

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
2500 NORTH LINCOLN BOULEVARD
STATE BOARD ROOM, SUITE 1-20
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

March 28, 2024

The State Board of Education met in a regular session at 1:34 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, 2024, in the Board Room of the Oliver Hodge Education Building at 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27, 2024.

The following were present:

Ms. Cara Nicklas, General Counsel to the State Board of Education
Ms. Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary

Members of the State Board of Education present:

State Superintendent Ryan Walters, Chairman of the Board
Mr. Zachary Archer, Hammon
Mr. Donald Burdick, Tulsa
Ms. Sarah Lepak, Claremore
Mrs. Kendra Wesson, Norman

Members of the State Board of Education not present:

Mrs. Katie Quebedeaux, Guymon

Others in attendance are shown as an attachment.

CALL TO ORDER

State Superintendent Ryan Walters called the State Board of Education regular meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. Ms. Cheadle called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Information from the State Superintendent

Superintendent Walters welcomed everyone to the meeting and led Board Members and all present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, a salute to the Oklahoma Flag and Prayer.

Superintendent Walters announced a new Office of School Choice within the State Department of Education (SDE) is being created for a one-stop shop relating to School Choice. The office will provide options in one-place and easier access for parents and communities to navigate program resources. Expressed concerns on the loss of Owasso student that remains a tragedy for the family, Owasso community, and state of Oklahoma; and law enforcement investigation updates, new toxicology report, unfounded claims, news media, and false narratives of the student's death.

Superintendent Walters said he is focused on the mission to get Oklahoma schools back on track, empower parents to make best choices, and assure all students have opportunities and resources needed to be successful, and remains committed to not backing down from radical groups in the state of Oklahoma.

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Presentation from Tulsa Public School District, discussion, and possible action on the Tulsa Public School District accreditation status for the 2022-2023 school year

Superintendent Walters said power outage situations at Tulsa Public Schools (TPS) requires the TPS team to return to the district and recommended the board grant moving the TPS presentation up on the agenda.

Board member Burdick moved to moving Tulsa Public School presentation up on the agenda. Board member Lepak seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Dr. Ebony Johnson, Superintendent, Tulsa Public School District (TPS) brought greetings on behalf of TPS elementary students, along with community partners, who experienced hands on science lessons from child nutrition teams learning where food comes from; recognized Webster High School Future Farmers of America students for bringing a variety of agricultural experiences including farm animals and live dairy milking, and TPS 9th graders gathered at Will Rogers High School to learn and explore future medical and health sciences fields options with physicians and experts from University of Tulsa and Oklahoma State University; and a special thanks to board member

Burdick for providing teachers and families an opportunity to step away and enjoy the Irish Festival.

Dr. Johnson said the TPS team presentation continues to provide a clear description of the TPS 2023-24 Improvement Plan in response to the specific State Board of Education presented on November 30, 2023. Presentation included updates on the three (3) OSDE 2023-24 goal objectives and actions taken, launch of four (4) major initiatives to support current student achievement and through end of the school year.

Dr. Erin Armstrong-Chief Learning Officer, Sean Berkstresser-Executive Director of Information and Analytics, and Dr. Kathy Dodd-Chief of Strategy and Innovation, addressed the OTEP advanced teacher initiative, OSDE staff deployed to TPS sites, Literacy Ambassadors program (Retired Teachers) and the *Attend to Win!* Attendance Campaign.

Board members asked questions and discussed efforts describing chronic absenteeism and increasing attendance, aligned content to Oklahoma Academic Standards, 6th and 7th grade additional levels of support; school leadership team data reviews, site model replications; science of reading module trainings and progress, TPS and OSDE team literacy trainings; 12 MRI sites not redesignated, high dosage tutoring, ACT prep and support, data results, essential initiatives collaboration and implementation timeline; Tulsa Classroom Teacher Association partnerships, community messaging/partnerships on chronic absenteeism, attendance recovery coordinators, outreach collaborations, City of Tulsa press conference, Impact Tulsa community action group, parent districtwide survey and feedback; new curriculum 2025 school year, hiring special education, high school college and career advisors, and English language development teachers; continued commitment for student improvement and school year 2024-25 changes.

Superintendent Walters thanked Dr. Johnson and TPS team on their laser focused efforts in hitting short-term benchmarks, long-term planning, program initiatives success, tracking and monitoring, and a model education team.

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE

Minutes of the February 22, 2024, regular State Board of Education meeting - Approved

Board member Wesson moved to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2024, regular State Board of Education meeting. Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, abstain; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals signed up to address agenda #5 items included Robin Fuxa, Leanne Jimenes, Audrey Polonchek, Sheena Martin, Jakob Lavicky, Nicole Poindexter, and Representative Mauree Turner.

Individuals signed up to address items not on the agenda included Mike Howe, Katie Powell, and Nicole McAfee.

CONSENT DOCKET - Approved

Discussion and possible action on the following deregulation applications, statutory waivers, and exemptions for the 2023-2024 school year and other requests:

- (a) **Abbreviated School Day – OAC 210:35-29-2 and 210:35-3-46 – 70 O.S. § 1210.568**
Harrah Public Schools, Oklahoma County

3 Years
Bartlesville Public Schools, Washington County
- (b) **Cooperative Agreements for Alternative Education Programs – 70 O.S. § 1210.568**

3 Years
Hinton Public Schools, Caddo County
Geronimo Public Schools, Comanche County
Jay Public Schools, Delaware County
Pond Creek-Hunter Public Schools, Grant County
Braggs Public Schools, Muskogee County
Tuskahoma Public Schools, Pushmataha County
Goodwell Public Schools, Texas County
Sharon-Mutual Public Schools, Woodward County
- (c) **Library Media Services – OAC 210:35-5-71 and 210:35-9-71**
Pioneer Public Schools, Grady County
Osage Public Schools, Mayes County
Harrah Public Schools, Oklahoma County
- (d) **Substitute Teachers – 70 O.S. § 6-105b**
Putnam City Public Schools, Oklahoma County
- (e) Request approval on exceptions to State Board of Education teacher certification regulations to permit issuance of emergency (provisional) certificates - 70 O.S. § 6-187

Board member Burdick moved to approve Consent Docket waiver requests. Board member Wesson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

2023-24 school year request to be in session and offer instruction for a less than the requirements – Approved
Harmony Public Schools, Atoka County
Cottonwood Public Schools, Coal County

Superintendent Walters said school districts superintendents were present for discussion on 165-day waiver requests that included Bryan Walker, Harmony Public

Schools (PK-8), and John Daniel, Cottonwood Public Schools (K-8) were present for discussions for Agenda #7 (a).

Board members asked questions and discussed multi-year waiver request criteria, school calendar changes, financial savings, 4-day schedule and success, increased enrollment, cooped programs; 165 and 155-day requests, virtual day options, bus route and timeline, budget cuts, pre and post COVID outcomes, decreased staff and enrollment, community needs met with approved school choice; academic instruction, performance and growth; and recommended view multi-year performance on future waiver request.

Board member Wesson moved to approve Harmony Public School and Cottonwood Public School waiver requests. Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

ASSESSMENTS

Testing exemption requests of the Oklahoma State Testing Program (OSTP) for Academy of Seminole, KIPP OKC, KIPP TULSA, Tulsa Classical Academy, due to lack of required certified staff to administer testing, and exemption for Tulsa Legacy Charter School to use E-certified teachers to administer the Oklahoma State Testing Program (OSTP) test exempting the required certified staff – **Approved**

Superintendent Walters advised schools are requesting exemption of the Oklahoma State Testing Program (OSTP) rule requiring testing to be administered by certified staff and not requesting exemption from the OSTP testing requirement.

Todd Loftin, Chief Academic Officer, clarified the administrative rule requires that every test within the OSTP be administered by a certified professional employed by the school district. Charter schools may not have enough certified staff to do so. It is not a federal requirement and peer reviews of other states have similar requirements but many allow a paraprofessional to administer testing. Recommended approving the waiver requests for schools to complete the 2023 OSTP timeline.

Board member Burdick moved to approve testing waiver requests for Academy of Seminole, KIPP OKC, KIPP TULSA, Tulsa Classical Academy, and Tulsa Legacy Charter School. Board member Lepak seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

LEGAL SERVICES

Monthly report on complaints filed, and status thereof, regarding alleged violations of 70 O.S. § 24-157 and Administrative Code Rule 210:10-1-23, prohibiting race and sex discrimination

Cara Nicklas, General Counsel, State Board of Education (OSDE), advised there were no House Bill 1775 issues to report on Agenda item 9.(a).

**Resolve into Executive Session
pursuant to O.S. §§ 307 (B) (4) (7) and (8) for the purpose of
discussing possible action for a Motion for Continuance of
Summer Boismier to the May 23, 2024, State Board of Education meeting - Approved**

Ms. Nicklas advised no need to convene into executive session on Agenda item 9. (b) a vote was required on the Motion for Continuance of Summer Boismier to the May 23, 2024, State Board of Education meeting.

Board member Wesson moved for Continuance to the May 23, 2024, State Board meeting. Board member Lepak seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

**Accept or deny the appeal for charter school sponsorship submitted by
1) P3 Urban Montessori;
2) Proud to Partner Leadership;
and 3) Willard C. Potts Academy**

Ms. Nicklas advised Agenda item 9. (c) 1)P3 Urban Montessori and 9. (c) 3)Willard C. Potts Academy have requested continuance of their appeals, and due to her absence and availability to be present for the April meeting, the attorney for the applicants agreed it can be passed to the May meeting. The Board would consider the appeals in May for these two only.

Board member Burdick moved for continuance of Agenda item 9. (c) 1) and 3) to the May 23, 2024, State Board meeting. Board member Lepak seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Proud to Partner Leadership Presentation-Tabled

Dawn Boiles, School Founder and Head of Schools presented the appeal application response to the proposed charter high school sponsorship. Ms. Boles reviewed the career high school leadership academy vision, mission and model, founders and partners; four (4) education plan foundation pillars, John Maxwell Leadership curriculum, onsite and virtual partnerships, tuition, provide ACT and SAT facilitation, teacher training in learning styles; community members, mentors and service projects; teach and train students on soft skills and conduct daily advisory sessions, graduate profile, aligned content/curriculum, teaching and behavior models; students become ambassadors on track to a career, college and life excellence and assured to have a post-secondary plan.

Ms. Boiles and Attorney Bill Hickman addressed objection of Putnam City School district denial and no opportunity to review supporting evidence by former OSDE General Counsel, OSDE team review and feedback.

Superintendent Walters said further review was needed regarding concerns of new information and OSDE review team responses. Recommended continuation to the May 23, 2023, meeting.


Ms. Nicklas advised Proud to Partner Academy could not bring new evidence and to table Agenda item 9 (c) **3** for further review.

Board member Wesson moved to table until the May 23, 2024, State Board meeting. Board member Burdick seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

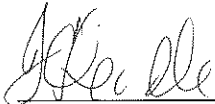
ADJOURNMENT

Board member Burdick moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:32 p.m. Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday April 25, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will convene at the State Department of Education-State Board Room, 2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



Ryan Walters, Chairman of the Board



Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary