Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the State Board of Education

AUGUST 22, 2024



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the

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

August 22, 2024

The State Board of Education met in regular session at 9:48 a.m. on Thursday, August 22, 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 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, August 21, 2024.

The following were present:

Mr. Michael Beason, General Counsel to the Oklahoma State Dept. of Education(OSDE)

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, Chairperson of the Board

Mr. Zachary Archer, Hammon

Mr. Donald Burdick, Tulsa

Ms. Sarah Lepak, Claremore

Mrs. Katie Quebedeaux, Guymon

Mrs. Kendra Wesson, Norman

Others in attendance are shown as an attachment.

CALL TO ORDER ROLL CALL

State Superintendent Ryan Walters called the State Board of Education regular meeting to order at 9:48 a.m. Ms. Terrie Cheadle called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

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

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.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Information from the State Superintendent

Superintendent Walters updated on OSDE federal funding, Title 1 allocations, and grants management system, resolved technical issue, misguided accusations on impact to districts; United States Department of Education (USDE) 2022-23 school year funding report highlights, 2023 prioritized changes and procedures to federal programming, submitted responses and documentation by 2023 October deadline; addressed Oklahoma values, media rhetoric, misleading and inaccurate headlines; Tulsa Public Schools and Oklahoma City Public Schools progressive successes, continued school communications and program timelines, small and rural districts focusing on problem solving, program outcomes and accountability; school year started on stronger footing toward student success, and an effective education system.

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE

Minutes of the July 31, 2024, regular State Board of Education meeting - Approved

Board member Burdick moved to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2024, regular State Board of Education meeting. Board member Lepak seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, abstain; Ms. Wesson, abstain; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

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) Cooperative Agreements for Alternative Education Programs – 70 O.S. § 1210.568

3 Years

Little Axe Public Schools, Cleveland County Hobart Public Schools, Kiowa County Locust Grove Public Schools, Mayes County Blanchard Public Schools, McClain County Idabel Public Schools, McCurtain County

(b) Cooperative Agreements for Alternative Education Programs – 70 O.S. § 1210.568

3 years

Taloga Public Schools, Dewey County Mangum Public Schools, Greer County Hobart Public Schools, Kiowa County Pocola Public Schools, LeFlore County Lukfata Public Schools, McCurtain County Luther Public Schools, Oklahoma County Barnsdall Public Schools, Osage County Tipton Public Schools, Tillman County

(c) Library Media Services – OAC 210:35-5-71 and 210:35-9-71

Carnegie Public Schools, Caddo County
Fox Public Schools, Carter County
Little Axe Public Schools, Cleveland County
Hobart Public Schools, Kiowa County
Chandler Public Schools, Lincoln County
Meeker Public Schools, Lincoln County
Forest Creek Public Schools, McCurtain County
Osage Hills Public Schools, Osage County
Asher Public Schools, Pottawatomie County
Liberty Public Schools, Sequoyah County
Vian Public Schools, Sequoyah County
Empire Public Schools, Stephen County

3 years

Sterling Public Schools, Comanche County Taloga Public Schools, Dewey County Pocola Public Schools, LeFlore County Salina Public Schools, Mayes County

(d) Library Media Specialist - 70 O.S. § 3-126 Marlow Public Schools, Stephens County

3 Years

Vici Public Schools, Dewey 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**
- (f) Request approval for **Evergreen Academy** to participate in the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities program 70 O.S. § 13-101.2

- (g) Request approval on flexibility to use textbook funds 70 O.S. § 16-114a(B)
 Norman Public Schools, Cleveland County
 Edmond Public Schools, Oklahoma County
- (h) Discussion and possible action on the FY 2025 Shared Superintendent Salary Assistance Application report 70 O.S. §7-203 and 70 O.S. § 5-106A
- (i) Discussion and possible action on late claims payment of joint federal program listed below OAC 210:25-3-7(12)

 Roland Public Schools American Rescue Plan Project 795
 Roland Public Schools School Counselor Corps Program 722

Board member Quebedeaux 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. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Presentation from Tulsa Public School District

Superintendent Walters advised the Tulsa Public School presentation team will present at the September 2024 state board meeting. Superintendent Johnson and TPS team kicked off the summer programs with professional development and institutionalized changes include program implementation, finance feedback/explanation, decisions long term to continue programs and future fund allocations. Oklahoma City Public Schools (OKPS) new Superintendent Jaime Polk has said the district will do best practices and utilize resources as best as possible. Both leaders are willing to make tough decisions and change things going forward. The OSDE will continue to work closely with districts and assure programing is the best for students, request legislature for program funding to assist in positive leadership and local board actions to changes.

Board members discussed Dr. Johnson and TPS leadership team have been most impressive with the direction to change the district, partnerships with TPS local board, parents, community and OSDE.

Board member Archer said based on what TPS has done, direction they are headed, resources, research and time spent to appear to the State Board, when they could be on campus helping students, teachers and resources could be better allocated.

Board member Archer made a motion that next month meeting be the last formal obligations for Tulsa Public Schools to show up.

Board members discussed the district's good job demonstrating, implementing statistics, tracking, results, proven their knowledge and exceeded expectations. The accreditation report for all schools will present at the September meeting and prior to the meeting submit questions and concerns for TPS leadership to respond.

State Audit on TPS financials from previous years has not been completed and todate no timeline on the final audit, and suggested proposal to modify and adjust TPS reporting as the situation warrants.

Board member Archer withdrew the motion.

Board member Lepak moved to direct the Department to work with Tulsa Public Schools to present the Board, at the next meeting, a proposal for how reporting will proceed for the foreseeable future, and the Board will consider the proposal along with the rest of the accreditation information we normally would. Board member Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

TEACH and LEARN, SPECIAL EDUCATION-FEDERAL

Proposed revisions to the Policies and Procedures Handbook for Special Education Services—Approved

Sherry Coats, State Program Director, presented the proposed revisions to the policies and procedures Special Education Services handbook. Updates included handbook changes, legislation for alternate diploma, transfer policies, guidance, and procedures for districts to implement IDEA appropriately and provide immediate FAPE service when students enroll, toolbox access to support and improve outcomes for students with disabilities; 2022 last handbook revision, 2024 revision also detailed more for incarcerated students in residential facilities.

Board member Quebedeaux moved to approve the proposed revisions. Board member Wesson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Recommendations to approve awarding 2024-25 Classroom Learning and school Supplies (CLASS) Grants – Approved

Autumn Kouba, Senior Director, presented recommendations to award 26 Classroom Learning and School Supplies (CLASS) grants to allow teachers to purchase materials, supplies, equipment, or their classroom. The \$85,000 Revolving Fund includes a donation from the Department of Commerce for grants. Approximately 610 applicants were committee reviewed and grants ranged from \$1000 to \$5000 totaling \$76,190.00

Board member Burdick moved to approve to the CLASS grant recommendations. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, 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

Michael Beason, General Counsel, State Department of Education (OSDE), advised there were no House Bill 1775 issues to report on agenda item 8(a).

Option to renew contract and 20I Application to retain Cara S. Nicklas of McAlister, McAlister & Nicklas as Counsel for the State Board – Approved

Mr. Beason said agenda item 9(b) is a renewal of Ms. Cara Nicklas' contract. Mr. Beason recommended renewal.

Superintendent Walters clarified Ms. Nicklas represents the State Board and Mr. Beason represents the Department of Education. The agenda item extends/renews Ms. Nicklas contract and if there were changes.

Ms. Nicklas said she saw no changes in the previous application.

Board members concurred highly supportive of the renewal and appreciation of all the work Ms. Nicklas provides.

Board member Lepak moved to renew Ms. Nicklas' contract. Board member Wesson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board decision to table requests by legislators to observe executive sessions set on the agenda for the July 31, 2024, board meeting - No Action

9(a) Ms. Nicklas advised the Board could postpone the action indefinitely if they so choose; and there are no executive sessions on the agenda, so there is no need to take action at this time unless the Board choose to address the issue.

Superintendent Walters said an Attorney General opinion was provided yesterday and both Counsels and Board need time to review and consider executive sessions.

Ms. Nicklas agreed and said there is no requirement that the Board take any action.

Filing of a Petition for declaratory relief or injunctive to obtain court order as to the eligibility of Oklahoma legislators to attend executive sessions of the State Board of Education – No Action

9(b) Ms. Nicklas advised the Attorney General (AG) opinion submitted yesterday withdrawing the 1978 opinion and communications from the AG's office caused confusion. The board does have the option to seek review by the courts of the legal issues

addressed by the Attorney General in its opinion. It is appropriate to seek declaratory relief from the court or the Board could delay consideration and give some time to review the Attorney General's opinion and consider how to proceed. The concern is the Board has a number of individual proceedings, and the Board may need to go into executive session for privileged communications to seek legal counsel. Going forward the Board will not have the benefit of an executive session to seek legal counsel advice as a Board under 25 O.S. § 307 (B)(4). Given that, the Board can decide how you want to proceed.

Board member Wesson moved to table item 9(b).

Board member Lepak recommended taking no action on the item as was already mentioned. Yesterday at 4 p.m. board members received the 10-page lengthy Attorney General's Opinion with multiple legal citations, which I read the opinion, but had no time to read all the cases the Attorney General cited.

Board member Wesson withdrew the motion.

Board members discussed encouraging legislators to review reasons for Executive Sessions and review the language closely; clarified the 1978 opinion was in place until yesterday, Wednesday, August 21; nothing prohibits Attorney General issuing new Opinion; encouraged legislature to review actual language of the statute and law; 24-hour notice does not allow time for research.

In response to a question, Ms. Nicklas advised the Attorney General or future Attorney Generals can issue new opinions and could overturn the Attorney General Opinion issued yesterday.

Superintendent Walters concurred with board members to take no action to allow time to review and receive advisement to best proceed.

Applications for an emergency order summarily suspending the teacher certificates and certificate numbers pending an individual proceeding for revocation or other action of
1) Nicholas Plank; 2) Sarah Butterworth; 3) Shawn Finch;
4) Patrick McKay; 5) Thomas Lenard; 6) Philip Koons;
7) Roger Carroll; 8) Jayme Stepp; 9) Anthony Deason;
10) Scott Renken; 11) Alison Scott; and 12) Regan Killackey pending an individual proceeding for revocation or other action

Ms. Nicklas advised agenda item 9(c) through (g) are individual proceedings which typically go into an executive session to deliberate as a board pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307 (B). Because of the confusion over the executive session issue, the board has the ability to try to make decisions, as best they can, without the benefit of the deliberations with legal counsel. These matters are before the board, but not for executive session, to discuss the individual proceedings.

Board member Lepak clarified we have received materials, as we always do, written materials in advance of every board meeting that gives us the paperwork and the details on the filings related to all the agenda items.

If we are talking about a teacher certificate revocation, we have documents in these packets that you see and what is in the details of what we can legally consider as the Board. We have always relied on the written material to make our decisions.

In past executive sessions, we were seeking advice from our own attorney on these matters and deliberating on individual proceedings. That did not happen in the last board meeting and executive session. Senator Boren, we had discussed about them going into executive session. To the extent anybody is concerned or believed the board discussed the executive session items on the last month's agenda behind closed doors, rather than Senator Boren's request, you are mistaken, and you need to review the live feed of this meeting, and you can review the minutes we approved at the beginning of the meeting.

As far as I can tell, what we will do today is the same thing. We are not having executive session on any of these items to the extent we are comfortable, as individual board members, arriving at a vote on any of the actions that are remaining on the agenda. If we are comfortable arriving at a vote because we have reviewed the written materials and have had time to consider them ourselves, we are going to do that. If there is something we feel we have not had a chance to adequately review from a timing perspective or because of what is in the written materials, we will take appropriate action on that as well.

Today you will hear things as we are referring to hearing officers, tabling items, we are accepting voluntary surrenders of certificates, and these are the types of things we did last time. What you should understand about that is it does not involve the Board making any kind of decision on the merits of any of the actions. That means that when we refer to a hearing officer, what we mean is we are sending it out to an impartial third party to hear the evidence, decide and make a recommendation back to this Board about what the hearing officer believes we should do, and we have the freedom to accept, modify or reject those findings.

If we are tabling things, that means we are putting a pen in it, and we may take it up next month and when we have more information or more time or more ability to deliberate. If we are accepting voluntary surrenders or taking something on consent, what that means is that the person -- for instance, teacher certificate, whoever is in question, they have decided they just want to return this certificate. They are not going to keep it anymore. There is no decision for the Board to make on that other than to accept or reject the voluntary surrender.

I just wanted to clarify. Have I given anything inaccurate? If you are confused about what is happening, you can ask questions and please refrain or try to refrain from jumping to conclusions. We go behind closed doors as we are putting a pin in that, and we will not do that for a while because of everything has happening. It is to protect the identity of children, students, minors and to protect the integrity of the employment decision-making process.

When the personnel issues arise, we believe there is some privacy afforded to the people who we are discussing. Even if we are discussing them because they are alleged to have done something we vehemently disagree with, they have rights. That is what happened last time, that is what will happen this time as we take them one at a time and we will not make decisions based on the merits and we will go from there. Is everyone clear on that? Does anyone have any questions?

Ms. Nicklas advised there are some matters board members could make decisions based on the merits if you believe you have the materials.

9(c) Board member Wesson moved to suspend the teaching certificate number pending an individual proceeding or revocation or other action of **Nicholas Plank**.

Board member Lepak clarified the motion is to suspend the certificate and refer the matter to a hearing officer for a more permanent decision.

Board member Wesson said correct. Board member Quebedeaux second that motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Board member Wesson moved to refer to a hearing officer the application to revoke teaching certificate of **Sarah Butterworth** and to set a time and date for hearing for such application. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Board member Wesson moved to refer to a hearing officer the application to revoke teaching certificate of **Shawn Finch** and to set a time and date for a hearing for such application. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Board member Wesson moved to refer to the hearing officer the application to revoke teaching certificate of **Patrick McKay** and to set a time and date for hearing for such application. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion.

Board member Burdick said as a reminder, information in each of these individual's situations has been provided to us. In an executive session, under the protection of privacy, we may be discussing these situations. However today, we do not have that, we are not making any discussion to prejudice anything about these decisions. Ms. Wesson motions are to refer them to a hearing officer to get a full vetting of the situation?

Board member Wesson said that is correct. All the information we need to make decisions.

Board member Burdick said in time to give this exceedingly serious contemplation before any decision is made.

Board member Wesson said and to give due process.

Board member Burdick said he wanted to reiterate that for clarity and had no other discussion or comments.

The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

- **9(c)5** Board member Wesson moved to refer to the application to revoke teaching certificate of **Thomas Lenard** to a hearing officer and to set a time and date for hearing for such applications. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.
- **9(c)6** Board member Wesson moved to suspend the teaching certificate pending an individual proceeding for revocation or other action of **Philip Koons** and to set a time and date for hearing such application to revoke. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.
- **9(c)7** Board member Quebedeaux moved to suspend the teaching certificate pending an individual proceeding for revocation or other action of **Roger Carroll** and to set a time and date for hearing such application to revoke. Board member Wesson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.
- **9(c)8** Board member Quebedeaux moved to refer the application to revoke the teaching certificate of **Jayme Stepp** to a hearing officer and to set a time and date for review of such application. Board member Wesson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Ms. Nicklas advised the final four matters on agenda item **9(c)**, were on last month's agenda and the Board referred all four applications for a hearing by a hearing officer. Since that time, the Department requested to amend or replace the referred pending applications. If you wish to refer the amended application, as opposed to the other application, you may refer the amended application to the hearing officer.

9(c)9 Board member Lepak moved to accept the amended application on the teaching certificate of **Anthony Deason** and refer it to the hearing officer to replace the original application for revocation. Board member Lepak added the same motion to include **Scott Renken, Alison Scott** and **Regan Killackey**. Board member Archer seconded the motion.

Ms. Nicklas advised some applications do apply for suspensions, but it is at the Board's pleasure to simply refer the applications to a hearing officer without including a separate motion to suspend the teacher pending the hearing on revocation.

Board member Lepak clarified the motion is to refer these with the amended applications replacing the original applications and if any board member reviewed the material and feel there is something in the amended application that makes them want to consider suspension pending the hearing, we can consider that, but I did not include that as part of my motion.

The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Consent Order to Dismiss Application to Revoke Teacher Certificates and Certificate Numbers and Accept Voluntary Surrender of Oklahoma teacher certificate and certificate number of Amanda Bristow and Donald Holt - Approved

9(d) Superintendent Walters advised both names are voluntary surrenders and if the board accepts, they are no longer in the system.

Board member Lepak asked if a teacher voluntarily surrenders, do they forego the hearing?

Mr. Beason advised when the department investigation develops, and the teacher will ultimately surrender waiving the due process rights and simply trying to walk away rather than going through a contested hearing. The end result is exactly the same and option to defend themselves and have a hearing regardless of the reason. Typically, our investigator will present that to them and most often they decide to surrender in those types of situations. In response to Board member Lepak's question, the merit of the case investigation stays in their file should they return to teaching and apply for a certificate.

Board member Quebedeaux clarified the two surrenders were **Amanda Bristow** and **David Holt** as listed on the agenda however the application states the name is **Donald Holt**.

Ms. Nicklas advised the board can make a motion to correct the agenda due to scrivener's error.

Board member Lepak motioned and moved to correct the scrivener's error on agenda item 9(d)2, where the individual is mistakenly listed on the agenda as David Holt instead of **Donald Holt** as indicated in the materials. I would like to have that corrected on the agenda. Board member Wesson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Ms. Nicklas and Mr. Beason advised Mr. Holt was given notice and was aware of the meeting. Prior to receiving notice, the department had him execute a surrender at his request and he then waived notice and due process sometime after the notice was given on the hearing which is the document the members have.

Board member Lepak said having reviewed the documents before us on **Amanda Bristow** and **Donald Holt** including the voluntary surrender of his teaching certificates, as well as Ms. Bristow, I move that we accept their voluntary surrender of their certificates. Board member Archer seconded the motion.

In response to Board member Wesson's question, Mr. Beason advised the department has identifiers to ensure teachers do not come back under an assumed name or even a legal name change.

The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Final Board determination after Hearing Officer's proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law on the teacher certificate and certificate numbers of 1) Lucian Littledave; 2) Stacy Parker; 3)Melissa Smith; and 4) Jaelah Marche Rose; and 5) William Mooney

Superintendent Walters said the proposed findings and conclusions on these items can be tabled.

Board member Lepak said only **Melissa Smith**, **Jaelah Marche Rose** and **William Mooney** are in the packet for review. Materials for **Lucian Littledave** and **Stacy Parker** have not been seen.

9(e) Board member Lepak moved to table 9(e)1-Lucian Littledave and 2-Stacey Parker to the next meeting pending board receipt of the appropriate documentation for our consideration. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Board member Lepak asked whether board counsel reviewed the findings and conclusions on the remaining individual listed on 9(e)?

Ms. Nicklas recommended the board treat **9(e)5-William Mooney** differently as it is the applicant's motion to dismiss the amended application. The Department is recommending dismissal of the application without prejudice or future application. The Department filed a motion to dismiss the application and there really are no findings. It was previously referred to a hearing officer, but in the meantime, the Department recommended dismissal.

Mr. Beason clarified pursuant to the items in the board packets, the Mooney teaching certificate expired in addition to the criminal case, and he is not permitted to teach for an extended period of time, but it is not until 2025.

Board member Lepak moved to approve the Department's motion to dismiss the application for the suspension of revocation of the teaching certificate of **William Mooney**, 9(e)5, without prejudice for the reasons stated in the Department's motion and understanding that if these issues become a problem again in the future past the expiration, there is no prejudice to refile in seeking to revoke the certificate. Board member Wesson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Board members discussed to take no action on agenda item 9(e) 3 and 4 to allow more time to review materials and the proposed findings by a hearing officer, and to seek legal advice by the board counsel on each.

Ms. Nicklas recommended the Board be provided the applications to revoke and what was originally filed in those actions and postpone in order to have time to review those documents.

Board member Lepak moved to **table 9(e)3-Melissa Smith and 9(e)4 Jaelah Marche Rose** for further review of the original application. Board member Quebedeaux seconded. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law and order prepared by board counsel, based solely on the record, on the teacher certificate of Summer Boismier - Approved

9 (f) Ms. Nicklas reminded the Board voted to modify the hearing officer's recommendations and directed counsel to prepare an order that relies wholly on the written record. The proposed order, as the Board directed, is provided, and is presented for the Board to authorize the Chair of the Board to sign off on it.

Board member Wesson moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign off on the proposed order. Board member Lepak seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Pending judicial review actions, pursuant to 75 O.S. § 318, in Independent School District No. I-5 of Tulsa County,
Oklahoma v. State of Oklahoma ex rel. State Board of Education,
Case No. CV-2024-1680 in Tulsa County District Court, and
Independent School District No.I-2 of Creek County,
Oklahoma v. State of Oklahoma ex rel. State Board of Education,
Case No. CV-2024-24, in Creek County District Court. - Approved

9(g) Ms. Nicklas advised the Board made decisions on student transfer appeals at the June board meeting and two school districts filed for judicial review under the Administrative Procedures Act, and these are pending in Tulsa County and Creek County. If the Board wishes to have a response filed in District Court in the two matters, then the Board would need to direct Board counsel to file such a response.

Board member Lepak said the Board would need a copy of the proceedings and moved for Board counsel to represent or make an appearance in these cases and present the Board defense. Board member Wesson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Appeal of transfer application upon denial by local school district: Pryor Public Schools – 24-06

9(h) Ms. Nicklas advised this is an appeal of a denial by a local school board of a request by a student's parents to renew a transfer request. It is an individual proceeding, and the rules are not clear as to how the Board handles these appeals, but one way of handling them is to handle as you do all other individual proceedings and refer it to a hearing officer to allow evidence to be taken so you get a better written record when it comes for you to consider. The Board could refer this matter to a hearing officer like you have done with the teacher revocations. In the meantime, the denial is in effect.

Board members discussed the need for clarity of the appeal process for local school board transfer denials, that fact that having no executive session may delay appeal decisions if not referred to a hearing officer, that a student should enroll in the home district pending a decision by the Board; the desire for expedited hearing and questions about the Administrative Law Judge hearing officer's scheduling timeline, and the possibility of more delays even if a hearing officer expedites the hearing process due to the right to appeal to district court.

Board member Lepak moved to refer agenda items 9(h) Pryor Public Schools to a hearing officer and request an expedited hearing on the matter. Board member Archer seconded. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Appeal by Norman Public Schools and request for hearing on the matter of Awareity Report No. 24-00210

Appeal by Union Public Schools and request for hearing on the matter of Awareity Report No. 23-00845

9 (i) and (j) Ms. Nicklas advised the next two items were similar items and can be referred to a hearing officer for a hearing. The district is appealing.

Mr. Beason advised the districts are appealing a finding by the department on a violation and not a revocation proceeding or a transfer proceeding, but typically something in which we find a minor violation, and the district disagrees with our findings, and they request they would like a hearing, so we always welcome that.

In response to Board member Lepak's questions, Mr. Beason said the districts have violations, reports were filed, and the districts are appealing the Department decisions.

Board member Lepak moved to refer the appeals by Norman Public Schools and Union Public Schools on their respective reports on the agenda to a hearing officer. Board member Archer seconded. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Mr. Archer, yes; and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Board members requested the department to provide Awareity reports ahead of time for planning or the hearing officer's results.

(Superintendent Walter called for a recess at 11:53 a.m. and returned at 12:04 p.m.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

In response to a question posed by Board member Burdick, Ms. Nicklas advised the Open Meetings Act requires public comment to discuss what is on the agenda and provides an opportunity for the public to comment but not to engage in discussion on any issues.

Individuals signed up to address agenda #10 items included Preston Bobo, Reverend Elisa Howell, Sherry Payne, Sandy Garner, Wendy Dile, Patricia Moffit, Sgt. Major Judy Hindman, Reed Downy, Rick Watkins and Becky Wolf.

ADJOURNMENT

Board member Quebedeaux moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:38 p.m. Board member Burdick seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, 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, September 26, 2024, 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, Chairperson of the Board
Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary	



STATE BOARD of EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

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