

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
STATEWIDE VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD
OLIVER HODGE EDUCATION BUILDING
2500 NORTH LINCOLN BOULEVARD, ROOM 1-20
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

March 18, 2013

The Statewide Virtual Charter School Board met in special session at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 18, 2013, in the Board Room of the Oliver Hodge Education Building at 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, March 15, 2013.

The following were present:

Ms. Kalee Isenhour, Chief Executive Secretary, State Board of Education

Members of the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board present:

Dr. Janet Barresi, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, ex-officio nonvoting member
Mr. John Harrington, Edmond
Ms. Debbie Long, Claremore
Mr. Jaared Scott, Stillwater
Ms. Pamela Vreeland, Jenks

Members of the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board not present:

Dr. Phyllis Hudecki, Secretary of Education, ex-officio nonvoting member

Others in attendance are shown as an attachment.

**CALL TO ORDER
AND
ROLL CALL**

Superintendent Barresi called the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board special meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Isenhour called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome

Superintendent Barresi welcomed the board members and thanked them for their willingness to serve. We are waiting for the appointment of another member from the fourth district. My leadership on this board will be limited until we elect a Chair because I am an ex-officio member.

Remarks by Senator Gary Stanislawski

Senator Stanislawski said five years ago, I was elected to the state senate; prior to that I served on a school board for eight years. On the school board, we did nothing with virtual. Right after I was elected I had a person ask me about virtual school. Because I did not know about the virtual world, I did a task force. After that, my love of online learning grew. INACOL is a nationwide organization for virtual learning that helped, with others, start this discussion. The first two years we focused on supplemental online learning to open opportunities for students. I am hoping the virtual schools already affiliated with local district will become affiliated with the state to make others aware that this is an option. We can allow our kids the best opportunity possible while they are in K-12 education. Every kid is important so we want to make sure we have good curriculum, high quality standards, and accountability. We need to make sure we are communicating to parents to let them know how their child is progressing and is successful. This Board will make sure we are monitoring the success of the students, evaluating the success of the curriculum needs, and bringing it all together to unlock opportunities to students in our state.

Nomination and Election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board

Superintendent Barresi said I will be accepting nominations for the election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board.

Pamela Vreeland asked what the term would be.

Superintendent Barresi said that has not been set yet. The State Board will set that.

John Harrington said we should formally introduce ourselves.

Pamela Vreeland said I have many years working with schools. In the more recent years, I have worked with Tulsa Technology Center and Tulsa Community College. I ran a professional development center countywide. A part of that, we started a virtual school effort in 2004. I left there and worked for a for-profit education company out of Pennsylvania. Since 2010, I have had my own consulting company that focuses on technology in schools.

Superintendent Barresi asked are you doing any consulting for school districts in Oklahoma.

Pamela Vreeland said yes, through the Office of Accountability where they do the Oklahoma performance reviews. They send out request for purchase (RFP) several times a year. I work with a consulting company as a team on some of those projects.

Debbie Long said I am a big believer in providing opportunities for students to learn. I own a promotional advertising business in Claremore for 15 years. I served on the local city council for six years. I was the Executive Director for Leadership Rogers County for 19 years.

John Harrington said I serve as the CEO for Funds for Learning. We work with schools and libraries across the country to help their students connect to the internet. We specialize in the e-rate funding program. I also serve as the Vice Chair of Great Expectations.

Jaared Scott said I am the Executive Director of Technology and Facilities at Francis Tuttle Technology Center; prior to that I worked at the Oklahoma Department of CareerTech. I was the liaison with superintendents and instructional leaders statewide. I was the head of software development where I worked on an e-learning platform for CareerTech. Prior to my time at CareerTech, I was a teacher at the Meridian Technology Center. I taught at what was classified as the largest online classroom during the late 1990s.

Debbie Long made a motion to nominate John Harrington as Chair of the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board and Pamela Vreeland seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: John Harrington, yes; Debbie Long, yes; Jaared Scott, yes; and Pamela Vreeland, yes.

Pamela Vreeland made a motion to nominate Jaared Scott as Vice Chair of the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board and Debbie Long seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: John Harrington, yes; Debbie Long, yes; Jaared Long, yes; and Pamela Vreeland, yes.

INFORMATION TO THE BOARD

The Purpose and the Role of the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board and a Virtual School Program

Derrel Fincher, Director of Learning Technologies, said this is the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board (SVCSB). To envision how you look, it is like a local school board. You will develop policy and criteria for virtual full-time education. You will contract with providers and sponsor applications of virtual charter schools. You have the ability to issue diplomas and report on all nondistrict resident virtual school programs.

Superintendent Barresi said a charter school is a public school that is privately run. You are running the state charter school for virtual education. Charter schools are funded in the same way all public schools are funded. The charter schools right now may not apply for government issued school bonds. If the funding is available through the state, charter schools get \$50,000 in startup money when they first receive their charter. The

charter schools begin with no funding. If there is any cost associated to supporting it, it is through the funding that comes to the school through the state allocation. Charter schools are subject to almost all state accountability requirements. Charter schools must serve all children with disabilities and provide for all of their needs through individualized education program (IEP). Charter schools are subject to all state accountability in terms of testing, state grade card, and federal designations. There are very few things charter schools are exempt from except for collective bargaining. Charter boards operate under the state Open Meetings Act.

Derrel Fincher said that is a charter school. When we mention virtual schools we are looking at ones that are fully online. Virtual schools can be charter or public. We also have the Oklahoma Supplemental Online Course procedures and policies. Those are the ones that allow any student in Oklahoma to take courses that further their education. The board here does not deal with those courses because that is not part of the law. Example issues that you will be looking at as you are developing policies and procedures are how do you count attendance and count seat time? How do you do assessments? How do you figure student teacher ratio and school quality indicators? How do you pay providers? How do kids get a chance to know if going fully online is for them? How can students play sports when they cannot play with the Oklahoma Secondary Athletic Association?

We have two statewide charter schools that have been chartered separately. One is in Choctaw-Nicomma Park Public Schools run by K-12 and the other is in Graham Public Schools run by Epic. Both of those schools are chartered by the individual school district. They will now have the opportunity to be chartered by us.

Jaared Scott asked how our work relates to the State Board of Education (SBE).

Kimberly Richey, General Counsel, said you are the only governing body of the statewide virtual charter school, the actual school that we establish under your purview. You operate that separately without any supervision of the SBE. The relationship between the SBE and this board is that they are your sponsoring body. Under the Charter School Act, you will go through the process of drafting the application to the SBE which they will look at and consider for sponsorship. Once the SBE agrees to sponsor the charter school that you will oversee, you will enter into a contract with the SBE and your entity that will set out how you will govern your school. In addition to the sponsorship, the SBE will promulgate rules that will set out broad perimeters on how you will operate your statewide virtual school. You are the sole entity that determines how this statewide virtual charter school will operate.

Continuing Education for Statewide Virtual Charter School Board Members

Art Schofield, Executive Director of Accreditations/Standards, presented on the continuing education required for Board Members. In the last legislative session, we had two bills pass that stated board members need to have various points. It states that newly appointed members must have at least 12 hours in a 15 month period with continuing education depending on your term. The training is provided by the State Department of Education (SDE), Oklahoma State School Board Association (OSSBA), and other agencies or entities. We will have training for new superintendents on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 that you may attend. OSSBA will provide webinars on all subject matters free of charge to board members.

LEGAL SERVICES

Information on Statewide Virtual Charter School Board Rule

Stephanie Moser Goins, Assistant General Counsel, presented on the current SVCSB rules that the SBE has open for public comment. The SDE was asked to draft initial rules governing the process of applications for the SVCSB to the SBE. One of the goals with this rule was to provide an outline of a process of what the SBE will look for in the initial application. Some of the questions the SBE will have regarding the SVCSB policies and procedures on attendance, power outages, technical malfunction, students with disabilities, and English language learner (ELL) students. It will be up to the SVCSB to draft the policies and procedures, but we thought it would be helpful in this initial rule to give a board overview of things we want to cover.

The rule is open for public comment until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 25. A public hearing is scheduled at 10:00 a.m. that same day. During the public comment period there are two ways people can submit public comment, either by email at rules@sde.ok.gov or the public hearing. After the public comments have been reviewed, the revised rules will be presented to the SBE for approval on Thursday, March 28. This short timeline is in order to facilitate the final versions of the rules filed for approval with the State Legislature and the Governor by April 1, 2013. Board Members are encouraged to attend the public hearing and submit public comment.

Superintendent Barresi said we do not respond to the public comments at the meeting.

Debbie Long asked about receiving public comment questions.

Stephanie Moser Goins said that a summary of public comments can be provided to Board Members and there is also an audio recording of the public hearing available.

Kimberly Richey said it is important for Board Members to review the rules. We have set forth an idea of what we believe would make successful parameters for this board to operate under, but without your input we do not know if that is the direction you want to head in or if there is anything in there that causes concern. Any changes that are made to the proposed rule must be made prior to submission to the state board on Thursday, March 28.

Charter School Application Process

Kimberly Richey said, the Supreme Court heard a challenge to this law establishing this particular body. We did not receive a go ahead with this board from the Supreme Court until December. If it is our intention to be fully operational by next year, we are working on a very short time frame. We will have our official presentation to the SBE in March. In addition to the SBE voting on the rules, there will also be a discussion on the agenda notifying the board that they will be receiving an application for consideration from the SVCSB. We anticipate that an application be finalized and submitted to the SBE by the April board meeting. The challenge from the SDE perspective is you need to begin considering providers for next year by May if we are going to be fully operational by next school year. We only have a few months to finalize the rules, finalize the charter application, enter into a contract with the SBE, and set up a procedure by which you can start to consider providers for next school year.

Richard Caram, Director of C3 Schools, said I have applications that are geared to virtual charter schools. I can provide you with those that will give you really good frame work.

Kimberly Richey said once your review the virtual charter school law itself, it will become clearer.

Debbie Long asked questions regarding the SBE meeting.

Jaared Scott asked if there are questions, is there a single point of contact at the SDE.

Kimberly Richey said all inquiries should go through Derrel Fincher.

Debbie Long asked as a board, will we have resources available.

Kimberly Richey said it is our hope that at some point you will. The challenge with this bill is that there was no funding specifically attached to it. The SBE, as your sponsor, has the ability to maintain 5% of any state aide you receive as a result of students who enroll in your school district. That is an administrative fee usually used to retain staff to assist you. For the time being, it will be a group of SDE staff that will be responsible in pitching it to make sure we accomplish what we need to accomplish.

Kimberly Richey said there is a section of the Charter School Act that specifically sets forth what your application must contain. The SBE, through its operating procedures in the past, has requested that additional information outside of the basic statutory provisions also be included in the application. Staff will be working with you to make sure there is everything in the application that should be in there based on information from the SBE that we have receiving in the past.

Derrel Fincher said per a law, you are authorized to receive reimbursement for your travel expenses.

Kimberly Richey said Kalee Isenhour will serve as the Secretary. She will facilitate the travel reimbursements for you.

ADMINISTRATION

Statewide Virtual Charter School Board Tentative Regular Meeting Dates for 2013

Derrel Fincher said a regular meeting date is customary for a board such as this. I am suggesting that we meet on the second Tuesday of every month. This body also meets at the call of the Chair. The Chair can call additional meetings, as needed. A list of tentative regular meetings has been provided to the Board Members.

Pamela Vreeland asked if is there are provisions to have a virtual school board meeting.

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Kimberly Richey said there are provisions within the Open Meetings Act that allow for a meeting by which some or all of the members are represented virtually by electronic means. It has been the SDE practice in the past to not use or implement a virtual meeting system because of the steps required for members of boards to electronically tap in to a meeting. Implementation in the past has not been successful with these types of meetings because of all the legal steps required. Any place any of you sat for an electronic meeting would become public meeting sites and all of the procedural requirements of the Open Meetings Act would have to be complied with at each of your five locations. We do not have the staff to dispatch to each of your locations to ensure that steps are met.

Debbie Long said that there is a possibility to meet in Tulsa.

Kimberly Richey said since you are not voting on the proposed meeting dates, perhaps you should communicate with Derrel to designate where those meeting should be held. The board could vote on that at the next meeting.

John Harrington said that I know the impact that education has on students, families, communities, our state, and across the nation. I believe that there is great opportunity to our state to provide this resource to our communities, families, and children. There is a lot of work that has to happen to get this up and running. I challenge us as board members, any inconvenience that we have, anything we may have to risk or lay aside is meniscal compared to the opportunity that exists for this board to impact student lives. They have a lot more riding on this than we do, but they do not have a lot that they can do to effect it like we can.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business John Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:26 p.m. Pamela Vreeland seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: John Harrington, yes; Debbie Long, yes; Jaared Scott, yes; and Pamela Vreeland, yes.

The next meeting of the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 10:0 a.m. The meeting will convene at the State Department of Education, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

John Harrington, Chairperson of the Board

Kalee Isenhour, Secretary to the State Board