

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
STATEWIDE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD
OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER
800 NAZIH ZUHDI DR.
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
April 13, 2026

The Statewide Charter School Board met in regular session at 1:02 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 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
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

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 - Absent
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

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 March 9, 2026, Regular Board Meeting**

Jared Buswell moved to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2026, regular board meeting. Damon Gardenhire seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

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

4. **Chairman’s Opening Comments**

Mr. Shellem notified the Board that David Rutkauskas had announced his resignation and thanked him for his service to the Board. He announced that Britni Tomcho will also be leaving the Board in the coming months. Mr. Shellem reflected on the Artemis II’s mission and noted that it should serve as a reminder not to be fearful of the unknown.

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.

There were no public comments.

6. **Board Spotlight – Tulsa Honor Academy**

Shelly Hickman, Communications Director for the Statewide Charter School Board, introduced Elsie Pollock, the Founder and CEO of Tulsa Honor Academy, a charter school in East Tulsa founded in

2015 and now serving over 1,300 students. Pollock addressed the board and presented information on Tulsa Honor Academy, including its history, core values and principles, and the success of its college preparation program. Pollock stressed the importance of funding for charter schools and the challenges faced in purchasing facilities. Pollock's Chief of Staff, Madison Dominguez, also addressed the board and spoke about the school's current priorities, including student growth, attendance, and fighting chronic absenteeism. Pollock shared data on the school's recent graduating class, college acceptance rates, and awarded scholarships.

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, reported that the appropriations bill, which included all requested funds, along with supplemental funds for Horizon, had passed both the House and Senate and was awaiting the Governor's signature. Damon Gardenhire, Chair of the Communications Committee, reported that the monthly Lunch and Learns have been successful and well-attended and provided a reminder that the Board's annual conference was scheduled for November 4 and 5, 2026. In the absence of David Rutkauskas, Chair of the Governance Committee, Chairman Brian Shellem reported that the facilities funding bill was gaining momentum. Dr. Wilkinson further reported that the proposed Administrative Rules had passed committee and were moving forward. Britni Tomcho, Chair of the Horizon: Digitally Enhanced Campus Working Group, reported the Horizon Connect Conference was successful, with over 260 registrants from 101 districts and an average rating of 4.87/5 from attendees. Dr. Wilkinson added that Superintendent Lindel Fields gave an excellent keynote speech at the conference and thanked him for attending.

8. Administration

- a. Presentation and discussion of the 2025 Annual Charter School Report.

Shelly Hickman presented the 2nd Annual Charter School Report, an interactive report covering the 2024-2025 school year. Hickman noted that a 3-year grant in partnership with the Oklahoma Public School Resource Center and the Walton Foundation made the interactive report possible. Hickman introduced Ben Sayeski, co-founder of ESC, the company that developed the data visualization platform used for the report. Sayeski displayed multiple new features of the platform and explained how to view the data by various metrics. Sayeski highlighted key points from the data such as charter school proficiency and funding disparities between traditional public schools and charter schools.

9. Executive Session – (Action) Proposed Executive Session in accordance with 25 O.S. 2021 § 307(B)(4), consistent with 2005 OK AG 29, for confidential communications between the Board and its attorney(s) to discuss pending litigation: *Drummond v. Oklahoma Statewide Charter School Board*, CV-2026-649 (Okla. Cnty.) and *The National Ben Gamla Jewish Charter Foundation, Inc. v. Drummond, et al.*, 5:26-cv-582 (W.D. Okla.).

- a. Vote to enter Executive Session. At 2:20 P.M., Damon Gardenhire made a motion to enter Executive Session. Jared Buswell seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

Brian Shellem – Yes
Courtney Anderson – Yes
Bill Pearson – Yes

Kitty Campbell – Yes
Jared Buswell – Yes
Britni Tomcho – Yes
Amber Wise – Absent
Damon Gardenhire – Yes

- b. EXECUTIVE SESSION in accordance with 25 O.S. § 307(B)(4);
- c. Vote to exit Executive Session. At 3:11 P.M., Damon Gardenhire made a motion to exit Executive Session. Britni Tomcho seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes:

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

- d. Possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session.

There was no action taken.

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

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

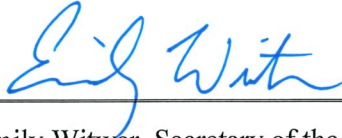
Amber Wise – Absent
Britni Tomcho – Yes
Bill Pearson – Yes
Courtney Anderson– Yes
Damon Gardenhire – Yes
Brian Shellem – Yes
Kitty Campbell – Yes
Jared Buswell – Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

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Handwritten signature of Brian Shellem in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Brian Shellem, Chairman of the Board

Handwritten signature of Emily Witwer in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Emily Witwer, Secretary of the Board

ATTACHMENT:

OTHER GENERAL PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

