

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the

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

June 22, 2023

The State Board of Education met in regular session at 9:12 a.m. on Thursday, June 22, 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 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 21, 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, Chairperson of the Board

Mr. Donald Burdick, Tulsa

Ms. Sarah Lepak, Claremore

Mrs. Suzanne Reynolds, Oklahoma City

Mrs. Kendra Wesson, Norman

Mrs. Katie Quebedeaux, Guymon

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 9:12 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals signed up to address agenda items included #3-Brenda Loggins, retired educator; #4-Wade Burluson and Sara Gallagher, citizens.

Individuals signed up to address items not on the agenda included Ashley Daly, Ana Barros, Annette Basey, Sandra Valentine, Bob Linn, Paul Blair, Connie Thayer, Reed Downing, Kelly Suchy, Sandra Valentine, Rhonda Peterson, Alan Loeffler, Whitney Callen, and Gary Holt.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Information from the State Superintendent

**Recognition of Rebecka Peterson,
2022 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year (TOY)**

Superintendent Walters said it was an honor to recognize Rebecka Peterson, Tulsa Public Schools, and a champion for teachers is a bright spot for the teaching profession. The 2023 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year launched her project "Teachers of Oklahoma" and journeyed across Oklahoma into teacher's classrooms, learning their stories, shared passion, spotlighting teaching talents and videoing powerful classroom learnings. The viral stories about teachers of Oklahoma catapulted her into being selected the 2023 National Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Peterson said it was clear education is on the forefront of many minds, no matter what letter is on your voter registration, thank you Superintendent Walters and State Board of Education members for caring and being here. As a teacher and the TOY, she has been taught to approach different views to foster curiosity and compassion by focusing on listening to and sharing collective stories. The Teachers of Oklahoma project allowed me to travel the state to connect and interview teachers in their natural habitats of the classroom, share their stories locally, on social media, and absorb the impact of their work and commitment. Learning from teachers across the state was a gift of a lifetime and being selected Teacher of the Year is not because she was the best teacher.

There is no such thing as the best teacher but there are an infinite number of ways to be highly effective and most importantly to be true to ourselves. Teaching is not a competition but a work in collaboration with educators. It was an honor to let her walk with teachers and for them, because in the end, maybe we are just walking each other home.

**Recommendations of the Oklahoma Advisory
Committee on Founding Principles**

Superintendent Walters updated on the Oklahoma Advisory Committee on Founding Principles for Public Education in Oklahoma and presented three recommendations that included 1). Remind school districts of their obligations to hold daily moments of silence during which students are permitted to pray; 2). Accept and investigate complaints regarding any school district that fails to comply with their obligation under 70 O.S. §11-101.2; and 3). Encourage schools to use the committee’s recommended script “We now pause for a minute of silence in which students and teachers may use this minute to reflect, mediate, prayer engage in any other silent activity.”

School districts are reminded of statutory obligation to students to observe one minute of silence each school day announcing the minute of silence. The recommendations require using the recommended script and to investigate non compliances.

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE

**Minutes of the May 25, 2023, regular
State Board of Education meeting - Approved**

Board member Reynolds moved to approve minutes of the May 25, 2023, regular State Board of Education meeting. 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; Ms. Reynolds, yes and Superintendent Walters, yes.

First-Year Superintendents

First-year superintendents attending the meeting included Jason Alsup, Asher Public Schools; Colby Cagle, Coyle Public Schools; Darren Danielson, Leedey Public Schools; Ryan Friend, Earlsboro Public Schools; Theron Graybill, Woodward Public Schools; Mike Higgins, Hammon Public Schools; Justin Kana, Morrison Public Schools; Todd Kerr, Hooker, Public Schools; Anna Peery, Indianola Public Schools; Phil Wilkerson, Coalgate Public schools; Cory Wilson, Lomega Public Schools; and Stephen Sturgeon, Mounds Public Schools.

CONSENT DOCKET - Approved

Discussion and possible action on the following deregulation applications, statutory waivers, and exemptions for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school year and other requests:

- (a) **Abbreviated School Day – OAC 210:35-29-2 and 210:35-3-46**
Hobart Public Schools, Kiowa County
Stroud Public Schools Lincoln County

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

3 Years

Moss Public Schools, Latimer County
Panola Public Schools, Latimer County
Frink-Chambers, Pittsburg County

2023-2024 school year

Hobart Public Schools, Kiowa County

3 Years

Binger-Oney Public School, Caddo County
Shattuck Public Schools, Ellis County
Laverne Public Schools, Harper County
Morrison Public Schools, Noble County
Sasakwa Public Schools, Seminole County

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

Cyril Public Schools, Caddo County
Arapaho-Butler Public Schools, Custer County
Middleberg Public Schools, Grady County
Hobart Public Schools, Kiowa County
Mill Creek Public Schools, Johnston County
Fairview Public Schools, Major County
Marble City Public Schools, Sequoyah County

3 Years

Harmony Public Schools, Atoka County
Norwood Public Schools, Cherokee County
Maysville Public Schools, Garvin County
Laverne Public Schools, Harper County
Wainwright Public Schools, Muskogee County
Morrison Public Schools, Noble County
Shidler Public Schools, Osage County
Stonewall Public Schools, Pontotoc County
Albion Public Schools, Pushmataha County
Sperry Public Schools, Tulsa County

(d) **Library Media Specialist Certificate Exemption - 70 O.S. § 3-126**

Yukon Public Schools, Canadian County
Cameron Public Schools, LeFlore 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 **Flo & Morris Mizel Jewish Community Day School (Mizel JCDS)** to participate in the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities program – **70 O.S. § 13-101.2**

Bryan Cleveland, General Counsel, advised Board Member Lepak is recused from voting on Stroud Public Schools' Abbreviated School Day waiver request. The waiver application is pulled and requires a separate vote.

Board member Burdick moved to approve Consent Docket item 6. (a) Abbreviated School Day-Stroud Public Schools waiver request. Board member Quebedeaux seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, yes; Ms. Reynolds, yes and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Board member Burdick moved to approve Consent Docket waiver requests item 6. (a) Abbreviated School Day-Hobart Public Schools through item (f). 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; Ms. Reynolds, 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

Bryan Cleveland, General Counsel, State Department of Education (OSDE), advised no action required on agenda item 7.(a).

2023-24 school year request to be in session and offer instruction for a less than the requirements in 70 O.S. § 1-109 for Battiest Public Schools, McCurtain County; Morrison Public Schools, Noble County; and Antlers Public Schools, Pushmataha County– Approved

Mr. Cleveland advised board members requested to pull the item from the Consent Docket for further discussion.

Board members asked questions and discussed three (3) statutory waivers requesting school calendar flexibility for school districts meeting the eligibility requirements for the State Board of Education (SBE) to authorize district(s) to implement a FY23 school year calendar for one or more sites that includes fewer than one hundred sixty-five (165) days when school is in session and classroom instruction offered.

School superintendent waiver request presentations included Tommy Turner-Battiest Public Schools, 157-day calendar; Brent Haken and new Superintendent, Justin Kana, Morrison Public Schools, 158-day calendar; and Russel Noland, Superintendent, Antlers Public Schools, 165-day calendar.

Board member Burdick moved to approve the waiver requests for Battiest, Morrison and Antlers Public Schools. Board member Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following votes: Mr. Burdick, yes; Ms. Lepak, yes; Ms. Quebedeaux, yes; Ms. Wesson, nay; Ms. Reynolds, yes and Superintendent Walters, yes.

**Resolve into Executive Session
pursuant to 25 O.S. §§ 307 (B) (4) (7) and (8) for the
purpose of discussing possible action to issue an emergency order
summarily suspending the teacher certificate and certificate number of
Erin Nicole Fixico-Mitchell pending an individual proceeding for revocation
or other action - 70 O.S. § 3-104; 75 O.S. § 314; OAC 210-1-5-6**

Mr. Cleveland advised convening into Executive Session for agenda item 7 (c) was required for purposes of hearing the presentation on the individual proceeding and for such diversions all may have.

Board member Lepak moved to convene into Executive Session at 10:59 a.m. 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; Ms. Reynolds, yes and Superintendent Walters, yes.

Return to Open Session

Board member Reynolds moved to return to Open Session at 11:16 a.m. 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; Ms. Reynolds, yes and Superintendent Walters, yes.

No decisions were made on the matters discussed in the Executive Session. Bryan Cleveland, General Counsel, did not remain in the entire Executive Session. Andy Ferguson, Deputy General Counsel and Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary, remained in the Executive Session.

Board member Wesson moved to issue emergency order to suspend the teacher certificate and teacher number of **Erin Nicole Fixico-Mitchel** pending revocation. 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; Ms. Reynolds, yes and Superintendent Walters, yes.

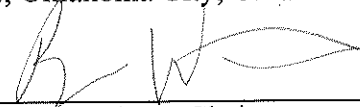
ADJOURNMENT

Board member Burdick moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 a.m. 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; Ms. Reynolds, yes and Superintendent Walters, yes.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on Thursday, July 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.



Terrie Cheadle, Chief Executive Secretary



Ryan Walters, Chairperson of the Board