

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the**

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

**April 12, 2023**

The State Board of Education met in a special session at 11:01 a.m. on Wednesday April 12, 2023, in the Board Room of the Oliver Hodge Education Building at 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The final agenda was posted at 10:00 a.m. a.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

The following were present:

Mr. Bryan Cleveland, General Counsel to the Oklahoma State Dept. of  
Education (OSDE)

Ms. Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary

Members of the State Board of Education present:

State Superintendent Ryan Walters, Chairman of the Board

Mr. Donald Burdick, Tulsa

Ms. Sarah Lepak, Claremore

Mrs. Katie Quebedeaux, Guymon

Mrs. Suzanne Reynolds, Oklahoma City

Mrs. Kendra Wesson, Norman

Members of the State Board of Education not present:

Mr. Trent Smith, Yukon

Others in attendance are shown as an attachment.

## CALL TO ORDER

State Superintendent Ryan Walters called the State Board of Education special meeting to order at 11:01 a.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.

#### **Require special report on School Districts in Oklahoma in order to respond to a federal request for comment on the Biden Administration's Title IX Athletics Rule, 70 O.S. § 3-104(13) - Approved**

Superintendent Walters said he appreciated board members meeting on short notice to review, discuss and vote opposing the Biden Administration's redefinition of the existing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, by proposing another rule layer with the Title IX Athletics Rule designed to compel schools to allow more men on women's sports teams. The rule proposal will require special report of assessment of need for separate sport teams for men and women, every age and every sport offered by school districts.

The proposal is contrary to Oklahoma state law 70 O.S. § 27-106 that clearly states boys will not be allowed in girls bathrooms and will not allow boys to participate in girls' sports. Enforcement of state law will continue; reject radicalism and the latest endeavor of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Changing the intent of the Title IX definitions gives states the opportunity to comment, and allowing the State Board of Education (SBE) to require school districts submit their policies on extracurricular sporting events, permitting boys to participate, ages, and breakdown? This also ensures school district data is compliant with Oklahoma's Women's Sports Act.

Brian Cleveland, General Counsel to the State Department of Education, advised on the SBE authority under 70 O.S. § 3-104, and ensuring the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) provides accurate information on affected sports teams as part of an informed opposition to the rule. Rule proposals request a special report within 21 days of the SBE Order because comments are due within 30 days of the official federal posting, allowing school districts and OSDE sufficient time to comply. The special reporting request school districts include listing of interscholastic, club, or intramural sports per each school; grade levels of each sport participation, grade level of sports offered, separate men and women teams, school district policies adherence to 70 O.S. § 27-106, teams separated by sex, list of teams that do not comply with 70 O.S. § 27-106 and submit within 21 days with discretion granted to General Counsel to extend time as needed to school districts.

Board members discussed and asked questions regarding Title IX 1972 through 1975 legislation, definitions, references, understanding; Oklahoma legislation, specific definitions; state and federal clarity needed defining sex terms, biological vs. assigned,

male/female classification, and disagreements on policy changes for students and girl athletics.

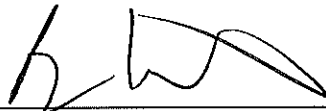
Board member Reynolds moved to approve the special report requirement of Oklahoma school districts. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Ms. Reynolds, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

### ADJOURNMENT

Superintendent Walters confirmed with Ms. Cheadle the meeting agenda was posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Board member Burdick moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 a.m. Board member Wesson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Ms. Lepak, yes; Mr. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Ms. Reynolds, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday April 27, 2023, 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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ferrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary