates on planning for the upcoming Horizon Conference in March and the next charter school conference in November, including ideas for sponsorships and ways to promote the conferences. In the absence of David Rutkauskas, Chair of the Governance Committee, Dr. Wilkinson reminded attendees that the proposed administrative rules have now been published. During the comment period, written submissions were received, and an in-person hearing was scheduled. Brittney Tomcho, Chair of the Horizon: Digitally Enhanced Campus Working Group, announced the establishment of the Horizon Committee and issued a call for new members.

#### **8. Administration**

- a. Presentation and possible discussion regarding Academic Program Reviews for the following schools: Academies of Oklahoma, E-School Virtual Charter Academy, and Virtual Preparatory Academy of Oklahoma

Dr. Jaycie Smith presented highlights from the academic reviews of Academies of Oklahoma, E-School Virtual Charter Academy, and Virtual Preparatory Academy of Oklahoma. These reviews involved a desktop analysis of documents and on-site interviews, focusing on governing board roles, student achievement data, and the written curricula for each school.

Dr. Wilkinson recognized the Academies of Oklahoma's Seminole School, commending the impressive results and efforts by Superintendent Hawthorne and the Academies board in replicating similar successes across other Academies schools. Among several recent honors

are a \$7.2 million grant and recognition as a top school by U.S. News & World Report.

Dr. Wilkinson noted that recent academic improvements are underway at E-School, including the appointment of a superintendent and other leadership changes. Mr. Shellem inquired about instances when the school was not aligned with the curriculum, to which Dr. Smith responded that misalignments occurred with specific subsets of the curriculum. Mr. Buswell asked about the reasons for parents selecting E-School Virtual Charter Academy over other virtual options, suggesting marketing might be a factor. Dr. Smith explained that there are currently seven virtual schools available, and one key differentiator for E-School is its requirement for more credits to graduate.

Dr. Wilkinson noted that Virtual Preparatory Academy of Oklahoma has a distinctive agreement with a local public school district involved in Norman's Aviation Academy, providing virtual students with opportunities to participate in the program. Mr. Shellem inquired about the school's academic performance, and Dr. Smith explained that as a new school there were an insufficient number of students to conduct an assessment this year. Mr. Gardenhire sought clarification on the school's current report card grade from the State Department of Education, to which Dr. Smith responded that, like the student assessments, the school is too new for evaluation.

- b. Presentation and possible discussion regarding potential charter school and virtual charter school applications for initial authorization

Mr. Lusnia delivered an update on recent letters of intent and applications for initial authorization. Over the past months, eight letters of intent to apply and two applications for initial authorization, have been submitted, comprising of three proposed virtual charter schools and five proposed brick-and-mortar charter schools. Not all are expected to proceed, as one has since stated they are not prepared, and another has received approval from a local school district. Nonetheless, this reflects a substantial level of interest.

- c. Presentation, and possible discussion regarding submitted charter school and virtual charter school applications for initial authorization

- I. Southwest Academy Charter School
- II. Tempo Montessori Charter School

Mr. Lusnia noted that agency rules allow new applicants the opportunity to present to the board, and he introduced the two current applicants. Angie Ritter, Board President of Southwest Academy Charter School, outlined the proposed school's model and addressed inquiries. Diane Beckham, Founding Executive Director of Tempo Montessori Charter School, similarly presented the proposed school's model and addressed inquiries.

- d. (Action) Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding compliance concerns and unresolved deficiencies on the Tiered School Oversight Model related to Proud to Partner Leadership Academy charter school

Mr. Lusnia presented SCSB's Tiered Oversight Model, which outlines six levels of identified concerns related to student engagement and student-to-teacher ratios, online learning, financial compliance, and document submissions to the SCSB. He reported that multiple serious concerns regarding Proud to Partner Leadership Academy fall within the



academic, organizational, and financial categories, and recommended the school be placed on a warning notification status.

Bill Pearson moved to go directly to probation and Kitty Campbell seconded the motion. However, following further discussion and clarification of the oversight model, Mr. Pearson moved to amend the motion to move towards probation in the areas of academic, financial, and organizational compliance and provide the timeframe of November 26, 2025, to provide a plan that includes an effective date and implementation period. Damon Gardenhire seconded the amended motion.

The amendment to the motion carried with the following votes:

Bill Pearson – Yes  
Kitty Campbell – Yes  
Courtney Anderson – Yes  
Jared Buswell – Yes  
Brian Shellem – Yes  
Britni Tomcho – Yes  
David Rutkauskas – Absent  
Damon Gardenhire – Yes  
Amber Hidy – Yes

Chairman Shellem called for a vote on the original motion.

The motion carried with the following votes:

Kitty Campbell – Yes  
Brian Shellem – Yes  
Bill Pearson – Yes  
Courtney Anderson – Yes  
Britni Tomcho – Yes  
Jared Buswell – Yes  
David Rutkauskas – Absent  
Damon Gardenhire – Yes  
Amber Hidy – Yes

## **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. Bill Pearson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Amber Hidy - Yes  
Britni Tomcho – Yes  
Bill Pearson – Yes  
Courtney Anderson – Yes


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Damon Gardenhire – Yes  
Brian Shellem – Yes  
Kitty Campbell – Yes  
David Rutkauskas – Absent  
Jared Buswell – Yes

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.**



Brian Shellem, Chairman of the Board



Merin Gracey, Interim Secretary of the Board