

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OLIVER HODGE EDUCATION BUILDING
2500 NORTH LINCOLN BOULEVARD, ROOM 1-20
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

September 17, 2014

The State Board of Education met in special session at 1:38 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17, 2014, in the Board Room of the Oliver Hodge Education Building at 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 1:15 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16, 2014.

The following were present:

Ms. Kalee Isenhour, Secretary to the State Board of Education

Members of the State Board of Education present:

State Superintendent Janet Barresi, Chairperson of the Board
Ms. Amy Ford, Durant
Mr. Daniel Keating, Tulsa
Mr. William "Bill" Price, Oklahoma City
Mr. William "Bill" Shdeed, Oklahoma City

Members of the State Board of Education not present:

MG (R) Lee Baxter, Lawton
Ms. Cathryn Franks, Roosevelt

Others in attendance are shown as an attachment.

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**CALL TO ORDER
AND
ROLL CALL**

Superintendent Barresi called the State Board of Education regular meeting to order at 1:38 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Isenhour called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, OKLAHOMA
FLAG SALUTE, AND MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Superintendent Barresi led Board Members and all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, a salute to the Oklahoma Flag, and a moment of silence.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Information from the State Superintendent

Superintendent Barresi thanked Board Members for attending the special meeting. Today the 2014 A-F Report Card is presented for release and this also marks the third consecutive year for A-F Report Card grades. Mandated by state law, the grades are a part of a larger effort to strengthen public school accountability and transparency. Grades provide clear and easily understood indicators on school performance, and enable parents, businesses and communities to view how schools are excelling or may need help. The information provides both positives and negatives. While Oklahoma did see a four percent drop in A schools, it is very encouraging because scores improved in more than 640 schools in some measures. In addition, 79 districts scored an A or B and 15 single sites scored an A. Nevertheless, the significant number of F and D schools should be of concern to each and every Oklahoman. Deferring to accountability and transparency is not always the popular thing to do but it is the right thing to do. It is not a measurement to be considered as a punishment to school districts but a source of information to parents and community members about school performance. We are gratified by the number of superintendents, principals, and teachers calling for assistance and guidance and grateful to have the opportunity to provide assistance and support.

The United States Chamber of Commerce released the Leaders and Laggards Report last week which is an annual state-by-state report card on educational effectiveness. Oklahoma was among a handful of states to receive an F in academic achievement, academic achievement in low income and minority students, and in international competitiveness. A few areas received higher marks in the report card but it was these scores that directly relate to how prepared our students are for college or the job market. Unfortunately, the Leaders and Laggards national report is only the latest of many such studies that show Oklahoma students are not sufficiently prepared for life after high school. Consider the ACT results are down from previous years and below the national average, and SAT scores are expected to be similar. Oklahoma's latest scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) test show only 30 percent of fourth graders are proficient in reading. In three months, Board Members will not hear from me on this issue but you will have to answer to the children and parents of our state. They deserve a better future than the one they have been prepared for currently.

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A School Turnaround Program report will be presented on the dramatic improvement results in student achievement from participants in the Partnership for Leaders and Education Program at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business and Curry School of Education. Oklahoma school leaders received business executive leadership training, skills, and practices on how to apply these executive skills at their schools. In only one and half years they have led their students to much higher achievement in reading and math.

I had the distinct pleasure to announce Jason Proctor the Oklahoma 2015 Teacher of Year yesterday. Mr. Proctor is a National Board Certified math teacher at Tahlequah High School - Tahlequah Public Schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals signed up to address/discuss A-F cards included Sheldon Buxton, Luther Public Schools and Tom Pickens, Tipton Public Schools.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Office of Accountability and Assessments

Annual Reports (A-F Report Cards) Approved

Joel Robison, Chief of Staff, Office of Accountability and Assessments, presented a request A-F Report Cards Annual Report. This is the third year A-F report cards have been issued to school sites per state law and statutes. Mr. Robison presented and reviewed calculation/result system process, trainings, SDE partnership, data review and verifications, A-F application and WAVE-Student Identification System; letter grade determinations; and SDE-Accountability staff appreciation.

Kimberly Richey, General Counsel in response to Board Member concerns regarding students at Oklahoma Juvenile Affairs (OJA) facilities that are contractually educated at Tipton Public Schools, said the students are usually not counted in other parts of the report card because they do not meet the full academic year definition. The students are in and out of the facility in a short period of time. There is nothing that addresses cohort graduation rate that would exclude this population of students.

Brent King, Office of Accountability said if students took a test they were most likely qualified as non-full academic year but for the purposes of graduation rates the length of time there they are enrolled. Once students are enrolled in a school they are considered for the purposes of graduation rate part of the school's cohort. The only way they can be removed is if they transfer to another institution offering a credited high school diploma, immigrate from another country or they pass away. When the students left the enrollment of the district there were no other records of them enrolling elsewhere which does count against the district's graduation rate.

Mr. Robison said the legislature discussed this issue in the last session and will probably be up for discussion again.

Board Member Ford made a motion to approve the request.

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Board Member Price said it is important for the public to know that the Academic Performance Index (API) looked the same for 15 years and there were no arguments about it because it could not be understood. But if the API was graded on the same curve the grades are the same. Improving the school system is what we need to concentrate on and not near as much on how to tweak the A-F report card.

Board Member Shdeed seconded the motion.

Board Members concurred with Board Member Keating to invite the schools that received an A to share their successes as well as include schools that received other grades to tell their story.

The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Shdeed, yes; Mr. Keating, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Ms. Ford, yes; and Superintendent Barresi, yes.

Office of Educator Effectiveness

Administrative Leadership Grant to Oklahoma School Administrators and Teacher Leaders through the Partnership for Leaders in Education (PLE) at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business and Curry School of Education

Kerri White, Assistant State Superintendent, Office of Educator Effectiveness reported that Anadarko, El Reno and Guthrie Public Schools were recipients of the administrative leadership grant and will present their success stories. One of the things learned through the University of Virginia partnership is change in school districts must be sudden and it is essential. There has been an expectation previously that it takes five to six years for change to take root in a school district. Now there is evidence that good change makes a dramatic difference and it can happen in less than a year. Ms. White reviewed the University of Virginia's Executive Leadership Education program partnership training, shared leadership, executive management, and data driven instruction.

Cindy Hackney, Superintendent, Anadarko Public Schools presented the academic growth success story that occurred in one year and a half. Also present were Mike Simpson, Superintendent; Carmen Walters, Elementary Curriculum Director, and Doug Ogle, Secondary Curriculum, Director, Guthrie Public Schools. Craig McVey, Superintendent, El Reno Public Schools was not present.

Superintendent Barresi said it is our plan to have three cohorts go through the program and then bring the model to Oklahoma. It is in conjunction with our Universities and State Department of Education to generalize it to the entire state. Three cohorts would give a good foundation of information to bring this forward. The State Board of Education has the opportunity, hopefully, to continue the fulfillment of the information. Carryover funds were used for the program and federal funding assistance from the South Central Comprehensive Center.

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ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Shdeed made a motion to adjourn. Board Member Ford seconded the motion. There being no further business Board Members unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 3:01 p. m.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, September 25 2014, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will convene at the Oklahoma State Capitol, 2300 North Lincoln Blvd., Senate Room 535, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Janet Barresi, Chairperson of the Board

Kalee Isenhour, Secretary to the State Board